

What's Developing

Looking back at the past 30 years of Eureka Community Development Company's history, this column will highlight 2000.

The plan to have kuchen named as South Dakota's state dessert moved into the second year. There were 17 towns across the state that backed Eureka in its efforts and written letters from those towns were presented to the State Legislature along with personal testimony. The end result was that kuchen received the official designation and as of July 1, 2000, kuchen became the State Dessert. As a direct result of Eureka Community Development Company's efforts for the designation, the Eureka Kuchen Factory worked towards becoming a new business in Eureka and applied for a loan from ECDC. The Eureka Bakery, which also had an ECDC loan, was also busy filling orders for kuchen.

Eureka Beautification, operating under ECDC by-laws, had cleaned up 10 properties so far and the goal was to have 20 properties completed by the Y2K celebration.

January 10 was proclaimed as Keith and Darcy Kramlich Day in South Dakota following K&A Implement being named Retailer of the Year.

The annual meeting speaker was Fred Dietz from The Connection. At that time there were 83 employees in Eureka and The Connection represented 45 companies at its call centers. Employment rose to 110 by end of year and they were still hiring.

A training, "Starting a Business", was presented in Eureka by Entrepreneur Network for Women.

A federal grant of \$40,000, with matching funds by ECDC, was received for a Revolving Loan Account. This money was later loaned to a start-up business in town.

ECDC & the city council held joint meetings throughout the year for meeting a representative from the Governor's Office of Economic Development, coordinating efforts for a local business, confidentiality issues, funding, spec building, labor force, and leads for prospects.

A Kuchen Royalty contest was held for second and third graders. A Kuchen Prince, Kuchen Princess and 4 attendants were chosen from judging of essays they had written about kuchen. The Kuchen Royalty all rode on ECDC float in Schmeckfest parade.

ECDC worked with the SD Made program and Value Added Ag program.

By far the biggest projects taking the most time in year 2000 were the Eureka Kuchen Factory and Eureka Mfg. Both were very successful and still remain as a part of Eureka's businesses.

Wanda Jundt