

What's Developing

In the ongoing looks back at the past 30 years of history of the Eureka Community Development Company and its service to the community, this column will target the year 2013.

This was the year that ECDC began actively contacting EHS graduates and asking them to return to Eureka through the Care Package program. EHS grads from the previous year were sent packages containing letters from Eureka leaders as well as someone from Eureka in their field of study. Also in each care package was a copy of the Northwest Blade, brochures of Eureka, and a package of Kauk's beef jerky.

Businesses for sale and business space for rent were added to the ECDC website and to Prairie Gateway, a regional website. New photography and updated information were used in the Eureka brochure and Eureka Resource booklets that were printed in the ECDC office.

The Board met with owners of several local food production businesses to talk about a refrigerated truck or trailer to deliver products to areas of the state. Owners of the businesses were willing for such an extension to expand their businesses, but it never showed promise as being profitable nor could a person be found to take on the new venture.

Marketing was done for the ECDC building in the Industrial Park and information was given to several individuals interested in it.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held by the Eureka Top Hats for the 4-plex housing unit, Cornerstone Café and Convenience, and Eureka Thrift Store.

The Welcome Bags program was begun and information and promotional items from local businesses were given to new residents as they moved to the area.

Convenience store transactions with three different owners were completed that year.

Annual meeting speakers were David Anderson from the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Mark Nelson, a motivational speaker who owns Maximum Promotions in Sioux Falls. He spoke to grades 7-12 and teachers during the day. His message was the need to encourage youth to return to their hometown after they get their education, and several students attended the annual meeting. An impromptu part of the meeting was when Nelson stated that he had heard that Abby Ottenbacher was a beautiful singer and asked her to sing and told her that everyone would sing along with her. The meeting closed with everyone singing Amazing Grace.

The Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University began this year through a grant to cover the cost of facilitator materials and start-up costs. The first classes began in 2014 with Pastor Ryan Gage as the facilitator and he has continued as facilitator every year since then.

The Board of Directors met with Dick Werner of Dakota Resources who gave suggestions on several facets of economic development locally. One suggestion he gave that was implemented and is still used was to identify the top 3 projects to pursue, and to replace them with others as they are accomplished or no longer apply. The first three items began with community action, bank, and ECDC building.

Grants that year were from Eureka Area Community Foundation for \$750 to be used for the copier service, and \$500 for Rooster Rush tourism efforts.

Wanda Jundt