

Reports Heard at Chamber Meeting

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Conservation Officer, Joe Galbraith, was the guest speaker at the Eureka Chamber meeting held on August 17 at the Information Center. Since McPherson and Edmunds counties are the region he covers he is well known in the Eureka area. Besides law enforcement, he works with local residents on projects, writes articles for the Northwest Blade, is a monthly guest on The Eureka Show on KOLY, and is available to answer questions in person and by phone.

One of the most recent local happenings was the Step Outside Event held in June that was open to youth and plans are to hold it again next year.

Galbraith spoke at length about Eureka Lake, provided handouts about it, and spoke about fish survey results and stocking of the lake.

Another popular topic was pheasants. Results of the state survey will be released soon. Waterfowl hunting, deer populations, and coyote hunting were also discussed.

Galbraith stated that hunting and fishing guides, hunting atlases and other printed materials are available at Ken's Food Fair and the Eureka Information Center. That information can also be found on the website for SD Game, Fish & Parks.

Several Chamber items were discussed by the assembled group. The company providing insurance has dropped South Dakota policies; a new company was found that will provide coverage. Two hundred Hunter Bags will be assembled and businesses that want items included should have them turned in by October 1. The Christmas promotion will be similar to past years and will be set up at the October meeting.

Reports:

- Schmeckfest – Plans are set for several entertainment opportunities for the 3 days of the celebration, tractor pull, car show, events at Avera Eureka Health Care Center, parade and the German church service. Tickets for the German meal/Emter Family entertainment are available locally at Ken's Food Fair and out of the area from Jean Bertsch who will send the tickets by mail.
- Fire Dept. – It was a quiet summer, and then 5 fires occurred in 2 weeks. Fortunately, they were all relatively small. When the fire siren blows the second time people are requested to go to the fire hall and someone there will let the volunteers know what kind of help they can use. October 17 will be their annual Steak Fry and Violet Iszler donated a quilt for their raffle.
- City – Items have been dumped at the city landfill that should not be there. Because of the infractions the state will allow one more chance before they close it. Bleachers and lights will be an upcoming project in the park area. A Maintenance Supervisor has been hired and will begin work around the Labor Day weekend. The assistant maintenance person will be hired after that time and people can continue to apply for the position.
- Ambassadors – Freedom Dayz went well and they are looking for volunteers for their organization.
- Red Hatters – The social group invited 30 people from surrounding towns for a pie social, and they have been attending events in those area towns.
- Hospital – USDA funding was approved and a one million dollar fund raising campaign will begin within the next month. The new facility will contain a hospital, assisted living and clinic. The current building is for sale.

- Eureka Development – Housing has been a top request, especially long term rentals for families and those seeking that type of housing have trouble finding it. Events sponsored by Eureka Development can be found in their weekly ad called “Community Developments” in the Northwest Blade – upcoming events are V.J. Smith on Sept. 8, Martial Arts demonstration and ribbon cutting on Sept. 12, and two trainings with dates yet to be set on parliamentary procedure and succession planning.
- American Legion – A meal and membership drive will be Aug. 23 at Prime Time. A flag disposal burning will be held on Aug. 29. People are invited to bring their flags for disposal to the blue Legion building behind Prime Time at 3:00 PM, and over 400 flags are already designated for that ceremony. Five Boys Scouts are in various degrees of working on their Eagle Scout projects.

The next Chamber meeting will be Monday, October 12 at 7:00 PM at the Information Center.

Wanda Jundt