

## What's Developing

The Eureka Community Development Company is celebrating 30 years as a nonprofit this year and is taking a look back at the history of the organization. This column is a recap of 1996.

Layoffs happened at Ultimate Direction and it closed permanently later in the year. A renewed attempt was made to find a replacement sewing company for the building and equipment. Mailings were sent to several thousand businesses to continue looking for relocating or expanding businesses to come to Eureka – manufacturing firms in general. Meetings were held with several companies multiple times during the year..

Available buildings in town were discussed for possible new businesses. Comco from Minneapolis seriously looked at Eureka. HFS (not sure what this company was) also showed an interest in locating in Eureka. U.S. Lawn Products toured available buildings in town and had a strong interest in expanding to Eureka. Dacotah, Inc., a well-known manufacturer of quilts, expressed an interest in the building and available sewing labor force. Also, representatives from Midwest Garment Manufacturers were in town for talks about locating in Eureka. The board began discussions with Sheldahl.

In other projects, ECDC worked with the Eureka Cheese Factory. The board met with a chiropractor wishing to relocate, but he chose another town. Land was purchased from ECDC by the Eureka Health Care Center for placement of an 18,000 gallon propane tank.

A Freedom Forum CD held by ECDC in the amount of \$25,000 was released to the Eureka Hospital to be used for the assisted living project.

The Schmeckfest Committee became an organization by itself, and it was no longer a part of ECDC. \$2,500 from the GOLD account was transferred to the Schmeckfest Committee.

At the annual meeting decisions were made to clarify memberships: individual memberships of \$50 entitled the member to one vote, voting memberships were only for individuals (not businesses, and businesses at the time were put into the owners' names), there would be no transfer of voting memberships in case of death, moving from the community or other reasons, and proxy voting would not be allowed.

Amy Weisbeck received a YBA (Youth Business) scholarship to attend the statewide conference.

New member elected in 1996 was Keith Kramlich.

*Wanda Jundt*