

What's Developing

The year is 2002 as we look back at the Eureka Community Development Company's 30 years of existence.

The guest speaker for the annual meeting was Richard Vetch. He stated that Ken Fiedler, owner of the Eureka grocery store and 5 others, has seen the potential for Eureka and is expanding the local store from 4,000 to 10,500 square feet and an additional 3-4 employees will be hired.

A loan was approved to Dawn Quenzer of Prairie Treasures that year and the hospital loan was paid in full.

Some of the top business related items that year were: ECDC members went with Eureka Kuchen Factory owners to meet with Hogg reps as they continued to expand their new business, a ribbon cutting was held for Ken's Food Fair, the board met with N&S owners about closure of their business, members traveled to Hill City to meet with a prospect (this did not work out to relocate in Eureka), Alco/Duckwall was a possibility in 2002 as well as other years and the company was approached by several local prospective owners and ECDC but none of these ever materialized; (Eventually all of those stores in small towns closed.)

Daycare again was needed. ECDC worked with interested people, did a local daycare survey, and toured a facility in Faulkton. The plans were put on hold when the nursing home opened a daycare and supplied the daycare that was needed.

A spec building had been discussed for several years, but it was decided that a business needed to be found before a building would be built. Over the years several buildings in Eureka were used as spec buildings to help attract businesses to Eureka.

ECDC opposed the location of the proposed housing unit in the Industrial Park and contacted the Housing Commission with their concerns – it was zoned industrial, both residential and businesses would be located in the same area, the scenery and lack of trees were not a nice view for apartment dwellers, and there were other lots with a better view that are not located in the Industrial Park. They were in favor of the housing units being built, but preferred some place other than in the Industrial Park.

Community development issues were: ECDC tried to find a business interested in putting in an ATM because there were none in town, but one was not added for quite some time. Eureka was one of 15 communities invited to a leadership training seminar in Chamberlain and several people attended. Rick Killion, editor of Prairie Business was in Eureka and met with Al Neuharth, ECDC members, and business owners for information for stories about Eureka for the magazine. Chamber After Hours in Aberdeen was attended by board members who set up a display table with brochures, and samples of kuchen were given out. They talked about Eureka to those who stopped at table, and gave a presentation to the group during their meeting. A booth was manned at the Holiday Fair. Kuchen Royalty was crowned on stage at the Holiday Fair – the elementary students were judged on essays they had written about kuchen. A fax machine/printer was donated to the museum when ECDC purchased different equipment. Training that year was on working with volunteers, financing, and grants.

New board member elected was Greg Schock.

Wanda Jundt

