

What's Developing

The year of 1997, as we look back on 30 years of history of the Eureka Community Development Company, was a year of change concerning the occupancy of the ECDC building (most recently known as the call center building).

Companies that showed interest in locating in Eureka were Midwest Parts and Contracting, Eureka Fabrications, The Connection, Sheldahl, and a group looking at building a supper club after the Prairie Schooner was destroyed by fire. Loans were made to the Lyric and Bloomers and one was renewed to the Eureka Hospital.

Many meetings were held during the year between the ECDC board of directors, city council and Sheldahl officials. People from Eureka were hired by Sheldahl and traveled to Aberdeen to work at the Sheldahl plant located there. Following major renovations at the Eureka building and parking lot, Sheldahl began as a Eureka company late in the year.

The annual meeting speaker was Hadleigh Case, consultant with SD Economic Development Group (Moberge and Eureka). Through his efforts, mailings were continuing to thousands of companies in the hope of attracting one or more to Eureka. Ads were also placed in recruiting periodicals. Efforts continued to fill the ECDC building (when it was vacant) and other available buildings in Eureka. The option on Funk Building ended this year.

A group of local citizens met to discuss ways to upgrade the Information Booth to make it more usable. The panels needed to be kept clean and filled with updated information but that was not working well. The group's plan was to enclose the Information Booth (it was currently an open-air facility), add an office, and make the facility a headquarters for community information with the ECEDC office located in the building. That information was given to the city and they wrote to Al Neuharth requesting funds for the project.

In other action during 1997 the ECDC board met with a local group to discuss Community Transit and the need for public transportation for handicapped and elderly. The GOLD program was dissolved that year as the state program had run its course.

New member to the board was Brenda Flemmer. Barry Bornemann was hired to maintain the ECDC building. Jeanne Neifer & Cathryn Schrum were awarded YBA scholarships.

Wanda Jundt