

What's Developing

The year for this column is 2001 as we look back on the past 30 years in the history of the Eureka Community Development Company.

Loans were made to the Eureka Kuchen Factory, Northern Kross Lodge and Bloomers as businesses opened and expanded services.

At the annual meeting – Milbert Schick, president of the Eureka Community Beautification Company reported that 18 houses had been removed, those properties cleaned, and most had been sold and were back on tax rolls. Individuals and organizations donated labor and money to help with the cleanup efforts. ECBC began working with the City and Code Enforcement Officer, Paul Jundt. Vacant homes beyond repair were targets for ECBC's beautification project. Guest speaker was Rita Pfeifer, manager of The Connection in Eureka who gave updates on the call center. Candy Kilber, Verlena Mehlhaff and Lori Boschee, employees of The Connection, explained various aspects of the business. Another guest speaker was former Sen. Jim Lawler who described Eureka as "the town too tough to die" and told about economic development in Eureka.

Pat & Deb Mehlhaff attended the SD Tourism Conference. Tourism was up 27.9% in McPherson County in 2000.

ECDC worked with a couple who owned a hardware store in an area town who were interested in purchasing the hardware store. Although several meetings were held with the prospective buyers the purchase never materialized. Expansion plans were discussed with Dakota Woodworking owners and ECDC assisted with one of those expansions. Trail Chrysler closed and ECDC had a purchase option agreement for the building. Much time was spent on daycare needs as two closed and interest was shown by others in opening.

The What's Developing column began this year. Frozen water and sewer lines plagued the Information Center. A booth was manned at the Holiday Fair. ECDC worked with high school students to provide computer instruction and computer repair.

Wanda Jundt