

Small town, but big community spirit

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FEDORA - First put on the map in 1897 but never officially incorporated, Fedora is home to 20 residents, two businesses, a church and City Hall.

And what the village lacks in residential numbers, it makes up for in community support.

The collaboration to keep Fedora beautiful started in the late 1980s when Miner County Community Revitalization funded a project to tear down Fedora's elevators and condemned buildings.

Dave Larson, owner of Larson Grocery and Feed in Fedora, said that when MCCR was willing to help fund, locals were ready to volunteer labor and equipment.

"When you want something done, the Fedora community is willing to help you do it," Larson said.

Since then, the fire department has been updated, City Hall has been painted and a historical marker has been placed where Fedora's school once stood.

Along with the renovations, Della Banks started a project this past spring to add color on Fedora's Main Street. With the help of locals Evelyn Wallmann, Vera Everhart, Gloria Kothe and Larry Keiffer, Banks placed flowered planters outside of buildings in town.

"It was just something to make the town look pretty," Banks said. "The project was from donations."

Residents recently remodeled the Fedora

Church basement, making it handicap accessible. Now they are looking for donations to add on the sanctuary and build educational classrooms in the church.

"The church is an important part of this community," Larson said.

The volunteer fire department also has worked vigorously in recent years to continue operating. It currently has about 20 volunteer fire fighters and hosts fundraising events annually.

Last fall, the department started a pancake feed during the Saturday morning of the opening day of pheasant hunting.

Larry Keiffer, president of the Fedora Fire Department and owner of Kieffer Oil, said the fire department sends out letters to residents of the townships, they serve asking for donations.

Currently the department is working to replace its 10-phone fire bar with pagers connected to the 911 dispatch in hope of creating a faster connection between fire fighters and emergencies.

They also are building a new fire hall. Keiffer said donations have come in for the new building and the department has started construction.

"We need to raise \$30,000 for our first part of the project," Kieffer said. "We don't know how much we're going to build until we see how much money we have."

Besides fundraisers and community projects, Fedora is home to a various number of annual celebrations.

It hosts the annual Fedora Alumni Get-Together during Memorial Day weekend and a potluck party for alumni each fall.

“People, those who live here and those who don’t, still look at Fedora as their home,” Larson said.

Fedora Church hosts an annual supper on the Sunday of opening pheasant season, attracting both residents and visiting hunters.

“Quite a few hunters look forward to the supper,” Larson said. “We’ve got people from Mitchell, Huron and Madison that are active members who grew up here and still support Fedora.

Other potlucks are planned now and then.

Banks said her favorite part about living in Fedora is how everyone bands together and helps out.

“Everyone is willing to help in times of needs,” she said. “We are just a little town. We’ve got to work together.”