

Edgemont, South Dakota

The Southern Hills town of Edgemont, South Dakota, on the brink of ruin only a few years ago, today has renewed optimism and a rejuvenated business district. Because of the improvements to this rural community, its population of 880 is growing. A number of people from big cities have relocated to Edgemont for the friendly, small town lifestyle and some younger people who grew up in Edgemont are returning with their spouses and children.

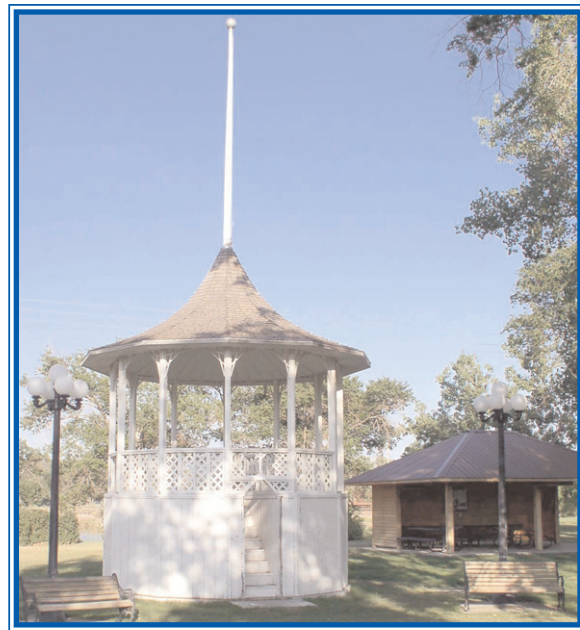
One of Edgemont's great success stories dates back to 2001 when three local women approached the city council about leasing the then closed sale barn for a community theatre. The council readily saw the benefit and impact this could make and leased the facilities to the ladies for \$1 and wished them well. Today, the Edgemont Theatre Company has volunteer locals, turned thespians, putting on vaudevilles on the stage in the old ring of the sale barn to packed houses four times each summer. They have seating down front for those wanting a steak dinner and a show; all the other "ring side seats" are sold to watchers only. Volunteers cook, serve, act and clean to make it all work.

The biking trails in Edgemont are great for individuals of all ages.



What was once a dying main street in Edgemont is now starting to show signs of life. The Edgemont Chamber of Commerce started a beautification project that has made main street much more appealing. There are two small sitting parks, one next to the ambulance hall and the other next to the post office. Volunteers planted flower beds and once empty buildings are now bustling with commerce.

First Western Bank is the only financial institution located in Edgemont. They have been very supportive of community projects by providing low interest loans for the purchase of fire trucks and ambulances in addition to donating funds for most of the community's projects. Recently, they donated \$1,000 to help fund the annual budget for the newly formed Neighborhood Housing Services of the Black Hills to improve housing in the Edgemont area.



In 1903, Edgemont was host to President Teddy Roosevelt. From the bandstand (pictured above), president Teddy Roosevelt addressed the crowd.