

## Oskaloosa Chamber Meeting

February 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 am

Friendly Kansan Oskaloosa

## Oskaloosa Chamber Social

February 21<sup>st</sup>  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Hosted by Century 21  
Miller & Midyett  
(Formerly Sunflower Real Estate)

Held at:  
Branded B Ranch  
Meriden, KS



## Meriden/ Ozawkie February Meeting

Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
12:00pm

VFW in Meriden

(\$6.95 for Roast Beef, mashed  
potatoes, toast & vegetable)

## The Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce Meeting

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:00

Kendall State Bank Community Room

# JEFFERSON COUNTY

## Calendar of Events

### February

- |                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | <b>Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce<br/>Monthly Meeting</b>          | 12:00pm<br>Kendall State Bank Community Room                           |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Meriden City Council Meeting</b>                                  | 7:00pm<br>Meriden City Building  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Ozawkie City Council Meeting</b>                                  | 7:00pm<br>Township Hall  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Oskaloosa Chamber Monthly Meeting</b>                             | 7:30am<br>Friendly Kansan  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Meriden/ Ozawkie Area Chamber of Commerce<br/>Monthly Meeting</b> | 12:00pm<br>VFW   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Oskaloosa Chamber After Hours</b>                                 | 5:30pm – 7:30pm<br>Century 21 Miller Midyett<br>502 Liberty- Oskaloosa |

### March

- |                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce<br/>Monthly Meeting</b> | 12:00pm<br>Kendall State Bank Community Room |
|-----------------|---|--|

# THE VALLEY FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Meeting

The Meeting of December 7, 2006, was called to order by President June Huston who introduced the guests: Sharon Porter, Nortonville, business teacher at the Valley Falls High School and Dave Taylor, Oskaloosa, President of the Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce with the Denison State Bank in Meriden.

**The Minutes** were approved as received by motion made by Jayne Coleman and seconded by Gary Coleman.

**Treasurer's Report** was read by Leslie Bowers and was approved by motion made by Gary Coleman and seconded by Terri Burris..

**City Report** was made by Mayor Bob Zieg who reported that for the first time in a long time a quorum was not present at the last meeting. Mayor Zieg reported that the City website maybe involved in updating the site, placing the City Council minutes on-line. Another opportunity for a grant for the Walking Trail is being looked into by Bret Frakes and by Jeri Clark by another organization, but any action would have to be cleared through the Corps of Engineers. The R.:V. Park would be included in the plans. Dirt work may be involved, but no removal or additional amount could be brought in because of the change in the flood plain. Three persons from the City attended an Economic Development meeting in Junction City very recently...K.D.O.T. presented news about the K-4 highway development and no new appropriations will be made until approval by a Bill passed by the Federal Government allows funds.

**Old Business (Communications)**: President Huston told of two letters received by the Chamber through Leslie Bowers. One was dated September 28 from Morris Sachs, Harrisburg, PA, wanting to purchase a telephone directory for Valley Falls. Leslie mailed a Jefferson County phone book at no charge and related other information that could be obtained on-line. The second letter post-marked November 10 from Mrs. Leach Knoke, Lakeview, OR wanting to know where our City was located, mileage to Kansas City by the north route, asking if we had a motorcycle park, and wanting information on Alpine Apparatus Company. Leslie answered both letters on November 17 and provided information to Mrs.Knoke of a similar company in Wichita and gave name, address, and phone number and related other information about our City could be found on on-line sites. President Huston showed a copy of the Holton Recorder, November issue, listing the Jefferson County events and the names of persons and businesses belonging to the 3 area Chamber of Commerce organizations.

**Home Town Christmas** was reported on by Leslie Bowers and Dianne Heinen telling about their up-coming "Shopping Spree" for Santa's visit, the bags are ready and some large toy items provided by Glacial Hills will be saved for the after prom party. Ten Play Station-2 games were purchased at a special price of \$40, a bicycle will be offered to a child, and also a smaller bike, "great stuff" are already collected and will be added to soon by the ladies shopping. Dianne spoke of the anticipated crowd for Santa's visit and the new Santa from north-pole will be ushered in by John Resche this year. President Huston thanked Leslie and Dianne for their good works and planning.

**Election of Officers**: President Huston appointed a nominating committee composed of Rick Johnson, Monica Mackison and Dave Cording. A slate of officers will be presented by the committee at the January meeting.

**Dues for 2007** were discussed and a motion made by Gary Coleman and seconded by Jim Braum to leave the dues the same of \$50 business memberships and \$25 for individual members was passed. Reciprocal memberships in other Chamber of Commerce organizations in the County was discussed and \$10 dues was conceded to be fair for our membership in their organization and the same for another organization member to join our Chamber of Commerce. Dues paid by members at the January or prior thereto would be rewarded by the dinner paid for by the Kendall State Bank.

**Items from the floor**: Dianne Heinen and Dave Taylor announced an RSVP invitation has been offered for "basically a New Year's Party" to be held at Spirit Lake (6 miles south of Oskaloosa) on Thursday January 18. Also Dave mentioned a gathering will be head Tuesday December 12 at 909 Westview, Oskaloosa, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Paul and Joanne Flower residence Dave also mentioned that according to Tom McGrath, Director of Economic Development for the County announced at their C of C meeting that Jefferson County business participation exceeds that of Topeka Chamber participation by 2 to 2 ½ times. Bob Zieg announced that Tamie Grose and Laura Fowler are assisting the Wellness Center to open up again, saying the ladies were new at it but are trying. The VIBE is looking into moving to the Sign of The Times building, they will be working with Mayor Zieg.

Frank Shrimplin, Secretary

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## **Minutes of the November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Directors Meeting**

Merlin Mahoney and Jim Noll with the Meriden Threshers Association gave a presentation on their organization, events and facilities. There was discussion about joining forces and utilizing the facility for a summer celebration for the community that would be sponsored by the Chamber. There was also discussion on how the two organizations could work together to promote each other.

Becky Nieman will order 100, 6 x 6 granite membership plaques that will be mounted on wood. She will also order the year identification tags to be placed on the plaques.

Larry Froelich will attend the zoning reorganization meeting at the courthouse, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.

Quality Custom Cabinets will host the first After Hours and Christmas party, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00. There was discussion on having co-sponsors to help cover the refreshment expense. It was decided to announce at the next meeting that there was an opportunity to co-sponsor if a business wanted to.

Jeff VanPetten brought up the Chamber sponsoring a Halloween Trunk-or-Treat next year for the community. The group discussed this idea favorably. The consensus was to conduct this right after the school parade and offer some type of dinner (hot dog & drink). The thought was this would be a good way to get the kids a little dinner and fill the time before traditional trick or treating begins.

## **Minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**

Jeff Van Petten opened the November meeting at the Flamingo Bar & Grill. Members picked up their new membership stickers. It was announced their will be a joint Chamber After Hours, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30pm hosted by Spirit Lake. The 50/50 drawing was held with Jim McGrath winning \$22.50 and the same amount being added to the sign fund. Jim Bowen, acting Post Master of the Meriden Post Office talked about the services they offer. Jim McGrath, Jefferson County EDC, presented his Economic Growth “Snapshot”. The meeting adjourned for networking.

## **Minutes of the December 13<sup>th</sup> Director’s Meeting**

The meeting opened with 8 directors present. There was discussion on when dues should be due. It was decided to mail notices January 1<sup>st</sup> and dues would be due April 1<sup>st</sup> and then each year shorten when they were due to get back to a January to December membership year.

There was discussion on the After Hours at Quality Custom Cabinets. Scott Stanley, Chuck Wilson, Jeff VanPetten, Jay Sanders, and Larry Froelich all agreed to sponsor the after hours, paying \$75 each. Jim McGrath moved and Scott Stanley seconded that the chamber would pay the remainder of the bill. QCC will provide water, tea, coffee, paper products, and coolers. Jeanette will make signs with the names of the sponsors.

Jeff VanPetten discussed interest in doing a pancake feed with partial proceeds going for a scholarship or other community purpose. They have traditionally been held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in March and October. Chuck Wilson discussed the way Kiwanis handled the pancake feeds and what would need done. There was discussion

on whether it should still be held and the grade school or whether it should be moved to another school. It was decided to leave it at the grade school for the time being.

The Jefferson County after hours at Spirit Lake was discussed. It will be held January 18<sup>th</sup>. We need RSVP's, Jeanette will make a sign up sheet to have at the Quality Custom Cabinets after hours.

Under New Business: Elections for Board of Directors should be held at the November meeting. Stuart needs a 2 year budget and financial statements for 2006 to complete our registration.

Included in the list of future opportunities are: Homecoming Parade, Meriden Summer Fest, 4-H Parade, Halloween Trunk or Treat, Christmas Giveaway, and Coupon Books.

**December Meeting** – After Hours & Christmas Party at Quality Custom Cabinets

## **Minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> Director's Meeting**

The meeting started with a review of the committees. Chuck Wilson will join the Meriden Welcome Sign Committee. Jeanette Stiles will check with Rena Carmona to see if she needs help updating the website. Jim McGrath will check that his website has a link to our website. The Zoning Committee is being replaced by an Economic Development committee lead by Jim McGrath. Jeff Van Petten will lead a new committee to do coupon books.

Jim McGrath reported that the Meriden City Council approved the plat for Prairie Bend #1. They will be starting in South-East corner and adding two detention ponds. The city will be annexing the subdivision in.

Renewals and membership retention were discussed. It was suggested to list Chamber accomplishments this year and a timeline for future plans on the renewal.

The details of coupon books were discussed. Jeff will get printing cost from the Vindicator. Forms will be made for businesses to sign up to put coupons in. The forms will state that unless otherwise stated the coupons will expire December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Jim talked about purchasing some of the books to put in the bags he disburses to new residents of the county. It was discussed how the coupon books can be a fund raiser, exposure for the chamber businesses and the chamber itself.

Chamber meeting format was discussed. It was decided to bring this subject up at the general February meeting to see if members were interested in going to a business meeting during the lunch hour that would replace Directors meetings and then have the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday be an after hours event. This would be similar to what Oskaloosa is doing.

Next meeting will be February 14, 2007 at 12:00.

**January Meeting** – After Hours at Spirit Lake



# Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce



Minutes of Meeting January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

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Minutes from last meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report \$541.32. Received the invoices from Glacial Hills and paid, have not collected from the other chambers. This does not include the savings account for Old Settlers. Julie will get copies of statement to Brad.

Discussed doing a membership drive. Set up a committee Janet, Tara, Barb, Jim and Dave. Jim will get them a list of businesses. Everyone was given a copy of the membership application to have on hand if needed.

No new information yet on the membership plaques. Dave will check with Tom Gross.

By-laws passed out for everyone to become familiar with, need to set up a committee to update the by-laws.

Must RSVP for the Chamber Mixer at Spirit Lake by January 12<sup>th</sup> to be held on January 18<sup>th</sup>. We will do the 50/50 drawing and donate money back to Spirit Lake for their expenses.

Need to get a thank you letter out to prior old settler committee.

Jim McGrath thanked everyone for attending the Meriden/Ozawkie mixer held at the cabinet shop.

City of Meriden approved plans for sub-division of Prairie Bend Estates.

Jim also handed out to everyone in attendance a copy of the Jefferson County business directory. The updated copy can be found on the website [www.visitjeffcounty.com](http://www.visitjeffcounty.com). Email or contact Jim for any updates, he wants to print new in March. They will not be doing advertising anymore.

Jim also talked about a program "Come Home to NEKS" for high school graduates who have left the county, trying to get them back to their roots. Lots of commercial space unutilized.

Allen Wise reported on the city: the City Hall project on hold, sewer project is top priority. Also in the process of getting the city cleaned up. The Chamber trailer, used for storage is getting very old and leaks need to look at different storage facility.

Linda reported on Community Center – please let her know of any upcoming events so she can list in the tri-fold free of charge. A kid's craft show on January 27, 2007 for pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, they will have different stations of different activities. On February 10<sup>th</sup> "Love Sweet Song" night of music and dessert, featuring the Oskaloosa Jazz band and there will be a quilt auction from 7- 8:30 at the Firsts Presbyterian Church.

Old Settlers committee – nothing new to report, looking at some entertainment ideas. We need a good advertising campaign started early, since the date has been moved to June 28, 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>. Also suggestion made to put on the community calendar.

Started a new ideas committee – Janet, Terri, Cathy and Tara.

Linda Loving purchased ornaments to use on Christmas tree next year they will be red and gold.

Reminders – Chamber Mixer on January 18<sup>th</sup> @ Spirit Lake 5:30 – 7:30, must r.s.v.p.

Allen and Becky Wise have sold their interest to Century 21 Miller & Midyett; everything will be same, best of luck to them.

# VALLEY FALLS-CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Minutes of the January 4, 2007, Meeting

The Meeting of January 4, 2007, was called to order by President June Huston who introduced a guest of Jamie Durand.

**The Minutes** were approved, with one change (Jim McGrath was listed as “Tom: McGrath), by motion made by Gary Coleman and seconded by Jamie Durand.

**Treasurer’s Report** was read by Treasurer Paul Heinen, indicating the balance was only \$13. 52 less than last year; “dues are coming in steady” Paul reported; reaching \$1600 to date. Gary Coleman moved to accept the report as presented, seconded by Jamie Durand, the motion was approved.

**City Report:** Jamie Durand, Council Member, reported that the City was able to transfer funds from the General Fund to Streets and Reserve funds.

**Jim McGrath,** executive director of Jefferson County Economic Development Committee, reported on various economic indicators for the County. Ernest-Spencer Metals, Inc., Meriden, has indicated they will add a 1.5 million dollar expansion to their present building and are seeking employees, ie. welders and other manufacturing workers. McGrath said interested parties to supply workers for the industrial firm could call him. There is a shortage of manufacturing workers nationwide. The firm expects to add 20 to 25 new jobs with the expansion. Five new jobs are expected with a move of River City Ice Company to Perry from Douglas County. Another economic move is expected in Valley Falls with a \$200,000 to \$300,000 transfer of property. McGrath reported that a public hearing scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> has been postponed - date to be set later. McGrath reminded the Chamber members the Spirit Lake outdoor venue on Thursday January 18. Spirit Lake is a 11 acre lake with trails and other outdoor opportunities besides meeting space for seminars, church groups. He gave directions to the event which will include all Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce organizations members. McGrath also reported that a new “Jefferson County Business Directory” will be available soon, with a February 28 deadline for any changes. The JCED makes the directory available throughout the County.

**Old Business:** Leslie Bowers reported on the Hometown Christmas project indicating the two hour event was a huge success with lots of kids attending, 68 gifts to individual children and 45 to adults and grab bags given out so that all children were remembered by Santa. The remaining bags were given for the community gift distribution for children..

**Election of Officers:** Rick Johnson spoke for the Nominating Committee announcing that the officers who agreed to serve next year were: Frank Shrimplin, Secretary; Paul Heinen, Treasurer (both who had served last year), and Jayne Coleman, Vice-President. Other nominations from the floor were asked for by President Huston, hearing none Jim McGrath moved the three officers be elected, seconded by Gary Coleman, motion passed. since the Nominating Committee could not find an officer for President, President Huston asked for volunteers to be nominated from the floor; no one volunteered and Huston announced to wait until next month and let the Nominating Committee report on their findings at the February meeting

**New Business:** “Grasshopper Falls Day” will be September 22, President Huston announced. Paul Heinen reported on the two sheets he had handed out, the “KSSmallBiz.com”, The Kansas Small Business Newsletter, for the months of November and January that Paul gets by internet each month. The Newsletter contains several articles that concern businesses or for anyone interested in news that affect the small business owner. Paul reported that the Legislature passed an energy credit bill with possibilities for business and individuals that could affect their income tax preparing; Also a rebate from payments for long distant phone calls are available and he gave other tax-exempt information.

Frank Shrimplin, Secretary

# VALLEY FALLS-CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## **Minutes of the February 1, 2007**

The Meeting of February 1, 2007, was called to order by acting president June Huston who introduced Bill Kramer, Ozawkie, member of the Meriden Chamber of Commerce.

**The Minutes** were corrected by deleting an extra paragraph "Election of Officers" which was a computer printing error. Gary Coleman moved the minutes be approved as corrected, Paul Heinen seconded the motion...motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Heinen explained the report; Gary Coleman moved minutes be accepted as received, seconded by Jim McGrath...motion passed.

**City Report:** Jamie Durand reported the next meeting if the City Council would be Monday, February 5.

**Economic Development Report:** Jim McGrath reported the turnout to the Spirit Lake Meeting of January 18 was good with 60 to 70 present; all three Chamber of Commerce organizations in the County were represented. The Prairie Bend Development in Meriden with 70 homes and another 12 to 15 homes is being planned and was approved by the Meriden City Council. Ground breaking ceremonies for the \$1.4 million addition to the Ernest-Spencer Metals company will be announced soon.

**Old Business:** President Huston announced receiving a communication concerning a seminar Monday, February 5, at the Topeka Public Library about formation of Farmer's Market, to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The chairman of the Nominations Committee was not present to give a report; Monica Mackison, committee member, indicated the committee had not found a candidate for the office of President. President Huston asked for nominations from the floor; hearing none it was decided to ask Vice-President Jayne Coleman to serve. Gary Coleman said he would ask Jayne. Additional report from Huston said she attended the Spirit Lake meeting and it was "very nice". What had been a church camp at Spirit Lake is now a lodge with bunk beds, king-size beds, and cottage available; a slide presentation described accommodations. Leslie Bowers reported Grasshopper Falls Day, September 22, 2007, planning is considering the Konza Prairie singers to be present.

**New Business:** Jim McGrath handed us a page entitled "Northeast Kansas Rural Business Development Program-Revolving Loan Program" which explained the loan program available for small and startup business located in eight northeastern counties. This program is backed by the Department of Commerce and encourages expansion of businesses. McGrath also announced that 40 to 45 acres of land in the County's Business Park have been contracted for and is ready to have Commissioners approval. Jeri Clark handed out a sheet "Community Fall Bazaar" to be held November 10, 2007. The Bazaar is "an opportunity for many people to sell items-both homemade and factory made-in one area. Many vendors have open houses during the holiday season and this would be an opportunity for everyone to do it all at the same time to attract more people". Gary Coleman announced the Community Hall building is booked for the event and the fee for rent waived. Gary Coleman announced that the exercise equipment in Delores Werder's building (next door east) is available for anyone wanting to startup a business; the rent for the building is \$200 a month. The equipment can be moved to another location or operate in the Werder building. The only exception is the Suntan booths would only be available for licensed operators.

**After Prom Party** program is collecting for the event; Gary Coleman moved the C of C donate \$50 for purchase of gifts for the event, seconded by Jamie Durand---motion passed.

**Change in** ownership was announced by Andy Conser, Sunflower Real Estate, Valley Falls and Oskaloosa, has been sold...owned by Allan and Becky Wise and sold to Century 21. The operating name will be Sunflower Century 21 for the time being. The firm will have five branches in Topeka, Lyndon, Oskaloosa, Lawrence, and Valley Falls. There will be no change in personnel, The manager will be Jennifer Courtney, McLouth.

**Change in number of events:** Jim McGrath announced that there will be only two primary events for the Meriden Thrashing Grounds of Meriden this year.

### **Events to mark on calendar or remember:**

***NEXT MEETING: Thursday noon March 8***

***GRASSHOPPER FALLS DAY, Saturday September 22***

***COMMUNITY FALL BAZAAR, Saturday November 10***

Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 288  
Meriden, KS 66512

**Visit the Meriden/ Ozawkie Area Chamber Website!**

[www.meridenozawkiechamber.com](http://www.meridenozawkiechamber.com)

**Membership Benefits – May vary between Chambers**

Business and customer referrals	Listing in business directory
Networking	Business counseling
Redemption of Chamber gift certificates	Ribbon cutting and ground breaking ceremonies
Use of Chamber logo in advertising	Membership plaque
Discounts on Chamber sponsored events	Newsletter
General membership meeting programs	Event coordination
Web site promotion	Association with other leading businesses in Jefferson County

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