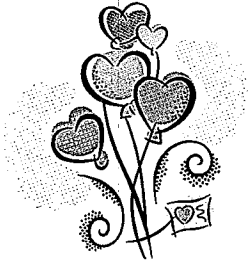


Jefferson County Chamber Chronicles

Volume 2 Issue 2

February 2008



Meriden/Ozawkie Area Chamber of Commerce
Pancake Feed
March 8th, 2008 at the Jefferson West
Elementary School Commons Area



Volunteers Needed: Please contact Chuck Wilson
@ 484-3711 or chuckhvac@embarqmail.com

**Oskaloosa Area
Chamber Social**
February 21, 2007
First Bank and Trust in Perry, Ks

**Oskaloosa
Chamber of Commerce**
February 13th
7:30 am
At the Friendly Kansan

**Meriden/Ozawkie
Chamber of Commerce**

February Meeting
Thursday, February 21

Taco Den (1:00 pm)

Notice time change

for this meeting

The Meriden/Ozawkie Area Chamber Coupons are at the Denison State Bank. If you know of anyone needing a fundraiser, please tell them about our coupons. The coupons will be sold for \$10.00 a piece. Five dollars is profit for them and five dollars for us. Please contact Jeanette Stiles at 785-484-3322 or jstiles@denisonstatebank.com for more information.

Jefferson County Chamber Chronicles

Calendar of Events

February

- 7th Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce
Noon at the Kendall State Bank Community Room
- 11th City of Ozawkie Council Meeting, 7 pm
- 12th Oskaloosa Chamber Meeting, 7:30 am at the Friendly Kansan
- 13th City of Meriden Council Meeting, 7 pm
- 21st Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber Meeting –Taco Den 1 pm (NOTICE TIME)
- 28th Oskaloosa Chamber Social – First State Bank and Trust of Perry



March

- 1st Valley Falls Lawn & Garden Show, see advertisement page
- 6th Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce
Noon at the Kendall State Bank Community Room
- 8th Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber of Commerce Pancake Feed,
- 10th City of Ozawkie Council Meeting, 7 pm
- 12th Oskaloosa Chamber Meeting, 7:30 am at the Friendly Kansan
- 11th City of Meriden Council Meeting, 7 pm
- 20st Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber Meeting –Mulligan's @ Noon
- 21st Oskaloosa Chamber Social – Location to be announced





VALLEY FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



The Meeting of January 3, 2008 was called to order by Co-President Gary Coleman.

The announcement was made that Frank Shrimplin would not be present to take minutes. Leslee Bowers will do so in his stead.

Minutes – were approved as presented by a motion made by Becky Wise and seconded by June Huston.

Treasurer's Report – as presented by Paul Heinen. Was approved by a motion made by Jim McGrath and seconded by Dianne Heinen.

City Report – No one was present to give a report. Clarke Davis stated that at the City Council meeting earlier in the week it was mentioned that there is no sand and salt left in storage. There is a long wait for a new supply. Mix standard was 70/30 instead of the usual 50/50.

Rick Johnson spoke up that there is some activity in the Barnes Subdivision. The Barnes brothers are talking with Mr. White, an attorney from Holton, about donating the Barnes Subdivision to the City of Valley Falls. The subdivision is within the city limits.

EDC Report – Jim McGrath stated that the Wakarusa River Fest is not a dead issue. The festival organizers, the county commissioners, the Jf. Co. EDC and the area residents need have more discussions. The organizers are looking at 3 potential places as possible places. The reason the organizers are so interested in Jefferson County is location and the possibility of installing infrastructure (water, electricity, restrooms, etc.) – a permanent home. Jim is planning to have a county meeting to talk over the issues. The possible other uses for this site would be – Boy Scouts Jamboree, US Rodeo Events, Renaissance Festival, etc.

Calendar of Events – January 24th at 5:30 p.m. – Meriden/Ozawkie After Hours at Ernest-Spenser Metals with refreshments, tours and an open house.

Communications – None.

Santa's Visit – Santa Visit on December 8th – Leslee stated that Jayne Coleman of the Vallerian Club said they had more children than usual. Good attendance.

Hometown Christmas – Large turnout for such a bad weather day. Want to thank all the merchants & professionals for their generous donations that made it possible to give so many gifts away.

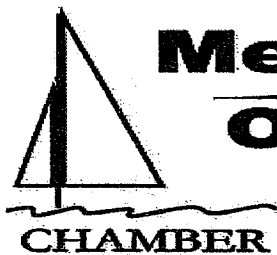
2008 Membership Dues – Gary wanted to remind everyone that their 2008 Membership Dues are payable at this time.

Election of 2008 Officers – President – Jayne & Gary Coleman and Treasurer – Paul Heinen & Leslee Bowers. Dianne Heinen made a motion to accept the officers stated above and to table the election of a Secretary. Seconded by June Huston. Motion carried.

January Meal – Jim Braum wanted to thank Kendall State Bank for paying for the January meals of the members and there was a round of applause in appreciation.

2008 Budget – After looking at the 2008 Budget worksheet the Leslee provided, it was decided that she correct it. Then present it at the next meeting.

Dianne Heinen made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Jason Pickerell. Motion carried.



Meriden
Ozawkie
Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Meeting Minutes

No meeting was held in the month of January for the Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber. An After Hours was held at Ernest Spencer Metals in Meriden. The following is from the Vindicator with Clarke Davis' permission:

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2008

Open house provides opportunity for public to view plant by Clarke Davis

Neal Spencer served as host to the community at large for an open house at Ernest-Spencer Metals Inc. Jan. 24. The company president welcomed about 80 people to share in a catered meal and then gave tours of the plant. Located west of Meriden, the metal fabrication plant has just completed a \$1.5 million expansion. Having moved to Meriden from Topeka in 1993, the plant has doubled its revenue in the last five years and is now grossing \$30 million. Now the largest custom metal fabricator in the Midwest, Spencer expects to be doing \$50 million worth of business five years from now. "That's our goal," he said. "Right here in Meriden, Kansas." Spencer gave the credit for the growth to the quality of people they can hire in Jefferson County. The latest addition to the plant added 40,000 square feet for a total of 150,000 square feet. The plant is equipped with all the latest robotic and laser cutting devices to meet today's requirements. Spencer said the plant builds anything from steel ranging from 3 inches thick to 1/16th of an inch. "We can also handle the big stuff," he said. "We've built things up to 60,000 pounds and 50 feet long." The company employs 170 people. There are 125 working at Meriden. The company has a powder-coat painting and blasting plant at Ottawa and a number of construction crews in the field throughout Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska. A couple of things they manufacture that the public would recognize are the canopies for Sonic drive-ins and the small personal excavators that are sold through Home Depot. Ernest-Spencer has also joined with the Jefferson West school district to sponsor an adult welding class. Neal's great-grandfather started the company in 1922 in Topeka. It began as a company that built wooden feed mills and then branched into metal. A large sector of its business is still building portions of feed mills; cattle feed yards, and ethanol plants. The previous company president, Brad Spencer, Neal's father, died last June. Neal and his wife, Cora, have two daughters, Elsie, 2 1/2, and Layla, 1. The Jefferson County Economic Development Commission co-sponsored the dinner catered by Scott Stanley of the Apple Market grocery.

February's meeting is on the 21st at the Taco Den at 1:00 p.m.

Please notice the time change.

March's meeting will be on 20th at Mulligan's @ Noon

April's meeting will be on the 17th at The Flamingo Grill @ Noon

Upcoming events are: Spring Pancake Feed at Jeff. West Elementary -Chuck Wilson chair, , Golf Tournament – Neal Spencer Chair, Scholarship, Trunk or Treat – Scott Stanley and Jeanette Stiles, Co-Chairs, and Christmas drawing – Mary Ghetto, Chair.

Valley Falls Lawn & Garden Show



March 1st, 2008

9:00am - 3:00pm

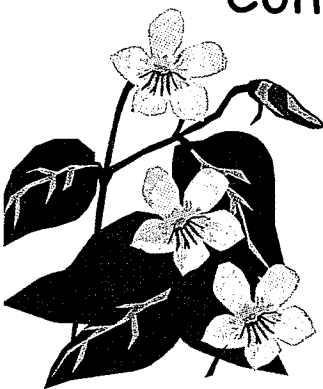
Jefferson County Fair Building

Sponsored by: Valley Falls Recreation
Commission

Free booth space available for businesses
selling lawn & garden items.

Brochure Ad Space available for \$10 & \$25.

Contact Jeri Clark at 945-6741 or 224-9811
for more information.



Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 288
Meriden, KS 66512

Visit the Meriden/ Ozawkie Area Chamber Website!

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

If you have information for the newsletter, please contact:

Editor: Tamie Ferrell, Denison State Bank

Please send an e-mail to: Call 785-484-3322, or fax 785-484-2780