

**Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 19, 2015**

**Announcements**

**The Chamber Pancake Feed** will be held Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 11 AM. Volunteers are invited to assist either Friday evening with set-up or Saturday with the feed itself. Interested parties can contact Chuck Wilson at 785-484-3711.

**The 2015 Chamber Golf Tournament** is scheduled for Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Lake Perry Country Club.

**A Community Easter Egg Hunt** will be hosted by the VFW Ladies' Auxiliary on Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Meriden City Park, reports Jan Stevens. The chamber will supply a bicycle as a grand prize. Jan noted the VFW's community-wide role in veteran support, funeral dinners, and events such as the community Christmas dinner, including the 43 meals delivered to area residents as part of the activities that day.

**Business Notes** included news that the Crooked Post Winery would be hosting musical guests on Saturday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, that Paradise Grill was open under new management and The Broken Rib was newly open in Ozawkie, and that Mulligans was planning for a new location in the Countryside Square Shopping Center in Meriden.

**FW Huston Medical Center** announced a community dinner, health fair, and open house for Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Wayne Ledbetter** encouraged area residents to communicate with the Kaw Valley Electrical Coop in regard to the potential consolidation with LJEC. Particularly, Kaw Valley may need to hear from area residents any concerns with regard to potential reductions in service or personnel should the consolidation go through. Kaw Valley has provided assurances that maintenance crews will continue to be based in Jefferson County and that staff reductions will be accomplished through normal attrition, but phone calls are encouraged.

**Special Guest – Brittany Chaplin**

**Jefferson County Economic Development Director Brittany Chaplin** distributed information updating the chamber on committee development and progress related to business incentives, housing, and the "local foods" movement. Brittany highlighted the customizable nature of any Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NPR), noting that advantages would exist for both new and rehab construction and would require qualification in every case. One challenge is that every taxing entity would need to adopt the plan impacting their area individually. Wayne Ledbetter noted that some \$140 million in property improvements had been made in Atchison County in less than ten years through a similar program.

Brittany also noted that the "local foods" committee was progressing rapidly, already preparing a resolution for the county commission seeking formal recognition as the "Jefferson County Food Council" in order to qualify for Kansas Health Foundation grants. Grants of up to \$50,000 per community are available through the Kansas Health Foundation for "local food" development. Brittany supplied a handout offering additional details related to her presentation (attached).

The chamber enthusiastically expressed their appreciation for Brittany's excellent work, noting that many good things are already happening after less than a year on the job!

**Next Meeting**

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – noon – Countryside Square Community Room, Meriden

Special Guest – Deanne Armstrong – Jefferson County Prevention Task Force  
"Prevention of Underage Drinking and the risk factors in our community"