

Town of Sterlington

NEWS FROM STERLINGTON TOWN HALL

Volume 1, Issue 5

August, 2007

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Town of Sterlington Wins Award

From August 2nd through August 4th the Louisiana Municipal Association held its annual summer conference at the Monroe Civic Center. Over 1,200 delegates from across the state were there. These Louisiana Municipal governments, Baker, Colfax, Elizabeth, Gonzales, Lake Charles, Port Allen, Monroe, Natchitoches, Slidell, Springhill, Sterlington, and Vivian—took home the Louisiana Municipal Association's most prestigious award for outstanding municipal improvements and accomplishments.

Announcement of LMA's 2006 Commu-

nity Achievement Awards was made Saturday night, August 4, at the annual banquet of LMA's 70th Annual Convention at the Civic Center. The LMA's annual awards program recognizes municipalities for outstanding achievement in basic services, community development, and economic development.

The competition is co-sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association, and LMA.

The Town of Sterling-

ton won first place in the Basic Services for sanitary sewer system improvements.



Mayor Breland addresses the media along with Mayor Mayo

Public Works Department conducts Smoke Test

Public Works Director Brian Stires has announced that the public works department has conducted a smoke test of the town's sanitary sewer system to check for leaks. If you notice orange paint sprayed in your yard it means you have a leak and public works will be contacting you soon.

Renovations completed at Town Hall

Work on replacing the old siding at town hall has now been completed. The \$ 15,000 to pay for this work came through the Louisiana Government Assistance Program through the State of Louisiana. We are working hard to bring your tax dollars back home to you and to put it to good use.



Before



After

Dates to Remember
8/28 Open House for parents, A.L. Smith Elementary at 6:00 PM.

8/28 Public Hearing to discuss trash collection proposal 5:30 PM at Town Hall.

8/29 Economic Alliance of North Central Louisiana 9:00-10:30 AM at Ruston Civic Center.

8/31 Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening for Ouachita Valley Credit Union, Highway 2 in Sterlington 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

8/31 Application deadline for ANGUS Community Grant.

9/15 WATER SWEEP

9/18 Union Parish Chamber of Commerce Statewide and Local Political Forum Featuring Ken Booth 6:00 PM at Farmerville Recreation Center.

Operation Water Sweep

Saturday September 15, 2007 Ouachita Parish will join in a nation wide event to clean our waterways and shorelines. "Water Sweep " will begin at 0800 and end at 1200. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Keep Ouachita Parish Beautiful, Keep West Monroe Beautiful, Keep Monroe Beautiful extend an invitation for your organization to join us in participation.

Louisiana is a "sportsman paradise". Our abundant waterways gave the state this reputation. After a summer of fun it is now time to clean-up our waterways and shorelines. It is essential to the state's environment and economy to keep these areas clean.

Public Works gets a new Ride

The new Club Car that was recently purchased from American Outdoor Products for the Public Works Department will be used in maintenance, weed eating and mowing the roadsides inside our town and it will also be used for the removal of trash and

litter from our ditches.

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

July and August have been two very busy months for everyone at town hall. From meetings with Senator Landrieu, Congressman Alexander, Department of Environmental Quality, and our state delegation the last two months have flown by. Once again it is time for school to start again. For everyone who has children attending school, please be safe in the school zones, especially on U.S. 165. The intersection at 165 and Keystone is very dangerous. Chief Bonner and I have had conversations with the Department of Transportation, Representative Mike Walsworth, Representative Charles McDonald about this intersection. A request was made to DOTD to conduct a review on what can be done to alleviate this problem some time ago and sent to Baton Rouge and we are awaiting their response.

In August the LMA convention was held in the City of Monroe. The Town of Sterlington won first place in community achievement for Basic Service for our efforts in improving our sanitary sewer system. I would like to thank our public works department for all of their hard work but this award really belongs to our prior Mayor Cliff Bullock. If not for his efforts and concern for improving our sewer system this award would not have been possible.

I want to remind everyone that on August 28th at 5:30 p.m. we will have a public hearing for the consolidated garbage service. I urge everyone who can attend to be present and have their voice heard on this matter.

The response from our business community about the formation of the Sterlington Chamber has been exciting to watch and proves that there are a lot of people interested in seeing our community grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Vern Breland

Sterlington Chamber News by Ladd Williams

The newly forming Sterlington Chamber of Commerce is off the ground and running full speed ahead. On Tuesday July 31st, 2007, a meeting was held at ANGUS Chemical Company with more than fifty people in attendance. Interest in this endeavor continues to be inspiring as new membership applications are received almost daily. Highlights of the Town of Sterlington's ongoing infrastructure projects were presented by town engineer Tom Holtzclaw. An overall "State of the Town" address was presented by Sterlington Mayor Vern Breland. The items discussed consisted of the Town's recent audit findings which show that the Town is in sound financial shape. Congratulations to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen on such an admirable accomplishment. Thanks are especially in order to the previous administration under the leadership of former Mayor Cliff Bullock for their efforts in placing the Town on a sound financial footing. Membership in the Chamber offers individuals and businesses an opportunity to network and discuss ideas and plans to continue with our areas unprecedented growth. The Sterlington Chamber is actively engaged with other area Chambers of Commerce in efforts to unify our region as a major economic force to be marketed to business interest locally, nationally, as well as globally. The growth in our town and surrounding area is evident every where you look. Please become involved in guiding the growth of YOUR town. Membership information is available by contacting Ladd Williams @ 512-6767 or email your requests to sterlingtonchamber@yahoo.com. Due to the month of August and September being so hectic for everyone getting back into the "back to school routine" the next Chamber meeting will likely be held the first week in October. More details will be forthcoming.

Lets Hear from Chief Bonner

The school year is upon us once more and the time for football has arrived, and so has the time for school traffic. We have several new families who have moved into the village area of our town and a lot of children will be walking to A.L. Smith, so please be alert and obey the school zone speed limits. The Sterlington Police Department will be strongly enforcing these school zones for the safety of our children. I am sure everyone is familiar with the problem we have with the traffic at Hwy 165 and Keystone road. I contacted D.O.T.D. and requested that they do a survey at this intersection so that we may have turning lanes constructed. D.O.T.D. sent me a letter stating that they will be conducting a survey this school year to see if we have a problem or not. I urge each and everyone of you who have experienced the nightmare of trying to turn onto Hwy 165 from Keystone Road and Hwy 136 to call the Department of Transportation to voice your safety concerns at 325-8246. I am very pleased with the safety record we had this summer inside of our town limits. This is indicative of how we as a town are concerned for each others safety and well being. I am so proud to be part of a community where everyone is like family. Let's keep up the good work and make this school year as safe and successful as possible.

Sincerely yours,

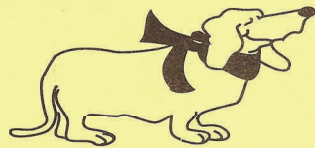
Barry Bonner Chief of Police

Melissa's
Pet Salon



212 Gilford Avenue
Sterlington, LA 71280

(318) 665-2281



20 Years Experience

Permit #402

NOW OPEN



Do you know this Boy scout?
Answer on page six.

School Supplies Give-Away

The St. James Baptist Church Youth were blessed August 12, 2007 during Youth Sunday as the guest speaker, Reverend Rodney McFarland Jr., delivered a wonderful message from God. Rev. McFarland's message "I thirst", had every member of the audience thirsting for more of God's word. It was a blessed time in the Lord. The St. James Baptist Church members can't wait for Reverend McFarland's next visit. At the end of the Service each youth was blessed with bags of school supplies compliments of St. James' Annual School Supply giveaway. Many thanks to all of the St. James members who donated the supplies that helped to make this year's school supply give away a success.

St. James Youth Services are every Second Sunday at 11:00. Please call 261-9400 if you need a ride to service. Rev. David Brown Jr., Pastor

Many of the youth involved in St. James' Youth Ministry also participated in a summer camp this summer in collaboration with Community Connections, Inc., a local non-profit agency. "Expanding Our World, Building Friendships, Serving Our Community" was the theme for the 2007 summer day camp program.

Camp highlights included a visit to The Children's Museum and visiting ULM. Central to the camp program was the idea of service to the community. The campers wore their ULM shirts, and cleaned up the areas around Mt. Mariah, Mt. Sinah United Methodist, and St. James Baptist churches.

Sterlington Mayor Vern Breland and Chief of Police, Barry Bonner, visited the camp and shared inspirational thoughts and shared with the campers a formula of success. The staff and volunteers worked very hard to make this first ever summer day camp in Sterlington, LA a great

experience for the youth.



Mayor Breland and Chief Bonner with the children from the summer day camp.

A Vision for Sterlington by Ron Hill

You may likely have noted that Sterlington has received considerable positive "buzz" over the past couple of years regarding its efforts to progress as a community. Though this feels nice to read or hear, all significant change causes anxiety and controversy. Such discomforts in principle represent growing pains, and thus, are healthy signs of life as opposed to stagnation, which in today's world is often fatal; however, I, like most people, resent having anxiety-provoking change pushed on me if I do not understand—at gut level—the reason(s). Quite frankly, I don't always respond well, especially when there are significant, perhaps unanticipated, personal costs.

To repeat a quote (source unknown) shared recently by one of my fellow council members: "Vision without action is a daydream; action without vision is a *nightmare*." As regards the community, I propose a second version of this quote, wherein "vision" in the latter clause is replaced with "*shared vision*". I was not raised in Sterlington; thus, in my service on the council, I have tried to do a great deal of listening (undoubtedly, I can never do enough of this). Over the years, some have expressed their belief that one of the best attributes of Sterlington is an "anything goes" environment, and I personally have always preferred living in a somewhat laid-back and diverse neighborhood. The problem with reckless abandon, however, is that such an environment tends not to retain or attract those who would invest in businesses—which create jobs and a tax base supporting the things most folks associate with quality of life: safety and security, good schools, good roads, effective public maintenance, and attractive recreational facilities. People who live within towns (as opposed to "out in the country") in general tend to expect these things, and with regard to business investments, as a region we no longer compete only with Texas or Illinois, but with China or Brazil or India as well.

My personal vision is that we would have a clean, safe town having neighborhoods of diverse character, but sharing and contributing to a vision for a bright future—one that will persist "to the seventh generation", improving all the while. I suspect most folks in Sterlington have a similar general vision, but we must include the ideas of every caring individual in further defining this vision, and do so relatively soon because of the pace of ongoing change; otherwise, we risk self-defeat. Practically everyone keeps plenty busy just meeting the rigors of daily life—myself included—but I have some ideas as to how we might work together on this with very modest time commitments. Knowing that your ideas as to how we can best develop a collective vision may be even better than mine, I ask that you call me or contact me with them (soon!). I look forward to hearing them, so that I can serve our community as effectively as possible in this pursuit.

Melissa's Pet Salon

We use only professional grooming products

Complete Groom includes ribbon, cut nails, clean ears, anal glands, bath, brush out, also perfume, moisturizer, if desired and degreased if needed.

Brush out Baths

Small clip	\$ 25.00	Small Short Hair	\$ 10.00
Medium clip	\$ 30.00	Small Long Hair	\$15.00
Large clip	\$ 40.00	Medium Short Hair	\$ 18.00
Extra large clip	\$ 45.00	Medium Long Hair	\$ 20.00
Scissor cut poodle	\$ 30.00	Large Short Hair	\$21.00
Scissor cut whole body	\$ 30.00 (small breed)	Large Long Hair	\$ 25.00
Scissor cut Standard poodle	\$ 40.00	(depending on coat)	to
			\$ 30.00

Brush out baths ribbon, cut nails, clean ears, anal glands, bath, brush out, also perfume, moisturizer, if desired and degreased if needed.

Extras available to pamper your pet

Tooth Brushing	\$ 6.50
Flea Relief	\$ 6.00

CATS

Cats: includes bath, nails, ear, cut or brush out, cologne.

I specialize in Persian cats as I used to show them.

Nails only

Brush out bath	\$ 20.00	small breed	\$ 6.00
Clip	\$ 30.00	medium breed	\$ 8.00
		Extra large breed	\$10.00
Cat show grooming	\$ 65.00		
Cat show degreasing	\$ 20.00		

Medicated bath (fungus, dermatitis etc.)		\$ 5.00 extra	
Muzzling	\$ 5.00 extra		
Matted Brush out	\$ 6.00 per hr.		

Answer
John W Wilhite