

STERLINGTON,
LOUISIANA

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- New Mayor and Council Members take office. Chief Bonner returns for another term.
- Sterlington reduces the town property tax rate.
- Sterlington Police Officers receive honors
- Sterlington Town Beautiful helps spruce up the town

YOUR TOWN
HALL EMPLOYEES

Marilyn Dilmore	Town Clerk
Lunar New	Clerk
Tammy Stewart	Clerk
Laura Boyte	Clerk
Brian Stires	Public Works
Pat McDonald	Public Works
Rheo Stewart	Public Works

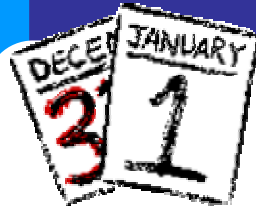
News From Sterlington

Town Hall

JANUARY, 2007

COMING
SOON!

townofsterlington.com



Welcome 2007!

2006 was certainly an exciting time for our town. As we anxiously head into a new year, we want everyone to know the people you elected will be working hard for you during the next four years. Should you have questions or concerns regarding the management of your town, we are always interested in what you have to say. Please plan to attend your town hall meetings held on the second and fourth Tuesday nights each month. The meetings begin at 6:30, and we sincerely request your input.

2007 will see some exciting changes for the town. Sterlington now has its first full-time Mayor, Vern Breland. Mayor Breland will be very busy, hard at work for the town. In February, he will be joining Monroe Mayor



District Judge Wilson Rambo swears Mayor Breland into office.

Jamie Mayo in Washington, D.C., where they will meet with members of Congress in an effort to secure funding and other forms of assistance for their communities.

The Lieutenant Governor will be sending Chuck Morse to meet with Mayor Breland and the Town Council in February to discuss the changes our commu-



New Council takes the oath. (left to right) Judge Rambo, Ronny Lowery, Cliff Bullock, Bonnie Dilmore, Ladd Williams, Ron Hill

nity is experiencing and how the state might help us deal with issues in our community.

We are living in one of the most desired communities in this area, and folks, that's exciting. Let's all look forward to an amazing 2007!

Sterlington Rolls Back Town Tax Rate

One of the really exciting things that growth has brought to our town can be seen in the way property values have increased in Sterlington. The value of homes and property in our community has been climbing in recent years and continues to do so. That is great news for the citizens of Sterlington!

Recently, however, the Ouachita Parish Tax Assessors' Office reassessed our property values for the first time in 26

years. Consequently because of the increase in the value of your home and because of the parish's increase in tax millage, the actual tax bill in many cases increased. Now, most Sterlington property owners were either unaffected or minimally affected by this because of homestead exemption. However, in an effort to reduce the effects of the increase in your parish property tax, the Sterlington Town Council voted to **roll back** the town property

tax rate. This means that while you may have experienced an increase in your property tax bill for 2006, please keep in mind that the increase was the result of the increase in the **value** of your property, not an increase in the tax rate the town charged you.

Please keep in mind that property taxes were due on December 31, 2006.

Did you know that you can pay these bills at Town Hall?

NO NEED TO RUN ALL OVER TOWN! JUST DROP THEM OFF AT OUR DRIVE THRU!

Watch for these

periodic
newsletters
around town.

Your Town

Council

encourages you to
attend Council
meetings but
understands that

sometimes that is not
possible. When you
can't attend, please
feel free to call Town
Hall for the meeting
minutes!

(318) 665-2712

**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM
YOU!**



Our citizens are important to us! And for that reason, we want to make certain that everyone is aware that many of your personal bills can be

paid at Town Hall. You don't even have to get out of your car! Use our convenient drive-thru!

It is important to note that while most of these services are available free of charge, some of the companies charge a \$1 or \$2 processing fee to pay your bill at Town Hall (nothing extra is charged to you by the Town)

Bills That Can Be Paid At Town Hall:

- Bayou Cable
- Greater Ouachita Water
- Atmos Energy
- Sterlington Consolidated Sewer

**COMING
SOON!**

townofsterlington.com

Police Officer Awards



Sterlington has some wonderful police officers, and recently the town was pleased to recognize two of those officers for outstanding accomplishments in the field of Law Enforcement during the year 2006.

On December 21, 2006, **Sergeant Vince Hodnett** was awarded the Sterlington Officer

of the Year Award. Sergeant Hodnett was chosen by the officers of our Police Department to receive this award. In his presentation, Chief Bonner stated that Sergeant Hodnett had been responsible for recovering a great deal of stolen property for the citizens of Sterlington. Sergeant Hodnett worked for the Monroe Police Department for 17 years before joining the Sterlington Police Department. Those years of experience truly paid off for our citizens as property stolen from them was returned.

On that same night, **Captain Donald Duncan** received the Sterlington Alderman Award for what the Sterlington Town Council considers to be outstanding service to the town. Captain Duncan, who also previously worked for the Monroe Police Department, first came to work for the Sterlington Police Department in 1999. He left for a while to work overseas, and since returning has once again been a valuable asset to the Town of Sterlington.

Great Job Officers!

One of the reasons we want to encourage you to get involved with what is going on at Town Hall is because so many things are going on each day that affect each of your lives. For many years, Sterlington was the forgotten step-child of North Louisiana. That is absolutely not the case these days. We have worked tirelessly over the past four years and will continue to do so. Did you know that in recent years, we have been successful in securing almost a million dollars in grant money for projects such as upgrading our sewer and purchasing needed equipment and cars for the town. Such grants bring your state and federal tax dollars back to Sterlington. We plan to continue knocking on doors in Baton Rouge and Washington D.C. to obtain much needed assistance and funding.

The town is currently pursuing two grants through the State of Louisiana to place new siding on town hall and to purchase three (3) DVR video recorders for the patrol cars. We are also going to pursue a grant to construct a sidewalk from LA. 2 down High Street to A.L. Smith Elementary School.

**TOWN
HALL IS
BUSY,
BUSY!**

**GET THE
FACTS!!**

A Message From The Mayor

Exciting things are happening in our town, and I am honored to serve as Sterlington's first full-time Mayor. I have worked diligently over the past four years as your Mayor Pro Tem, and would like to publicly thank Chief Bonner, the other members of the 2003-06 Town Council, and especially Cliff Bullock for their past and continued support as we continue this journey. I look forward to working with new Council members, Ladd Williams and Bonnie Dilmore. But mostly, I sincerely want to thank you, the people of Sterlington, for the opportunity to serve you once again. I promise to

give you exactly what your trust and confidence deserve, which is absolutely nothing less than all that I possibly can.

As the Sterlington Mayor position has come to require full-time attention for the first time in the history of our town, I look forward to all the exciting things that will happen over the next four years.

I am your Mayor, which means I serve you. And because I serve you, I would ask that when you have questions regarding decisions made or events that transpire at Town Hall, rather than listening to gossip and innuendo, please contact me directly. I want you all to

have my cell phone number, which is (318) 450-2707. As in any community, there will always be those individuals who work very hard to place misleading information out there or to twist facts and events in a manner as to portray a less than accurate picture of the way things truly are. You absolutely do not have to rely on unreliable or misleading second-hand information. You can ask me directly and I encourage you to please do just that. After all, I work for you!

I look forward to an amazing four years! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Vern A. Breland

Let's Hear From The Chief of Police

To the Citizens

of Sterlington,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your confidence in me by allowing me to remain as your Chief of Police for the next 4 years. I cannot express how much this means to me that you have granted me the privilege of being directly involved with the extraordinary growth we are experiencing and will continue to experience over the next several years.

I want you to know that my door, as well as my mind, is always open for any suggestions that you may have. I truly believe that as a team we can accomplish anything that we put our minds to. The support our department has received from you over the past year is the reason we have been able to accomplish things that are not the norm for a department of our size. Like they say, "good things come in small packages."

I am looking forward to being able to keep our citizens up-to-date with what is happening within our police department. Please stop by and visit with me.

Very truly yours,

Barry Bonner, Chief of Police



Judge Rambo swears in Chief Bonner

Town Hall Drive Thru Hours Extended

In an effort to be more accessible to you, we are pleased to announce that the Town Hall drive-thru is now open each morning, Monday-Friday, at 7:30 a.m. , so that you can drop off bills or take care of business before going to work or starting your day! And if you still just cannot make it during our regular operating hours, please know that there is a drop box located on the outside of the building where you may place most payments after 4:30 pm. (There are some payments that cannot be left in the drop box. Please contact Town Hall at 665-2712 if you have questions about payments).

Serving you, our citizens, every day!



Know Your Police Officers!



- **Chief of Police, Barry Bonner**
- **Assistant Chief of Police, Dennis Sims**
- **Captain Donald Duncan**
- **Sergeant Vince Hodnett**
- **Patrolman Les Auttonberry**
- **Patrolman Kenny Russ**
- **Patrolman Eric Newnum**
- **Patrolman Todd Newton**

**Sterlington Police Department
(318)665-4532**



Serving You, Our Citizens, Everyday!

Mayor, Vern A. Breland

Town Council Members:

Cliff Bullock

Bonnie Dilmore

Ron Hill

Ronny Lowery

Ladd Williams

Chief of Police, Barry Bonner

Public Works Director, Brian Stires



We will periodically put out a newsletter to help Sterlington's citizens keep up with the exciting things that are going on with the folks in our town. When space allows, the back of the newsletter will be available for announcements from our citizens.

These might be birthdays, birth announcements, wedding announcements, or anniversaries. Or you may just want to let the town know about the accomplishments of someone special to you. For instance, you may want to announce your child's college graduation or your spouse's receipt of an award. We want to celebrate your family's milestones, so please either contact Town Hall at 665-2712 or Mayor Breland at 450-2707 to let us know when something special happens in your life or in the life of those you love.



Sterling Town Beautiful
By Linda Adcox



Your Town Hall Clerks are eager to serve you. (left to right) Lunar New, Marilyn Dilmore, Laura Boyte, Tammy Stewart. *Helping you take care of business everyday!*

Sterling "Town" Beautiful is a group of people who want to make Sterlington a clean, more desirable place to live and work. We would like to encourage you, the residents of Sterlington, to help us do this. A clean town attracts businesses and people who would like to relocate and it will help keep the property value of our homes up. At this time we have a lot of work to do. As residents we must all do our part by making sure our property is clean and attractive. If you would like to join Sterling "Town" Beautiful, we would welcome you and your ideas. Call 665-2073.

In the spring we will have our organized clean up day in conjunction with Keep Louisiana Beautiful.



Rain, Rain, Go Away! We would like to remind everyone to be very careful not to allow trash and leaves to collect in your ditches. If you are not careful to keep your ditches clean, the rain may cause flooding problems. Thanks for your help with this!