

Serving You, Our Citizens, Everyday! Sterlington Town Hall (318) 665-2157

# News From Sterlington Town Hall

## Special points of interest:

- Senator Landrieu comes to Sterlington
- First Meeting Of Sterlington Chamber Of Commerce Is A Tremendous Success
- Public Works Department begins Mosquito spraying
- First Baptist Church Construction
- Saint Andrews To Hold A Back To School Festival

## Senator Mary Landrieu Visits Sterlington



When Mayor Breland was in Washington D.C. in February, he had the opportunity to spend some time with Senator Mary Landrieu and presented her with a packet of information about Sterlington. On Saturday, July 7, 2007, Senator Landrieu met with Mayor Bre-

land and the town council at Johnny's Pizza. WE discussed the economic growth that has occurred in our community and our plans for managing future growth and the issues associated with such growth. Our Town Engineer, Tom Holtzclaw, gave a presentation on the issues the town is facing with water infiltration into the sewer system to Senator Landrieu and her staff. The original system was constructed in the early 60's using clay pipe that is currently nearly 50 years old. Many of these pipes have cracks, which allows rainwater to infiltrate the sewer system. The town

has already completed work on replacing the clay pipes on Gilford Street, Harvey Street and a portion of Francis Ave. Plans are currently underway to have the clay pipes on Taylor Street replaced. Mayor Breland asked Senator Landrieu to secure 1.7 million dollars in funding for the Town through the Water Resource Development Act to completely replace all of the clay pipes in Sterlington. The meeting lasted for almost 2 hours and concluded with Senator Landrieu touring and pledging to help our town.

## Inside this issue:

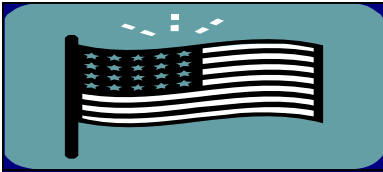
Report on Chamber	2
Saint Andrews Festival	2
Charlotte Welch Thomas Employee of the Month	2
Letter from Mayor	3
Letter From The Chief	3
Grants	4
Miranda McKinnie Russ Wins Award	4

## Sterlington Increases Efforts To Control Mosquitoes

Sterlington Public Works Director, Brian Stires, has announced that that the Public Works Department has resumed mosquito spraying inside the town limits. Our Public Works Department is working in conjunction with Dr. Cole Church from the Ouachita Parish Mosquito Abatement Program. The Parish will spray our town twice a month, and Sterlington Public Works Department will fill in the gap by spraying on the weeks that the parish does not spray. This will double the amount of mosquito control in our town and provide continuous coverage for the entire month.



## Sterlington Chamber Of Commerce First Meeting Is A Tremendous Success



[TownOfSterlington.com](http://TownOfSterlington.com)



Congratulations to **Charlotte Welch Thomas**, daughter of Patsy and the late A.J. "Son" Welch, on being selected as July's Employee of the Month at Franklin Medical Center in Winnsboro. Charlotte is a radiological technologist and has been employed at FMC for over 35 years. She and her husband, Ray, have 3 children and 10 grandchildren. Way to go Charlotte!!! Great Job!

The success of the very first meeting of the Sterlington Chamber of Commerce was overwhelming as more than 100 people were in attendance for the June 15th inception meeting at Frenchman's Bend Country Club. Charter membership in the Chamber offers a unique opportunity for individuals and business owners/operators to be part of history in the making as Sterlington's role is defined as a viable player in the economic and social well-being of Northeastern Louisiana. The formation of this Chamber will give our business community a voice in the marketing strategies of our town, as well as in our overall region. This will enhance the quality of life for all the citizens of Northeastern Louisiana.

As plans are made to move forward and grow, a mindful eye must be focused on the recent suggestions of current economic development studies for our region. These studies suggest that the economic development partners of our region form a unified front in soliciting business endeavors. Collaborative efforts must be put into practice when planning, organizing, and implementing our region's goals for the future. There will be issues unique to Sterlington businesses, as there will also be for other more localized business communities, however in this region, it is vital that we have an organization such as the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber serves as the main marketing tool for economic growth for the area it serves. It is also a way for the business community to present a unified front when faced with issues that affect the citizens who serve as its consumer base. Please consider joining your Sterlington Chamber of Commerce on an individual, business, or corporate level. Become a part of positive change for YOUR town and YOUR region. For membership information contact Ladd Williams at 512-6767 or Mike McGee at 665-4571. You can also request information by email at [sterlingtonchamber@yahoo.com](mailto:sterlingtonchamber@yahoo.com). The next meeting will be held at noon July 31, 2007 at ANGUS Chemical, Hwy 2 in Sterlington. Lunch will be provided at a minimal charge. Make plans to attend. Exciting changes are happening in our community and we urge you to get involved and be a part as Sterlington advances toward a very promising future.

## Saint Andrews To Hold A Back To School Festival

Saint Andrews Methodist Church has announced, Saturday, August 18, 2007, they will have a Back to School Festival in the Sterlington Park, located on Boardman Ave. The festival is open to all, but is geared primarily to families who have children returning to school. Food, refreshments and games will be provided by Saint Andrews. Watch for more upcoming information in our August newsletter.



## Letter from the Mayor

Another month has flown by, and summer will soon be over. I enjoy doing this newsletter each month, because I appreciate the opportunity it presents to talk about a few of the many great things that going on at Town Hall and in our community.

You may have noticed that we have a new flag pole at Town Hall. It was donated to the town by Koch Nitrogen, and because of their very generous donation, we were able to save the citizens of Sterlington approximately \$5,000 dollars.

Repairs have begun on Town Hall replacing damaged or missing siding on the building. These repairs should be completed by July 16, 2007. We also

plan to purchase new chairs for the Town Council meeting room. This will make it much more comfortable for our citizens to attend meetings. The funding used for the siding repairs and the purchase of the chairs are part of a \$15,000 grant from the state. Read more about future grants on page four.

Our first Sterlington Chamber of Commerce meeting was a tremendous success, and I feel very positive about Senator Landrieu's visit to Sterlington.

Please know that I am constantly working on the contacts we need to assist us in securing the resources needed to positively manage the growth we are experiencing and expect to experi-

ence in the future. Her visit was a result of the opportunity you gave me to meet with our Senators and Congressmen in Washington D.C. back in February in an effort to make them aware of our needs. Sterlington is getting a great deal of attention, and this is an exciting time for our town. Thank you so much for your confidence in me, and please know that I never take my duty or responsibility lightly. Sterlington is my home. I grew up here, and we raised our children here. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and to help build something wonderful that we will all leave for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,  
Vern A. Breland

**Can't Make It To The Town Hall Meetings? Check Out *The Ouachita Citizen* for an overview after each meeting.**



## A Word From The Chief Of Police

School vacation is almost over and the time for learning is just around the corner as is football and all the other fun activities that this time of year brings. As you have probably heard, we had a pretty bad vehicle accident on Old Sterlington Road in Sterlington. Luckily no one was killed in this accident, but they were seriously hurt. This accident occurred on Old Sterlington Road where the curves are next to the water between Fairway Drive and Sonny Dixon Road, and involved a sixteen year old child who was one of the drivers. I have instructed our Police Officers to pay special attention to this area and to strictly enforce the speed laws at this location. We as a community can not afford to loose a single child in a senseless accident that could have been avoided by simply having a stronger Police presence or enforcement. I assure you that we are going to do everything possible to help stop this from happening, so please obey the traffic laws within our Town and drive safe.

I am proud to announce that the Sterlington Police Department has obtained state-of-the-art video camera equipment in each one of our Police vehicles as well as a hand-held radar detector and bullet proof vests for each of our officers. This was accomplished by the hard work of our Mayor, Vern Breland. Because of his continuous efforts in obtaining grant money for our Town, our Police Officers have the needed equipment to serve and protect our community in a way that each and every one of us deserves.

If anyone has a question, comment or complaint, please do not hesitate to give me a call or stop by and visit. You never know, someone may have an idea that may save lives or make our town an even better place to live, but until they are willing to speak their mind these ideas may never be heard.

Sincerely yours,  
Barry Bonner



*Please Consider: You Hurt Our Town When You Litter*

**Town Hall Meetings: The 2nd and 4th Tuesday Nights of Each Month at 6:30 p.m. Please make plans to attend!**





Congratulations to Miranda McKinnie Russ who was named the 2007 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR for Century Telephone. Miranda is a 1997 graduate of Sterlington High School and of ULM. She works at Century Telephone as an accountant and is married to our very own Sterlington Police Officer, Kenny Russ. She is the daughter of Randy and Debbie McKennie. Great Job, Miranda! We are proud of you!

We're On The Web!  
[TownOfSterlington.com](http://TownOfSterlington.com)



The church steeple at First Baptist is now in place. Construction is moving right along.



The Sterlington Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following for their key roles in getting the chamber off the ground:

\*ANGUS Chemical \*Cross Keys Bank \*Marion State Bank \*Town of Sterlington \*Rick Owens & staff of The Waterfront Grille at the Bend \*Monroe Chamber of Commerce \*West Monroe/West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce \*Union Parish Chamber of Commerce \*Brian Stires and Pat McDonald with Sterlington Public Works Department

And a special thanks to all those who attended. Let's keep the momentum going!!!

**THANKS**



## GRANTS

The Town Council has voted to apply for two new grants. The first grant is from the Louisiana Transportation Enhancement Program and will allow the town to build sidewalks from the recreation center, down Fairway, to Old Sterlington Rd. The total amount of the grant will be \$175,000.

The second grant is from the Louisiana Government Assistance Program. This grant will allow the town to pave the parking lot at Town Hall. Every grant that we can get for our town is your tax dollars returning to Sterlington to work for you.