



# Sterlington Gets New Strip Shopping Center



nesses, including a coffee shop, clothing store and salon.

The recent increase in development of our area means available jobs closer to home for the citizens of Sterlington. It also means improved quality of life for our citizens who will be able to work, shop, and dine in Sterlington without having to travel outside our town. This is an exciting time! Please know that your town officials are working very hard to manage the growth in a manner that continues to make Sterlington a great place for us all to call "home."

There has been a great deal of new construction in Sterlington over the past few years, and we are very excited about the Keystone Plaza Development that is currently underway on Highway 165. The first stage of the development is expected to contain a variety of busi-

## STERLINGTON COMMUNITY FEST

We are interested in starting a Sterlington Community Fest for our area. Our idea for this festival is that it would showcase some of our wonderful local talent with contests and competitions, great food, music, and craft booths featuring and selling items created by the citizens of our town. Festivals require a great deal

of work, and we need to know how much interest we have within the community for such an event. We will need many volunteers. We will need people to help coordinate and plan the event. And we will need people who have crafts or other goodies to sell or demonstrate. Please contact us at Town Hall

and let us know if you would be interested in volunteering or participating in our Community Fest. Then watch for more details in the future!



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

1. Families or individuals who will pick up trash on your street
2. Families or individuals who will help pass out newsletters

Call Town Hall at 665-2712 if you can help!



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

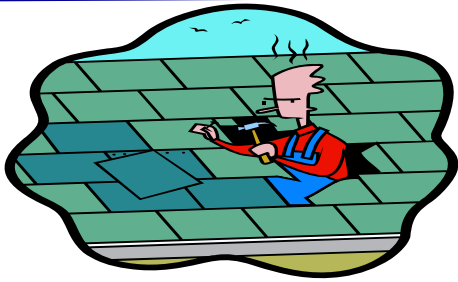
**5/7/07 Community Prayer Breakfast** at Sterlington First Baptist Church, 6:45-7:30 am. Please plan to attend. We will say a special prayer for the Class of 2007.

**6/15/07 Sterlington's first Chamber of Commerce meeting** will be held at noon at Frenchmen's Bend. Please contact Town Hall for more information.

SERVING YOU, OUR CITIZENS, EVERYDAY!

# NEWS FROM STERLINGTON TOWN HALL

# Community Volunteers Reach Out Through DELTA Project



Our community's first DELTA Project (Disciples Expressing Love Through Action Project)

program kicked off April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Mrs. Willie Smith. The repairs to her home were completed over the Easter Holidays with the help of caring people from the community.

The DELTA Project program is the combined effort of the Sterlington area local churches, caring citizens and our town government to make minor repairs to the

homes of the elderly people in and around our community.

Plans are for this group to tackle one project each quarter. If you know of someone who needs help in this way or if you would like to support this effort by joining in on the upcoming projects, please contact any of the local churches in our area or Sterlington Town Hall for more details.

## GET THE RIGHT INFORMATION, THEN GET INVOLVED!

By Council Member, Cliff Bullock

In the last couple of years, we have seen many changes in our community. While most of these changes have been positive, they may not have seemed so to some because they did not have all the correct information.. For some time now, I have wanted and I have worked to get a way to get correct, first-hand information to our citizens so that they would have reliable, factual information regarding their local government. That is why I am so excited about the newsletter you now hold in your hands. Thanks to Mayor

Breland and others for making it possible.

We always strive to do what is in the best interest of our town. We ask for input from our citizens before we make decisions. We are here to serve you as best we can; however, without your input, we are left making decisions based on how we believe you would have us vote.

I am very encouraged by the increase in the presence of Sterlington citizens at our Town Council meetings. The first years

that I served as your Mayor (2003-2006), very few citizens were ever present at the meetings. Now, we almost fill the council room, but truly there should be standing room only at every meeting. We are standing in the threshold of great opportunity! As Sterlington changes and grows, you should be involved in the decisions being made.

Please get informed, get involved, be a good citizen and a good neighbor. Take part in your community as others have.

## Be Careful of Construction on Highway



As you may have noticed, there is a great deal of road work going on in our area out on U.S. Hwy. 165. This work is part of a 1.2 million dollar

upgrade to the highway that is being done by the State. The upgrade will install new and larger drainage culverts under 165 and it will extend the turn lane at La. 2 and 165. The State anticipates that this will alleviate the problem of flooding in that area during heavy rains. Please be careful when traveling in this area.

## NEW TOWN HALL HOURS

### Lobby Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am—5:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am—noon

### Drive Thru Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 7:30 am—4:45 pm

Friday 7:30 am—11:45 pm

**Special THANK YOU to Jeff and Tony Hemphill for their help with landscaping Town Hall and the Memorial Gazebo!**



# Message From The Mayor

This year is flying by with so many exciting things happening! I have been working hard on grants for the town because every dollar of your state and federal tax dollars that we can get returned to Sterlington, is one more dollar kept right here at home! The competition for these grants is considerable, but we are holding our own so far. Here's an update:

1. Uniformed Code Council Grant: We received \$25,000 for training and equipment to implement building inspections.
2. \$15,000 to renovate Town Hall: We were awarded this grant. All the paperwork has been signed and sent back to the Governor's office.
3. \$19,000 for our Police Department: This grant has been awarded and the money will be used to buy 3 new video recorders for our patrol units, new vests for our officers, and a new handheld radar gun. All the paperwork has been signed and sent back to the Governor's office.
4. \$250,000 Safe Routes To School Grant: This grant was awarded. We had an on-site inspection and hope that initial construction on this project will begin in August. See the article about this project on the back page.

5. Priority 2 Capital Outlay Funding of \$90,000 and \$810,000 Priority 5 Funding: These awards have been granted. All paperwork has been signed and sent back to the Governor's office. The town engineer and the surveyor will begin detailed engineering and surveying in August with construction of Phase II on the east side of U.S. Hwy. 165 sewer collection system beginning in 2008.

The above projects total \$1.2 million dollars in funds secured by your elected officials and being brought back into our town.

I would also like to make you aware of another project on which we are currently working. Alderman Ronnie Lowery and I met with Federal and State officials who oversee the Land and Water Conservations Program. There is potentially \$150,000 dollars available to the town that we are pursuing in an effort to compete our Sterlington Recreational Vehicle Park. The Recreation Park will have 40 slots for RV's and slots for primitive campsite. There will be a large gazebo, covered shelter, volleyball court, and bath facilities. My family spends a great deal of time camping at Lake Claiborne. If you have ever spent time in one of the state park like Lake Claiborne, or

Lake Bruin, or Lake D'arbonne, then you understand our vision for this space. This will be an outstanding asset to our area, and once completed, we hope that it will become the home of our new Community Fest which we hope to begin in the Fall of 2008.

I have a meeting on May 2 in Baton Rouge to get Governor Blanco's support for our Capital Outlay request of 1.56 million for our new sewer treatment plant. I expect that we will be successful in this endeavor as it is a continuation of needed sewer upgrades.

Please do not forget to attend our next Community Prayer Breakfast, which will be held at Sterlington First Baptist Church on May 7, 2007 from 6:45—7:30. As you can see, we are hard at work for our town, and would very much appreciate your support. Please make every effort to be a part of your community.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve you. I truly feel blessed to get up each day to do a job that I absolutely love and one in which I believe.

Sincerely,

Vern A. Breland  
Sterlington Mayor

## FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY, KATY BALSAMO

What is a living will and do I need one?

First of all, A living will is a document where you state your wishes to have all or certain types of medical treatment withheld or withdrawn is you are suffering from a terminal and irreversible condition, including a comatose state with no chance of recovery. A living will can be written, oral or non-verbal such as hand gestures. A written living will can be made anytime and is highly recommended so that there is written proof of your decision. A written living will must be signed by you in front of two witnesses. An oral or non-verbal living will may only be made after you have been diagnosed with a terminal condition.

No, you do not have to have a living will. A living will is purely voluntary. But remember...if you do not have one and you become physically or mentally incapable of communicating, then the law allows other people to make these very important medical decisions for you.

Should you have any questions, call me attorney Katy George Balsamo at 318-387-2776.



**SERVING YOU, OUR CITIZENS,  
EVERYDAY!**

**Vern A. Breland, Mayor**

**Town Council Members:**

**Cliff Bullock**

**Bonnie Dilmore**

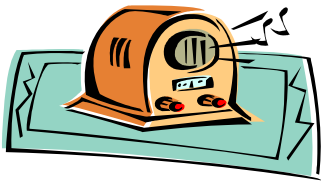
**Ron Hill**

**Ronnie Lowery**

**Ladd Williams**

**Barry Bonner, Chief of Police**

**(318) 665-2712**



Listen to Mayor Breland each Thursday morning at 7:35 on *The Greg Gullius Show*, am radio channel 540. Each week, Greg Gullius talks to Mayor Breland regarding the development and affairs of our town.

Access the newsletter on-line at [www.TownOfSterlington.com](http://www.TownOfSterlington.com)

## Let's Hear From The Police Chief



Citizens of Sterlington,

It's hard to believe, but summer is almost here and our children will soon be out of school. Summer is the time of year for baseball, picnics and all other fun outdoor activities, including bike riding. It doesn't take long to notice the increase of children playing about our streets and riding bicycles, and with this increase comes the danger of accidents. Taking the advice of several of our citizens, I am now in the process of getting a class together with the cooperation of our A.L. Smith Elementary School, on bicycle safety. I

hope to educate our children in the proper and safe way of operating their bicycles on our busy streets. However this is only one of the ways we can try to keep our children safe this summer. Another way is to be very conscious of children playing throughout our town and be sure to keep our vehicles at or below the posted speed limits.

It is up to each and every one of us to do our part in making this summer a safe and memorable one. I am also asking that everyone get involved in the protection of our children and property by calling the Sterlington Police Dept. with any

information about suspicious persons or vehicles. Your calls will be kept anonymous and all calls will be taken seriously. It's up to us to make Sterlington the place where everybody wants to live and raise their families. I believe we have done a wonderful job as a community in making Sterlington one of the safest towns in Louisiana and we should all be very proud of this accomplishment.

Please call me with any concerns or ideas that you may have @ 665-4532

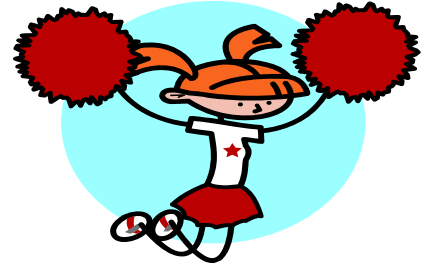
Sincerely yours,

Barry Bonner, Chief of Police

## THREE CHEERS FOR THE TOWN'S VOLUNTEERS!

By Council Member, Cliff Bullock

I would like to thank all of the people who volunteer to help make our jobs at town hall easier. Our town is fortunate to have those of you who volunteer to help make our town a better and more attractive place. The Sterling Town Beautiful committee and others give selflessly of their valuable time to do all kinds of jobs, such as picking up litter, painting fire hydrants, planting flowers, bushes, trees, building a gazebo or just cleaning up your own property. Each task is as important as the other, and enhances our community, our image and our attitudes.



## Safe Routes To School

Mayor Breland, Alderman Bullock, and the Town Engineer, Tom Holtzclaw, recently had a meeting at Town Hall with representatives from the State *Safe Routes to School Project*. This is a new program being operated by DOTD. 10 municipalities in the state were awarded grants for this project. Sterlington and Bossier City were the only 2 awards granted in the northern portion of the state. Sterlington received \$250,000.

Six feet sidewalks will be built along High Avenue, Harvey Avenue, and Francis Street in an effort to encourage more children to ride their bicycles or walk to school instead of riding the bus. Mayor Breland envisions once the project is completed that a majority of the children attending A.L. Smith who live inside the Village will ride a bike or walk to school. The town included funds in the grant money build a new covered bike parking area with new bike racks. Future grants will be applied for in hopes of possibly building additional sidewalks along Fairway and Old Sterlington Road, typing all Sterlington to A.L. Smith. Construction of the sidewalks is anticipated to begin in August.