

STERLING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2012

STERLING COMMUNITY CLUB:

Well 2012 is almost behind us and the Sterling Community Club has had some major milestones met this year. After more than 10 years of planning for a Community Center it is finally coming to fruition;

- Groundbreaking for the community center took place in early spring.
- The Sterling Newsletter was started with the intent of having more communication with positive information to the Sterling community.
- Four new board members were elected to the board.
- At least 30 new members have joined the SCCI.
- We received a \$15,000.00 grant for planning a Safety Walkway within 2 miles of the school.
- We were invited to submit an application for a Rasmuson Foundation grant & met with their staff.
- A website/Facebook & email address was established (sterlingcommunityclub.com).
- The SCCI helped in the filling of the Thanksgiving baskets for people that needed a little extra help
- SCCI building project was chosen as the number one priority for capital grant requests from the State.
- Planning committee meeting to advise on policy and procedures
- The community center is framed in, siding on and roof shingled, doors and windows in, most plumbing, electrical and technical wiring are in and we are starting the insulation, then comes drywall, floor finishing, appliances & furnishings, then more fundraising and then GRAND OPENING.

Volunteers are always needed to help in the building of this Center. In particular the floor

always needs swept after each day of work along with garbage hauling to the dump. I know we are all qualified to do this task and it would take a load off Terry Buffo. Just bring your truck and the broom is always available!! Maybe some church group or other organization could take on this task.

The next SCCI meeting will be held upstairs at the Head Start building on Monday, Dec. 3rd at 5:30 PM. Some of the items on the agenda are status of construction & finances, volunteer workers, policies and procedures, VISTA member & grant requests, report from the Planning Committee & more. Please come and join this positive working group.

MITCH GLOVER-Sterling United Pentecostal Church:

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sterling United Pentecostal Church will present a Christmas program, "Joy to the World" on **December 13 at 7:00 p.m. and December 16 at 11:00 a.m.**

Cookies and coffee will follow the Thursday program and a potluck will be shared after the Sunday morning presentation. Join in the celebration of Jesus and the joy he brings.

Call 262-7240 for more information.



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

The Sterling United Pentecostal Church will host Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The classes begin

Thursday, January 3, 2013 and run through February 28. The sessions are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. each Thursday.

According to Dave Ramsey, the seminar "Changes everything. Your money. Your story. Your life. Learn God's way of handling money."

Call 262-7240 for more information.

FROM FROGGY:

"THE STERLING GEM"

After close to twenty years living in Sterling I have made it a practice to meet people in most of our neighborhoods with a positive attitude, sometimes a neighborhood watch sign and a friendly smile.

I did attended one community meeting where over 350 positive neighbors got together to fight crime in our neighborhoods by putting up signs and getting to know each other in a positive way. Crime is down in most neighborhoods because we are working together as a community for more positive solutions.

Sterling is growing. Our population is estimated at somewhere around 6,000 today. I do not know how many of the 6,000 are snow bunnies, but I always look forward to meeting more people in our community. Out of a population of nearly 6,000 people it is difficult to get people in our community to volunteer their time to help with our Community Center. One of the first excuses is something like this. "Who's going to be there? Because if so & so is going to be there, I can't help because I don't like so & so" That is the attitude of some and thank God I don't have control of that. So at this time I am not asking for volunteers.

I want to share my enthusiasm with all of you about the most positive community project ever under construction in our Sterling Community.



"Our very own Sterling Community Center" I will take anyone who is interested, or curious on a tour of our Sterling gem. I will walk you through the building in a safe manner. It takes about 30 minutes for a tour. I will answer questions in a positive way.

Call me anytime to set up a walk through tour. Froggy @ 262-9277

The Sterling Brotherhood always serving our community

Inside of the building is very cold, so please dress warm.

P.S. Be Informed! It's all free information!

JUDY WARREN-Sterling Lutheran Church

We would like to make this announcement in the newsletter about the Sterling Lutheran Church? We meet Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and are located behind Zipmart on McCall Street in Sterling. Sterling Lutheran Church is a Missouri Synod Lutheran congregation and everyone is welcome regardless of affiliation.

For more information call (907) 262-9359, leave a message and someone will contact you. Thank you regardless of whether you can or cannot include this information.

STERLING HEAD START

Sterling Head Start continues to run a full program serving 40 families in the Sterling area and keeps a waitlist of interested families on file. The program offers a morning and afternoon class and has wonderful family participation that is crucial to the success of the program.



The staff enjoyed visiting with families during the November home visits. The children love it when their teachers come into their homes and share what they are learning in school.

This month the children enjoyed having parents come in and share about their jobs. Many children had family members join them for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal prepared by the Cook "Miss Penny."

The preschoolers had a great time visiting the Big School (Sterling Elementary), where they visited with the kindergarteners in Mrs. Rudstrom's class and had fun playing in the school gym.

The afternoon class enjoyed a trip to the Soldotna Police Department where one of the preschooler's grandmothers works. Both classrooms visited the Sterling Senior Center this past month and enjoyed the puppet show presented by CES that taught the children about Fire Safety.

One of the components of the Head Start program is the focus on building strong families. The last parent meeting included parent experiences on the topics of making a fire safety plan and checking batteries in smoke alarms and a presentation on "Growing Up Tobacco Free." Families were given information about the Great American Smoke Out and the benefits of quitting tobacco.

Three of the Sterling Head Start staff will celebrate 10 years of employment with RurAL CAP Head Start this year! A BIG Thank you to Mrs. Cindy, Mrs. Penny, and Ms. Debbie for your commitment and service to Head Start. Some staff members have already passed their 10 year mark. The Head Start office will be closed the weeks of December 24th through January 7th for the Christmas holiday and the New Year.

STERLING SENIOR CENTER:

It was a blessing to be involved in the Thanksgiving "Share in the giving" program that supplied 78 boxes of food to families in the Sterling area. Thanks to the seniors, Sterling Elementary School, community organizations, local churches, and various donors of food and funds



we were able to set an example to love our neighbors. Hopefully we can do the same for our Christmas program but it will take some doing. Last year I believe we did 54 boxes for Thanksgiving and over 70 for Christmas. If that same formula holds true this year, we will probably have a demand for around 100 boxes. That means we must ask, again, for non-perishable foods and monetary donations to make it happen. Please open your hearts and let's just do it. Heather Leggett returned to help organize the project and with the help of Shae Elson, we got it done.

December 8th will be an annual Prime Rib Dinner at the center from 5-7pm. Everyone in the community is invited. Cost is \$15 and we'd like to have you sign up early so we know how much food to purchase. Proceeds are for the center operating funds. Help us celebrate our 25th anniversary this year. We'll be having some events to honor it. Our most recent fundraisers raised the following:

1. United Way donations-\$1,320.69
2. Soup/Salad and donations for Food Bank-\$2,510.00 (Thanks, Michael Yard)
3. The Holiday Bazaar-\$1,288.25 (Thanks, Glenda Graham)

The center will be closed this season from December 25, 2012 through January 2, 2013.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, ,,,,EVERYONE

Tips from CITIZEN CORPS:

Snow: After the Storm (# 3 of 3)

Winter Storm Tips for Pedestrians

- Dress properly for the weather, including a hat, scarf, coat, gloves, socks and water-resistant shoes or boots. Walk slowly and carefully.
- When walking at night, wear outer clothing that contrasts with the white snow.

- When walking during the day, wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from glare.
- Give yourself plenty of time to get where you are going.

Continue to protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm, loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in several layers. Stay indoors, if possible.

Tips for Driving

Drive only if it is absolutely necessary.

- Keep a safe distance from emergency and snow vehicles and please use caution when attempting to pass a snowplow.

Give the drivers plenty of room to safely do their jobs.



- Be aware of hazardous road conditions, particularly black ice which can be deceptive in appearance and give the driver a false sense of security on the road.
- Keep your gas tank full.
- Clear all the snow and ice from your vehicle's hood, roof, windows and lights before driving.
- Drive carefully on bridges, ramps and other elevated structures, which can freeze before the roadway.

Editors Note: *Thanks to everyone that contributed to this Sterling Newsletter. If anyone has suggestions on other ideas for the newsletter please feel free to contact me, Grace Merkes, at 262-9811 or at merkes2@yahoo.com with your ideas. It would be greatly appreciated!! Please support your local businesses during this holiday season. It is*

with your business they can stay open.

On another note, I hope you all enjoy the holidays and remember the reason for the season. MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

