

## Senior Center Offers Food, Games, and Lots of Fun

New senior citizens center director Mrs. Ellis has a heart for helping people. Her zeal to improve the lives of Macon County residents over the age of 60 gives Shorter area residents access to services and programs that can enrich their lives.

The center, located at the corner of Highway 80 and County Road 97 west of Shorter, is on the grounds of the Prairie Farms recreation complex.

Inside the center, Ellis, Vornceal Steer and several other volunteers serve lunches, organize exercises and games and hold Bible studies as part of the weekly schedule of center activities. Lunch is served Monday through Friday for the daily gathering of 25 to 30 area seniors who come to enjoy the different menu each day. As uplifting as the exercising, fellowship, games and food are, Ellis envisions more.

The more includes bringing in a lineup of speakers to help seniors become more knowledgeable about the low or no-cost programs

available to them due to their age, or income levels. Ellis, a Southside Church of Christ member, grew up in Shorter and has a heart for its people. She wants them to understand what is available to help offset their costs for medication, garbage pickup and other expenses.

“We are working together to make a difference in the lives of the seniors,” Ellis said.

Center activities include quilting, bike and treadmill exercising, ball throwing, making floral arrangements, arts and crafts, speakers and trips. The trips, Ellis said, have included ventures to Washington D.C., VictoryLand, The Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery and Gees Bend.

She also put out a call for more volunteers at the center, especially college students. They are needed, she said, to look over utility bills



Sen. Richard Shelby talked with Shorter seniors during a recent visit.

and other payments seniors are making to ensure that they are paying the correct amount. That sometimes is not the case, Ellis said.

For more information about the center and its hours, call 724-0814, or attend the facility's Open House on Monday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## U.S. Senator Shelby Visits Shorter



About 30 people were on hand to greet longtime U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby as he made a visit to Shorter. He was making an official stop in Macon County and decided to see Shorter and some of its citizens on a rainy February night.

## Town Purchases Land for Affordable Housing Area

Shorter's drive to match affordable housing with hundreds of jobs that are located in Shorter has received a boost by the town's purchase of 36 acres on County Road 6.

Plans call for about 90 single family homes to dot the development along with parks, a senior citizens home and accompanying garden, according to Shorter economic development advisor Earl Martin.

Martin, a veteran real estate developer, said Shorter is in an ideal position when it comes to planning housing.

“Shorter is a wonderful blank slate,” he said. “We don't have many neighborhoods built up.”

That fact enables the mayor and council to better plan how the city

grows and to develop a vision for Shorter, Martin added.

The town purchased the land, and will put in water and sewer service along with roads, gutters and sidewalks to prepare the land for home builders.

Martin even hopes to have Wifi wireless internet in the new neighborhood.

“We want it ready for builders,” Martin said of the property. Late 2009 or early 2010 is the goal for getting the land prepared for prospective contractors.

Martin said home prices should range from \$100,000 to \$160,000 with a mix of architectural styles.

Most of the homes will contain

# Thompson Family Continues Kold Keg Tradition in Shorter

Drew Thompson is carrying on a family tradition that is more than 35 years old.

His grandfather Conyers built the Qwik Stop Kold Keg in 1971 and Drew's dad Andy took over ownership shortly after the store's opening. And as a teen, Drew was quick to see that his future might just include a few days at the store.

"I've been working here over 25 years," Thompson said, adding that he started working as a teen and now is the owner and operator.

The Trinity Presbyterian School graduate said a good bit has changed about the store since his early days.

"Stores were full service - pumping gas and changing oil," he said.

But the industry has evolved and now the store is a self-serve fuel stop and convenience operation.

The convenience part of the enterprise is where Thompson has room to try new products and services.

Room to gamble, as he calls it when he tries something new hoping it will work out.

One of those new services he has added is pizza, which Thompson said has been a staple at the location for five years. "I'm always looking to add services," he said. "You sit back and think of ideas. Will it work or not work?"

Everything is a gamble."

Thompson, 43, hit on another idea that has worked when he added Wind Drift

Trailer Park in 1993. The park provides utility hookups for trailers as well as shower and laundry rooms. There are about 30 sites at the park located behind the store, he said.

But he may be best known business wise as the owner of the store that sells keg beer. "It's our claim to fame," Thompson said. Since 1986, the quick stop spot has been offering draft beer in a keg. Thompson said the beer has been cold from the time it was made until delivery to the store.

"It has never been anything but cold," he

said. "Draft beer is smoother than can beer due to no temperature fluctuation."

He and his wife and three children enjoy their country home in Shorter. Thompson also serves as a county commissioner and wants to see the area prosper.

As a county official, he wants to work for sewer service upgrades and a water tower for the area. Though he believes it will take everyone working together to get it all accomplished.

# Shorter Community

# Yard Sale



## Saturday, May 16, 2009

# 7<sup>AM</sup> - 12<sup>PM</sup>



Old Shorter School Ground

"It's Free"

Bring your own tables, chairs, & saleable goods

~~~NO FOOD CONCESSION~~~

For Information 334-727-9190

## Affordable Housing

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three bedrooms and two baths with sizes ranging from 1,100 to 1,700 square feet.

"This is our first big project," said Mayor Willie Mae Powell. "It's hard to get a builder to buy land now. This will help Shorter get a start on filling our housing needs."

# PLANNING COMMISSION, COUNCIL

## 2009 MEETING DATES

MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>

JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>

JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>

AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>

SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>

OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

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## Sewer System Expansion Plans Underway

Plans call for work to start early this fall on the expansion of sewer service in Shorter to more than 80 people in the Brooklawn community area. The project should be completed in the spring of 2010, according to Jessica Barnes, a program manager with the South Central Alabama Development Commission in Montgomery.

The sewer service is being extended from the Halla Climate plant to the south side of the Interstate. The service will run along main street helping several businesses in that area.

Surveying and design work for the project is being conducted now, with federal Community Development Block Grant and Appalachian Regional Commission funds helping to pay for the work.

"We look forward to the final work on the sewer system and the new growth it could mean in our business district," said Mayor Willie Mae Powell.

## Old Shorter School Ballfield Nearly Done



## Police, fire departments to have new homes

The old Oney home has been purchased by the Town of Shorter and is being renovated to house the police department, and the mayor's office on a temporary basis.

The Oney place, located next to town hall, sits on four acres and will become the permanent home of the police and communications departments, town clerk Harold Powell said. "The mayor's office is being moved temporarily while we upgrade town hall," he added.

A site on town land also has been selected as the new location for the Shorter Fire Department and emergency operations center. The site is just north of the post office. Powell said the city has applied for federal stimulus funds to help build the new fire station. The plan, he said, is to have a full-time fire department to serve Shorter. Powell said the construction of the new multi-story hotel at VictoryLand requires Shorter to build the station as well as purchase new equipment, including a ladder.

The ballfield at Old Shorter School is almost finished, according to town clerk Harold Powell. With the help of a \$99,000 federal grant secured by U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, the town's share of the project was reduced. Above, the Mayor and town council get ballfield work started.

## PAY ONLINE

Traffic tickets can now be paid online. Visit [www.shortertix.com](http://www.shortertix.com) and save time!



Postal Patron  
Shorter, Alabama  
36075

## Shorter – A Town on the *Move...*



This inviting container serves as a depository for aluminum cans. Recycling helps keep Shorter clean and promotes efficiency. Help us recycle!

### Recycling Items

- **Newspapers**  
Please keep dry and stack in bundles.
- **Magazines and Slick Paper**  
Please keep dry and this category includes notebook paper, computer paper, paper bags, slick ads, stationary and magazines. Does not include envelopes and hard-back books.
- **Cardboard**  
Includes cereal boxes and feed bags without the plastic liners.
- **Plastic**  
This category includes milk and water jugs, juice bottles, soft drink bottles, detergent containers and other plastic. The items must be rinsed and include no tops.
- **Aluminum Cans**  
Beer and soda cans, but no tin or steel cans and no aluminum foil or food containers.
- **Oil recycling**  
Motor Oil, cooking oil and antifreeze can be recycled at Town Hall.

## Jones Sign Donates Trucks to Aid Recycling Effort



Rob Jones with Jones Sign Shop hands over the keys to a truck he donated to Shorter Mayor Willie Mae Powell. The truck will be used to help make the town's recycling program more efficient. Jones Sign can be reached at 334-283-2060.



Town clerk Harold Powell said more than a 1,000 gallons of various oils and dozens of tons of recycled goods were collected in Shorter during 2008. He said the bundled cardboard, plastic, newspapers and magazines are a source of revenue for the city. He said the donation of trucks by Jones Sign Shop will make the program more lucrative because Shorter will be paid more for recycled material when it uses the trucks to deliver to Mount Scrap Material in Montgomery.

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THIS SUMMER!**