

STERLING FINANCIAL CORP /WA/  
Form 8-K  
July 26, 2012

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): July 26, 2012

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STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Washington

001-34696

91-1572822

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

(Commission File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

111 North Wall Street, Spokane, Washington 99201

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(509) 358-8097

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On July 26, 2012, Sterling Financial Corporation ("Sterling") issued a press release regarding its results of operations and financial condition for the quarter ended June 30, 2012. The text of the press release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this report. The information included in the press release is considered to be "furnished" under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Sterling will include final financial statements and additional analysis for the period ended June 30, 2012, as part of its report on Form 10-Q covering that period.

Item 8.01 Other Events

On July 26, 2012, Sterling announced that its Board of Directors approved a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.15 per common share, payable to shareholders of record as of August 6, 2012. The dividend is expected to be paid on August 20, 2012.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) The following exhibit is being furnished herewith:

| Exhibit No. | Exhibit Description |
|-------------|---------------------|
|-------------|---------------------|

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 99.1 | Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated July 26, 2012. |
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**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

July 26, 2012  
Date

By: /s/ Patrick J. Rusnak  
Patrick J. Rusnak  
Chief Financial Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit<br>No. | Exhibit Description   |
|----------------|---|
| 99.1           | Press release text of Sterling Financial Corporation dated July 26, 2012. |