

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On May 2, 2013, Sterling Financial Corporation announced that it and its principal operating subsidiary, Sterling Savings Bank, had entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Commerce National Bank (“CNB”) of Newport Beach, California (the “Transaction”). The Transaction was subject to approval by the shareholders of CNB along with certain other closing conditions. At a CNB meeting of shareholders held on July 19, 2013, a proposal regarding the Agreement and Plan of Reorganization and Merger for the Transaction was approved.

Subject to the receipt of regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of other customary closing conditions, the Transaction is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2013.

SIGNATURES

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 hereunto duly authorized.

STERLING FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Registrant)

July 22, 2013
Date

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