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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES VILLAGE OF WENTWORTH EARLY STORM WARNING SIREN

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$10,870 to the Village of Wentworth during a ceremony held on November 1, 2005, at the City Hall. The grant funds will assist to purchase an early warning storm siren benefiting the residents and local businesses in the Wentworth area. The Newton County Emergency Management Agency in Neosho will partner with the Village and provide activation at the appropriate time.



“I am very pleased to announce that the City of Wentworth will be receiving these funds,” said U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee. “These new warning sirens will help protect the citizens of Newton County by alerting them in the event of threatening weather. This is an example of how the federal government is partnering with the local community to meet the needs of area residents.”

Congressman Roy Blunt said, “The problem-solving partnership between Rural Development and small communities has led to many improvements in rural America. New storm warning sirens for small towns and villages like Wentworth would not be affordable without the assistance of Rural Development. These projects, funded with federal grants, improve the protection and safety of life for the growing number of people who reside in those communities. These efforts are vital to economic expansion in rural America.”

Chairman Clyde Stephens expressed his appreciation, “The Village would like to thank Rural Development for the Community Facility (CF) Grant funds which helped to purchase the first storm siren for our community. We appreciate having this added protection during severe weather to ensure advance warning for our residents.”

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Roy Blunt for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri.” Branum added, “This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Ron Thomas, Rural Development Manager, at 1900

S. Business Hwy 71, Neosho, MO, 64850, or by calling (417) 451-1007 extension 4 or by email to ron.thomas@mo.usda.gov.

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