



# NEWS RELEASE

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## BARNARD RECEIVES USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR WARNING SYSTEM

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a \$2,090 check to the City of Barnard on September 5, 2007.

The grant funds were used to supplement \$11,860 provided by the City of Barnard to finance the purchase and installation of a new outdoor early warning siren system. A portion of this applicant contribution cost was donated by Aquila in the form of a pole and installation of the pole. Prior to the installation of the new system, the city did not have an adequate and dependable warning siren to alert citizens in the case of an emergency.

The \$2,090 in grant funds was made through USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Program. This program is available to finance essential facilities in rural areas.

"Today's announcement highlights the local commitment and the leadership of the USDA Rural Development staff," said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. "They are to be commended for their dedication and hard work in making this project a reality. The entire community will benefit from these efforts."

"I'm so pleased that federal dollars will go to help protect the safety of Barnard residents," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "Early warning systems are essential to emergency preparedness in our state."

"One of the facts of life in Northwest Missouri is severe weather that can strike anywhere, anytime," said Congressman Sam Graves. "This funding will ensure that Missourians will be ready."

"Financing essential equipment is consistent with Rural Development's mission and President Bush's commitment to the future of rural communities," said Branum. "Appreciation is



Pictured from left to right: Jeremy Brady, Rural Development Manager; Kathleen Sexson, Councilman; Dean Brookshier, Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman Sam Graves; Marilyn Hilsabeck, City Clerk; Ted Parker, Mayor; Ralph Bliley; Marvin Harper, Councilman; Greg Branum, State Director Rural Development; Neal Miller, Area Director Rural Development

extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Jeremy E. Brady, Rural Development Manager, at the Maryville Local Office of USDA Rural Development at 502 W. South Hills Drive, Suite 103, Maryville, Missouri 64468 or by calling 660-582-7421 (extension 4).

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

**“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”**

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