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# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES FUNDING WITH CITY OF FREDERICKTOWN OFFICIALS

Janie Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Fredericktown with a Certificate of Appreciation on Wednesday June 30th to congratulate the city on its proactive efforts to install two early warning sirens. These two warning sirens plus another one installed in 2009 will provide for the safety of the residents in Fredericktown during severe weather events. USDA Rural Development provided \$26,056 in grant funds to go along with \$8,686 in funds contributed by the city to purchase and install the two sirens.

“Today’s announcement demonstrates the important work that can be accomplished when the federal government works in cooperation with local leaders,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “As a lifelong Missourian, I know firsthand just how unpredictable Missouri weather can be. The new sirens that will be installed will go a long way in ensuring the safety of the Fredericktown community during bad weather.”

“Ensuring the citizens of Fredericktown have the proper equipment for emergency preparedness is crucial to the everyday needs of the community,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I am pleased to hear that with the help of competitive grant funds provided by the USDA, Fredericktown will have two warning sirens in the event of an emergency.”

“Early warning sirens save lives in our part of the state. Without the notice provided by our first responders, we would have little opportunity to react to severe weather. Unfortunately, we know all too well what a tornado can do to a Southern Missouri community – we’ve seen it



Picture from left to right are: Terry Luetkemeyer, Rural Development Area Director, Farmington; Heather Garner, Representative for Congresswoman JoAnn Emerson; Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Area Specialist, Farmington; Christy F. Mercer, District Director for Senator Claire McCaskill; Mark Tripp, Mayor, Fredericktown; Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development State Director; and Jim Dismuke, City Administrator.

happen in too many places. I very much appreciate the efforts of the City of Fredericktown to address this important public safety need,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Dunning said, “I would like to congratulate the City of Fredericktown for their efforts in providing this essential service to their citizens. “This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community.” “This project mirrors USDA, Rural Development’s mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects.”

“We here at the City of Fredericktown are committed to the safety and well-being of our citizens said the city’s mayor, Mark Tripp. “I believe these warning sirens will play an important part in saving precious lives in the event of severe and deadly storms. I would like to thank the USDA, our federal elected officials, and Fire chief John Clark for all of their hard work and effort in bringing and installing these essential safety services to the City of Fredericktown.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin P. Hinkebein, Area Specialist, at the Farmington Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640, 573-756-6413, Ext. 5 or by email at [kevin.hinkebein@mo.usda.gov](mailto:kevin.hinkebein@mo.usda.gov).

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