NEWS RELEASE

Committed to the future of rural communities.

Contact Jane Edwards 660-885-5567 Ext. #5

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES $7,400 GRANT TO THE CITY OF LAURIE

In a mock check ceremony on September 15, 2009, Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director, USDA Rural Development announced the award of $7,400 to the City of Laurie. Funds will be used to purchase and install an additional early warning siren for the 663 residents of the small central Missouri community. The assistance consists of an Economic Impact Initiative grant from the Community Facilities Program of USDA, Rural Development. In addition, $6,200 was provided by the City of Laurie.

"In Missouri, we know all too well that severe weather can strike in a matter of minutes. This new warning system will ensure the people of Laurie and Sunrise Beach have ample time to take shelter from these dangerous storms. Thank you to the local leaders and USDA officials whose efforts are making these communities a safer place to live," stated U.S. Senator Kit Bond.

"In Missouri we have enough severe weather to know that early warning systems are an important life-saving service," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm thrilled these communities are receiving grant funding to alert rural Missourians of approaching hazards in a case of emergency."

"I commend the City of Laurie for being awarded a federal grant. This funding will provide the City of Laurie with the proper equipment to warn residents when severe weather is headed toward them. This is a good thing for the city and its residents," said U. S. Representative Ike Skelton.

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community in providing an early warning storm siren," said Dunning. "In providing grant funds, 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. I am pleased that the residents of the City of Laurie will have the benefit of early warning services. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for these kinds of projects."

Anyone seeking more information about the water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at http://www.rurdev.gov/mo or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2nd Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660) 885-5567- ext 5.

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