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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDING FOR EARLY STORM WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF MALDEN

On January 16, 2008, Missouri Rural Development Acting State Director Anita J. "Janie" Dunning, joined local Rural Development staff in presenting a Mock Check for \$33,000 to Ray Santie, Mayor for the City of Malden. The funds will be used to purchase and install an early storm warning system for the residents of Malden.

U.S. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond said, "Storm warning systems are vital and contribute greatly to community safety and economic stability. The Malden City leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality."



Pictured left to right: Pam Anglin, Rural Development Area Director; Tresia Webb, Rural Development Manager; Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development Acting State Director; Ray Santie, Mayor, City of Malden; Jim Coburn, Emergency Management Coordinator; Diana Rogers, City Council; Rick Murray, City Administrator; Cynthia Earnhart, City Council; Dick Bell, City Council; Tommy Henson, City Council; Winford German, Fire Chief; David Black, City Council

In February of 2007, the local Rural Development office was notified by Mayor Santie that Malden was in desperate need of an operable citizen's warning system. The current system was over 30 years old and no longer dependable. During the storms of March and April, 2006, the system was not working, potentially putting the citizens of Malden in danger. Mayor Santie also expressed concern about the proximity of the train tracks to the City. With the possibility of a train derailment with hazardous materials in addition to the threats posed by the storm season, the City felt a great need for help in funding this project.

"There is nothing more important to me than the safety and security of Missouri families," said U.S Senator Claire McCaskill. "I'm so pleased this funding will help the city of Malden update their early warning system and better protect local residents in case of emergency."

"In the rural Midwest, we face some of the most damaging, destructive, severe weather in the country. When tornadoes or other weather emergencies strike, the warning sirens are a universal signal to seek shelter. Yet many rural communities are without this critical item in their public safety arsenal. Sirens save lives, and I appreciate the consideration of USDA Rural Development in helping the City of Malden address this crucial need," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The funding for the early storm warning system is provided through USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities (CF) Program. In addition to warning sirens, the CF loan and grant program also provides funding to help rural communities finance essential community facilities, health services, and the purchase of equipment which will provide vital services to rural residents. Some examples include financing an ambulance, fire trucks and equipment, police car, jaws-of-life, rescue vehicle, 911 dispatch center, justice center, abuse center, public safety building, medical clinics and hospitals.

“The intent of the CF program is to assist rural communities with financial packages to enhance the quality of life for rural Missourians,” said Dunning. “Missouri Rural Development was very fortunate last year to have the opportunity to provide over \$11,200,000 in CF loans and grants. We are proud to be able to assist the City of Malden in helping to provide a warning system for their residents.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Kennett Rural Development Office at tresia.webb@mo.usda.gov or by calling 573-888-2536, ext. 4. Rural Development's web site is: www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo.

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