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NEWS RELEASE

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City of Fair Play Receives \$93,985 Grant for Industrial Park Improvements

U.S. Representative Ike Skelton presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$93,985 to the City of Fair Play during a celebration on July 10, 2004, held at the Fair Play High School Cafeteria. Rural Business Enterprise Grant funds were targeted to complete infrastructure improvements in the industrial park enabling two (2) new businesses, Fair Play Metals and Nelson Automotive, to bring a total of 20 projected new job opportunities to the City. Improvements will include water main extension, sewer system extension, street work, and building site preparatory work.



Mayor David Vincent stated, “The City’s economic development will definitely be enhanced directly through the grant funds provided by USDA Rural Development and the two new businesses creating new employment opportunities. The City is very appreciative and proud the business owners, Grant Nelson and James Caldwell, have chosen the City of Fair Play as home for their new businesses”.

Debi Richardson, Community Development Coordinator, from the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments assisted the City with the initial application process and a Feasibility Study which provided valuable information used in the competitive scoring of this project. She said, “It’s been a pleasure working with the City of Fair Play. We look forward to a long working relationship. It’s great to be involved in bringing higher paying jobs to this community”.

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, “U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Ike Skelton have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects”. “The agency’s mission mirrors President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

The needs of the community matched up nicely with the selection criteria according to Branum. Priority points were awarded for population, economic conditions, experience, economic development, and creation of jobs. Branum said, “With the tough competition for these funds, the selection of this project is a real tribute to the dedication and hard work of the City”.

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 Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov.

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