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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$15,900 TO CITY OF VANDALIA FOR STORM WARNING SIRENS

On October 8, 2008, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Vandalia with a mock check for \$15,900 to assist with the purchase and installation of two storm warning sirens. These funds are provided through a grant from Rural Development.

Rural Development funds will be used towards the purchase and installation of two storm warning sirens. The sirens will be integrated with the Emergency Management offices. This will greatly enhance the services provided to the rural population of 2,529 in the City of Vandalia, Missouri.

“Time and again we have seen how important early warning systems are in protecting Missourians who may be in the path of natural disasters,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I am happy that these funds will help Vandalia to prepare for anything nature can offer.”

“I am pleased to partner with USDA Rural Development and Vandalia officials to help make this important project a reality,” U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof said. “This is a great example of what the federal government and USDA can do to help our rural communities. With the severe weather we’ve seen in the Midwest over the past few years, the need for reliable and adequate early warning sirens becomes that much more important. This grant helps Vandalia meet that need. This is another great example of our federal tax dollars being brought back and put to use in our communities.”



Left to right - Tony Laird, Vandalia Chief of Police; Alan Winders, City Administrator; Karen Schutz, City Clerk; Charlie Scrogin, Vandalia Fire Chief; Carolyn Wisecarver, Pike County Development Authority; Sarah Williams, Audrain County Emergency Management Director; Scott Callicott of Congressman Hulshof's Office; Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development; Llonna Weiss, of Senator Clair McCaskill's Office; Jacque Barker, Rural Development Area Specialist

“The intent of the Community Facility (CF) program is to assist rural communities with financial packages to enhance the quality of life for rural Missourians,” said Westfall. “Missouri Rural Development was very fortunate last year to have the opportunity to provide over \$11,200,000 in CF loans and grants plus over 125 communities have benefited with financing for early warning siren systems. We are proud to be able to assist with the funding of the City of Vandalia storm warning system for the protection and safety of the residents.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on Rural Development programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Jacqueline Barker at the Mexico USDA Service Center at 4617 S. Clark, Mexico, MO 65265 or by calling 573-581-4177 ext 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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

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