



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

1550 Earl Core Road, Suite 101 • Morgantown, WV 26505

Phone: 304.284.4860 OR 1.800.295.8228 • Fax: 304.284.4893 • TDD: 304.284.4836 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wv>

Gail Bennett, Public Affairs Specialist – (304) 366-2921, ext. 214

USDA Rural Development Celebrates Homeownership Month

White Sulphur Springs, WV – June 28, 2011: Rhonda Loudermilk has a smile on her face as she talks about her new heating system in her White Sulphur Springs home. Ms. Loudermilk qualified for loan funds through USDA Rural Development’s rural housing programs late last year.

Ms. Loudermilk, who has lived in the house for 27 years, had been heating her home with a wall mount gas heater. The heater was old and wasn’t sufficient to heat the space. Loudermilk was referred to USDA Rural Development through Open Doors. She began working with John Fullen, Area Specialist for USDA Rural Development located in the USDA Service Center in Lewisburg. Mr. Fullen said, “We were glad to be able to utilize our programs to help Ms. Loudermilk. We were able to qualify her for funding last fall so that she could enjoy the new heating system this past winter.”

USDA Rural Development funds were used to install a new gas furnace and duct work throughout the house. “I want to thank USDA Rural Development from the bottom of my heart for all of their help,” said Ms. Loudermilk. “Mr. Fullen was nice to work with and the new heating system kept me warm last winter.”

USDA Rural Development West Virginia State Director Bobby Lewis said, “We are excited to be celebrating National Homeownership Month in June. For more than 60 years, USDA has worked to increase homeownership opportunities for rural Americans through our housing programs.” Mr. Lewis went on to say, “Expanding and preserving homeownership is a major part of the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous rural America.”

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