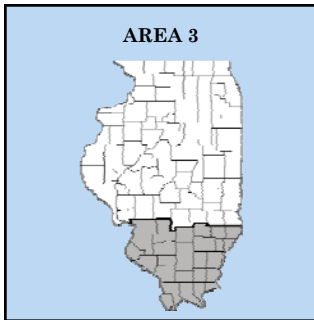




Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Development News and Highlights

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September 2009

SICCM and Partners Celebrate Ribbon Cutting for Vet Tech Program

Herrin, Ill., Sept. 22, 2009—Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) and partners celebrated the Ribbon Cutting of the Veterinary Technology building located at 3213 South Park Avenue in Herrin, Illinois. SICCM Executive Director Mary Sullivan expressed her gratitude to Rural Development (RD) and The Julia Harrison Bruce Foundation for their financial assistance to make this dream come to life.



Dan and Brenda Finke, RD Area Specialist Doug Grindberg, RD State Director Colleen Callahan, RD Area Director Rusty Wanstreet, SICCM Executive Director Mary Sullivan, and RD Community Facility Director Patrick Lydic.

USDA Rural Development has invested nearly \$655,000 in helping SICCM provide resources and equipment for students seeking careers where demand is high and pay is good. With Rural Development financing and the guidance of Rural Development Area Specialist Doug Grindberg, SICCM utilized a Community Facility (CF) loan of \$292,000, Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) of \$125,000 and a \$100,000 grant through our funding partner the Delta Regional Authority to construct a new building to house the Veterinary Technology Program.

The building consists of a laboratory, surgery room, kennel, radiology room, storage space, two offices, bathrooms, a dark room and a large classroom. Additional funding was provided by Rural Development for the purchase of big equipment items needed to provide the students with the tools to gain hands-on experience in their progress toward

(Continued on page 2)

Rural Development Provides Funding for Group Homes

Herrin, Ill.—The ground breaking event for two Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) facilities took place on September 16, 2009. Each facility will be approximately 3,600 square feet of living space, contain eight single bedrooms, and provide 600 square feet of garage/storage. The facilities are managed by the H Group, formerly known as Franklin-Williamson Family

Services, and will be located on Sassie Lane and Foch Street in Herrin, Illinois.

The residents of the home will be adults with some mental or physical disabilities who cannot live independently. “The homes give the residents a chance to live in a community setting,” said Rob Ford, Director of Rehabilitation Center for The H Group.

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Greetings,

With this edition we bring you to the end of our fiscal year. Because of the ARRA funding we have been able to expand opportunities to more people in Southern Illinois than we have in years past through our programs. Please enjoy reading this edition and, as always, we encourage any comments or questions you may have.

Best Regards,

Rusty Wanstreet

CONTACT US

Rural Development can help you finance a home, multi-family housing, business, community facility, or water and environmental programs in a rural area.

Mt. Vernon RD Area Office
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(618) 993-5396 (ext. 4)

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/IL/>

Send editorial comments to:
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SICCM Continued..



Vet Tech students Christina Frey and Lindsey McGovern are thankful for the opportunity SICCM provides with hands-on learning. Both students are from the Kaskaskia College campus.

their veterinary technician associates degree of applied science. Some of the items include: hematology analyzer, infusion pump, dry erase boards, surgery table and light, coagulation analyzer, x-ray film processor, and x-ray machine. The funds also provided additional parking for the building.

“We are proud to be a partner with SICCM in laying the groundwork for rewarding careers in veterinary technology,” said Rural Development’s State Director Colleen Callahan. “Education is the great equalizer personifying collaboration and cooperation.”

The Veterinary Technology (VET) Associate Degree in Applied Science Program is offered at five community colleges through SICCM. The

students gain administrative and technical skills necessary to assist the veterinarian in all phases of medicine and surgery for small, large, exotic and lab animals. Vet tech students Brandi Fallis and Tiffany Cormier commented they are in their second year and will be taking state board exams to get their certification. Fallis will continue her education to become a veterinarian.

“We are proud to be a partner with SICCM in laying the groundwork for rewarding careers in Veterinary Technology.”

—Colleen Callahan, Rural Development State Director.

The Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market is a not-for-profit corporation organized in 1973. The consortium is governed by a Board of Directors composed of

presidents and chancellors of participating institutions and is staffed by twelve professionals and two operational employees. The

members of the organization are John A. Logan College at Carterville, Kaskaskia College at Centralia, Rend Lake College at Ina, Shawnee Community College at Ullin, Southeastern Illinois College at Harrisburg, Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

REAP—what is it?

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24, 2009 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the department is providing \$62.5 million in loans and grants under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), an important initiative to help rebuild and revitalize rural America. REAP loan guarantees and grants can be used for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, feasibility studies and energy audits.

In Illinois 48 applicants in 33 counties were selected to receive a total of nearly \$3.7 million. Based on independent energy audits, the selected applicants will save between 20 and 74 percent in energy usage. Today’s announcement brings the total number of REAP grants awarded in Illinois this year to 88 and guaranteed loans to 38 for a total of \$6.2 million.

“Charged by this administration to build an infrastructure for the 21st century, we are working everyday in every way to get America growing again,” said Illinois State Rural Development Director Colleen Callahan. “Today our contribution for future generations is a significant investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.”

Recipients in this round of awards include Darren Schnitker from Washington County who will use a grant to upgrade his grain drying system and cut his energy use by 23 percent. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative will use its grant to install a geothermal heating and cooling system for the cooperative’s office building. The new system will result in a 74 percent savings in energy use.

More information on the REAP program, which was authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, is at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html or by calling the State Office at 217-403-6210.

HUD Webinar

Recently, Rural Development hosted a webinar regarding HUD appraisals. Most of the presentation was for FHA training purposes. However, Rural Development would like to review a few items that RD still requires for the Guaranteed Loans:

- ◇ *Gutters and downspouts for positive drainage.*
- ◇ *All knob and tube wiring must be removed and upgraded to meet National Electric Code.*
- ◇ *Well water must always be tested and septic only needs to be tested if the appraiser mentions any problems.*
- ◇ *All houses must have access to the attic and crawl space for inspection purposes.*

The Minimum Property Requirements (MPR) are safety, security and soundness.

This is just to highlight a few specifics, if you have any questions please contact the Rural Development office near you.

Rural Development Monthly Webinar Series

Oct. 22: Single Family Direct Home Loans

Nov. 19: Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loans & Grants.

Dec. 10: Community Facility Direct Loans & Grants.

Contact: James R. Wanstreet for more information: 618-993-5396 ext. 125

ARRA Recipients Must File Quarterly Reports Beginning Oct. 1

Recipients of grants, loans and other forms of assistance through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in four Rural Development program areas are required to report quarterly on the use of ARRA funds. The four program areas are water and wastewater, community facilities, Rural Business Enterprise Grants and broadband. The first reporting period is Oct. 1 through Oct. 10 for recipients awarded ARRA funding by Sept. 30, 2009.

The purpose of the reporting is to provide transparency to taxpayers on the use of ARRA funds. In Illinois alone, ARRA is making an additional \$85 million for water and wastewater projects and \$26 million for community facilities available through Sept. 30, 2010.

The reporting process includes providing information on the recipient, the amount of the award, and the project and activities being funded. Information is required on the completion status and the impacts the projects have (or will have) on created or retained jobs.

The first phase of the reporting process is to register at www.FederalReporting.gov. In order to register you will need to:

- ◇ Have a current email address from which you will send and receive reports.
- ◇ Have a current DUNS number which you were required to have when your project was approved by Rural Development.
- ◇ For payment of invoices, have electronic funds transfer (EFT) information, including ABA routing number, account number and point of contact.
- ◇ Be registered with Central Contractor Registration (CCR) (www.bpn.gov/ccr/default.aspx). New CCR registrants need a DUNS number, TIN or Taxpayer Name, statistical information about the entity and EFT information.
- ◇ Complete registration at www.FederalReporting.gov. Click on the "For Recipients" tab.

Registration for current recipients was to be completed by September 15, 2009. Reporting cannot start until October 1, 2009 when recipients can begin reporting online or by using an Excel spreadsheet template available at www.FederalReporting.gov. Uploading the Excel spreadsheet may be the easiest choice. If you report online, you may lose all the information if you time out before completing the report. There are a number of helpful links for reporting at www.FederalReporting.gov.

ARRA recipients must comply with the reporting requirements or risk being penalized. Failure to comply may result in funds being withheld, the award being terminated or suspended, or debarment from participation in other federally funded endeavors, whichever action is appropriate.

Your Rural Development Area Office can assist you with reporting once you have registered on www.FederalReporting.gov. Contact Rural Development with your questions.

Continued from p. 1 ...Funding for Group Homes

The residents will learn good housekeeping skills, such as doing laundry, how to live with others and other essential skills needed to live independently.

The H Group promotes community-based employment for the residents by bidding on community jobs, such as maintaining rest stops on I-57 or cleaning Herrin City Hall. They also provide workshops on a regular basis at their home office located in West Frankfort, Illinois, as a means to help the residents learn life-long skills.

The H Group Administrator and CEO John Markely, has more than twenty-five years of experience in administering group homes and feels they offer an economically sound alternative for individuals who might otherwise be institutionalized.

"This alternative is a great savings to the state," said Markley.

They currently maintain group homes in Benton and Marion. Jeromy Pulley has been a resident of the Marion group home for five years and said, "I will be moving to my own apartment soon to live independently." Pulley commented further that he will get to keep his community job, even when he is no longer a resident in a CILA.

The facilities are expected to create 16 new jobs and offer 24-hour staffing and supervision, seven days a week. Rural Development Area Specialist Cathy Abell, played an instrumental role by working with F.W. Residential Properties, Inc., a subsidiary company of The H Group, to provide a low-cost \$1 million USDA Rural Development loan to build the group homes.



Jeromy Pulley, five year resident of Marion Group Home is putting his skills to work as an employee for the Group Home, where he works in the community-work program. "I will be moving to my own apartment soon to live independently and I will still get to keep my job," said Pulley.

The H Group expects to be moving residents into the facility by spring and is currently taking applications. If you would like to make a CILA your home, you may contact The H Group at 618-937-6483.

For Rural Development low cost financing information, contact Cathy Abell at 618-993-5396 ext. 127 or visit our website at www.rurdev.gov/il/index.html, to view our programs.

Points of Interest

- Illinois ResourceNet, a funding access initiative, will hold a workshop to address *Federal Funding Opportunities and Successful Grant Writing Techniques* on **Thursday, October 1, 2009**. The program will be in the River Room at Shawnee College and is co-sponsored by University of Illinois Extension, Shawnee Community College, Southern Five Regional Planning District and Development Commission. The program will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and feature information about Federal funding opportunities from agency representatives, grant development strategies and suggestions from successful grant recipients. For registration information please contact Jody Johnson, U of I Extension, at 618-658-5321 or contact Candy Eastwood, Shawnee Community College, at 618-634-3231 or contact John Pike at 618-453-5563;email: JPike@illinois.edu.
- Illinois Rural Water Roundtable will meet January 13, 2010 at Ryan's Family Steakhouse in Mt. Vernon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. For further information contact Area Specialist Mike Wallace at 618-244-0773 ext. 128.
- Interest rates for Water & Waste for Oct. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009 are: Market - 4.250%, Intermediate - 3.375% and Poverty - 2.500%.
- Interest rates for Community Facilities for Oct. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009 are: Market - 4.25%, Intermediate - 4.375%, and Poverty - 4.500%.
- The current interest rate for both Multi-Family Housing (515 Direct) and Single Family Housing (502 Direct) is expected to remain the same at 5.00% for October 2009.
- National Rural Water Association's exposition, H2O—XPO, will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, October 6-8, 2009. More than 30 acres of outdoor equipment and displays. An all-in-one show for rural and municipal operations.
- Southern Illinois Rural Water Operations meeting will be held at Giant City Park on Oct. 21-22, 2009. Register at: 618-524-3445.

USDA Rural Development in Illinois Gives Top Honor to Mike Wallace



CHAMPAIGN, Sept. 21, 2009—Area Director Rusty Wanstreet presented an award to Mike Wallace, a resident of Nashville, for being named Specialist of the Year in Illinois for the U.S.

Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Wallace delivers business, community and especially water financing programs to residents and communities in Southern Illinois.

Wallace has been a leader in the agency's water and waste program for many years and helped more communities and water districts receive more funding in the last two years than any RD Illinois water specialist. He uses all the agency's resources to help his customers

get what they need. With the passage of the Recovery Act, he worked with engineers and others to ensure everyone was informed of the new funding opportunities.

He is a valuable internal source of information for Rural Development on project development, construction, loan servicing and procedures. Added to these responsibilities, Wallace is the office manager for the Mt. Vernon RD location, overseeing daily office coordination. Contact Mike Wallace at: 618-244-0773 ext. 128.

Time in Service

Rural Development State Director Colleen Callahan congratulates Rural Development Specialist Linda Raber on thirty years of service.



Office of the Year Edwardsville Illinois



Area Director Rusty Wanstreet presented a plaque to the Edwardsville Rural Development office for exemplary performances as individuals and as a team to accomplish exceptional loan production. Members from left to right are Office Manager Janet Fauth, Area Technician Trish Oberembt, ARRA tech. Kaye Medina, and Area Specialist Gary Mersinger.



The newsletter staff extends their appreciation to the Rural Development employees who contributed to this newsletter edition. Area Specialists' Kim Swisher, Marsha Gajewski, Cathy Abell, Rural Development Specialist Elizabeth Messervey, Business Cooperative Specialist Molly Hammond, Area Director Rusty Wanstreet, and Rural Development Public Information Coordinator Joan Messina.



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