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LAKE PROVIDENCE GETS HELP TO CLEAN UP COMMUNITY Recovery Act Funds Awarded to Purchase New Tractor to Clean Up Blighted Areas

ALEXANDRIA, July 30, 2009 – Spurred by the high number of blighted and abandoned properties, Lake Providence officials applied for funding through USDA Rural Development to purchase a tractor to clean up the town. This week, the Town of Lake Providence received \$25,038 in Recovery Act grant funds to purchase a new tractor to clean up and rehabilitate blighted and abandoned properties.

The Lake Providence funding was part of an announcement made by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spotlighting the selection of \$58.1 million in community facilities projects that are being funded with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that President Obama signed into law in February.

“Rural communities are important to the lifeblood of our country and the Obama Administration is committed to keeping them strong by providing Recovery Act funding for facilities such as day care centers, public buildings and community centers that improve the quality of life in these communities,” Vilsack said.

The funding announced today is being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities program, which helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings, and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes are eligible to apply for funding.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite; and the State Office is located in Alexandria. For more information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>.

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