



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>

Release No.: 08292008-1

Contact: Holly L. Martien, (318) 473-7917
 holly.martien@la.usda.gov

WHAT DO SIDEWALKS, BIOFUEL PRODUCTION, DRINKING WATER, COMMUNITY CENTERS, AND PATROL CARS HAVE IN COMMON? USDA Rural Development Funding

MER ROUGE, August 29, 2008 – Congressman Rodney Alexander and USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway began a four-parish, five-project funding sweep in Morehouse Parish Friday morning by presenting a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grant to the Village of Mer Rouge to construct and renovate community sidewalks.

After ceremonies in Mer Rouge, they traveled on to Lake Providence, Mineral Springs, and North Hodge to present USDA Rural Development funding for a community center, a biofuels production facility, water system improvements, and a new patrol car.

“You could build a community from the ground up with our programs,” said Holloway. “The projects we funded today show the diversity of our loan, loan guarantee, and grant programs.”

Funding presented on Friday included:

Recipient	Funding Awarded	Project
Village of Mer Rouge Morehouse Parish	\$174,540 Rural Business Enterprise Grant	Construct and renovate community sidewalks.
Town of Lake Providence East Carroll Parish	\$355,000 Community Facilities Loan \$125,000 Community Facilities Grant	Renovate and convert 30,500 square foot shopping center into a community center
Oswalt Bioenergy Company, Inc. East Carroll Parish	\$3,450,000 Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan	Finance a start-up biofuels production facility.
Mineral Springs Water System, Inc. Lincoln Parish	\$1,087,000 Water and Waste Loan	Upgrade water system.
Village of North Hodge Jackson Parish	\$15,000 Community Facilities Grant	Purchase a new fully-equipped patrol car.

-more-

**WHAT DO SIDEWALKS
BIOFUEL PRODUCTION . . .
HAVE IN COMMON?**

August 29, 2008

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, telephone (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

#