



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Cathy Coffman

636-789-3551 ext. 4

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$1,371,724 TO CALEDONIA

Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$1,371,724 to Chairman Bob Vinyard on November 21, 2005, in a ceremony held at the Caledonia City Hall. The mock check represents approval of \$500,000 Water and Waste Loan funds and \$861,974 Grant funds for the construction of a new sewer system to serve approximately 98 residential households and 28 commercial businesses. The City also received a Community Facility Grant of \$9,750 to purchase and install an early warning siren to alert the community of extreme weather conditions and disasters.



1st row: Donna Martin, Cathy Coffman, John Lucas, Fire Chief, Bob Vinyard, Chairman, Greg Branum, SD, Randy O'Neil, and Kevin Engler 2nd row: Terry Luetkemeyer, AD, Todd Moyers, and Robert Reed

“This is great news for the residents of Caledonia,” said U.S. Senator Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. “The severe weather warning system will alert the community when severe weather is approaching, especially during storm season. As a result, these new sirens will save lives and better prepare the citizens of Caledonia for threatening weather conditions.”

"In Southern Missouri, we face unique challenges on infrastructure issues like water and sewer systems and public services such as emergency response. Because we are a rural region, we place special focus on quality of life and business development issues. Funding rural projects gives us an important opportunity to exhibit our public pride in the towns and counties we call home. USDA Rural Development works very hard to identify opportunities to invest in rural Missouri, and I appreciate their cooperation and determination on this latest round of funding," said U S Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a safe waste disposal system along with helping to protect the lives of the residents with a warning siren,” said Branum. “This project mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make these projects a reality. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from both projects.”

Vinyard stated, “We would like to take this opportunity to thank USDA Rural Development for all the assistance offered us throughout the process of obtaining our new sewer system. The village would not be able to provide this valuable service without their help.”

Branum added, “Appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of increasing economic opportunity in rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents”.

Anyone seeking additional information on any USDA Rural Development program may visit the website at (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>) or by contacting Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, 10820 Hwy 21 Suite 201, Hillsboro, MO, 63050 or calling 636-789-3551.

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