



NEWS RELEASE

City of Rockaway Beach Receives \$31,900 Grant for Street Improvements

The City of Rockaway Beach will see its first major street repair since the sanitary sewer system was installed in 1989 and 1990. Jerry Finley, Rural Development Manager of Area 5, USDA Rural Development presented a mock check in the amount of \$31,900 to the City of Rockaway Beach representing a Community Facility Grant to improve street conditions for all residents. The City contributed the remainder of the total \$94,000 project costs. A ribbon cutting ceremony at the corner of Wallace and Wildwood Streets concluded the celebration. Refreshments provided by the Rockaway Beach Booster Club were made available at the Rockaway Beach Community Center after the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Low volume streets that had single courses of seal coat received an additional seal coat to improve the wearing surface and to seal pavement cracking. Other moderate volume streets received a double seal coat. The streets which were constructed with asphalt received an asphalt overlay to improve the integrity of the payment and to improve longevity.

Pictured (left to right): Alderman and Project Director, Jerry Simms; Alderman Dennis Howard; Mayor Fred Cravens; (Rear) Kevin Sprenkle, Project Engineer; Alderman Don Burche; (rear) Scott Crabtree, Project Contractor; Susan Kettelkamp, City Clerk; Lynn Bilyeu, Rural Development Ozark Local Office; Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Springfield Area Office.

Mayor Fred Cravens stated, "Speaking on behalf of the Rockaway Beach Board of Alderman and the residents of Rockaway Beach, we are all very pleased with this now completed road improvement project. We would like to thank all those who work so hard on this project and especially USDA Rural Development for having the initiative to establish funding availability for rural communities like Rockaway Beach so that we might meet the needs of our municipality".

Recognition and appreciation for a job well done were given to Kevin Sprenkle, from Sprenkle & Associates of Monett, who served as the Project Engineer and Scott Crabtree, from APAC-Missouri, Inc., who was the General Contractor for this project.

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects." "The agency's mission mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov.

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“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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