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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS NEWTOWN FUND EARLY WARNING SIREN

In a Mock Check Ceremony February 16, 2007, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, Greg Branum, presented a check to the city of Newtown for \$10,690. North Central Electric Cooperative will also provide a \$3,685 contribution of materials and labor. These amounts, along with funds provided by the city, will be used to purchase and install an early warning siren system for the city. The siren will benefit the residents, businesses and school in Newtown. The city currently is without early warning protection.



“Today’s announcement is great news for this community. This new early warning siren will help protect the residents of Newtown,” said Senator Kit Bond. “I will continue to work with the USDA and local leaders in our efforts to improve the quality of life for families in Missouri communities.”

Congressman Sam Graves said “As a farmer and member of the House Agriculture Committee, I know the importance of these dollars to rural Missouri. My office has worked closely with the USDA Rural Development and I congratulate the recipients. I am proud to have supported the important work of the USDA and I look forward to partnering on many more projects to benefit Missourians.”

Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, said, “USDA Rural Development is happy to be able to assist the City with this early warning siren,”

Mayor Angie Cool looks forward to the system being installed in the city. "The early warning siren is a much needed service in our area. The added safety for our residents, especially the school, is a valuable asset to our town and surrounding community."

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or can contact Daniel R. Niemeyer, Rural Development Manager, at the Kirksville Office, 2410 South Franklin, Kirksville, Missouri 63501, or by calling 660-665-3274, ext. 4.

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