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# NEWS RELEASE

Contact

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$667,500 TO THE CITY OF BARNETT



**Front row:** Katy Disinger, Senator Claire McCaskill's office; Lois East, Rural Development Area III Specialist; Melissa Richardson, U.S. Representative Ike Skelton's office. **Middle row:** Terry Kelly for Barb Bohley, CDBG Grant Administrator's office; Jeanne Thomas, City Clerk; Gail Schmitz, Ward II Councilperson; Jeff Korman, MO DED; Darren Krehbiel, P.E., Krehbiel Engineering. **Back row:** Troy Thomas, Ward I Councilperson; Larry Schmitz, Ward II Councilperson; Geoffrey Richardson, holding son Will, Ward I Councilperson.

In a mock check presentation on April 22, 2009, the City of Barnett received a mock check for \$667,500 from Kelly Gregory, Area III Director of USDA, Rural Development. The assistance represents \$395,000 in loan and \$272,500 in grant funds to be used to finance the construction of a sewer collection and treatment system for the small central Missouri community. In addition to Rural Development financing, the city received \$485,000 from the State of Missouri's Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG) and funds of \$657,046 from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The city of Barnett does not presently have a central sewer system. It is currently served by private septic systems, which can pose a significant health and safety hazard to the 207

residents of Barnett. The new system will be a combination gravity and pressure line collection system.

The funding announcement was part of many Earth Day events held across Missouri. Earth Day is being celebrated across the United States to acknowledge and unite the communities, organizations, and the U.S. Government for their accomplishments in providing safe and sanitary living conditions to rural residents.

“Celebrating Earth Day is a time to stop and think about how important it is to take good care of our planet,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “It’s important to protect our water sources while also making sure that Missourians have access to clean, safe water, and this project plays a role in that effort.”

“I congratulate the City of Barnett on being selected to receive a USDA, Rural Development loan and grant that will be used to construct a sewer collection and treatment system. Through the federal funding, Barnett will have the proper system in place to ensure better sanitation and hygiene conditions for the entire community,” said U.S. Representative Ike Skelton.

“(We) congratulate the City of Barnett on their leadership and hard work in developing this project which will serve to protect the health and safety of their citizens,” stated Darren Krehbiel, of Krehbiel Engineering, Project Engineers.

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe waste disposal system,” said Gregory. “This project mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Obama’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable waste disposal system. Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds to finance this kind of project.”

Anyone seeking more information about the water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660) 885-5567- ext 5.

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