



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Donna Martin 573-756-6413 Ext. 5

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES FUNDING WITH CITY OF GERALD OFFICIALS

Janie Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Gerald with a \$2,300,000 Mock Check on Thursday October 1, 2009. The funds will be used to upgrade and extend the city's sewer system to meet current treatment standards required by the Department of Natural Resources and provide service to additional areas in the city. In addition, Ms. Dunning presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the city recognizing their efforts in using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds to provide three new early warning sirens which will greatly improve the safety for the citizens of Gerald.

“Adequate infrastructure is essential to the quality of life enjoyed by the people of Gerald,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. **“I commend City and community leaders for their efforts to secure these funds. Because of their hard work, much needed improvements will be made to the city’s sewer system and life-saving warning sirens will be installed. These improvements are essential to the continued health and safety of the people living in the area.”**

“In Missouri we know how important it is to plan for times of emergency and natural disaster,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. **“I am pleased these federal funds will allow the city of Gerald to improve their sewer facilities and to purchase three warning sirens, which will improve the health, safety and sanitary conditions for its citizens.”**

U.S. Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer said: **“The funding for sewer improvements in Gerald will be essential in improving the water quality to the community and that will help improve the quality of life for folks there.”**



From left to right: Rural Development Area Manager, Terry Luetkemeyer; Donna Martin, Rural Development Area Specialist; Former Alderman Brad Landwehr; Bob Burns from Senator McCaskill's office; W Planning and Zoning President Wilbur Skornia; Richard Johnson, Alderman; Anita J. Dunning, Rural Development State Director; Roger Grob, Interested citizen; City Clerk Sarah Wheeler; Mayor Otis Schulte; Public Works Director Nick Grube; and Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Area Specialist.

Dunning said, “I would like to congratulate the City of Gerald for their efforts in providing these essential services to their citizens. This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community. This project mirrors USDA, Rural Development’s mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable sewer system and the new early warning sirens. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects.”

Otis Schulte, Mayor stated: “I am greatly appreciative of the funds the USDA has provided to the City for the Storm Sirens and the Sewer System. With these funds we will be able to protect the citizens of Gerald from Storms and other hazards, as well as provide them with an adequate working sewer system. I am pleased that the USDA was willing to help the city with both of these projects.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Donna Martin, Area Specialist, at the Farmington Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640, 573-756-6413, Ext. 5 or by email at donna.martin@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).