

Contact: Catherine M. Walters 573-649-9947

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDS TO THE CITY OF GIDEON

Greg C. Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, announced the funding of \$14,250 to the City of Gideon. The funds will be used to purchase an emergency all-hazard voice-capable warning siren.

“Rural Development is very proud to be able to assist communities in New Madrid County with these important projects,” said Branum. “The City of Gideon has made a strong commitment to provide quality service to its residents and these funds will enhance its ability to do so. Providing emergency warnings is a vital necessity for the safety of any community.”

“This past spring we saw the devastating effects of tornadoes and storms in Missouri,” said U.S. Sen. Jim

Talent, Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. “Without question, early warning systems save lives. This funding will be used to purchase new outdoor emergency warning equipment for the residents of Gideon so they are better prepared in the event of an emergency.”

“Our public safety is of paramount importance in rural Missouri, and new early warning sirens are of critical importance. We have seen how New Madrid County's neighbors have suffered at the hands of tornadoes and weather disasters, so this project for the City of Gideon emphasizes our commitment to being prepared for these emergencies in the future. I very much appreciate USDA Rural Development for identifying this opportunity to invest in Gideon, and I thank U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent for their involvement and support,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

“Because of our partnership with Rural Development we will be able to meet a very important need of our community. Our old warning system was very outdated and the new system



Front Row left to right: Rural Development Manager Cathy Walters, City Clerk Vickie Graves, Alderwoman Debbie Montgomery, and Mayor Lee Downing

Back row left to right: Rural Development Manager Phyllis Minner, Rural Development State Director Greg Branum, Rural Development Area Director Pam Anglin, Sen. Talent's Office Jeff Glenn, Alderwoman Heather Marcus, 2nd. District Comm. Don Day, 2nd Lt. Fire Dept. Chad Prewett, St. Rep. Terry Swinger, Fire Dept. Captain Kevin Hatley, 1st Lt. Fire Dept. Dalton Miller, Asst. Chief Eric Johnson, Chief of Police James Pickard, and Chief of Fire Dept. Lewis Beck

will help make our community a much safer place to live and work,” said Gideon Mayor Lee Downing. “We hope to work with Rural Development on more projects in the future.”

“Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” Branum added. “Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents of providing essential services to rural Missourians.”

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 Development programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Catherine M. Walters, Rural Development Manager at Charleston Local Office, 831 S. Hwy. 105, Charleston, Missouri 63857 or by calling 573-649-9947 ext. 4.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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