



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS FUND NEW TRACTOR AND MOWER FOR THE CITY OF LAREDO

Janie Dunning, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, announced funding of \$12,520 to the City of Laredo to help purchase a new tractor and mower to maintain the City's property. A mock check representing the funding was presented to the City during a funding celebration held on Wednesday, October 28th at Laredo City Hall.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said, "Providing the necessary upkeep to a community and its surrounding land is what allows residents to call the area their own. I am happy to see these federal funds allow the city of Laredo to purchase tractor and mower to further assist with the maintenance of their community."

Rural Development worked with David Davis, Mayor of Laredo, and Phillip Shephard, City Clerk, in the application phase of funding for the project. Mayor Davis expressed appreciation to Rural Development for funding of the new tractor and mower, as the existing tractor and mower were over 50 years old and beyond repair. The City was not in a financial position to purchase the equipment without the assistance of USDA Rural Development.

"Funding important projects like this indicates that Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities," said Dunning. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials supporting Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

Dunning said the grant funds originated from Rural Development's Community Facility Grant program. The community facility grants provide funding for essential public improvements to public bodies and non-profit corporations with substantial ties to the local community. The grant will be supplemented by \$4,180 provided by the City of Laredo.

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



Pictured left to right are: Rodney Palmer, City employee; David Davis, Mayor; Neal Miller, Area 1 Director, Rural Development; Janie Dunning, State Director, Rural Development; Charles Echart, City Alderman; Brook Balentine, Field Representative for Senator Claire McCaskill; Rebecca Burns, City Alderwoman; Josh Hurlburt, Field Representative for Congressman Sam Graves; Robert Kelly, City Alderman; Danny Jackson, Area Specialist, Rural Development; and Peter DeBruyne, City Alderman

programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Danny L. Jackson, at the Chillicothe Rural Development office, 1100 Morton Parkway, Chillicothe, Missouri 64601 or by calling 660-646-6222 ext. 4.

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