



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES FUNDING WITH VILLAGE OF LEASBURG OFFICIALS

Janie Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the Village of Leasburg with a \$424,000 Mock Check on Friday October 9, 2009. The funds will be used to construct new well to provide a dependable water source for the residents of the village.

“Construction of this well will ensure the people of Leasburg have access to a safe, dependable water source,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “Providing adequate infrastructure is among the government’s most important responsibilities and I am pleased that the efforts of local leaders and USDA officials have resulted in these funds.”

“Having access to clean water is one of the most basic rights as an individual,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I am pleased this federal funding will help the village of Leasburg build a new well, which will improve the health and sanitary conditions for local residents.”

U.S. Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer said, “This grant is critical because it ensures that the hard-working people of Leasburg have quality water and improved sanitary conditions that are critical to the well-being of their community.”

Dunning said, “Having an environmentally safe water system is important to the residents and I commend all the partners for their hard work in making this project a reality. This project mirrors USDA, Rural Development’s mission of being committed to



Pictured from left to right: Chris Kaiser-Village Trustee; Rural Development Area Manager Terry Luetkemyer; Mary Tinsley representative from Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer's office; Missouri Rural Development State Director Anita J. Dunning; Bob Burns representative from Senator McCaskill's office, Village Clerk Nicky Philips; Water/Sewer Operator Jerod Boast; Rural Development Specialist Donna Martin; and Chris Boone from Cochran Engineering.

the future of rural communities. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable water source system.” “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians,” added Dunning.

“The Village of Leasburg found itself with no public water source after our original well quit pumping and our Well #2 started pumping water with extreme sediment that couldn’t be used,” said Michele Hatton, the Village’s Chairperson. “With the help of the Leasburg’s Volunteer Fire Department, the City of Bourbon, Jared Boast, Monty Todd and the City of Cuba, we were able to haul in water until the USDA could point us in the right direction. Since we were a relatively new board with no experience, Jeff Brunning was a key person in leading us in the right direction. The USDA stepped in and found a temporary solution to our problem while they secured us a 100% grant for a new well to provide the Village of Leasburg with little or no cost to the citizens. Donna Martin with USDA Rural Development has stayed in constant contact with our representative and has helped us with every aspect of this process.”

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 R. 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.”

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