

USDA



Rural Development

Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$653,000 TO CITY OF MANSFIELD

U. S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson joined USDA Rural Development State Director, Morris Westfall, in presenting two mock checks to the City of Mansfield at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum. The city received a direct loan of \$540,000 and a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) in the amount of \$113,000. Rural Development loan funds will be used to extend sewer collection lines for 32 users and the grant funds will extend public water services to the Historic Wilder Home.

“The community of Mansfield and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum are important to Missouri’s pioneer tradition and culture. It is critical that we help our small rural communities provide families with adequate central water and sewer systems,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “I commend the USDA and City of Mansfield for extending sewer and public water lines and for helping to preserve this unique thread in Missouri’s rich history.”

“Mansfield will directly benefit from these investments in the water infrastructure. The USDA Rural Development program is designed to take on these improvements in our communities, to boost the quality of services and invest in the promise of rural America. There might not be a more appropriate place to make that investment than at the Historic Wilder Home and I am glad to congratulate the City of Mansfield on earning this opportunity,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Mayor Dale Keith expressed his appreciation, “The city appreciates Rural Development’s financial assistance towards the expansion of our sewer and water services



First row, from left: Mansfield Mayor Dale Keith; Stacy Burks of Springfield, representing U.S. Senator Christopher “Kit” Bond (R-Mexico, Mo.); Emerson; USDA State Director Morris Westfall; and Jean Coday, director of the Wilder home. Second row: USDA Area Director Mark Hultgren; Mansfield City Clerk Sheila Matlock; City Councilman Loren Day; Public Works Director Hank Flaggeolle; Campbell; City Councilman Eddie Calhoun; and David Rauch of Springfield, representing U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Lebanon, Mo.). Back row: Rodney Parrott and Rusty Doss, both of Springfield, representing Great Rivers Engineering, the engineering firm for **the project. (Quill/McEntire)**

which directly benefits our residents and the Wilder Home. I would like to thank the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association in teaming with the city and investing \$4,000 of their funds towards the preservation of this historic landmark. The extension of both water and sewer services is a great investment to the future of our rural community. We want to continue to provide safe and dependable services to our customers.”

“This project mirrors President Bush’s initiative and exemplifies the Rural Development mission – committed to the future of rural communities,” said Westfall. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Mark Dethrow, Area Specialist, at 6726 S. Hwy 63 Suite B, Houston, MO 65483-2701 or by calling (417) 967-2028 extension 3 or by email to mark.dethrow@mo.usda.gov.

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