



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS MOCK CHECK TO CITY OF MARQUAND

Morris Westfall, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented Denny Ward, Mayor of Marquand with a \$99,927 Mock Check on Tuesday December 16, 2008. The funds will be used to pave the downtown parking lot to assist small and emerging business which will provide an additional 10 jobs for the City of Marquand.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond stated, "We all have bad parking stories. Inadequate parking makes it hard to shop, get work, or to the doctor. Today's announcement highlights the importance of good parking for emerging businesses and the commitment of the Marquand leadership and USDA Rural Development to this community."

U.S. Senator Clair McCaskill said, "Up-to-date parking facilities make it easier for customers to access and support local business. Senator McCaskill continued, "I'm happy that through this grant funding the community of Marquand will receive needed updates to their downtown parking facility helping them sustain local economic development in these tough times."

U.S. Representative JoAnn Emerson said, "Rural Development is a driving force in the development and investment in our rural Missouri communities. This project will greatly contribute to the quality of life, public safety, and economic infrastructure throughout the region. I'm grateful for their strong partnerships with our state and local leaders, and I appreciate the advocacy of our congressional delegation for the projects USDA Rural Development supports."

Westfall said, "The City of Marquand in its efforts to create more economic growth will pave the main downtown parking lot. The paving of the existing gravel parking lot will improve the aesthetic value and support the development of small and emerging business. This support to small business is expected to create an additional 10 jobs for the Marquand area. These projects mirror USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that



Pictured left to right: Kevin Hinkebein, Area Specialist, Denny Ward, Mayor of Marquand, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director, Donna Martin, Area Specialist, Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director

**the community will benefit from the efforts of the City of Marquand. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal dollars for funding these projects.”**

**Denny Ward, Mayor for the City of Marquand states “The programs made available to rural communities are so vital to their existence. Without the opportunity to utilize these economic development grants, small communities like that keep the community viable, alive, visible, and moving forward in a positive direction. The highly trained staff at Rural Development, CDBG, and SEMO Regional Planning are to be commended for the impeccable support they provide every step of the way. They are behind these programs, and committed to the communities they serve. The development of this parking lot for Marquand will facilitate the entire business community. Offering a designated, organized parking area that meets the needs of patrons, entices tourists to stop, and encourages an investment in the local economy, is the promise of a self-sustaining future.”**

**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 Kevin P. Hinkebein, Rural Development Specialist, at the Farmington Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 4.**

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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

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