



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$11,400 TO CITY OF MIDDLETOWN FOR STORM WARNING SIREN

On September 25, 2007, Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Middletown with a mock check for \$11,400 to assist with the purchase and installation of a storm warning system. These funds are provided through a grant from Rural Development.

Rural Development funds will be used towards the purchase and installation of a storm warning siren. The siren will be integrated with the Montgomery County Emergency Management office. This will greatly enhance the services provided to the rural population of 199 in the City of Middletown, Missouri.

“Storm warning systems are vital and contribute greatly to community safety and economic stability,” said U.S. Senator “Kit” Bond. “The Middletown leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality.”

"I'm so pleased that federal dollars will go to help protect the safety of Middletown residents," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "Early warning systems are essential to emergency preparedness in our state."

"Our first responders provide an invaluable service, and they deserve our support," said Congressman Kenny Hulshof (MO-9). "It is essential that our communities are prepared for emergencies, and I am pleased that the USDA Rural Development has awarded this much-needed funding to the City of Middletown."



Pictured left to right – Michael McCurdy, Middletown Fire; Jenni Riegel, for Congressman Hulshof; Wayne Chandler, Mayor of Middletown; Jacque Barker, Rural Development; Georgia Scarbrough, Middletown Council Member and Park Board Member; Bob Woodson, Middletown Council Member; Roy Butts, Middletown Council Member; Amanda Frank, Middletown Park Board; Stefanie Koester, American Bank of Missouri; Llona Weiss, representative for Senator Claire McCaskill; Sandra Willis, Middletown City Clerk; Greg Branum, USDA Rural Development State Director – Missouri

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” said Branum. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missouri.”

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 Jacqueline Barker at the Mexico USDA Service Center at 4617 S. Clark, Mexico, MO 65265 or by calling 660-665-3274 ext 4.

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

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

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