



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$94,500 RURAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GRANT TO INSTALL AND REPLACE FIRE HYDRANTS

Tim Rickabaugh, Area Director of Springfield Rural Development, presented a mock check for \$94,500 to the City of Norwood on May 21, 2007. The funding was received from the RBEG, Rural Business Enterprise Grant, program at Rural Development. These funds will be used to buy and install new fire hydrants and replace existing fire hydrants for the city. This will benefit the small and emerging businesses of Norwood.

"It is important that we meet the infrastructure needs of our communities, like Norwood, not only to encourage economic growth but also to safeguard its citizens," said Senator Kit Bond. "I thank USDA for their partnership, and their commitment to the betterment of our communities. These are the type of federal-local partnerships I like to see."

"The City of Norwood will greatly benefit from funding for new and replacement fire hydrants. This infrastructure project goes straight to the heart of public safety, and will help keep citizens and businesses safe. I am a tremendous supporter of the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program in Congress, and I am glad to see it working so well on the local level in Southern Missouri. USDA Rural development deserves great credit for consistently finding ways to invest in our rural communities, and I am proud our entire congressional delegation lends its support to this effort," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Dale Garrison, Norwood Mayor said, "The City appreciates receiving this grant, it is good to have better fire protection for our citizens and with this upgrade we are also working toward lower insurance premiums for our citizens. I wish to thank the USDA Rural Development for all their work in providing this grant for our small community."



Front Row: Van Kelly, State Representative, District 144; Austin Owens, Representing Senator Bond's Office; Tim Rickabaugh, Area Director; Leroy Rakestraw, Alderman; Dale Garrison, Mayor; James Bradshaw, Fire Chief; Steve Gaver. Back Row: Chris Erisman, Engineer for Allgier, Martin & Assoc; Jack Sprague, Public Works Superintendent; Rusty Bradshaw, City Maintenance; Mark Dethrow, Rural Development Specialist; Robert Strickland, Rural Development Manager

“Financing essential equipment is consistent with Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s commitment to the future of rural communities,” said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community.”

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 home ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or can contact Robert Strickland, Rural Development Manager, at the Houston Office, 6726B South Highway, Houston, MO 65483 or by calling (417) 967-2028 ext 3

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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

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