



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES FUNDING WITH CITY OF SILEX OFFICIALS

Janie Dunning, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Silex with a \$752,560 Mock Check on Thursday October 1, 2009. The funds will be used to upgrade the city's sewer system to meet current treatment standards required by the Department of Natural Resources.

“Adequate infrastructure is essential to the quality of life enjoyed by the people of Silex,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “Because of the hard work done by city and community leaders, much needed improvements will be made to the city's sewer system. I commend these leaders for their efforts to secure these funds which will help to ensure the continued health and safety of the people living in the area.”

“Sewer facilities are an integral part of keeping communities healthy and safe,” U.S Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I am pleased these federal funds will allow the city of Silex to make improvements on the sewer collection and treatment facility to better serve its citizens.”

U.S. Representative Todd Akin said, "Rural Development grants for communities such as Silex are extremely important. They help build and improve critical infrastructure in the towns which make the production side of agriculture possible. Specifically, they help those communities comply with Federal and State laws, improve the quality of life for their citizens, and sometimes even provide short-term employment opportunities while the projects are being constructed. Everybody wins. It is very gratifying to see this grant for sewer improvements being awarded to such a deserving community."



Pictured are (from left, front row): Donna Martin, Rural Development Area Specialist; Bob Burns, Sen. McCaskill's representative; Justin Spanier, alderman; Mayor Janet Baker; Carol Smith, alderwoman; Janie Dunning, Rural Development State Director USDA; Rodney Dolbeare, project engineer for Great River Engineering; and Doris Royster, city clerk; (from left, back row): Steve Etcher, executive director for Boonslick RPC; Lee Elliott, project attorney; Mike Simpson, alderman; Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director; Jim Mitas, Congressman Akin's representative; Rep. Ed Schieffer; and Jay Gourley of Boonslick RPC.

Dunning said, “I would like to congratulate the City of Silex for their efforts in providing these essential services to their citizens. This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community. This project mirrors USDA, Rural Development’s mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable waste disposal 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.”

Janet Baker, Mayor added, “As mayor of the City of Silex and on behalf of the Board of Aldermen, we are all looking forward to working on our new Lagoon Project. This project will be of great benefit to our small city in the future with the relocation of part of our area out of the flood plain. The current lagoon is near capacity and with the new subdivision in play, it will help for future expansion.”

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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