



NEWS RELEASE

Contact

Jane Edwards

660-885-5567 Ext. #5

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$10,065 GRANT TO THE CITY OF VERSAILLES

In a mock check ceremony on February 2, 2009, Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development announced the award of \$10,065 to the City of Versailles. Funds will be used to purchase and install an early warning siren for 2,565 residents. The assistance consists of an Economic Impact Initiative grant from the Community Facilities Program of USDA, Rural Development. In addition, \$8,235 was provided by the City of Versailles to complete the funding of this project.



“Today’s announcement demonstrates the important work that can be accomplished when the federal government works in cooperation with local leaders,” said Senator Kit Bond. “As a lifelong Missourian, I know firsthand just how unpredictable Missouri weather can be. The new siren that will be installed will go a long way in ensuring the safety of the residents of the Versailles community during times of inclement weather.”

Left to right: Jeanie McGinnis, City Clerk; Steve Fields, Alderman; Terry Silvey, Mayor; Michael Fitzgerald, AS, USDA; Larry Marshall, Chief of Police; Melissa Richardson, Ike Skelton's office; Morris Westfall, State Director; Kelly Gregory, Area Director; Katy Disinger, Claire McCaskill's office.

“In Missouri we have seen time and time again how important it is that citizens get fair warning and information that they can rely on in times of emergency,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I hope funds will help ensure that the people of Versailles will be adequately forewarned during a time of crisis.”

“Each year we witness the devastating effects of natural disasters that sweep through Missouri. While we cannot control who is or when we are affected by severe weather, we can equip ourselves with early warning sirens, which are proven to save lives. I am pleased that Sunrise Beach and Versailles will have the equipment to warn residents when severe weather is headed toward them,” said U. S. Representative Ike Skelton.

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community in providing an early warning storm siren,” said Westfall. “In

providing grant funds, this project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission 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 the residents of the City of Versailles will have the benefit of early warning services. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for these kinds of projects."

Anyone seeking more information about the water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2nd Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660) 885-5567- ext 5.

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

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