



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Kevin P. Hinkebein (573) 756-6413 Ext. 5

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$155,300 FOR NEW FIRE STATION

Morris Westfall, the Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, hosted a ground breaking/mock check presentation on June 13, 2008, at the site of the new 6-truck bay firehouse to be constructed in Irondale for the Irondale Citizens Fire Group, Inc. USDA, Rural Development partnered with the Community Development Block Grant program to provide the funding for this project.

U.S. Senator Clair McCaskill said, "The men and women who fight fires put their lives on the line everyday for Missouri families. I am pleased this federal funding will help provide them with the facilities they need to do their jobs protecting local communities."

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson said, "This investment in the public safety of every member of the Irondale community represents the dedication of our community leaders and federal agencies to our first responders. We want to be sure they have the resources and facilities that help them do their jobs and keep us safe. Our firefighters and EMTs comprise a brave, dedicated group – and I am proud that USDA Rural Development recognized their service by funding and improvement of this magnitude in Irondale."

Wayne Taylor, President of the Irondale Citizen's Fire Group, Inc., said, "Getting to this point has been quite an ordeal. The process required a lot of hard work from Irondale Fire Chief Bill Byers, members of the Board of directors, Gene Smith, Karen Teal, and myself, but the taxpayers of Irondale Fire Protection District deserve the best protection and service we can provide for their tax dollars. Our tireless volunteers, men and women, will be able to better serve our community, especially in emergency situations when food and shelter are needed.

Westfall, said "Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiatives for rural America and Rural Development's commitment to the future of rural communities. Appreciation is also extended to our Federal elected officials for supporting USDA



Front row-left to right: Morris Westfall, USDA, Missouri State Director, Bill Byers, Irondale Fire Chief, Jamie Byers, Karen Teal, Wayne Taylor, Gene Smith, Brendan Fahey, Representative from Claire McCaskill's office.

Second row-left to right: Chris Gibbons, Terry Luetkemeyer, USDA, Area Director, Kevin Hinkebin, USDA, Area Specialist, Kevin Province, Ron Kennon, Mayor of Irondale, Ed Wichman, Liz Roberts, Department of Economic Development.

Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Kevin P. Hinkebein, Area Specialist, at the Farmington Area Office of USDA Rural Development at 812 Progress Drive, Farmington, MO 63640 or by calling (573) 75606413 Ext. 5.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).