

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

AMAZONIA EARTH DAY 2003

130 HOUSEHOLDS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW SEWER SYSTEM

The City of Amazonia celebrated Earth Day in conjunction with USDA Rural Development presenting a \$700,000 mock check for a new sewer system. The event was held on Tuesday April 22, 2003 at the Amazonia Lion's Club building. The new central sewer system will benefit 130 households with construction of a new collection area and a three cell lagoon treatment system. The system was jointly funded by the \$700,000 Rural Development Wastewater Loan/Grant (\$328,500 Loan and \$371,500 Grant) and a State of Missouri \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant.

Greg Branum, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, said, "This is a great 2003 Earth Day Project! The project meets the needs of the community, as well as, providing an environmentally safe wastewater disposal system. The new system will eliminate a large number of inadequate septic tanks and stop ground water contamination around Amazonia."

Rick Russell, Mayor of Amazonia, Missouri, said, "I want to personally thank everyone for their hard work to make our new sewer system happen and the many people who got us to where we can celebrate today."

Construction for the sewer collection and treatment system should start in May 2003 and finish one year later. The new system will serve 130 Amazonia households and businesses when fully operational. Snyder & Associates Inc. of St. Joseph, Missouri is the design engineer and will monitor construction of the system as project engineer. Mr. Lance Davis, St. Joseph attorney, serves as project legal counsel for the City of Amazonia. The Mo-Kan Regional Council of Governments in St. Joseph will help the city administer the CDBG program state funds. The contractor installing the sewer collection lines is Glaser Trucking Services, Inc. of Odessa, Missouri and the contractor doing the lagoon is Kissick Construction Co. of Kansas City, Missouri.

The Boy/Girl Scouts of Amazonia Elementary School presented the United States Flag and led the Pledge of Alliance at the Earth Day ceremonies. Jeff Powellson, Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), helped the scouts plant some trees at the Lion's Club building. Every Amazonia elementary school student was also given a tree seeding thanks to MDC. They are to plant them at their home in recognition of Earth Day-Arbor Day 2003 according to Jeff Powellson.

Anyone seeking more information about the Amazonia sewer project can contact Mrs. Opal Meers at the City Hall by calling 816-475-2281. Additional information on this project or other USDA Rural Development programs is available by visiting the agency website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo>. or by contacting Gary Baumann, Community Development Manager at 3905 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, Missouri 64506 or by calling 816-364-3767.

The USDA Development is an equal opportunity service provider.