



Wisconsin

DEVELOPMENTS

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Richland Center Selected as National Earth Day Project USDA Official Announces Funding for New Treatment System

In celebration of Earth Day, USDA Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, Judith Canales, joined local officials and project partners to officially award the City of Richland Center funding to prevent water contamination and improve air quality through investments in a new wastewater treatment facility.

"I am extremely pleased to take part in this important announcement," said Canales. "USDA Rural Development is dedicated to improving water quality for rural residents. This funding will significantly enhance the quality of life for the residents of Richland Center."

The city currently experiences issues with ground water contamination and air pollution as the present facility is located in a confined area in the downtown district. In addition, the facility is unable to accommodate community growth.

USDA Rural Development is providing a \$15.7 million loan and \$6.45 million grant to finance improvements and construction of a new wastewater treatment facility and administrative building. The upgrades and



USDA Rural Development State Director Stan Gruszynski (far left) and USDA Acting Deputy Undersecretary Judith Canales present Awards to the City of Richland Center and the Richland Center Utilities Commission

new construction will ensure the prevention of contamination to the area groundwater, improve air quality, enable the city to keep sewer rates affordable, and allow for community expansion and growth.

Also taking part in the Earth Day celebration were children from the local school district, who competed in an Earth Day Logo Drawing Contest, with the winner's logo to be used as the 2014 Earth Day logo for next year's Rural Development Earth Day celebrations in Wisconsin.

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USDA and WHPC Celebrate Homeownership Month USDA Rural Development recognizes achievements of WHPC

In honor of National Homeownership Month, the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development and the Wisconsin Housing Preservation Corporation (WHPC) recognized successful multi-family housing preservation efforts and accomplishments across Wisconsin at Orfordville Meadows, in Orfordville, Wis.

USDA Rural Development State Director, Stan Gruszynski, used the occasion to present the WHPC with a certificate of

achievement to mark their success and accomplishments.

"Preserving and providing affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families is a critical service to rural families and strengthens our rural economy," said Gruszynski. "As a result of their initiative and investment, the Wisconsin Housing Preservation Corporation has enabled hundreds of individuals and families access to safe affordable housing."

For several years, USDA Rural

Development and the WHPC have worked in partnership to preserve and upgrade seven multi-family housing complexes in the communities of Albany, Belleville, Deerfield, Fox Lake, Orfordville, Pardeeville and Randolph, Wis.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

USDA Official Visits Central Wisconsin Businesses

USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service Acting Administrator, Lillian Salerno, toured several Wisconsin businesses on June 27 that received USDA assistance to create jobs and expand economic opportunity for rural residents.

“These projects are great examples of the Obama Administration’s ongoing efforts to create economic and job opportunities in rural areas by ensuring that strategic investments are made in our small towns and cities,” Salerno said. “Rural businesses drive community revitalization by providing products and services to local residents, as well as throughout the country and world. Projects like these spur important economic development and strengthen communities across the nation.”

Administrator Salerno toured Intevation Food Group, LLC in Plover, Wis. and ended the visit at Cow Poo, LLC at Heller Farms in Alma Center, Wis.

Intevation Food Group is a food manufacturing company that focuses on the production of appetizers and potato products. In 2010, as a start-up company faced with a national recession, Intevation Food Group found it difficult to obtain bank financing to construct a new manufacturing plant, even with a significant amount of investor capital. Determined to

grow the business, Intevation Food Group partnered with CAP Services, a local community action agency serving north-central Wisconsin. CAP Services was able to secure a \$5.9 million USDA Rural Development Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan through United Farm Credit Services to finance the plant construction under a lease-purchase agreement. The partnerships of CAP Services, United Farm Credit Services, and USDA Rural Development enabled Intevation Food Group to lease a new 100,000 square foot food processing plant and headquarters in Plover, Wis., creating 48 new jobs. Today, Intevation Food Group has nearly 200 full-time and seasonal employees.

The final stop of the tour included a demonstration of an anaerobic digester at Heller Farms. In 2012, Cow Poo, LLC received a USDA’s Rural Energy for America Program loan to purchase and install an anaerobic digester. Today, the anaerobic digester processes 50,000 gallons of manure daily, generating approximately 3 million kilowatt hours annually. They began selling excess electricity in May 2013.

Anaerobic digester technology is a proven method of converting waste products, such

as manure, into electricity. Anaerobic digesters are in concert with an agreement Secretary Vilsack signed with U.S. dairy producers in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009 to accelerate the adoption of innovative manure-to-energy projects on American dairy farms.

Administrator’s Salerno’s visit was on the heels of National Small Business Week, June 17 – 21, 2013. Since 2009, USDA has provided more than 15,000 loans and grants through its business programs, helping more than 60,000 rural businesses. Last year, USDA funding from these programs helped create or save an estimated 53,000 jobs for rural residents. For more information on USDA’s business and cooperative development programs, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Business.html>.



Intevation Food Group, Plover, Wis.

Earth Day Celebration in Richland Center *(continued from page 1)*

The winning child was 3rd grader, McKenna Layer, while the runner-up was 2nd grader, Michaeleen Falk, both of Doudna Elementary School.

As part of USDA’s observance of Earth Day, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced more than \$145.2 million to support 43 water and wastewater projects that will expand services, improve water quality, and provide a safe and healthy environment for rural Americans in 32 states. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty. Today’s announcement is one part of the Department’s efforts to strengthen the rural economy.

Earth Day is observed annually on April 22 to raise awareness about the role each person can play to

protect vital natural resources and safeguard the environment. Since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, the event has expanded to include participation by citizens and governments in more than 195 countries.



Winning Earth Day logo.

USDA Rural Development Notices of Funding Availability

Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants (REDLG)

Program: The REDLG program provides loans and grant to fund rural projects through local utility organizations to help increase economic productivity, job creation, and incomes in rural areas. Projects may include business start-ups and expansion, community development, incubator projects, medical and training projects, and feasibility studies. **Complete applications must be received by close of business on the last business day of each month during FY 2013.** For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-25/html/2013-15118.htm>.

Housing Preservation Grants (HPGs)

The HPG Program provides qualified, public, non-profit organizations and public agencies funding to assist very low and low-income homeowners to repair and rehabilitate their homes in rural areas. **Complete applications must be received by close of business on August 2, 2013.** For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-25/html/2013-15118.htm>.

www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-18/pdf/2013-14400.pdf

538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (GRRHP)

Under Section 538 the Rural Housing Programs guarantees loans under the Rural Rental Housing Guaranteed loan program for development of multi-family housing facilities in rural areas of the United States. Loan guarantees are provided for the construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of rural multi-family housing. **Complete applications must be received by close of business on September 30, 2013.** For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-23/pdf/2013-12325.pdf>

Household Water Well System (HWWS) Grant Program

The HWWS program provides grants to qualified private non-profit organizations to establish lending programs for household water wells in rural areas. Homeowners or eligible individuals may borrow money from an organization receiving a HWWS grant so they may construct or upgrade their

private well systems. **Complete applications must be received by the close of business on July 26, 2013.** For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-26/pdf/2013-15210.pdf>

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT)

The DLT program is designed to expand the technological capabilities educational and health care entities. Through loans, and grants advanced telecommunications technologies are financed to provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities. **Completed applications must be received by August 12, 2013.** For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-06-28/html/2013-15597.htm>.

past, current, and future notices can be viewed at:
www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/nofas/

USDA and WHPC Celebrate Homeownership Month (continued from page 1)

Funding sources for the preservation project include a \$1,669,728 Loan from the Impact Seven Preservation Revolving Loan Fund, seed financing for the revolving loan fund was awarded through USDA Rural Development's Rural Development Multi-Family Housing Preservation and Revitalization (MPR)



USDA Rural Development State Director, Stan Gruszynski presents Erich Schwenker, Director of Asset management for WHPC, with the Valued Partner Award for Multi-Family Housing Preservation.

Program; a \$280,272 WHPC Loan; and \$4,905,886 in WHEDA Tax Credit Exchange Funds.

"This partnership, federal, state and local, is a good example of how cooperation can make a positive difference in the lives of rural Wisconsin residents," added Gruszynski, "At USDA, we are committed to building strong rural economies and housing is central to that effort."

The improvements included addition of a community room, new roofs, doors, windows, flooring, carpet, painting, cabinets, appliances, window coverings, plumbing, hot water heaters, parking lots and walkways, landscaping, air conditioning, and other aesthetic details. Professional Construction Inc., based in Waukesha, Wis., managed and performed the renovations at all seven locations.

USDA, its state and federal partners, members of the housing community, lenders and communities across the country celebrate National Homeownership Month each June to bring attention to the role housing plays in the economy. This year's theme, "USDA: Bringing Rural America Home," underscores housing's importance to millions of rural residents.

USDA Rural Development Rural Housing Programs have the ultimate goal of providing affordable homeownership opportunities to Wisconsin residents. This past year USDA Rural Development invested more than \$448.1 million throughout Wisconsin in the form of loans and grants that provide rural residents with decent, safe and sanitary single or multi-family housing. It is during Homeownership Month, we highlight these accomplishments.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

2012 USDA Rural Development Employee of the Year Awards

2012 Director of the Year

Susan Larson, Menomonie and Spooner Area Director

Nominee: Jeff Hudson, Business & Cooperative Programs Director

2012 State Office Specialist of the Year

Julie Czappa, Rural Housing Specialist

2012 Field Office Specialist of the Year

Nathan Billinghamurst, Menomonie Area Office Specialist

Nominees: Maryann Bravo, Menomonie Area Office Specialist; Julie Felhofer, Shawano Area Office

Specialist; Mary Hensley, Menomonie Area Office Specialist; and Landis Wagner, Menomonie Area Office Specialist

2012 State Office Support Staff

Kathi Firkus, Community Programs Technician

Nominees: Marylan Duque Guaranteed Housing Technician; and Tracy Wojcik, Housing Technician

2012 Field Office Support Staff

Sheila Osterhues Spooner Area Office Technician

Nominee: Carrie Weaver, Spooner Area Office Technician

USDA Rural Development Staffers Support their Local Youth and Education Programs

On Saturday, June 1, for the second year in a row, USDA Rural Development Wisconsin employees fielded a four-person team at the 2013 Lac Courte Oreilles Annual Youth and Education Golf Classic. The event was held at the Big Fish Golf Club in Hayward, Wis., a PGA-level course designed by the world-renowned architect Pete Dye. Representing RD was Chris Brooks, Bill Farina, and their respective spouses, Jeff Auberg (Brooks) and Marion Buckley (Farina).

Team RD gave a good account of themselves, with an 18-hole scorecard of 80 (7 over par), including 9 bogies, 7 pars, 2 birdies, and 32 putts. The field was very competitive (prize-winning scores were in the low to mid 70s), and the rainy cold weather was extremely challenging.



RECOGNITIONS

Years of Service Honored:

Carol Wetuski

Area Director, Dodgeville & Stevens Point Area Office

25 Years of Federal Service

Kirk Liljestrom

Area Specialist, Spooner Area Office

10 Years of Federal Service

Laura Prodel

Area Technician, Shawano Area Office

5 Years of Federal Service

Debbie Biga

Housing Specialist, State Office

30 Years of Federal Service

Rhoda Fleming

Area Specialist, Fond du Lac Area Office

20 Years of Federal Service

Judy Clendenning

Business Programs Technician, State Office

5 Years of Federal Service

Tracy Wojcik

Housing Technician, State Office

5 Years of Federal Service

Penny Coogan

Area Specialist, Dodgeville Area Office

25 Years of Federal Service

Jaclyn Bechel

Area Specialist, Menomonie Area Office

10 Years of Federal Service

Amy Minshell

GRH Specialist, State Office

5 Years of Federal Service

CONGRATULATIONS!



April 4, 2013 - Glenhaven, Inc. Groundbreaking Event

Glenhaven, Inc. held a ground breaking ceremony to mark the commencement of construction on a new addition and renovations. The project includes the transfer of the current 44-bed skilled facility to the newly constructed addition. To take its place, the building will be converted into a 16-unit Community Based Residential Facility. USDA Rural Development approved a Community Facilities direct loan for \$6,750,000 and a \$2,500,000 guaranteed loan provided by AgStar Financial Services.

June 10, 2013 - Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital Ground Breaking

Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital celebrated the commencement of construction of a new state-of-the-art acute care medical facility, improving the region's access to critical medical care and related support services. The hospital's current facility is outdated and needs significant upgrades. Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital serves four counties, two in southwest Wisconsin and two in northeast Iowa.



Baldwin Care Center Grand Opening - June 25, 2013

Rural Development approved a guaranteed loan of \$3,000,000 and a direct loan of \$5,200,000. Rural Development funds were used for major reconstruction of the skilled nursing facility located in Baldwin, Wis. The project included a new 50-bed skilled nursing facility that will be added onto the existing building and the remodeling of the existing site into a 30-bed Community Based Residential Facility, incorporating memory care units as well as general care units.

June 25-26, 2013 - One USDA Event

USDA hosted a public regional roundtable in Ashland, Wis., to showcase how USDA agencies and service centers coordinate program missions, and use federal resources to address the needs of rural communities in northwest Wisconsin.

The gathering also brought business leaders, food producers, economic and business development representatives, farmers, local elected officials, and members of the community at large, together to share ideas and discuss a practical agenda for strengthening the economic vitality of the region, and to support sustainable economic growth through cooperation, support, partnership, and collaborative use of available resources.

Multiple USDA agencies and their respective state directors were present, including Farm Service Agency, Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Risk Management Agency, and Rural Development.



** USDA remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty. These announcements are one part of the Department's efforts to strengthen the rural economy. USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$700 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

USDA
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USDA Rural Development Staffers Gain Much in Giving to Special Olympics

For the last 15 years, USDA Rural Development Staff at the Wisconsin State Office have been volunteering together at the State Special Olympics Wisconsin Summer Games held each June at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. This year was no different. More than 11 Rural Development employees volunteered their personal time to support Special Olympic athletes. Several staff members serve on



the Summer Games Management Team and chair the Arts and Crafts, Volunteer Hospitality area, and Concession areas.

Nearly 2,000 Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) athletes participated in the 2013 State Summer Games on Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8 at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Coaches, volunteers and fans traveled from across the state to cheer on athletes competing in Athletics (Track & Field), Aquatics, Powerlifting, and Soccer.

SOWI canceled the outdoor Summer Games Opening Ceremony due to the weather and field conditions, but that didn't put a damper on the festivities. Athletes and their coaches enjoyed a short ceremony inside Quant Gym which included a performance by special guests, The Figureheads, an appearance by



the Fox Sports Wisconsin Girls, recognition of several athletes and law enforcement officers, and a dance that kicked-off the weekend's events.

In addition to competition and entertainment, SOWI hosted Healthy Athletes®, a healthcare initiative that offers free eye, dental, and hearing screenings to SOWI athletes.

The volunteers all agree, "by volunteering with Special Olympics Wisconsin, you gain a lot of personal rewards. The excitement of getting together, competition, and life that the athletes bring to the summer games is so infectious. By volunteering you share in the joy the athletes bring to the games. Plus, the overall satisfaction of serving and helping others."



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