



NEWS RELEASE

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2003

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SEN. GARY NODLER AND REP. KEVIN WILSON ANNOUNCE THAT NEOSHO WILL RECEIVE MORE THAN \$500,000 IN GRANTS AND TAX CREDITS

JEFFERSON CITY -- Sen. Gary Nodler, R-Joplin, and Rep. Kevin Wilson, R-Neosho, have announced that Neosho will benefit from more than \$500,000 in grants and tax credits from the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED).

“Neosho has a lot of great things going on,” said Sen. Nodler. “It’s great to see this community take advantage of these Economic Development programs to retain or attract new businesses and make Neosho a better place to live for everyone.”

The City of Neosho has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$285,000 for sidewalk, storm drainage and street improvements in the central business area.

The CDBG program provides grants to cities with a population under 50,000 and counties under 200,000 to assist in a variety of public work projects that address issues concerning public health and safety.

“If Neosho wants to continue to maintain a thriving business community, it is essential that the city improve its infrastructure,” Sen. Nodler said. “This grant will assist them in their efforts to do so.”

In its application for the grant, the city said it plans to install a stormwater interceptor and make sidewalk and street improvements in the northeast part of downtown Neosho. The stormwater project will be done on Jefferson Street between Coler and McKinney streets. The sidewalk and lighting project is bounded by Washington Street on the west, McCord on the north, Lafayette on the east and Spring Street on the south.

The city said that the project is needed because sidewalks in the area do not meet guidelines outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1994. Additional lighting is needed

in the area to ensure public safety and will be in keeping with lighting fixtures on the downtown Square.

“I think that anyone who drives Jefferson Street near Freeman Neosho Hospital understands the need for this project,” said Rep. Wilson. “You practically need a boat to get through that street after a big rain. This project will fix the problem.”

The city will provide nearly \$393,000 in in-kind labor by city crews and technical staff, with the CDBG funds used to buy materials.

In addition, the Department of Economic Development has approved Development Tax Credits to Neosho Land Development Inc. (NLDI) in the amount of \$250,000 for donations made by the Sunbeam Products, Inc.

According to Sen. Nodler, under this tax credit program Sunbeam will donate \$250,000 to NLDI, which the not-for-profit organization will use to purchase equipment that it will then lease to Sunbeam. Sunbeam will then benefit from a state tax credit of \$250,000.

Sunbeam will also be obligated to create \$2 million in private investment and will create 181 full-time jobs.

Although Sunbeam has shut down its manufacturing division in Neosho, the company plans to move its distribution center from Mississippi to Neosho.

“This is a good example of the state and the local community working together to keep an important company from leaving,” said Rep. Wilson. “Everyone wins with a program like this.”

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