

3/12/2007 Moran to Recognize the Community of Collyer on Friday

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Moran to Present Residents with "Building Better Communities" Award

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COLLYER - Congressman Jerry Moran this week will recognize the citizens of Collyer with his "Building Better Communities" award for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community. Moran will recognize Collyer residents on Friday during the Lenten Fish Fry.

Formed in September 2004, the Collyer Community Alliance has driven revitalization efforts in this town of 133 people. The Alliance has more than 200 paid members and conducts fundraising activities to obtain financing for community initiatives. The most famous community fundraiser is the fish fries every Friday during the Lenten season. Last year, more than 1,000 plates were served. Money raised from fundraising activities is supplemented by support from individuals, families, businesses and local government and translates into promotion of and support for the community. Last year, the Collyer Café opened in the refurbished Saint Michael's Convent. The alliance purchased the convent and the community donated well over 1,000 volunteer hours to this project. The Alliance further promotes Collyer by maintaining a website at www.collyerks.com that includes ongoing development projects, fundraising activities and community events.

"Our community is made up of hard working individuals who pull together to support businesses, projects and each other," Alliance President Donna Malsom said. "Through our combined efforts, we made a conscious decision to 'save' our community."

"We are proud of our past, but we are even prouder of the vision we have for the future and the plan we have to get there," Sandra Stenzel, community volunteer, said.

"Collyer is a developing success story," Moran said. "Residents are making a large commitment to the future and the community spirit is inspiring."

The recognition ceremony for the citizens of Collyer will be on Friday, March 16 during the Lenten Fish Fry at the Collyer Depot on Main Street. The Fish Fry begins at 5:30 p.m.

The "Building Better Communities" award was established by Moran to showcase positive community action in Kansas. Beyond providing recognition, this program provides examples of how creative thinking and teamwork make a positive difference in rural America.

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