

NEWS RELEASE: Nov. 3, 2011

### **Ribbon Cutting for new Kat's Bridge Friday morning**

The Greene County Commission will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Kat's Bridge Friday, Nov. 4, 11 a.m., near the intersection of Farm Road 128 and Farm Road 45, southwest of Bois D'Arc, at Pickerel Creek.

The bridge replaces the old Kat's Bridge, one of the last single lane, steel-truss, wood-deck bridges in Greene County. The structure dated to the early 1900's and was also known as Prospect Bridge, after the nearby Prospect Church (no longer standing) and Cemetery, now a Greene County Historical Site. The Greene County Commission named the bridge "Kat's Bridge" in honor of Kathleen "Kat" Gilmartin, at the request of her family, following her untimely death in 2008. Shortly after the bridge was renamed, a routine biannual inspection revealed the bridge to have significant structural issues. The bridge was immediately barricaded and closed to the public.

After consulting with neighbors, property owners, the Federal Highway Administration, the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, the Osage Nation, contractors and engineering and archeological consultants, Greene County chose to replace the bridge in the same location, minimizing impact on the natural and historic features of the area.

The new bridge is a modern concrete two-lane structure, 60 feet long, 30 feet wide. It was designed by Bockman Engineering Services and built by Hartman Construction Inc., for a total cost of \$650,000, covered by Greene County Road & Bridge funds.

The public is invited to Friday's ceremony.

For more information, call Duffy Mooney, Assistant Administrator, Greene County Highway Department, at 417-831-3591, or Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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