



Contact: Kellie Goodman Shaffer

Phone: (814) 623-2233

E-Mail: Director@BedfordCountyChamber.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Ribbon Cutting Held to Celebrate Leadership Bedford County Class Project: Refurbishing of the Dr. Knisely Covered Bridge

The Leadership Bedford County Class of 2011, sponsored by CenturyLink, has completed its class project: the refurbishing of the historic Dr. Knisely Covered Bridge in Pleasantville. The class, consisting of 14 business leaders from throughout Bedford County, power-washed the bridge, made some minor repairs, and then repainted the bridge to match its original brick-red and white color scheme. The Dr. Knisely Bridge, a Burr Truss design, was originally built in 1867. It is 80 feet long and 12.5 feet wide. It is one of 14 covered bridges in Bedford County which is visited by thousands of tourists each year.

The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting event to celebrate the project Wednesday, June 15th. Among those in attendance were property owner Jim Claycomb, Bedford County Commissioners Gary Ebersole and Mike Herline, Bedford County CVB Executive Dennice Tice, and trustees from the Chamber Foundation Board, among others.

About the Dr. Knisely Covered Bridge

The Dr. Knisely Covered Bridge, located just off Rt. 56, 1.5 miles south of Pleasantville, across the street from Long's Outpost. The bridge is one of the most-visited of Bedford County's 14 historic covered bridges. Built in 1867, the Burr Truss design spans Dunning's Creek. The structure is 80 feet in length and 12.5 feet wide. Vertical boards cover about 1/3 of the sides, with horizontal boards inside. The roof is metal. Paint colors chosen were brick red and white to match the historic paint scheme. Because the bridge is privately owned, it is not eligible for state or federal grants. The bridge has been a Bedford County landmark for more than 140 years, and is often used as the backdrop for wedding and family photos.





Ribbon Cutting Photo Caption:

(Left to Right): Rick Smith, Jake Hones, Pete Peters, Casey Colledge, Carole Strickland, Nora Roberts, Angie Horton, Jerry Shoemake, Beth Sellers, Jim Claycomb, JT Black, Mike Herline, (unknown), Larry Garlock, Gary Ebersole, Trudy Barefoot, Kellie Goodman Shaffer



About Leadership Bedford County:

Leadership Bedford County is a 10-month program for Bedford County professionals designed to foster the principals of servant leadership, while also exploring various aspects of Bedford County and promoting self-discovery and team building. The program has been in existence since 2001, and boasts more than 200 community leaders among its graduates.

Recruitment for the Class of 2012, sponsored by CenturyLink has begun. If you are interested in being part of the new Leadership Bedford County Class, please contact the Chamber office at 623-2233 or E-mail: Director@BedfordCountyChamber.org. Visit online: www.BedfordCountyChamber.com.