

**Orono breaks ground on new village green**

The Orono Public Library Foundation will hold a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Orono Village Green at 11:35 a.m. Thursday, June 9, on the front lawn of the Orono Public Library, according to capital campaign co-chairs Sarah Kenney and Brian Rahill. Donors to the project as well as the public are invited to the ceremony. Sargent Corporation of Stillwater is the contractor for Orono Village Green.

Donors to Chapter Two: The Campaign for the Orono Village Green contributed \$345,000 to support the project to transform the area directly behind Orono Public Library into the Orono Village Green -- a gift from the Orono Public Library Foundation to the town of Orono. The foundation has provided the funds to the town, and the town is overseeing the project.

During construction of the Orono Village Green, the area directly behind the library will be closed to the public, according to Library Director Laurie Carpenter. The Summer Concert Series will be held at Webster Park.

In announcing the groundbreaking, Kenney and Rahill, president and vice president respectively of the Orono Public Library Foundation said, "We extend our deep appreciation from the foundation's board and capital campaign committee to the 375 donors -- individuals, families, foundations, businesses and service organizations that have contributed to make the Orono Village Green a reality."

The Orono Village Green will feature a 125-seat amphitheater and stage, lawn and granite seating, hundreds of ornamental trees, flowers and plantings, a stone plaza with tables, chairs and sun shade, an overlook area, pergola and bench seating areas. Pathways circling the grounds will connect to the Orono Senior Center and lead to the village.

The Orono Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2002 to raise the funds to construct the library. An all-volunteer organization, the foundation is governed by an eleven-member board of directors.

For information visit [oronolibraryfoundation.org](http://oronolibraryfoundation.org) or find them on Facebook at Orono Public Library Foundation. Contact the foundation at [info@oronolibraryfoundation.org](mailto:info@oronolibraryfoundation.org) or write to: P.O. Box 308, Orono ME 04473.

**Unity college donates items to Hudson Museum**

Unity College donated several dozen hand-woven Native American baskets and other artifacts to the University of Maine to be cared for and displayed at the Hudson Museum.

The items -- officially called the Peter Smith Terry Collection -- were bequeathed to Unity College by Terry, who taught at the college in the 1970s and died in 1977.

Hudson Museum Director Gretchen Faulkner said the objects are wonderful additions to the museum's collections.

"They will support our work with the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and its mission of keeping these ancient traditions alive within their communities. Pieces from the collection will be included in the museum's Maine Indian Gallery, where audiences of all ages will have an opportunity to see them," she said.

"We are extremely grateful to Unity College for transferring this important collection to the Hudson Museum and allowing the works to be used for research and exhibition as well as loans to other institutions, which is in keeping with Peter Smith Terry's wishes for the collection."

Donated items to be accessioned into the Hudson Museum's collection include: 59 Maine Indian/Northeastern baskets; seven Ojibwe/Great Lakes quill-on-birchbark containers; a Cree moose call and canoe model; a miniature lacrosse stick; a birchbark picture frame; and three root clubs and a crooked knife.

Thirteen additional items will become part of Hudson Museum's education collection for hands-on educational programs, said Faulkner.

**EMMC opens new \$305 million expansion**

BY NICK MCCREA OF THE BDN STAFF

Eastern Maine Medical Center officials showed off the hospital's new \$305 million expansion last Tuesday, promising the eight-story structure would better serve patients for generations to come.

The hospital hosted about 200 community leaders, donors, supporters, contractors and government officials, including Maine Gov. Paul LePage, for a ceremony and tours Tuesday morning.

"Our patients and visitors will benefit from the most modern, patient-focused building we could create," said Deborah Carey Johnson, the hospital's president and CEO.

The hospital has named the new building the Penobscot Pavilion, which broke ground in Sept. 2013. It's believed to be the most expensive single project in the city's history.

It's home to EMMC's new main entrance, which features a new gift shop, indoor trees and a lounge with lots of seating and electrical outlets. The sixth floor holds private rooms for cardiology patients, and the seventh a huge expansion of the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, which now has 29 rooms. The amount of space available for neonatal infants grew from about 3,000 square feet to about 30,000 square feet, according to Helen McKinnon, a nurse and

the hospital's vice president of support services.

The rest of the pavilion is still in the works, and is scheduled to be fully operational sometime in 2017. That's when new operating rooms, two more floors dedicated to cardiovascular services and a new space for those awaiting childbirth will debut.

Maine Gov. Paul LePage, who visited the hospital Tuesday and spoke at the ceremony, said he saw potential for the new facility to take a leadership role in grooming the next generation of doctors.

"I tell you, this is a great spot for a teaching hospital," LePage told the crowd. "This would be a great spot to partner with the university, and with the expertise of Jackson Lab, and make this a university teaching hospital. Maine needs to develop its own doctors."

Carey Johnson said the hospital wanted to provide more space and private rooms for its patients, and more amenities for their families, including things as simple as a washer and dryer for families on the NICU floor and couches that fold down into beds. Many of those improvements to the rooms stemmed from input from former patients and families who have stayed at the hospital. The designs for the new floors relied heavily on input from nurses and doctors, who recommended ways to im-



GABOR DEGRE/BDN

Deborah Carey Johnson, president and CEO of Eastern Maine Medical Center, speaks during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Penobscot Pavilion at the hospital on May 31.

prove efficiency and patient comfort, she added.

The eighth and fourth floors are dedicated largely to utilities and mechanical equipment.

The \$305 million project has been funded through several sources, according to EMMC officials. Bond financing covered about \$144 million. Another \$141 million comes from operating and equity funds. Fundraising efforts through hospital staff and supporters brought in the remaining \$20 million.

When officials broke ground on the project in 2013, they estimated it would cost

\$287 million. More than 50 contractors were involved in the construction project. The final price tag makes this construction project more than double the cost of Hollywood Casino and more than four times the cost of the city's new arena and convention center.

EMMC is by far the region's largest employer, with more than 4,000 workers in the hospital, ranging from doctors and nurses to kitchen staff and cleaners.

"It means a lot to make sure that our patients and families have the facilities that they deserve, which includes privacy and calmness

and warmth," McKinnon said. "It is an area that they can get their services from our wonderful doctors and nurses in the arena where life and death happens, and it shouldn't happen where it's not calm and caring."

Asked how the costs of the project might impact the cost of services the hospital offers to patients, McKinnon said that the hospital budgeted for these improvements carefully, and expects to see more revenue as a result. How much it could affect those costs remains to be seen.

The expansion opens its doors to patients on June 7.

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