CANCER CENTER UPDATE

Kid’s Creek Project Nearly Complete

Efforts to restore Kid’s Creek north of Sixth Street are nearly complete.

Munson Vice President of Facilities Steve Tongue said the project now is just waiting for the right time to open the new section of the creek on Friday, Sept. 27. The early fall timing was chosen to allow vegetation to become established while still preceding the spawning season.

“We appreciate the significant efforts of our design firm, contractors, Munson physicians and staff, the investments of several donors, the patience of our neighbors, and our partnership with The Watershed Center and Grand Traverse Conservation District that have brought us this far,” Tongue said. “The restored creek will offer improved fish passage and enhance wildlife and aquatic habitat. The project is part of a larger effort being coordinated by The Watershed Center and Grand Traverse Conservation District to remove Kid’s Creek from the Michigan DEQ’s ‘Impaired Waters’ list.”

Funding for the project was provided through the generosity of the Consumers Energy Foundation, EPA’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Rotary Charities of Traverse City, and Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Foundation.

Moving the creek sets the stage for future construction of the Cowell Family Cancer Center.

Munson Medical Center’s updated Master Facility Plan, approved by city planners in February 2012, calls for construction of a cancer center to the north of Sixth Street between Beaumont Place and Madison Street.

Ready or not, ICD-10 Will Arrive Oct. 2014

A once-shifting deadline is now set in stone. In October 2014, health care providers will bill with ICD-10 codes versus ICD-9.

To help physician offices in the region prepare, a host of educational opportunities, personal support, and online training materials will soon be available, said Diane Donley, MD, a pediatric neurologist and physician champion leader for Munson’s ICD-10 Initiative.

“We take the support of the physicians and their offices very seriously; we don’t want them to have to spend a lot of time or money seeking ICD-10 education,” said Dr. Donley, who has been part of the cross-functional ICD-10 implementation team for more than two years. “We want to be as helpful as we can be.”

Although questions about the deadline have lingered, Dr. Donley said it is certain that 13 months from now is the ICD-10 go-live date.

“There is no more waiting; thinking that there is more time is a myth,” she said.
IS Offers Interim Generic Provider Progress Note

For more than a year, Munson Information Systems has been working on the development of electronic progress notes for various provider groups.

IS Medical Director Pete Springsteen, MD, said this was seen as an interim solution pending the purchase and implementation of Cerner’s electronic solution Power Note/Dynamic Documentation.

To date, electronic notes have been created for Traverse Heart and Vascular, Patient Care Specialists, and Hospitalists of Northern Michigan.

The notes are being used successfully.

Dr. Springsteen said initially, there were plans to continue to create group notes for additional provider groups, however other high priority work has prevented this.

“We also have Cerner’s Dynamic Documentation solution that is forthcoming in the next year or so, and we will be transitioning to that when it is available,” Dr. Springsteen said. “Because we are not continuing to develop group notes at this time, a generic note has been created and is being used by a few physicians.”

The generic note will soon be available to all providers. Unlike the group note, this note cannot be shared between providers and must be printed and added to the paper chart.

The generic note is intended as a bridge until resources become available to work on additional group notes and/or Dynamic Documentation is implemented.

IS also has licensed Dragon voice recognition software to make it available to all providers over the next six months. Initially it will be available to providers that are using electronic progress notes.

Providers who would like to begin using electronic progress notes should contact Kim Garlington in the Clinical Informatics Office at kgarlington@mhc.net or call (231) 392-7078. For questions regarding electronic progress notes and/or voice to text (Dragon) dictation, contact Dr. Springsteen at pspringsteen@mhc.net or (231) 935-2426.

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“And for those who are not adequately prepared, cash flow may be interrupted those first few months following go-live.”

To help offices avoid difficulties, Munson has co-developed education and training strategies along with Trinity Health. Specialties such as obstetrics and orthopedics will receive specific education beginning in January, regardless of the EMR they are using, Dr. Donley said.

Although federal legislation limits the role hospitals can play in the ICD-10 rollover, Munson is offering:

- Awareness education that will launch in November
- Guest speakers
- Role-based education through HealthStream

To help offices avoid difficulties, Munson has co-developed education and training strategies along with Trinity Health.

- Education sessions at the hospital for medical staff
- Online support services
- Documentation tips
- Lunch and education for office managers

“As far as assistance goes, we are doing as much as we can within the confines of legislative parameters,” said Gena Culver, ICD-10 Coding and Data Integrity manager. “So it is especially important for our physician partners to begin initial preparation steps with a self-assessment of documentation processes.”

Culver said that self-assessment can begin with simple questions, such as:

- Where do we document diagnosis information today?
- Who uses this information: front desk staff, coders, nurses, physician assistants, physicians?
- How does diagnostic information flow through the office?
- What are our top 20 diagnoses and how will they change with ICD-10?

“Various leading industry associations suggest starting with these simple questions,” she said. “It’s amazing what can be uncovered with this exercise.”

To learn more about ICD-10 training, contact Physician Liaison Andrea Ludka at (231) 935-3391, aludka@mhc.net, or visit munson-healthcare.org/icd10.
Oral Cleft Clinic Celebrates 30 Years of Caring

Creating a normal look and function for young cleft lip/palate patients has resulted in a lot of smiles in 30 years.

Since September 1983, newborns, infants, and children from around the region have benefitted from the multi-disciplinary Oral Cleft Clinic dedicated to addressing the medical, social, and psychological needs of children born with cleft lip/palate or facial anomalies.

Plastic surgeon and clinic Medical Director Thomas Doerr, MD, said he really enjoyed working with cleft lip/palate patients during his residency and founded the clinic at Munson as a way to continue meeting needs for young patients born with the deformity and their families.

“I have always enjoyed working with kids,” he said. “I also enjoy the surgeries. You have to mentally visualize the results in three dimensions. When you are working inside the mouth of a 1-year-old or 1 ½-year-old patient, it is like working in a matchbox. It is very technically demanding.”

The Oral Cleft Clinic involves a multi-disciplinary staff with a rotation of physicians, oral surgeons, orthodontists, and dentists. All of them essentially donate their time. In addition, other disciplines represented include occupational therapy, speech therapy, audiology, a dietician and more. The clinic meets on the first Monday of the month at the multi-specialty clinic building on Madison Street.

Some patients are referred by their family physician and others, who are born at the hospital, are referred via a hospital process.

The clinic sees about seven patients a month and patients generally return within a year or 18 months. The clinic serves the patients until they are 21 years old.

As children grow, their mouth changes. For most patients, one surgery will not be enough.

In addition to the surgeries, patients generally will need help from speech and occupational therapists, possibly a hearing specialist, as well as social/psychological assistance.

“I recently spoke with the mother of a former young patient, and he recently got married,” Dr. Doerr said. “It’s very rewarding in that regard. Professionals who do this find remuneration is basically nil, but you will get rich spiritually.”

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Kid’s Creek

In recent months, architects and designers have completed a schematic design for the 86,000-square-foot facility that includes floor plans for the building. The Traverse City Planning Commission reviewed the plans on Sept. 4. Efforts to refine the design will continue this fall.

Meanwhile, the hospital’s Building 29 Project construction will be completed in October. Staff with offices at 210 Beaumont will be moved into the building to allow for demolition of the Beaumont building and preparation of the future cancer center site. Further staff moves to Building 29 have been put on hold as a cost-saving measure.

“Our timeline and projected funding for the cancer center appear to be on track to allow us to bid out the project and start construction next spring,” Tongue said.
**IN BRIEF**

**Physicians Welcome Reception is Thursday, Sept. 26**

Physicians and their spouses are encouraged to save the date Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, for the Physician Welcome Reception.

The reception, from 6 - 8:30 pm at Hagerty Conference Center, will honor new and retiring physicians.

For more information, please contact Robin Wodek at (231) 935-5892 or rwodek@mhc.net.

**Cardiologist Joins Munson Medical Center**

Robert D.O. Kennedy, MD, has joined the staff of Munson Medical Center as a specialist in cardiology. Dr. Kennedy practices at Traverse Heart and Vascular, 1200 Sixth St., Ste. 200, Traverse City. His office can be reached at (231) 935-5800, and he is currently accepting new patients.

Dr. Kennedy graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Penn. He completed his residency and electrophysiology fellowship at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. In addition, he completed a cardiovascular disease fellowship at Washington Hospital Center, Washington, D.C.

**Family Practitioner Joins Medical Staff**

Joanna T. Lee, DO, has joined the staff of Munson Medical Center as a specialist in family medicine. Dr. Lee practices at Bay Area Family Care, 906 Business Park Drive in Traverse City. Her office can be reached at (231) 935-8750, and she is currently accepting new patients. Dr. Lee graduated from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, East Lansing, Mich., and she completed her residency at University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor, Mich.

**Hematologist/Oncologist Joins Munson Medical Center**

Joshua M. Ruch, MD, has joined the staff of Munson Medical Center as a specialist in hematology/oncology. Dr. Ruch practices at Munson Oncology, 4960 Skyview Court, Traverse City. His office can be reached at (231) 947-3070, and he is currently accepting new patients.

Dr. Ruch is a graduate of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa. He completed his residency at Northwestern University McGraw Medical Center, Chicago, Ill., and his hematology/oncology fellowship at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

**General Surgeon Joins Munson Medical Staff**

Ashley Sachtleben, DO, has joined the staff of Munson Medical Center as a specialist in general surgery. Dr. Sachtleben practices at Grand Traverse Surgery, 701 W. Front St., Suite 200 in Traverse City. Her office can be reached at (231) 346-4000. Dr. Sachtleben is currently accepting new patients.

Dr. Sachtleben graduated from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, East Lansing, Mich. She completed her residency at St. John Providence Macomb – Oakland Hospital, Madison Heights, Mich.

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**POMH Names New President**

Munson Healthcare President and CEO Ed Ness recently announced that Chief Operating Officer Peter Marinoff has been named president of Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital.

Marinoff replaced President Jim Austin who retired from the hospital effective Sept. 3. Austin will continue to serve at Kalkaska Memorial Health Center as administrator until his retirement there next year.

“Peter has demonstrated leadership and ability as chief operating officer at Paul Oliver for the past three years,” Ness said. “He is well acquainted with the health needs of the region and is focused on ensuring Benzie County residents will continue to enjoy access to medical care that is close to home.”

Marinoff joined Munson Healthcare in 1999 as an accountant, after serving at public accounting firms in Virginia and Traverse City. In 2007 he was named director of operations at Paul Oliver.

Peter Marinoff is the new president at POMH.

**Shelly C. Lall, MD, is Board Certified**

Cardiothoracic surgeon Shelly C. Lall, MD, has been board certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

The certification is valid through 2023. Dr. Lall practices at Cardiothoracic Surgeons of Grand Traverse.

**Physician Seminar Set for Sept. 17**

Munson Medical Center and the Northern Physicians Organization invite physicians to attend a special seminar on “How to Utilize the New Performance Measures to Drive Change and Impact Care” on Sept. 17 from 6 - 8 pm at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club in Traverse City.

The seminar is given by physicians, for physicians. A light dinner and refreshments will be served. Physicians will receive 2.0 hours of CME for attending. There is no charge to attend.

For presenter and CME information, go to: munsonhealthcare.org/news/toolsfortransformation.

Physicians should RSVP to Diane Dykstra, NPO, at dydkstra@npoinc.org or (231) 421-8505 by Sept. 10.