

Hopewell Valley

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Staff photos by Phil McAuliffe

A rainbow arches above Capital Health (photo at top), on the day of the ribbon-cutting. In the photo above, Hopewell Township Mayor Jim Bird makes comments about the new hospital.

Capital Health ribbon snipped

By John Tredrea
Special Writer

A spiffily dressed crowd — numbering in the hundreds and including local, county, state and federal government officials — turned out for a big day in the history of Hopewell Township Friday afternoon, when the ribbon was cut on Capital Health's new hospital in southern Hopewell Township.

The 223-bed hospital, set to open Nov. 6, is just north of I-95, off Scotch Road.

Township Mayor Jim Burd, the last of many speakers during a 90-minute program before the ribbon was snipped, characterized the opening of the new hospital as "many working together for the benefit of all." "Our appreciation to Capital Health for their vision and effort

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in the creation of this outstanding medical center. They're a progressive member of our community."

Mr. Burd was followed by a performance by the choir of Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton. The choir entered the big tent, under which the ceremony was held, singing and, once on the stage, delivered rousing versions of several songs, including "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," that had people in the crowd clapping, singing along and dancing in place.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Robert Martin, who lives in Hopewell Township, said the new hospital will be "a spectacular medical center and a true healing environment."

He praised Capital Health for designing a facility designed "to save and protect our water."

The new hospital and attached medical office building features an environmentally friendly design based on the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System™ (LEED), he said. These features include roof gardens that recycle rainwater, technologies that reduce heating

and cooling requirements and patient rooms with ample sunlight and calming views.

"This will be one of only two hospitals in New Jersey with LEEDS certification," Mr. Martin said.

"Today's ceremony is much more than a cutting the ribbon for our new hospital," said Samuel J. Plumeri Jr., chairman of the Capital Health Board of Directors.

"It is also a celebration of Capital Health's role in providing access to advanced medical care in our region. Traditionally, patients requiring very specialized care have found it necessary to travel to major cities such as Philadelphia and New York. Through the recruitment of physicians to provide tertiary level medical care and investment in the most cutting edge technology and treatments over the past decade, we now can tell patients that this higher level of care is available right here on their doorstep," said Mr. Plumeri.

"Years of planning and research have gone into our new hospital," said Al Maghazeh, president and CEO of Capital Health. "We have rethought everything about the typical patient hospital experience to create an environment that promotes healing, reduces anxiety and delivers advanced medical care in a calming, comforting setting.

On behalf of our employees and physicians, I'm excited for residents who live in our surrounding communities to experience the innovative amenities, design and most of all, outstanding delivery of highly sophisticated medical services available here at our new hospital."

Dr. Marc Whitman, the president of Capital Health's medical staff, said: "On behalf of our staff, I can say that it's been an amazing journey to be part of the transformation that Capital Health has undergone to become a truly regional healthcare system."

CHS officials said the new hospital will offer high level, specialized medical services, such as neurosciences, digestive health, advanced orthopedic services, cancer, CyberKnife® radio-surgery, daVinci® robotic surgery, reconstructive surgery and specialized pediatric emergency care.

There's also an onsite spa, coffee kiosk, cyber café, bistro and boutique gift shops.

U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, who also was present, said: "This will be a model for the rest of the nation. We're going to have a first-class hospital in central New Jersey. It will create 2,200 full-time jobs, and it took 4,500 construction jobs to build it."

"Thank you for staying in

Mercer County," County Executive Brian Hughes said to Capital Health during his remarks. "This is a beautiful addition to Hopewell Township."