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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bay Bank plans new branch office for Menominee Nation

Wisconsin's only tribally owned bank will expand its services, giving the Menominee their first bank as part of a development with a gas station and convenience store.

GREEN BAY, Wis. — In the midst of celebrating its 25th anniversary of serving the Greater Green Bay community, Oneida Nation-owned Bay Bank is spreading its wings in Northeastern Wisconsin—in a historic way, no less.

Bay Bank, which is the only tribally owned bank in Wisconsin, plans to open a branch office later this year on the Menominee Reservation in Keshena. This will be the first bank for the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin as well as for Menominee County.

“What we are doing there has never been done. There has never been a project like this in Indian Country,” said Jeff Bowman, Bay Bank President and CEO.

Bowman recently joined Oneida Nation and Menominee Nation tribal leaders, project leaders and other community officials for a groundbreaking ceremony at the 6,100-square-foot site being developed for mixed use by Wolf River Development Company (WRDC). Located along state highways 47/ 55, the project entails enhancing an existing Menominee gas station with a new convenience store and car wash and an adjoining Bay Bank branch office.

By stepping to the forefront to partner with WRDC and U.S. Oil on the project, Bowman noted how Bay Bank is helping to create an engine for economic development and growth among the Menominee. Bay Bank plans to hire Menominee community members at its new office.

“We have a tribe that had a business need to drive revenue, and they will get that with the new convenience store. We have a tribal community that wants a bank of their own, and they will get that with the new Bay Bank, a tribally owned bank that operates with a set of ‘We Stand for Your Future’ values to make this happen,” Bowman said.

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“But this is not just a convenience store, this is not just a bank, this is business history in the making. And the community resources are the fuel for that economic engine,” Bowman added. “Nowhere in Indian Country has a team of people taken an idea like this from the drawing board, brought a team together and put a shovel in the ground. I look forward to what we will accomplish next.”

Bay Bank, which has two offices in the Green Bay area, anticipates having the new 2,200-square-foot branch facility in Keshena ready to open in December. It will offer full-service banking.

Keller, Inc. is the general contractor for the Standing Pines Convenience Store project.

ABOUT BAY BANK

Bay Bank has a long and proud history of standing for its customers’ future. Founded in 1995 by the Oneida Nation and a group of five local businessmen, the Oneida Nation became the sole owner of Bay Bank in 2000. The operations, policies—and locally focused mission—of the bank remained similar to the mission before the purchase by the Oneida Nation, but were enhanced as Bay Bank provided more federally funded programs to directly assist tribal members. In addition, Bay Bank and the Oneida Nation developed unique mortgage and entrepreneurial programs to assist Oneidas in obtaining housing and starting business ventures. Today, Bay Bank has assets over \$100 million and a dedicated team of 28 employees with convenient locations for customers in the Greater Green Bay area. Bay Bank is the only Greater Green Bay bank to offer the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program. Learn more at BayBankGB.com.

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