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FEATURED

Hilton Home2 Suites developers eye late summer opening

By Emily Niedermeyer
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Project leaders stand in front of the Home2 Suites by Hilton. From left are Mike Roix, facilities director; Eric Marichal, dire Hotels; and Trevor Nye, project manager at Wright-Ryan Construction.

EMILY NIEDERMEYER/STAFF

The new Home2 Suites by Hilton being constructed near Walgreens is aiming to start welcoming guests this summer, looking to lodge those searching for an extended-stay option in Ellsworth.

The roughly 15,700- square-foot building will consist of 83 total suites, including 16 one-bedrooms and 67 studios with both king bed and two queen bed configurations. The rooms accommodate longer stays, and include a kitchenette, workspace and sofa bed.

The hotel is owned by Witham Family Hotels, which also operates the Hampton Inn nearby at 6 Downeast Highway.

Eric Marichal, director of strategic operations at Witham Family Hotels, said that construction is “progressing well” and the final design has remained consistent with the original plan. They are hoping to open for business in the late summer and will begin taking reservations approximately 60 to 75 days before opening; those reservations will be booked on the Hilton website.

Marichal added that the hotel recently hired its general manager, Colby Downes. Downes previously worked as general manager of the Bangor Hampton Inn for eight years. Downes will assist in hiring the anticipated 25-30 full-time year-round team members. There will be about three to four management positions in total.

Officials broke ground in 2025, and the four-story building now stands at the property between Walgreens and Rent-A-Center. Construction has been overseen by Wright-Ryan, a Portland-based company.

Wright-Ryan Project Manager Trevor Nye says the team is “working on finishing the building from top down” with the fourth floor being the closest to completion. He added that drywalling will be complete soon, which will transform the open framing into actual rooms.

“After that, it’s sort of repeated on every floor,” he said.

Floors two through four will look widely the same, while the first floor will have many of the public amenities such as complimentary self-serve breakfast, an indoor pool, a fitness center, an outdoor patio with fire pits and grill area and a Home2 Market. The grab-and-go retail shop will have options catered to extended stay guests.

The first floor will also contain the welcome desk area and administrative offices for employees.

Nye said there are about 60 workers on site every day during construction. They plan on moving furniture in around mid-April, which will resemble the existing Home2 Suites look. The property will also be paved, connecting with the parking lot of the Hampton Inn.

Marichal said the two hotels will serve “slightly different guest segments.”

“The Hampton primarily serves traditional transient travelers, while Home2 is designed specifically for extended stay and suite-style accommodations,” Marichal said in an email to The American. “The two hotels will complement one another and strengthen Ellsworth’s overall lodging offerings.”

Marichal said the Home2 Suites was selected because extended stay “has become one of the fastest-growing segments in the lodging industry nationwide.”

“Travelers today are staying longer, working remotely, relocating temporarily or looking for more flexible space, and this model reflects that evolution in demand,” he said.

In Maine, Home2 Suites by Hilton has locations in Portland, Kittery and Bangor.

Marichal added that Witham Family Hotels sees an opportunity to capture more winter demand for temporary workers but also to accommodate different types of peak-season travelers.

“On MDI, we’ve consistently seen strong early booking demand for suite-style accommodations across our properties, but supply is limited,” Marichal said. “Home2 allows us to expand that suite inventory in a way that supports both peak-season leisure demand and year-round extended-stay needs.”

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