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The Village at Mendota Heights named 2007 MASLA Merit Award Winner for Public Landscape Design

HISTORICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCENTS HIGHLIGHT AWARD-WINNING NATURAL LANDSCAPING AT NEW LIFESTYLE DESTINATION; DAMON FARBER ASSOCIATES, THE CITY OF MENDOTA HEIGHTS AND DEVELOPER RMF GROUP TO SHARE HONORS

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MINN. – April 13, 2007 – For the second time in four months, The Village at Mendota Heights (www.villagemh.com) has won an award, this one based on its integrated landscape design for the Villages' attractive mixed-use environment that spans 23 acres. The growing village community alongside the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers has been named a Merit Award winner in the category of Public Landscape Design by the Minnesota American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA) and will be honored Friday, April 20th at the annual Minnesota American Society of Landscape Architects Awards Banquet at the Walker Art Center. The City of Mendota Heights, Damon Farber Associates, the landscape and design company involved in the project, and the developer, RMF Group, will all share the award. Earlier this year, the Village received a first place award for the "Best Mixed Use Shopping Center" from the Minnesota Shopping Center Association (MSCA) at its 2006 Starr Awards' ceremony.

The winning landscape design incorporates the area's historic limestone and water motifs and several environmental design elements, including two wetland-retaining ponds to capture stormwater runoff. The landscaping also reflects the developer's commitment to outdoor living and wellness with a series of public green spaces and connecting trail systems, plus a public performance area called Market Square. Highlights in the natural setting also include a Minnesota variation on the legendary first shopping center in the country at Lake Forest, Illinois, now in its 94th year, giving the overall Village design its mixed-use character while still vividly retaining the area's historical and environmental integrity at the confluence of the mighty rivers nearby.

"As the Landscape Architect, we were charged with interpreting the Lake Forest project and applying it in a way that worked well for today's user and the overall activity at The Village at Mendota Heights," notes the Site Designer, Chuck Evens, of Damon Farber Associates. "From planning to execution by everyone involved on this site, the project needed its own signature 'Market Square' to be multi-functional and comfortably accommodating for everyday use, while also being able to facilitate large events like the city's 50th anniversary celebration that was attended by over 1,000 residents this past summer. We are excited to be recognized with the City of Mendota Heights and RMF Group in helping to transform this memorable new community."

"We appreciate all the hard work the City of Mendota Heights and Damon Farber Associates put into this award-winning landscape design, from the visioning process in the '90s to the flag raising ceremony last fall to honor the historic communities and people who shaped what is now The Village at Mendota Heights," says Ross Fefercorn, Chief Manager of RMF Group. "The natural flow and integrated landscaping readily reflect the Village as a distinctive place to live, work, shop and recreate amidst its beautifully built and natural surroundings. We hoped that it would serve as a destination for other nearby communities because of its attractive natural setting and its great retail options and that is what is happening."

Among its award-winning attributes, The Village was recognized by the MASLA judges for how the Village's landscaping is used to direct pedestrian flow, with trees and street lights marching down

the sidewalk for a consistent rhythm, dotted by outdoor dining patios that provide additional outdoor space. The Village Row Town Homes and Linden Lofts that provide housing opportunities to complete the village theme are bordered with native landscape plants and stone materials that match those used in the public open spaces and commercial district to maintain a consistent look and feel throughout the site. When finished, 135 housing units will help support the new commercial district, and round out the compact density of the development, complete with underground parking.

Today residents of the village are able to walk to its select shops for coffee, ice cream and other pleasures, in a community-designed landscape that is unique for a suburban setting. The convenient proximity to St. Paul, Minneapolis and every major Twin Cities attraction offers big city amenities in a lovely small town atmosphere. With more than 98,000 square feet of office and retail space when completed, it is destined to become the lively epicenter for Mendota Heights, Sunfish Lake, West St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights and surrounding communities for the next 100 years.

About The Village at Mendota Heights

The Village at Mendota Heights continues the historic distinction of being a pioneering destination for current -- and future residents -- of the area. The final phase of The Village at Mendota Heights is to be completed in early 2008. New housing now under construction will readily complement the current mix of occupied townhomes and condominiums, plus the new retail operations that are now open, including E's Cheese, an exceptional gourmet shop, The Wine Market by Kowalski, Caribou Coffee, Cold Stone Creamery and The Sage Market and Wine Bar, which opened last fall.

For more information -- or to interview Ross Fefercorn of the Mendota Heights Town Center LLC -- please contact Martin Keller at Media Savant Communications Co., 612-729-8585 or mkeller@mediasavantcom.com