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Second phase of The Village at Fairview to include The Village Garden

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From staff reports

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The Village at Fairview, one component of The MGHerring Group's 3-million-square-foot, regional mixed-use lifestyle development located in both Fairview and Allen, Texas, will debut The Village Garden when the second phase of the retail component opens in March.

Perfect for individual gardening enthusiasts, families, gardening clubs, school groups and organizations needing a community project, The Village Garden will serve as a community garden where local residents and groups may plant their own vegetables, fruits and herbs.



The 1.5-acre garden will feature 55 (4 feet by 20 feet) above-ground plots, which are available to reserve for a \$10 annual fee. The garden also will feature seven 20-by-20 community plots and a 17-tree orchard. Some community plots will be planted and cared for by the collective group of garden members, while the planting of individual plots will be at the discretion of those who have reserved them. The majority of the plots will be ready for planting in late March.

During harvest season, garden members will have the opportunity to give back to the community through weekly donations of surplus produce to the Allen Community Outreach food pantry.

"In addition to the new stores and restaurants opening with the second phase of The Village at Fairview, there also will be many community features for guests to enjoy such as The Village Garden," said Norine Bowen, general manager of The Village at Fairview and The Village at Allen. "The garden will truly be a community effort and will provide an educational opportunity for local students, plus the much-needed service of fresh produce donations to local families through Allen Community Outreach."

The Village Garden Committee is currently forming to oversee all aspects of the garden and plan garden-sponsored activities, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which will take place later this year. Committee positions are voluntary and open to all garden members. Positions are available in areas including communications, maintenance, finance, education, rules enforcement, membership and more.

To reserve a garden plot or inquire about committee positions, individuals or groups may contact Debi Martinez via e-mail at dmartinez@herringgroup.com or by phone at 972-678-4939. Garden members will be provided with community gardening tools, water and basic gardening information

at no additional cost. Plot space is limited, and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The first phase of The Village at Fairview opened in summer 2009 with anchors JCPenney and Macy's. I.O. Metro and Bailey's Prime Plus opened in winter 2009. Second-phase openings will begin in March and will include the center's third anchor, Dillard's, as well as many specialty retail stores and restaurants. Openings will continue throughout the spring and summer including Gold Class Cinemas; Patrizio and Cyclone Anaya's Mexican Kitchen in April; The Container Store, Starpower and Gloria's in May; and Whole Foods Market in August, to name a few.

In addition to The Village Garden, The Village at Fairview's amenities will include "The Grand Commons" stage area and interactive fountain. The interactive fountain will feature daily shows set to music with songs such as "Beat It" by Michael Jackson, "My Heart Will Go On" by Celine Dion and "Great Balls of Fire" by Jerry Lee Lewis.

The center also will feature "The Village Beach" with four full-size sand volleyball courts, two tether balls, horse shoes and a washer-toss area. Two water fountains and a dual shower/foot wash area will be available in "The Village Beach." Other amenities will include a children's play area surrounded by six large palm trees; a hike/bike trail that connects The Village at Fairview to The Village at Allen; "The Grotto" with an outdoor fireplace and seating area; and an oversized chess/checker board.

The Village at Fairview, located at the northeast corner of U.S. 75 and Stacy Road, is being developed in conjunction with The Village at Allen, which opened in October 2008. The entire project spans 400 acres and, upon completion, will include 2 million square feet of retail and 1 million square feet of office, residential and hotel space.

With a reputation for design, quality and integrity, Dallas-based The MGHerring Group has developed more than 30 major shopping centers and regional malls in the United States and Mexico, totaling more than 25 million square feet of retail space.

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