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Connerton Breaks Ground on Amenities Center

TAMPA, Fla. (Aug. 20) – Connerton, the nearly 5,000-acre New Town currently under development in Pasco County, broke ground on its recreational activity center on Saturday. To be housed in the Gardens Village Center Amenities Complex, Club Connerton will feature an aquatic playground, a fitness center, tennis and basketball courts, a sand volleyball court, open green spaces and an outdoor amphitheatre.

At the ceremony, two resident youths read essays on “What Club Connerton Means to Me” they each submitted for a contest. To thank them for their participation, Connerton officials presented them with personalized ceremonial shovels.

Club Connerton is planned to total 27,000 square feet and will be built in phases. The first phase of Club Connerton will include a snack bar, a kid’s club with structured activities, multipurpose rooms, and a fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment and locker rooms, tennis courts, basketball court and an outdoor amphitheatre.

A county library, retail shops and professional office space are also planned for the Gardens Village Center. The first phase of the Gardens Village Center Amenities Complex and Club Connerton is scheduled to open in spring 2008.

“This is another important step toward completing our community, and it’s great to see Club Connerton underway,” said Stewart Gibbons, president of Connerton. “We look forward to the first day we see our residents engaged in tennis matches or staying cool in one of the area’s largest super pools or enjoying an outdoor concert at the amphitheatre.”

The centerpiece of the Village Center is an almost 8,000-square-foot zero-entry super pool. At one end of the pool is an aquatic playground with multilevel landings and spray nozzles, jets, valves, a spinning water wheel, a tipping bucket and slides. A wading pool is adjacent. A lap pool and expansions to the pool house will be completed in a future phase.

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Club Connerton was designed by award-winning Basham & Lucas Design Group, Inc., of Jacksonville. “This project will be one of the most dynamic amenity centers we have ever designed,” said Paul Basham, President of Basham & Lucas. “The timeless architecture and proposed recreational activities for the residents will set Connerton apart from anything else in the Tampa market.”

Maitland-based Philco Construction will construct this phase of Connerton. “PHILCO is honored to be trusted with the construction of the Connerton Gardens Village Center,” said Tom Phillips, President of Philco Construction. “We pride ourselves on doing what we say we’ll do – and we will make the owners of Connerton and those who invest in this outstanding project proud.”

About Basham & Lucas Design Group

The 2007 winner of the Grand Special Judges Aurora Award, Basham & Lucas Design Group is a professional design firm specializing in land planning, architecture, landscape and signage design for resorts, master planned communities, urban mixed use town centers, entertainment venues, theme parks and many other unique projects that demand the interaction of all design disciplines. For more information, visit www.bashamlucas.com.

About Connerton

Connerton is a 4,800-acre mixed-use master planned community in Central Pasco County, and the only “New Town” currently under construction in the greater Tampa Bay area. In total, there are approximately 8,500 residential units planned with over 3 million square feet of commercial space for office, retail and industrial uses. The Arbors, the first village in Connerton, is nearly sold out. Village Two, the Gardens is now selling. The community will feature many amenities, including a Town Center, fitness and aquatics complex, amphitheatre, parks, walking trails, boardwalks and conservation areas. A hospital, a regional park and three schools are also planned.

For more information on Connerton, call (813) 995-2460 or visit www.connerton.com.

****Editors Note: images available upon request***

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