

West Village Commons opens with fanfare
Burton-Katzman and City of Dearborn celebrate
public-private partnership of popular downtown site

DEARBORN, Mich. – The Burton-Katzman Development Company and the City of Dearborn celebrated the June 15 grand opening of West Village Commons, a 75,000-square-foot commercial and office mixed-use project in the west Dearborn downtown.

The festive ceremony marked the recent opening of Moe’s Southwest Grill, Coldstone Creamery, Caribou Coffee, Supercuts, and Au Bon Pain Bakery.

Other stores are about to open soon at “the Commons.” They are: La Cigar Emporium, American Home Fitness, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and the UPS Store.

The \$65 million West Village Commons is another step in the continuing revitalization of the west Dearborn downtown, solidifying it as a thriving retail, dining and entertainment destination.

West Village Commons completes the first of three phases to be undertaken by Burton-Katzman in the west Dearborn downtown redevelopment effort. The commercial development sits on the site of the former Jacobson’s department store.

The Commons consists of 37,500 square feet of ground floor retail and dining space and 37,500 square feet of second floor office space, arranged in a pair of two-story buildings.

The buildings are separated by a large brick paver plaza providing 20 parking spaces.

The plaza, which is owned by the City of Dearborn and managed by Burton-Katzman, will be available to the City throughout the year for various civic events. This public plaza is a crucial element to the downtown project, encouraging pedestrian traffic and festivities in the business district.

The second phase, West Village Square, which consists of 48 rowhouse and ranch-style condominium units, is currently under construction one block and south of “the Commons.”

Phase three, which could include either one element or a mix of hotel, office or additional condominiums units, is scheduled to break ground in late 2006.

Dearborn Mayor Michael A. Guido said West Village Commons will complement the vibrant business district, creating an appealing destination for residents and visitors.

“Just in the last week, as the stores have opened, West Village Commons has been full of people. It’s really attracting visitors to our west downtown already,” said Mayor Guido.

“And, it’s also the catalyst we hoped it would be—there are now \$100 million worth of projects proposed for west Dearborn, beyond what we are celebrating today,” he said.

“Burton-Katzman did a great job with West Village Commons, making it fit so well with our existing businesses. It’s a landmark project that we know will be successful into the future,” said Mayor Guido.

The opportunity for a mixed-use development like West Village Commons came about in 1997, when Jacobson’s closed its department stores across Michigan, including the one in Dearborn, due to corporate financial issues.

In 1999, realizing the potential presented by the Jacobson’s site, the City moved forward to help shape the business district and acquired the property through its West Dearborn Downtown Development Authority.

After acquisition of the property, Mayor Guido and his administration, the Dearborn City Council, the WDDDA and Dearborn residents and businesses came together to create a collective vision of how the Jacobson’s property, and two adjacent City parking lots, could be redeveloped to serve the City’s long-term best interests.

“The leadership of Dearborn has the great vision to create an environment which attracts new business and residents to assure the City a healthy and prosperous future,” said Burton-Katzman President, Peter Burton.

Caption:

Dearborn Mayor Michael A. Guido (front seat) and Peter Burton, president of Burton-Katzman Development Company, (back seat) began the June 15 grand opening ceremony for West Village Commons project in west Dearborn by breaking through a ribbon into the public plaza, where the

festivities were held. They were driven by Dennis Lark in a new Ford Mustang Shelby convertible.

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