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**Iowa's Newest Landmark is Dedicated to the
People—Past and Present—that Worked to Make Our Region Great
- 10-story Italian Glass Tile Mosaic Mural -**

(West Des Moines, IOWA—September 20, 2007) The nation's largest Italian glass mosaic tile mural in the United States is dedicated as a new landmark in Central Iowa. R&R Realty and the Rupprecht family will officially dedicate the Paragon Prairie Tower as a gift of art to Iowans. After 11 months of dedicated labor and craftsmanship, the Paragon Prairie Tower soars over 120 feet and features more than 1.8 million tiles of glass.

“When we started the company, we wanted to develop not just buildings, but spaces that would enhance the look of a community,” said Daniel Rupprecht, President of R&R Realty Group. R&R's office parks typically have plaza areas, water features or other pleasing iconic images that not only make a statement, but also create a unique environment for the businesses that are housed in their complexes. “This tower started out as an office park icon, but then we decided to turn it into something special—something that we could dedicate to the people in the community, the state, and the Midwest and its people,” said Rupprecht.

Located in the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area, Paragon Prairie Tower rises 120 feet, measures 16 feet in diameter and features a 5,000 square foot glass tiled mural. A colorful shimmering scene of the Iowa prairie—complete with wildflowers, coneflowers, black-eyed susans, daisies and clovers

amidst bluestem grass — was created on top of panels of pre-cast concrete using millions of individual fragments of glass from Ravenna, Italy, the capitol of the Byzantine Empire. It took workers 11 months to complete the tower. The Tower was designed to represent the Midwestern work ethic of saving and harnessing our abundant natural resources.

“The Paragon Prairie Tower truly is a visual tribute of our Iowa Heritage and a reminder of the hard work, loyalty and dedication Iowans have that make our state unique,” said Rupprecht.

The Paragon Prairie Tower was designed by a team of artists & architects from RDG Planning & Design, including David Dahlquist, Thomas Wright, Don Scandrett, Matt Johnson, Carmen Satre Davis, and Travis Rice. This dramatic architectural icon combines state-of-the-art technology with old world materials and craftsmanship. “Iowa’s roots are in agriculture. We wanted to capture the fruits of these labors and create an icon that could tell that story,” said Dahlquist, lead artist at RDG Dahlquist Art Studio.

Storyboards flank the Tower engraved with the Paragon Prairie story for visitors to read. The storyboard is designed to provide a framework for the iconic images that represent Iowa’s heritage. “Everyone has a story,” said Rupprecht. “We hope this tower will bring back your story of the past—from parents, grandparents and great grandparents.”

Paragon Prairie Tower serves as the main entrance to Paragon Office Park. This landmark is on Paragon Prairie Tower’s plaza, which is on a four-acre lake off of 123rd and Meredith Drive in Urbandale. Tenants and other groups can host parties, concerts, and other events on this plaza. Public access is available off Meredith Drive. Bike trails, shops and restaurants are also planned for Paragon Office Park.

R&R Realty will host two ceremonies to commemorate the completion of Paragon Prairie Tower at the Paragon Office Park Plaza. During a ceremony Thursday night, the Paragon Prairie Tower will be lit for the first time. The lighting of the Tower is expected to take place at approximately 7:30 p.m. Friday at 2:30 p.m., area business leaders and government officials, including Congressman Leonard Boswell, Polk County Supervisor Tom Hockensmith, and Urbandale Mayor Bob Andeweg, will officially dedicate the landmark to the people of Iowa.

“This is our gift to Iowans,” said Rupprecht. “We hope people will enjoy the Paragon Prairie Tower and find something special in it.”

R&R Realty Group is the area’s premier, full-service real estate company with development, brokerage, construction, property management, technology services, capital management, and acquisition services. R&R was founded in 1985 by Daniel Rupprecht and is one of the largest commercial real estate companies in Iowa with nearly five million square feet under management. The company remains family-owned.

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Attachment:

Paragon Prairie Tower Story (Text that is engraved on storyboards around the Paragon Prairie Tower)