



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MUELLER CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS
WITH UNIQUELY AUSTIN TRADITION**

**Catellus Relights Historic NOEL Sign Atop Mueller Tower
as Part of New Holiday Celebration**

AUSTIN, Texas – Nov. 30, 2007 – Mueller will restore an Austin tradition and kick off the holiday season this year with a celebration in recognition of a piece of Austin’s history. Catellus Development Group, master developer of Mueller, has commissioned two “NOEL” signs to place atop Mueller Tower, the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport control tower, that will shine at night to allow friends, families, neighbors and future residents of the new Mueller community to re-experience a uniquely Austin tradition that occurred for nearly 40 years.

Catellus will host a family-friendly lighting ceremony on Friday, Nov. 30 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Mueller Central information center located off Airport Boulevard at Mueller Boulevard and Aldrich Street. The free, public event will feature holiday music from [Austin Handbell Ensemble](#), students from Maplewood Elementary and local Girl Scout Troops, holiday refreshments and an opportunity to create handmade ornaments to place on a series of trees that will be donated to some of the nonprofit organizations associated with Mueller – the [Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin](#) (opens Dec. 13, 2007), the [Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas](#) (opened in June 2007) and the [Austin Children’s Shelter](#) (breaks ground first quarter 2008 at Rathgeber Village).

“This holiday season is a wonderful time to celebrate our new community and a renewed tradition,” said Matt Whelan, senior vice president of Catellus. “We are honored to bring back a sight that is familiar to so many and excited to be able to share that tradition with new Austinites and future Mueller residents.”

U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett, who represents the Mueller community in his district, will help jump start the season by flipping the switch that illuminates the trees and the Mueller Tower.



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“As a native Austinite, I remember the tower being built, and later as a Congressman being welcomed home from Washington during the holiday season by the NOEL display,” said Representative Lloyd Doggett. “I am pleased to see how Catellus is honoring our history, as it creates a dynamic, new community that displays our diverse culture and active lifestyle. This celebration of the tower and the Mueller community allows us to reflect on how our city has changed at the same time that we teach new generations about our past.”

The tradition of lighting NOEL atop the tower during the holidays began the year construction on the tower was completed in 1961. The “Noel Tower,” as it came to be known, was lit every year for the brief holiday season until the energy crisis in the 1970s forced the City into a period of conservation. The NOEL lights on the tower were relit in 1982 in memory of the late Colonel Murphy, a former City Aviation Director, and were lit each holiday season until the airport closed in 1999. Catellus commissioned a new NOEL display for the 2006 lighting and an additional display for the Tower’s adjacent side in 2007.

About the Mueller Tower

The control tower was a part of the new airport terminal at the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport that was completed in 1961 replacing the tower that stood since 1943. Designed by local architects Fehr and Granger, the modern, open and progressive design of the terminal with the integral 89-foot-tall control tower was a stark contrast to traditional airport designs of the 1950s and received a national design award. As a symbol of the city entering a modern age, the terminal and the control tower were featured on the cover of the Austin telephone book and several city publications in the 1960s and were also used as the backdrop for fashion shows and other city events of the era.

About Mueller (www.MuellerAustin.com)

Mueller will be developed over 10 to 15 years and is expected to include more than 140 acres of open space, a pattern of landscaped streets designed to support pedestrians and bicycles, up to 4,600 single-family and multi-family living units, a mixed-use town center, an elementary school, the 32-acre campus of the Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, 3.8 million square feet of office space, 650,000 square feet of retail space and a central transit corridor that provides for a possible extension of mass transit service. The project’s first residential phase broke ground this summer with Mueller’s first residents moving in by early 2008.

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