



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **A. J. VENEKLASEN INC. BREAKS GROUND ON THREE PROJECTS IN ALLENDALE**

**Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2, 2007**—a.j. Veneklasen, Inc. (AJV) has broken ground on three projects in Allendale, Michigan. All of the construction sites are located near the corner of Lake Michigan Drive and 64<sup>th</sup> Street, on the parcel of land currently containing the Allendale Christian School (ACS) buildings.

a.j. Veneklasen, Inc., purchased the eleven-acre parcel and the existing school buildings from ACS in 2006. The company is converting the land into a mixed-use development featuring a new school building and multiple retail spaces. The contractor is working closely with the City of Allendale to re-develop the land in a way that meets the needs of the community.

The first project underway is a new campus for **Allendale Christian School**. Their current building is located at 6370 Lake Michigan Drive. a.j. Veneklasen, Inc., is constructing a new facility on the property directly behind the existing school. The new 35,000 square foot building will house pre-school through middle-school grades and feature: 13 classrooms, a resource room, art room, band room, media center, gymnasium, locker rooms, kitchen, office areas, and teachers lounge. The building design allows for future expansion when necessary. The ACS project began in January 2007 and will open for students in fall 2007. The ACS project team includes general contractor, a.j.

Veneklasen, Inc. and GMB Architects, provider of architectural and engineering services.

Project number two is a new 49,000 sq. ft. **Family Fare Supermarket**. The new supermarket will be located at southeast corner of M-45 (Lake Michigan Drive) and 64th Avenue in Allendale Township. While Family Fare has operated in Allendale since July 1993, this new store will provide improved access and services to the residents of Allendale. It will serve as the prototype store for future Family Fare Supermarkets—featuring even more products and services—as it nearly doubles its square footage. In addition, the new supermarket will offer a full service pharmacy with convenient drive-up window and a new Quick Stop fuel and convenience center.

Craig C. Sturken, Chairman, President and CEO of Spartan Stores stated, “We are very pleased to begin construction immediately on this new prototype full-service Family Fare Supermarket to serve the residents of Allendale. We are also excited that this development plan provides the opportunity for Allendale Christian Schools to relocate and improve upon their school facilities for their students. This is a true win-win for both organizations and for the citizens of Allendale Township.”

The Family Fare team includes general contractor a.j. Veneklasen, Inc.; architect Paradigm Design; project developer Space Source; and site engineer Nederveld Associates, Inc. The supermarket will open for business in early October 2007.

The third project at this location is the **Allendale Retail Center**, which will be located just east of the new supermarket. The 11,000 square-foot retail center will feature exterior details similar to those of the supermarket, providing a harmonious “town center” feeling. The building will be ready for tenant customization in October 2007.

This multi-project kick-off is a perfect example of VeneBuilt<sup>SM</sup> service in action. Simply stated, the VeneBuilt<sup>SM</sup> Service, developed by a.j. Veneklasen, Inc., anticipates and manages the multitude of obstacles and decisions, which can arise when planning and constructing a new project. These three Allendale projects have separate contracts, yet are intertwined.

a.j. Veneklasen, Inc., was initially going to purchase the 8-acres from ACS, split the parcel, build a new school building on the back section, and develop the front section for a future retail use. Space Source, Inc., a real estate development company looking for a suitable location for a new Family Fare Supermarket, then approached AJV and formed a partnership. The new partnership purchased an even larger parcel and brought in Spartan Stores' owned Family Fare Supermarket as a partner and lead tenant. Allendale Township had an interest in guiding the project as a whole because of the impact it could have on the community. The AJV team was able to bring all the parties together to achieve a winning solution for all.

“As with many of our projects, our VeneBuilt services really made the difference. No longer do our clients think of us simply as their contractor. We play so many roles now—Partner, Developer, Team Member, and Contractor—we offer our clients over 30 years of experience, doing what we do best,” said Chris Veneklasen, President of a.j. Veneklasen, Inc.

a.j. Veneklasen, Inc., founded in 1975 by Alan J. Veneklasen, offers a comprehensive package of services including general contracting, design-build construction and construction management services. AJV has completed projects for Fortune 500 companies as well as medium-sized and small businesses throughout the Greater West Michigan region—from Drummond Island to South Bend, Indiana.

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