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Grizzly Sports Complex to Open Fall 2011

Facility will include two multi-sport synthetic turf fields engineered for the safety of young athletes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 20, 2011—Gainesville, Virginia The Board of Directors of the Gainesville-Haymarket Youth Football League (GHYFL) “Grizzlies” are pleased to announce the Grizzly Sports Complex, located in Bristow, Virginia will open in the Fall 2011. The Grizzly Sports Complex will be the first sports park in Western Prince William County with turf fields designed for multiple sports including football, lacrosse, field hockey and soccer. Phase I of the facility will also include one grass multi-sport field, 100+ parking spaces and a snack bar.

The Grizzly Sports Complex has been made possible through a 35-year land lease agreement between Prince William County and the Gainesville-Haymarket Youth Football League. Brookfield Homes, Mary Ann Ghabban and Skip Albrite have provided financial support for the 17-acre facility.

The remaining \$850,000 needed to provide turf fields at the facility was made possible as a result of years of fundraising by the parents of GHYFL and a loan to the organization by Merrifield Garden Center of Gainesville.

“The Grizzlies are thankful to community leaders like Brookfield Homes that have helped us turn our Field of Dreams into a reality in such a short time,” said Gary Skeens, Commissioner of GHYFL. “Understanding that it could have taken years of additional fundraising to raise enough money to install turf at the complex; we are humbled by the generosity of Merrifield Garden Center. Their commitment to the youth in our community has allowed this organization to immediately provide a quality product engineered for the safety of young athletes,” Skeens added.

“Merrifield Garden Center is a part of this community and we wanted to help,” said Bob Warhurst, President and Co-Founder of Merrifield Garden Center. “We see the Grizzly stickers on our customers cars and this is a project many of them have spent years working towards. We knew we needed to find a way to help the Grizzlies build the fields now.”

GHYFL is responsible for the full cost of operating the Grizzly Sports Complex and re-paying the loan to Merrifield Garden Center. The Grizzlies are working with local businesses for marketing opportunities at the facility. It is estimated in the Fall of 2011, over 56,000 people will visit the Grizzly Sports Complex for youth sporting events, with that number climbing to over 125,000 in 2012.

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The Grizzly Sports Complex will be available for rental by other sport groups for practices, games, tournaments and special events. To inquire about sponsorship, availability and pricing go to the Grizzly website at www.GrizzlyFootball.org.

GHYFL is working with CCON General Contracting of Springfield, Virginia for construction management services for the project. CCON managed the competitive bid and selection process for the turf fields and fencing. The company will provide project management to coordinate and oversee all GHYFL contractors and fixture vendors to complete Phase I of construction.

Shaw Sportexe was selected by the organization to provide the synthetic turf fields at the Grizzly Sports Complex. Shaw Sportexe is a division of Shaw Industries Group, Inc, A Berkshire Hathaway Company and has over 700 athletic turf field installations throughout the country, including the home field of the Baltimore Ravens.

"Like football, construction is a team sport. Brookfield, Shaw Industries and C-CON are 100% committed to having the facility ready for our young Grizzlies to take the field this Fall," said Shawn Clark, President of C-CON General Contracting. Clark added, "I am extremely satisfied with the pace at which this project is evolving."

"I applaud the Grizzlies who have designed this facility to have the latest in safety technology engineered into the fields while providing a beautiful rural setting for families to enjoy watching their children play," said Supervisor W.S. Covington, III, Prince William County Board of Supervisors, Brentsville District. "The amount of economic development this facility will bring to the Brentsville District is exciting. Families from all over Northern Virginia will be coming to play at the Grizzly Sports Complex, eat at our restaurants and shop at our stores."

About the Grizzlies: The Gainesville Haymarket Youth Football League (GHYFL) "Grizzlies" organization began in 1999 and is a registered 501c3 organization. The organization is dedicated to providing year-round athletic programs for boys and girls from the Gainesville, Haymarket, Bristow, Catharpin and Nokesville areas. The Grizzlies are the largest youth football and cheerleading program in Northern Virginia with over 900 participating in the Fall and 775 participating in the Spring. Information about how to register for Grizzly programs or how to support the organization can be found at www.grizzlyfootball.org

About Merrifield Garden Center: Merrifield Garden Center is an award-winning nursery, garden center and landscaping company that started in 1971 with the goal of providing the finest quality plants, superior selection and unparalleled service. Now 40 years later, the family owned and operated business has expanded to three locations in Northern Virginia: the original site in Merrifield, Fair Oaks and Gainesville. Visit MerrifieldGardenCenter.com.

About CCON General Contracting: CCON General Contracting is a fully Class A Licensed, Bonded and Insured Commercial General Contracting firm serving Virginia, Maryland and The District of Columbia. CCON services our clients in the areas of preconstruction services, general contracting, construction management, design build, LEED Accredited Professional management and facility services. For more information about CCON, please visit our website at www.c-coninc.net, or call Shawn Clark at 703-455-1400.

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