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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Mill Valley Kitchen planned for Ellipse on Excelsior

**MINNEAPOLIS (December 21, 2010)** – Bader Development, owners of Ellipse on Excelsior Boulevard, the new luxury mixed-use apartment development in St. Louis Park, has just completed a deal with former Excel Bank CEO, Craig Bentdahl, on a 5,000 square foot ground-level space where he will be introducing **Mill Valley Kitchen**, a full-service restaurant and bar, which he plans to open in Summer, 2011.

This brand new restaurant concept was inspired by the farm-to-table cuisine of Northern California and Chef Michael Rakun is developing a menu with a focus on fresh, locally-sourced and nutritious food. “From our first meeting, I liked the concept and the vision,” said Rakun, who has held executive kitchen positions with the St. Paul Hotel, Mission American Kitchen, and Truluck’s Restaurant Group in Florida, where he says his “life revolved around seafood.” He is now looking forward to developing the cuisine of Mill Valley Kitchen.

The design of the space is being handled by Minneapolis based design firm, Shea, Inc., and Anoush Ansari of Hemisphere Companies is a consulting partner on the project. Amanda Nelson, an interior designer with Shea, describes the design direction as “casual, but refined, with a very warm, inviting, almost residential feel.”

Mill Valley Kitchen will be serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant will seat approximately 165 and will feature a large dining room, full bar, and private dining. An outdoor patio will add an additional 25 seats, and a dedicated take-out area will provide a convenient alternative for on-the-go customers and serve as a great amenity to residents of the Ellipse.

Shea, Inc. is a marketing and design firm integrating expertise in marketing, architecture and interior design. Shea blends diverse perspectives, skills, cultures and knowledge into solid creative strategy for clients. Shea’s client list includes Macy’s, TCF National Bank, Morton’s The Steakhouse, Wells Fargo and Midcontinent Communications. For more information on Shea, please contact Andy McDermott at 612.594.4245 or visit our Web site at [www.shealink.com](http://www.shealink.com) or our blog at [www.sheaanything.blogspot.com](http://www.sheaanything.blogspot.com).