



For Immediate Release

Photos and logo available

Contact:

Chris Hurley

Goosefoot

(360) 321-4145

chris@goosefoot.org

**Green light for new grocery at Bayview Center on South Whidbey Island
this summer**

Langley, Wash. (June 10, 2009) – Goosefoot, a non-profit organization located on South Whidbey, has secured final financing to develop a 21,000 sq. ft. grocery store in the former site of Casey's Red Apple at Bayview Center. Pre-construction and demolition is underway and doors should open by late summer.

In a one-of-a-kind partnership, Goosefoot is collaborating with The Myers Group, a family-owned business, to open *The Goose Community Grocer*. The new market will combine the best of natural foods, local producers, traditional grocery items, and great value.

"It's short, sweet, funny, and ties the grocery back to its owner," says Goosefoot board president Gordy Edberg about the name of the new store. "After considering a host of more traditional – let's face it, boring – names, lightheartedness won out in the end. 'The Goose' is a name everyone will surely remember!"

Two people who couldn't be more pleased to see this day arrive are Christine Hurley, Goosefoot CEO, and Tyler Myers, Myers Group President. "Tyler and I have been planning and plotting for over a year to make this happen. It's been a long road with quite a few detours and it's great to finally see the contractors busy at work. The community input was so overwhelmingly in favor of a new grocery store. *The Goose* will deliver that and so much more."

The Goose will be operated by the Myers Group, whose most recent projects include developing and operating the Snoqualmie Ridge Grocery Store and the downtown Seattle Kress IGA Supermarket. Headquartered on South Whidbey, Myers staff will manage the grocery's day-to-day operations.

As the owner, Goosefoot will finance all building equipment and renovations, store inventory, and day-to-day operating expenses. Both shoppers and current

Center merchants can look forward to safer parking, better lighting, more visible and attractive signage, and many energy efficient improvements.

The new store's interior will be completely redesigned and equipped to provide a warm and inviting atmosphere. A deli, bakery and café seating area will be included. The produce department will be expanded and enhanced, and will offer a wide selection of organic and locally grown items. Local producers and growers will be showcased throughout the store. Their offerings will vary with seasonal availability.

As a non-profit, Goosefoot will reinvest any net proceeds from their grocery venture back into the community. According to Hurley, "we look forward to the day when we show a profit from our commercial ventures both here at Bayview Center and at the Bayview Cash Store. Those eventual profits will be invested in affordable housing and promoting economic development on the South Whidbey!"

Opening in late summer, *The Goose Community Grocer* will be located at Bayview Center, 14485 Hwy 525 on South Whidbey Island, 7 miles from the Clinton ferry dock. Neighboring businesses at the Center include Bayview Design Center, Casey's Crafts, Curves for Women, Neil's Clover Patch Café, Sebo's Hardware, Valero gas station, and Coldwell Banker Tara Properties.

###

Goosefoot's mission is to bring neighbors together to build a sense of place and community, to preserve rural traditions, to enhance local commerce and to help create a healthy, sustainable future for South Whidbey. The organization's strategy is to develop property for the benefit of the community and the local economy and to re-invest the profits right back into the community. As a 501(c) 3 private operating foundation, Goosefoot's operations are supported by property rents, private philanthropy, and long-term debt (on property). Their current goal is to make a successful transition towards financial independence, bringing its properties into development, and improving both the community and Goosefoot's long-term sustainability. Visit www.goosefoot.org for further information.

The Myers Group is a second generation, family-owned company with a portfolio of small businesses, including grocery stores, fuel stations and hardware stores throughout Western Washington. Their most recent projects include developing and operating the Snoqualmie Ridge Grocery Store and the downtown Seattle Kress IGA Supermarket. Award-winning grocer and Myers Group CEO, Tyler Myers, brings more than 25 years of experience to this most recent project.