



THE GOOSE COMMUNITY GROCER OPENS ON SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

Nonprofit Goosefoot and The Myers Group collaborate to operate community supermarket

Langley, Wash. (September 15, 2009) – The Goose Community Grocer on South Whidbey Island opens to the public on Wednesday, September 16. Developed in a one-of-a-kind partnership between Goosefoot, a nonprofit organization, and The Myers Group, the company behind downtown Seattle’s first and only supermarket, the Kress IGA Supermarket, The Goose Community Grocer will combine the best of traditional grocery items, local producers, and great value. As a nonprofit, Goosefoot plans to reinvest eventual net proceeds from their grocery venture back into the community.

Located in the former site of Casey’s Red Apple at Bayview Center, The Goose store concept is a hybrid, combining the best of natural and mainstream foods and products, goods from local producers, and competitive pricing. The Goose will offer a full-service deli, a bakery operated by Langley Bakery and a café seating area. In addition, the store will feature 45-feet of bulk product or buy-what-you-can-use. This department reduces packaging and waste, while presenting a great value proposition to shoppers.

“Whether you eat white bread or 12 grain sprouted, you’ll want to shop here,” said Tyler Myers, Myers Group President. “We’ve paid close attention to how each square foot of the store can be maximized to meet the diverse needs of the South Whidbey community.”

“We’ll deliver real value and variety to shoppers,” said Christine Hurley, CEO of Goosefoot. “In community meetings held two years ago, an overwhelming majority asked for a modern, up-to-date grocery store, designed for local residents, with affordable grocery items and where local growers could sell their produce. We are proud to deliver that, and much more.”

The Goose was developed with one of Goosefoot’s core values of living in mind – environmental responsibility. The Goose features reused and refurbished equipment, 204 ECM refrigeration motors that offer a 300 percent efficiency improvement, anti-sweat heater controls, night covers in open refrigerated cases and exterior fluorescent and LED light fixtures. These green store initiatives will create an estimated 15-20 percent reduction in total energy to operate The Goose and an annual savings of \$29,300.

As the storeowner, Goosefoot financed the costs for all building renovations, store inventory, and day-to-day operating expenses. Both shoppers and current Bayview Center merchants will benefit from improved landscaping, safer parking, better lighting, more visible and attractive signage.

As the store operator, The Myers Group presents more than 30 years of retail experience featuring a portfolio of grocery stores, hardware stores and other retail operations throughout Western Washington. Tyler Myers and his staff will oversee the grocery’s day-to-day operations. Myers’ most recent projects include developing and operating the Snoqualmie Ridge Grocery Store and the downtown Seattle Kress IGA Supermarket.

A revolutionary store concept, The Goose is the first “community grocer” on South Whidbey and the only one of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. This model is designed to meet the



community's needs with great value, an emphasis on local producers, and a goal of supporting the community with store profits.

The new supermarket at Bayview Center is located at 14485 Hwy 525 on South Whidbey Island, seven 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, and Valero gas station.

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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. For additional information, please visit www.goosefoot.org.

About The Myers Group

The Myers Group is a family-owned company with a portfolio of small businesses, including grocery stores, fuel stations and hardware stores throughout Western Washington. Award-winning grocer and Myers Group CEO, Tyler Myers, brings more than 25 years of experience to his most recent project.

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