



*Inside
Sewer Project
Chamber Recognition*

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Chamber's Golf Tournament Proves a Boon to Food Bank

By Marian Myszkowski and Geri Pilcher

At the Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament in August of this year, the Goose Community Grocer donated a five-minute shopping spree as an auction fundraiser.

Auction winners Ed and Chris Halloran, enthusiastic fans of both Good Cheer and

the Goose Grocer, donated the shopping spree to the Good Cheer Food Bank.

So from 1 to 1:05 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18, Good Cheer Food Bank Manager Damien Cortez sprinted through the aisles of the Goose Community Grocer to gather as much food as he could to help stock the Good Cheer food

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Marian Myszkowski photos

Chris Halloran, at left, who with her husband Ed donated a Goose Grocer shopping spree they won at the Greater Freeland Chamber golf tournament auction last August to the Good Cheer Food Bank, is shown with Kathy McLaughlin, Good Cheer Executive Director; Chris Hurley, Goosefoot CEO; Kay Stanley, Good Cheer board member; and Marsha Morgan, Goosefoot board member.



Damien Cortez, Good Cheer Food Bank Manager, raises his hands in celebration at the end of his five-minute sprint through the aisles of the Goose Community Grocer. At right, Cortez smilingly points to the cash register that shows the total of \$3,199.50 for the Goose shopping spree.



Freeland Sewer Project Takes a Major Step

By Chet Ross, President

Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce

After years of ice buildup, the glacier – Freeland’s sewer project – has finally begun to move.

On Monday, Dec. 28, at a cost of \$560,000, the Freeland Water and Sewer District closed on the purchase of 80 acres of land to be used for

the sewer outfall.

This after several years of negotiations with property owners, chasing funding sources, foreclosure action, R.C.W (Washington State code) interpretations and clarifications. The satisfactory conclusion was sweet indeed.

The district will be closing on the property for the plant itself in January at a

cost of \$275,000. Also in January, the RFQs – requests for qualifications – for engineering and design will be published.

All the district’s expenditures to date and into the near future are from grant money. The Centennial Clean Water Fund’s grant is \$1,000,000, and the state .09 Rural County Economic Development funds administered by Island County are in the amount of \$2,500,000.

Last spring, the district applied for direct stimulus funding and was disqualified for not being “shovel ready.” Therefore, even though at this time full funding is not in place, the district is moving to be shovel ready with the funds now available.

In the quest for funding, representatives of the district met with representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which has a program for rural areas called Rural Utility Service (RUS), and because Island County is classified rural, the Freeland Water and Sewer District qualifies.

The district’s initial discussions were aimed at obtaining the \$5.7 million needed to complete Phase I of the sewer project (the commercial core), which included a ULID (Utility Local Improvement District) of the commercial property owners at \$5.6 million.

However, after our third meeting, the USDA representatives strongly recommended that the \$30 million of the \$38

million project be applied for, which would complete all five phases.

Consequently, on Nov. 4, 2009, the district submitted an application for \$30 million to USDA under the RUS American Recovery and Rehabilitation Act of 2009 loan/grant program.

The application is extensive and will take several months to move through the process, ultimately all the way to the White House, inasmuch as stimulus funding is involved.

The program is unique in that no granting is offered up front. When the application is ultimately approved, a rate study is initiated to determine a rate structure that is comparable to the surrounding communities (Langley, Coupeville and Oak Harbor).

This, for example, is then applied to, say, a 30-year loan amortization. If it does not pencil out, then the difference is granted: ergo, loan/grant.

Under this program, a ULID of the commercial core property owners would not be necessary. It is without a doubt the best program the district has looked at.

The district is soliciting political help from our local, state and federal representatives. Congressman Rick Larsen and state Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen were the first to add their voices of support, and our county commissioners have also indicated support is on the way.

Stay tuned.

Shopping Spree *Cont. from Page 1*

bank shelves during this busy holiday season.

The shopping spree rules as announced by the Goose Grocer were very generous:

- The fresh meat and produce departments each contributed \$50 to be ordered separately. These two departments, in addition to alcohol and tobacco products, were off limits during the spree.

- An empty shopping cart was placed at the head of each aisle. No new (empty) cart could be used until the present cart was full.

- All aisles were free of customers during the five-minute spree.

Cortez grabbed an astonishing \$3,199.50 worth of groceries, including gluten-free flours and pastas, coffee, spices and hearty canned soups.

The food bank has many clients that need gluten-free products, which are too cost prohibitive for the food bank to provide on a regular basis.

Good Cheer is the only

food bank on South Whidbey Island. In October alone, they served 778 families, 75 of which had never used the food bank before.

In addition to the food bank, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization also operates two general thrift stores and a clothing boutique thrift store, plus a center for receiving distribution of items. Proceeds from these endeavors help to support the food bank.

The Goose Community Grocer opened on Sept. 16, 2009. It is a one-of-a-kind partnership between Goosefoot, a nonprofit organization that owns the Goose, and the Myers Group, a local family-owned business.

Eventual profits from the Goose Grocer will be re-invested back into the South Whidbey community.

For more information about Good Cheer go to www.goodcheer.org. To learn more about Goosfoot and the Goose Grocer visit www.goosefoot.org and www.goosegrocer.com.

Chamber Recognizes Members, Directors, Staff

The Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce wishes all its members a wonderful and safe holiday season and a prosperous new year.

President Chet Ross would like to especially recognize the following individuals and businesses:

Puget Sound Energy and its staff, Sheila Delong of State Farm Insurance and her staff and Andrea Brown of Studio A Salon and her staff: For your continued support of the Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce activities and functions

Virginia Bloom, Anne Bobinac, Richard Davis, Leanne Finlay, Lyn Gausstad, Marian Myszkowski, Angela Vosburg and Susie Yielding: For your time and devotion to the Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors:

Dr. Craig Weiner Weinstein: For your time and devotion to the Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce, the success of the Visitor Information Center in Clinton, and the three south-end chambers

Louis Muniz: For your time and effort to the Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce and the most successful Annual Golf Tournament to date.

Renate Audette: For your undaunted time and effort to the Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce.

Geri Pilcher: For your time and devotion to the Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce, the landscaping at the Visitor Information Center in Clinton and the monthly newsletter.

Joan Soltys: For your time and devotion to the Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce monthly newsletter.



Virginia Bloom presents Chet Ross with his own certificate of thanks.



Marian Myszkowski photos

During a social event at China City on Dec. 10, Chet Ross, Greater Freeland Chamber of Commerce President, extends thanks and recognition to members, directors and staff for their work during the past year. With him are Virginia Bloom and Louis Muniz.



Angela Vosburg of Chiina City receives thanks from Virginia Bloom.

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Windermere Real Estate/East, Inc.
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Businesses Should Make New Year's Resolutions Too

If you want to make this the year you really will achieve your New Year's resolutions, here are the steps you must take:

1. Be absolutely clear what you want to achieve during the coming year.
2. Break down your main goal into smaller steps, which will be the way you can check your progress towards your goal.
3. Make a plan. This is the map that will guide you towards achieving what you want. The plan will list the steps and the dates you want to have completed them.
4. Do something, however small, towards your goal each day. Small steps build into progress when you do something regularly.
5. As you complete each step, check it off on your plan. Be creative: You could stick a star on your calendar as you move forward and achieve.
6. Keep focused on the goal, and follow your routine of a small step each day so that it becomes an automatic habit.

7. Find other people to support and encourage you. It's easier to make progress towards your goal if you have some non-judgmental support – from a coach or mentor, a friend or a supportive member of your family. Tell them what will help you so they can let you have the support you need.

8. Be creative and explore different ways to achieve what you want rather than give up. Sometimes you can find new ways to reach your goal.

9. Don't neglect yourself: Eat healthy foods, take regular exercise and have enough sleep.

10. Celebrate 2010 as your best year yet as you reach your goals.

Calendar

Save the Date

Relay for Life kickoff, Feb. 6, 10-noon
The Chamber will have a team once again
and all are welcome
to hear about this year's event on June 5-6.

Freeland Chamber Board of Directors

Chet Ross: President, 360-331-1980

Richard Davis: Vice-President, Edward Jones, 360-331-4450

Virginia Bloom: Secretary, Director, Co-chair Annual Golf Tournament, Sound Business Center, 360-331-3132

Anne Bobinac: Treasurer, Whidbey Bank, Retail Branch Manager, 360-331-5868

Leanne Finlay: Director, Windermere Real Estate/East, Inc., 206-310-1477

Lyn Gaustad: Second Secretary and Director, Membership Outreach, Whidbey Vision Care, 360-331-8424

Louis Muniz: Second Treasurer, Director, Co-chair Annual Golf Tournament, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, 360-331-5952

Marian Myszkowski: Director, Membership Outreach, Goosefoot, 360-321-4232

Angela Vosburg: Director, China City, 360-346-0061

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