



8215 41st Avenue NE,  
Seattle, WA 98115

206.525.0835 Main  
206.527.9128 Fax

info@cottagecompany.com  
www.cottagecompany.com

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Linda Pruitt, The Cottage Company, 206-525-0835 or  
206-853-3755  
www.cottagecompany.com  
linda@cottagecompany.com

## **The Cottage Company announces start of construction of Chico Beach Cottages in Silverdale, Washington**

*First community to be built under Kitsap County's new 'Urban Low' zoning designation includes seven 2 & 3 bedroom homes clustered on a 1.1 acre Dyes Inlet waterfront parcel at 7740 Chico Way NW.*

**SILVERDALE** – The Cottage Company, a nationally-recognized, award-winning residential real estate development company based in Seattle, Washington focused on the development of innovative, 'pocket neighborhood' communities of detached single family homes, is pleased to announce the start of construction of it's latest community, Chico Beach Cottages at 7740 Chico Way NW in Silverdale, WA.

The community of seven 2 & 3 bedroom homes each enjoys 150' of waterfront with dramatic views of Mt. Rainier & Dyes Inlet from each home. Chico Beach Cottages will be the first community built under Kitsap County's 'Urban Low' zoning designation that requires a minimum of 4 & maximum of 9 homes per acre in 'infill' locations as a means of achieving medium density single family infill development, consistent with Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan and Silverdale Sub-Area Plan goals. As Kitsap County & Silverdale seek to increase the supply and diversity of housing, the project provides an attractive, new single-family housing choice that responds to changing household sizes and ages, and provides opportunities for ownership of smaller, new construction, energy-efficient, lower maintenance & operating cost homes, within a single-family neighborhood.

Chico Beach Cottages will achieve the high 4-Star level of Built Green certification and be the first Built Green 4-Star & Energy Star Certified, third-party verified community in Kitsap County, as certified by the Kitsap Home Builders Built Green program. Energy Star certification requires that energy costs in new homes achieve *at least* a 15% energy cost savings over typical new homes built to Washington's already-high state energy code.

Chico Beach Cottages will also be the first 'Cottage Housing' community in Kitsap County. Kitsap County's cottage housing provision encourages the creation of more usable open space for homeowners through flexibility in density and lot standards and supports Washington's Growth Management objectives.

Chico Beach Cottages community amenities include the beach, gazebo deck overlooking Mt. Rainier and Dyes Inlet and a Commons Building for community gathering, individual projects, meetings or potential guest space, finished inside with natural wood, some of which was reclaimed from the original 1937 home on the property. Milled trees from the site will be reused and provide wood for fencing,

Simple. Smart. Sustainable.

arbors, & porch and deck railing for use throughout the project. Some trees removed from the site were donated to Kitsap County for use in its nearby Schold Farm wetland restoration project.

The Chico Beach Cottages community was initially conceived when The Cottage Company was approached in 2007 by property owners Douglas and Margaret Yoder. Doug was searching for a sensitive, more-sustainable development option for his valuable legacy property different than the typical, large-home new construction happening near his boyhood home. Doug and Margaret Yoder plan to have a home in the completed Chico Beach Cottages community and live on the heritage property where Doug grew up and that has housed generations of the Yoder family, a family with deep roots in Silverdale and central Kitsap County.

Project construction began in mid-August 2010. Target prices start at \$549,000 and provide a new construction alternative to older homes in the highly desired area. Chico Beach Cottages are scheduled for completion in mid-May 2011. Purchase reservations are now being taken, and two of the seven cottage homes are already reserved. The community is represented by a Silverdale-based sales team from Coldwell Banker McKenzie.

The Cottage Company's Chico Beach Cottages project collaborators include well-known Kitsap County architect Charles Wenzlau of Wenzlau Architects and premier Kitsap County builder, Tad Fairbank of Fairbank Construction Company.

The Cottage Company was formed in 1996 as an innovative residential development company based in Seattle that provides new models for sustainable living and smart housing choices. The company has completed seven award-winning communities throughout the Pacific Northwest and has become recognized as a national leader in smart growth. The Cottage Company's completed single-family communities include: Third Street Cottages located on Whidbey Island; the Backyard Neighborhood on Whidbey Island; Ericksen Cottages in the City of Bainbridge Island; Greenwood Avenue Cottages in Shoreline; Danielson Grove in Kirkland; Conover Commons Cottages & Conover Commons Homes in Redmond. In a previous collaboration, Charles Wenzlau of Wenzlau Architects designed Ericksen Cottages in Winslow on Bainbridge Island, WA.

The Cottage Company has been profiled in a number of national and regional publications and television media including: The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Sunset Magazine, Metropolitan Home, Coastal Living, Cottage Living, the Seattle Times, the 'Not So Big House' series of books by Sarah Susanka, the Jane Pauley show, HGTV, CNN & PBS's Lehrer News Hour.

The Cottage Company's completed communities have been awarded at the highest national and regional levels. Awards include: the American Institute of Architects National Housing Award (three-time winner); National Association of Homebuilders Builders Choice Awards (multiple 'Merit' and 'Grand' Awards); Pacific Coast Builders 'Gold Nugget' Awards (multiple 'Merit' and 'Grand' Awards); Sunset Magazine AIA/Western Home Awards (multiple awards); American Society of Landscape Architects Merit Awards, and AIA Seattle 'Future Shack' Awards.

Chico Beach Cottages is privately financed using an innovative structure of 'friends & family' investment and private debt. The \$3.0M project represents a direct financial investment by The Cottage Company in the central Kitsap County economy. A special focus has been made to employ Kitsap County subcontractors and suppliers in the construction of the community.

The Cottage Company will host a kickoff event on Friday September 24 at Noon for invited guests including: national and regional elected officials, Kitsap County staff, Kitsap County business leaders, local and regional media and press, Chico Beach Cottages project investors and project team.

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