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Groundbreaking of Rice Fergus Miller's New Office Space

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Rice Fergus Miller PLLC just broke ground on its own new office building. Actually, firm members cut holes. The re-use of the late 1940s Sears Tire Center in downtown Bremerton will create a new home for Rice Fergus Miller. The three-level building, with a mezzanine and open space cut through to the third floor, will house the firm and available lease space.

A broad range of community members, clients and friends attended the event. Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent and former Mayor Cary Bozeman both spoke to the firm's involvement in the community. Mayor Bozeman commented that "good things happen to good people."

The groundbreaking hummed with comments starting with "I remember when...." A Rice Fergus Miller project coordinator, Hope Zorrozuva, said "I remember shopping here as a kid with my dad, who is a mechanic." The revitalization of this old building offers members of the community an opportunity to reflect on the past and visualize a new future.

The project is tracking for LEED Platinum. The re-use of an existing, vacant building is one of the most sustainable things the firm could do. The construction will include selective re-use of demolished materials from the building and source local goods.

The building will be 60% more efficient than ASHRAE 90.1 (Washington State Energy Code). Low energy consumption is a sustainability goal for Rice Fergus Miller. To that end, plans include a hybrid natural/mechanical ventilation system, a super-insulated exterior skin, and highly efficient windows. A 5,000 gallon rainwater harvesting system will supply 95% of toilet flushing needs over the course of the year and 100% of irrigation. This project is tracking to be the first LEED Platinum building in Kitsap County and on the Olympia Peninsula.

Local, family-owned Tim Ryan Construction of Poulsbo is the general contractor for this project.

Rice Fergus Miller is a full service architecture, interior design and planning firm. For more information on the firm's services, or its new office space, visit www.rfmarch.com or call (360) 377-8773.

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