



PRESS RELEASE

metropolitanmarket

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Metropolitan Market Expands to the Eastside

SEATTLE—March 25, 2008—Metropolitan Market, locally owned operator of six upscale supermarkets in Seattle, Tacoma, and Federal Way, has signed a lease for a new location in Kirkland at Houghton Center, located at 10611 NE 68th Street in Kirkland, Washington.

The new store, to be located at the intersection of NE 68th Street and 106th Avenue in the Houghton Center, will be Metropolitan Market's first on the Eastside. The new Metropolitan Market will be poised centrally between the I-405 corridor and the east shoreline of Lake Washington, serving Kirkland's growing Houghton neighborhood and providing easy access for sophisticated Eastside shoppers.

The site is currently home of Houghton Market, owned by independent operator Gordon Gaub since 1992. This neighborhood store, best known for a friendly staff which often serves their customers on a first name basis, is currently the major tenant of Houghton Center. Houghton Market will continue its Kirkland operation in the present location for the near future as Metropolitan Market begins planning an extensive remodel and brand conversion to be completed no later than 2010. Additionally, the Houghton Center will freshen and refine the center's appearance

"We're thrilled to soon be a part of the Kirkland area," said Halverson. "Metropolitan Market will create an exciting marketplace with a shopping experience of hard-to-find food products, comprehensive product variety, locally grown foods, and exceptional customer service. We'll also incorporate our tradition of community support through neighborhood-based activities, such as Burke-Gilman Trail stewardship and serving as a hub for local fund-raisers."

"We have enjoyed being a locally owned and operated grocer serving the Houghton and Kirkland areas," said Houghton Market owner Gordon Gaub. "I am confident residents will enjoy shopping at Metropolitan Market for the best products and their shopping experience will be extraordinary."

Metropolitan Market will invite Houghton Market's employees to apply for jobs under the new banner. Over 100 new jobs will be created in the newly remodeled store, supporting the local economy. "We are excited about the potential of Houghton Market staff members joining our team, and will offer them the opportunity to apply with our company in the near future" said Metropolitan Market Chief Executive Officer Terry Halverson.

As the Northwest's premier independently owned and operated grocer, Metropolitan Market has brought Seattle, Tacoma, and Federal Way an extraordinary shopping experience since 1971. Each of its stores are rooted in their respective communities and exceed customer expectations through attentive and friendly service, excellent products, a commitment to supporting local people and businesses, and a warm, welcoming environment. Metropolitan Market currently operates six locations including the Queen Anne, Uptown, Admiral, Proctor, Sand Point and Dash Point neighborhoods. <http://www.metropolitan-market.com>

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