



News

Public Information Office

Phone 518-402-3130

Fax 518-486-7550

Contact: Edward Borges, Director of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Oct. 29, 2009

**NEW BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM SNACK SHOP
SERVING SULLIVAN COUNTY EMPLOYEES, VISITORS**

– Joint Project of 2 State Agencies, County –

MONTICELLO – Longtime snack shop operator Larry Houman has a new, expanded location at the Sullivan County Government Center, thanks to cooperative state and county efforts. Officials and friends gathered today (Oct. 29) for the grand opening and to celebrate Mr. Houman's success.

The snack shop is part of the Business Enterprise Program administered by the state Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH), which provides business opportunities for qualified legally blind residents of New York State.

Governor David A. Paterson, in a congratulatory letter, told Houman: "Over the past 13 years, your outstanding service to the employees, visitors, and neighbors of this Government Center has exemplified the great value of the New York State Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped's Business Enterprise Program. Your hard work and commitment have made you a terrific inspiration to countless others in Sullivan County and across New York State, and I thank you for the positive example you set every day through your dedicated efforts."

Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner Gladys Carrión said: "We thank Sullivan County for all its support and for providing the location and utilities, the state Office of General Services for serving as the project team, and John Shanley of JTS Construction of Dutchess Inc., who moved it along so quickly. Cooperative efforts such as this one make it possible for men and women who are legally blind to build on their strengths and successfully own and operate their own businesses."

Sullivan County Legislature Chairman Jonathan F. Rouis stated, "This project has been a dream of Larry's and a goal of everyone here in the Government Center for some time now, and we are thrilled to see it come to fruition. Larry faithfully serves our county employees and visitors each day with a smile and a kind word, and we are so pleased he was chosen to be part of the Business Enterprise Program."

(OVER)

(2)

Mr. Houman's new location off the Government Center lobby has the security and convenience of walls, more space, new equipment and shelves, and running water. The well-liked proprietor has served county employees and visitors for the past 13 years.

CBVH, through its Business Enterprise Program, currently supervises the operation of more than 90 business opportunities (newsstands, cafeterias, snack bars, and vending machine operations) across the state. The federal Randolph-Sheppard Act, since 1936, and New York State legislation that followed give CBVH priority access to these business opportunities in state and federal buildings. The Business Enterprise Program is financially supported by a combination of federal and state funds and a portion of profits.

The Business Enterprise Program helps operators get started by providing training, equipment, and a start-up loan, and monitors their operations to help them remain self-sufficient.

CBVH (part of the state Office of Children and Family Services) has eight district offices throughout the state. In addition to operating the Business Enterprise Program, it provides rehabilitation services to state residents who are legally blind, and operates programs for children and older adults. For more information on services for the blind, visit www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cbvh or call 1-866-871-3000 (TDD: 1-866-871-6000).

###