



Frank Ordoñez / Staff photographer

CAROLE VERNE stands in her kitchen at Bolivar Landing senior housing development in Sullivan on Wednesday.

New Facility Builds Excitement

Sullivan senior apartments gain state, regional attention

By Aaron Gifford
Staff writer

Local and state officials gave high praise to the new Bolivar Landing apartment building Wednesday, saying the development sets a new standard for independent senior housing.

"What a great project. What a beautiful facility," Sullivan Supervisor John Becker said during an open house at the property at Bolivar and Tuscarora roads, just outside of Chittenango. "It's great for the community. Hopefully, they'll build more."

Servers offered guests duck, lamb, shrimp and other appetizers. The event was also attended by nonprofit agency workers involved with the project, Chittenango Mayor Bob Freunsch and Division of Housing and Community Renewal Director Deborah VanAmerongen.

In the wake of Gov. Eliot Spitzer's resignation Wednesday, VanAmerongen said Bolivar Landing is "the very best place I could be today, reaffirming the work of our division."

The 24-unit facility opened Feb. 1. It cost about \$4 million. Stoneleigh Housing Inc. obtained about \$1 million in grants after completing a marketing study that shows a significant demand for senior housing in the Chittenango area.

Stoneleigh Executive Director Bob Napoli said all 24 units are filled and there's a waiting list of 20 people.

"They are very pleased, very happy with the apartments," he said. "They want to know when we're going to build more."

Bolivar Landing residents must be disabled or at least 62 years old. The maximum

allowed income is \$20,850 for a single resident or \$23,800 per couple.

The apartment features spacious dining rooms and living areas, an outdoor balcony or patio and a kitchen with hardwood floors, counters and cupboards. The bathrooms are handicap accessible, with wide entranceways and rails around the shower and toilet.

Resident Carole Verne, 69, complimented the staff for providing residents an easy transition to their new homes and responding to special maintenance needs quickly. The Chittenango native also said she made friends there quickly, and was pleased to find that an old classmate was a neighbor.

"I love it here. It's very comfortable," Verne said. "It's good to be back home."

Aaron Gifford can be reached at agifford@syracuse.com or 470-3254.

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