

Open for Business

Dollar World Expands

by Jane Wood

Dollar World at 143 Canal Street opened in 1999, but it is a work-in-progress, expanding to offer more products and services. The store is family-owned and run, and has an old-time, small-town philosophy about business. Owner/Manager Bonnie Puff is highly responsive to community needs and requests. When customers asked for more higher-priced merchandise, Ms. Puff complied with a new "More Than a Dollar" section, which opened in September.

The store is being renovated one section at a time; eventually the entire space will have new ceilings, floors, and fixtures. Ms. Puff's husband Jay does all the construction. Her employees, including Betty Staley, who runs the front end of the store, go out of their way to echo Ms. Puff's courteous and helpful manner with customers.

In addition to dollar items and more expensive merchandise, **Dollar World** continues to offer an ever-growing line of services. It sells ShortLine bus tickets, and, while buses currently still stop at the old location in front of the now-closed *Richie's*, they will eventually stop at a soon-to-be-built shelter and turn-around in **Dollar World's** rear parking lot.

The store also offers *Snack Express*, where customers can get cheeseburgers, hotdogs, nachos, fries, onion rings, Slush Puppies (all flavors), and a variety of other quick foods, along with an eat-in area. *Snack Express* is a favorite with kids from the Ellenville Schools at lunch-time and after school. You can also pay some of your bills here, for example Verizon, Central Hudson, Sears, and Lane Bryant.

The Puffs' daughter Joyce (*photo, above right*) makes specialty cakes and chocolate lollipops to order for



weddings, showers, birthdays, or any special events. Special orders need three days' to two weeks' notice, depending on the size of the order. The store also offers party balloons: smaller orders at the front of the store, larger ones at the back. If you call in advance, your order can be ready when you come in.

Dollar World is currently carrying a large selection of Christmas merchandise, with many items on sale for 50 cents or less, as well as name-brand items for gifts, such as Mattel, Fisher-Price, and Matchbox. Ms. Puff says their prices are comparable to Wal-Mart.

The Puffs' plans for the future include finishing the renovations, and bringing in more merchandise (for example, party supplies), including licensed ones such as Spider Man.

In addition to trying to fulfill customers' needs, Ms. Puff and her business try to be as community-minded as possible. They have contributed generously to local churches and fire departments. The store is a real asset to village residents who do not have cars.

Dollar World is open **Monday-Saturday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM**. The ShortLine bus ticket counter is open **Monday-Saturday, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM**.

Their phone number is 647-8350.



CANAL LODGE ADULT CARE CENTER

221 Canal Street
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CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

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