This weekend, Congressman Blumenauer was on hand at the ribbon cutting of the Village Market in Home Forward's New Columbia neighborhood. In Portland, like communities across the country, many low-income neighborhoods have 30% fewer full service grocery stores that are easily accessible. What tends to be available is an abundant supply of convenience stores selling highly processed, high-calorie foods, alcohol, tobacco products and lottery tickets - but no, or few, fresh fruits, vegetables and quality meats.

The opening of Village Market in New Columbia will change this picture for thousands of low-income North Portland residents. The Market's opening is a culmination of a 14-month community planning process to create access to a local, full service grocery store selling healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate, fresh foods in a neighborhood of 3,000+ residents where 33% of the population does not own a car and faces a 45 minute bus ride each way just to reach a full-service grocery store.

"I was here in 2006 when the community gardens, just two blocks away, were planted," commented Blumenauer. "To come back five years later and not only see the gardens thriving, but to see the Food Works Farm on Sauvie Island providing local, fresh food and job training is a ringing endorsement of community spirit in Portland. This is the model we can take to Washington D.C. for other cities all across America."

Congressman Blumenauer, Chair Cogen and Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish after the ribbon cutting at Village Market.

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MARKET
MAX
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