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## Purchase allows Terra Cotta to remain open

BY JOHN HILL • STAFF WRITER • OCTOBER 30, 2008

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BINGHAMTON -- Terra Cotta, a downtown catering business serving hundreds of events in the region each year, will remain open after an [investment](#) by the city's former deputy mayor.

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Richard David, now the public affairs officer at Broome Community College, has purchased the [business](#) for an undisclosed amount.

If a buyer hadn't stepped in, the State Street caterer would have had to close its doors at the end of the year, said former co-owner John Clark. Clark and business partner Jim Cook had decided to go their separate ways after three years.

Terra Cotta's staff, which includes about two dozen part-time [employees](#), will remain in place. Clark will stay on with the caterer.

The fate of Tipperary Hill, a 78-acre outdoor banquet site on Airport Road in the Town of Maine, is still unclear, Clark said.

Terra Cotta's banquet hall and off-site catering business will expand to take over the 900-square-foot storefront next door. The space is currently occupied by a used-clothing store.

David said he plans to spend between \$40,000 and \$50,000 on renovations, and hire between six and 12 part-time [servers](#) and kitchen staff.

The investment is the third downtown venture in the past 14 months for David's Confluence Enterprises. David previously announced buying the property at 45 Court St., the site of M&D-R-Nuts, and nightclub Flashbacks and Boca Joe's on State Street.

David said he has "deals on the table" to purchase other buildings downtown but did not get specific.

After three downtown [investments](#) and press conferences to announce each, David said he knows some have questioned his motives. He's often mentioned as a possible Republican candidate for mayor in 2009.

But David said he's only interested in making sound investments and capitalizing on the strength of his hometown.

"People don't truly see or appreciate all the positive things that are happening downtown," he said.

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