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## **Anonymous Man Claims \$4.75 Million Jackpot**

*Illinois Lottery welcomes latest Lotto winner*

**Des Plaines, Ill. – September 4, 2008** – The most recent winner of the Illinois Lottery’s popular Lotto game remains a mysterious figure. Camera-shy, the unknown winner caused quite a stir after his estate advisor claimed his \$4.75 million Lotto jackpot with a ticket purchased from a store in Romeoville.

Charles Bellock, who serves as estate advisor and spokesperson for the winner, said that immediately after learning about the jackpot win, his client was dedicated to responsibly managing his newfound fortune. “He has thought through his estate planning in light of this good fortune, carefully considering if he will receive it in a lump sum or in annuity payments over a period of time,” Mr. Bellock said. “He wants the payments directed to the trustee of his trust to avoid notoriety.” Mr. Bellock added that his client has explored every possibility for planning his future, saying, “He’s absolutely done due diligence.”

The win proves timely for Lotto’s mystery man, who according to Mr. Bellock left his position in the entertainment industry around a year ago to take care of his ailing mother. “This will certainly help him better care for his mother,” Mr. Bellock said.

While the winner himself remains shrouded with intrigue, there’s nothing mysterious about Romeo Discount, the store that sold the winning ticket. In fact, the store has become famous in the Romeoville area as a lucky Illinois Lottery hotspot. In addition to the

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\$4.75 million Lotto jackpot, store owner Sam Malavia previously sold a Lotto ticket that brought in \$10 million. “People hear this is a lucky store because two million dollar winners have purchased tickets here—so they buy here to try their luck,” said Mr. Malavia, who has owned Romeo Discount for eight years. “Romeoville is a lucky place for the Lottery. That’s why people here love to play.”

“It’s fantastic to see our players taking such great care of their winnings,” said Jodie Winnett, Acting Superintendent for the Illinois Lottery. “We share in this gentleman’s excitement at winning the Lotto jackpot, and we’re especially proud to play a role in his ability to successfully plan for his future.”

Romeo Discount, located at 33 W Normantown Rd in Romeoville, Ill., will receive a 1 percent bonus, or \$47,500, for selling the winning ticket.

### **About the Illinois Lottery**

Founded in 1974, the Illinois Lottery is a state agency with annual sales over \$2 billion. Since its inception, the Lottery has contributed more than \$14 billion to the state Common School Fund to assist K-12 public schools. Players must be at least 18 years old. For more information on the Illinois Lottery please visit our Web site at [www.illinoislottery.com](http://www.illinoislottery.com).

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