

# **SOUTHTOWNS COALITION & SOUTHTOWNS FARM TRAIL**

# **NEWSLETTER**

*ANGOLA, BRANT, COLLINS, CONCORD, EDEN, EVANS, FARNHAM, NORTH COLLINS*

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**WINTER 2019**

***AS WINTER COMES TO AN  
END  
SPRING ACTIVITIES  
ARE RIGHT AROUND THE  
CORNER!***

***ENJOY ALL THE  
SOUTHTOWNS HAVE TO  
OFFER!***

***PLEASE VISIT:  
SOUTHTOWNSFARMTRAIL.  
ORG***

## **SPRING IS ALMOST HERE**

With spring almost here it's time to start planning those outdoor projects. The Cornell Cooperative is offering many instructive classes (we have listed some in the newsletter) and with the planned opening of a new Tractor Supply in North Collins, it should be easier to pick up those needed supplies to get your projects done this year.

In other big economic news, Erie County will develop an agribusiness industrial park at the former Angola Airport site. We hope you had a good winter and we look forward to keeping you informed this coming year.

Get out spend a day, stop and stay awhile.....YOU'LL LOVE IT!



*Sheep Enjoying  
A Winters Day*



Growing Season is Almost Here

Please visit us at:

[www.southtownsfarmtrail.org](http://www.southtownsfarmtrail.org)

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT – VILLAGE OF NORTH COLLINS

### Tractor Supply to start construction in the spring



Tractor Supply Company, the nation's largest rural lifestyle retailer, is planning a new store in the Village of North Collins. The location is on Main Street (Route 62) opposite the Save-A-Lot supermarket, and the new Tractor Supply will include a 19,100± SF single-story building plus outdoor merchandise display areas. The developer is Primax Properties, LLC of Charlotte NC. The project recently was approved by the Village Board of Trustees, following public hearings before the Village Planning Board and the Village Zoning Board of Appeals.

Frank Alexander of Primax says construction is targeted for a Spring 2019 start and should be complete by early Fall. Alexander added, "We're very excited about this new Tractor Supply and I want to thank the North Collins residents for their welcome and their support. I also want to thank Mayor Vincent George, the Village Board members, and the Village staff for their professionalism and courtesy through the design and approval process."

Mayor Vincent George is thrilled about this new business moving in. "This is a tremendous addition to this Village, Town and surrounding communities, bringing jobs for 12-15 people to an area that needs them. It also provides much-needed improvement to a large Main Street property. We are confident that the increased traffic will stimulate present and future business in our Village—possibly even a gas station!" says Mayor George.

Tractor Supply is in its 80th year of operation, currently with over 1,700 stores in 49 states and an e-commerce website. The company serves a unique niche as a one-stop shop for recreational farmers, ranchers and all those who enjoy living the rural lifestyle. Tractor Supply offers an extensive mix of products necessary to care for home, land, pets and animals with a focus on product localization, exclusive brands and legendary customer service that addresses the needs of the "Out Here" lifestyle.

**(Special Thanks to: Frank Alexander of Primax (the developer of the property), Mayor Vincent George, Village Clerk Jan Hutchinson, for this article submission)**

## **AGRIBUSINESS PARK – ANGOLA/EVANS**

Erie County will develop an agribusiness industrial park at the former Angola Airport site. The Erie County Agribusiness Park will offer local and regional employment opportunities to help alleviate rural poverty that exists in southern Erie County.

The project seeks to create a 152-acre agriculture-oriented industrial park in the Southtowns for the purpose of attracting private sector investments in food processing and manufacturing. Many of the jobs created at the site will be production and distribution jobs which pay a livable wage. The Agribusiness Park will also provide a market for farmers' agricultural products, potentially providing additional farm jobs.

Through the help of the ECIDA the land needed for this project has been purchased and the construction of the Agribusiness Park is planned for the near future. As updates are available, we will keep you posted.

## **NEWS - The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County**

### **March 15th NYS Dry Bean Meeting & Variety Evaluation**

The 2019 NYS Dry Bean Growers Meeting and Variety Evaluation will be held Friday, March 15, from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, at Cornell AgriTech at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Food Research Lab Conference Room, 665 W. North St., Geneva, NY 14456.

There will be updates on dry bean production and marketing, Western bean cutworm activity, white mold management, breeding, varieties, and the use of dry beans in school lunches. They will also review research priorities and gather suggestions for future educational programs. The second half of the program will feature evaluation of the Cornell dry bean variety trial with 56 dry bean cultivars that were canned by Furmano Foods on display for taste and visual appearance. DEC and CCA credits have been applied for.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required by March 12<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch. For more information and to register on-line by credit card, Go to Events at: <http://cvp.cce.cornell.edu>. Or, call Julie Kikkert at 585-394-3977 x404 to reserve a spot and pay with cash or check at the door.

## **Fourth Annual CommuniTree Steward Training Course Planned**

### **Registration is now open for five-part series beginning March 20<sup>th</sup>**

The fourth year of CommuniTree Steward (CTS) Classes will be offered Wednesday evenings from 5:45 – 8:00 pm, March 20<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration is now open. You can register at [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2019WNYCTSClasses-2\\_214](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2019WNYCTSClasses-2_214). Please also submit the additional information requested in the registration process. If you have questions about the CTS Program or training opportunity, contact Sharon Bachman at 716-652-5400x150 or [sin2@cornell.edu](mailto:sin2@cornell.edu).

In March 2016 with funding from the **Buffalo Green Fund**, CCE Erie, along with a number of partners, launched a five-part classroom and in-field training series to teach Buffalo area residents to care for juvenile trees. Instructors for the classes included professionals in the fields of arboriculture and biology. Representatives from the City of Buffalo Department of Parks and Recreation, Re-Tree, Wendel Companies and Buffalo Olmsted Conservancy helped to organize the training. Following the training, participants volunteered their time to assist in urban street tree planting and maintenance projects.

"This course has been the first of its kind in Western New York and is the logical next step to nurture the trees that have been planted since the devastating October 12, 2006 surprise snowstorm," stated Paul Mauer, with Re-Tree Buffalo. "The project partners are collaborating to create a well-trained volunteer corps of tree caretakers. Thousands of street and park trees were destroyed by the snowstorm and have been replaced by Re-Tree's volunteers, the City of Buffalo and the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy.

For more information about the CommuniTREE Steward (CTS) Project, a program of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, log on to <http://erie.cce.cornell.edu/agriculture/wny-communitree-steward-cts-project>

## **New York State Berry Growers Association and Cornell Cooperative Extension offer March Blueberry Intensive Workshops**



Two day-long sessions covering a variety of growing, pest, and profitability topics

The New York State Berry Growers Association (NYSBGA) has partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension to bring growers a pair of winter Blueberry Intensive Workshops. An in-depth look at growing and management techniques, pest and diseases, profitability tools, and more, the Blueberry Intensive Workshops will feature 10 expert speakers from Cornell University, Cornell CCE, New York State IPM, Rutgers University, and Pennsylvania State University, as well as owners of successful area farms. The workshops will be held in Ellicottville, New York on March 5, 2019, and in Millbrook, New York on March 14, 2019. The cost to attend is \$35 for current NYSBGA members and \$45 for non-members.

Growers who attend the workshops will learn about:

- Choosing and preparing a site for blueberry production
- Blueberry diseases and management strategies
- Blueberry insect pest management
- Using the NEWA blueberry pest and disease models to best advantage
- Alternative options for markets
- Using a new berry crops profitability tool
- How area farms have ensured success in their blueberry growing program
- Nutrition for blueberries
- Post-harvest handling to reduce pest damage and improve fruit quality
- Correct pruning techniques, with a live, hands-on demonstration
- Pest scouting and weed management

Attendees will also receive a resource packet of presenter handouts and other valuable information that they can refer to season after season. In addition, they will have the opportunity to ask the experts questions that are specific to their own farms.

To view the full agenda and list of speakers, <https://www.nysbga.org/berry-growers/>. To register for either the March 5 (Ellicottville) or March 14 (Millbrook) session, <https://www.nysbga.org/events/>.

## JOIN US

We are always looking for new members/partners/volunteers to make our coalition the best it can be **Membership is Free**. If you are interested in participating, getting involved or just have some good ideas you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact us at [southtownsfarmtrail@gmail.com](mailto:southtownsfarmtrail@gmail.com)



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