

## **Town of Butler Public Informational Meeting to Present Survey Results and Kick-off Agricultural and Comprehensive Plans**

The Town of Butler has begun the process of preparing an Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan and a Comprehensive Plan for the Town. To begin a community discussion about the future of the Town of Butler, residents are invited to attend a public informational meeting on Monday, July 7, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Butler Town Hall.

The meeting will feature a presentation on the results of the Residents Survey that was distributed last fall. The survey results express residents' opinions on the quality of life in Butler, Town services and community needs.

The following speakers will participate:

- Representatives from Stuart I. Brown Associates, the consulting firm retained by the Town, will summarize the results of the residents survey and present an overview of the planning process.
- Ora Rothfuss, Agricultural Specialist with the Wayne County Planning Department, will present information about the economic impact of farming and agriculture and land use planning tools that local government can use to support agriculture
- Elizabeth Claypoole, Executive Director and Agricultural Issues Leader, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County, will present information about agricultural issues and trends in eastern Wayne County and local options for supporting agriculture

The following Town residents have been appointed to a Steering Committee to guide the planning process: Marvin Stewart, Joseph Geffert, Chris Reed, Barb Harper, Eugene VanDuesen, Bert Everhart, Carol Merrell.

The Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan for the Town will:

- Describe farming in Butler and the significance of agriculture to the Town and the regional economy;
- Identify issues and opportunities relating to farmland and agricultural practices;
- Identify tools that can be applied by Town government to support farming and agriculture in the Town and address the issues;
- Recommend specific actions, sources of funding if needed, and a timeframe for implementation.

The Town of Butler Comprehensive Plan will incorporate information collected in the Agricultural Protection Plan and include additional information and recommendations relating to residential and business development, infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, fiber optics, etc.), community services, historic preservation, and natural resources.

The Town received a \$25,000 grant from the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets which will provide 75% of the cost of preparing the Agricultural and Comprehensive Plans.