

**EMBARGO UNTIL:**  
July 14, 2010

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## **Brigiotta's to Expand Operations in Celoron**

**Celoron:** -- Brigiotta's Farmland Produce and Garden Center, Inc. has announced plans to expand their Chautauqua County operations following their successful bid for County owned property in the Village of Celoron.

"Brigiotta's has acquired the former Penn Empire site on 100 Livingston Avenue and will make a substantial investment in capital improvements to the 6.21 acre site to retain and create new jobs and enhance their existing businesses at 410 Fairmount Avenue in the City of Jamestown and 375 E. Livingston Avenue in the Village of Celoron," said Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards.

"Their plans for redevelopment of the site include cleanup and disposal of debris and the upgrade, repair or replacement of loading docks, overhead doors, the drainage system, outside lighting, office space, exterior walls, roofing, heating and cooling system and the access and parking areas," said Edwards. "The purchase of this land allows this 86-year old business to improve its existing service profile by providing a convenient set-up, storage and distribution center for its fresh fruit and vegetable retail and wholesale garden centers, floral shop and seasonal Christmas shop."

"Chautauqua County worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in conducting an environmental investigation at the site in 2008 and 2009," said Cheryl Ruth, Chautauqua County Brownfield Coordinator. "When the results of that investigation were reviewed, County leadership determined the site was a viable candidate for redevelopment and subsequently authorized the acquisition of tax deeds in March of 2010. In May of this year, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was published in the local newspapers and six local businesses attended a pre-proposal site inspection on May 13, 2010."

"Brigiotta's submitted the proposal that was most advantageous to the County," said Bill Daly, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency Director. "Their proposal reflects their savvy business acumen, commitment to the County and successful track record of nearly 9 decades as a premier supplier of produce in Western New York. The Galbato family, owners of Brigiotta's, expressed interest in the site over two years ago. We contacted them about the RFP, and they in turn responded as they said they would if the property became available," said Daly.

Brigiotta's currently employs over 40 people. This expansion will create between 16-28 new jobs in the next 3 years as well as provide much needed improvements to a site that had deteriorated over the last several years.

A groundbreaking event will be held at the site, and the keys will be formally transferred to the new owners on Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Cheryl Ruth at 716-661-8410 or Joel Keefer at 716-753-4672.

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