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PRESS RELEASE

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**LEWIS COUNTY AWARDS \$248,646 IN 2021 FAÇADE AND STREETSCAPE
IMPROVEMENT FUNDS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES AND MUNICIPALITIES**

Lowville, NY – Lewis County Legislators recently allocated \$250,000 for the first round of the Façade and Streetscape Improvement Program. After receiving 34 applications for approximately \$587,000 in requested project funds, ultimately, 17 projects were awarded funding for a variety of downtown improvements.

“The projects funded by this program will substantially improve our communities,” said Ryan Piche, Lewis County Manager. “From a fresh coat of paint to brick repointing, this funding provided by our Legislators will breathe new life into our historic villages and hamlets.”

Awards were made to businesses and municipalities from the Hamlet of Harrisville to the Village of Port Leyden. One of the funding recipients, Charlotte Schweitzer, notes that “These upgrades to Good Ol’ Wishy’s will boost the appeal of Croghan’s Main Street while also enhancing the experience for visitors to our village. The renovations will restore and preserve the building’s historical presence in the community.”

Lewis County’s downtown districts and public spaces hold central importance for community gatherings, special events, and the success of small businesses. The Façade and Streetscape Improvement Program aims to revitalize the historic character and attractiveness of villages and hamlets in Lewis County through public and private investment. To encourage and advance revitalization efforts, this program will provide 75/25 matching funds for eligible improvements to mixed-use and commercial buildings and streetscape enhancements in Lewis County’s villages and hamlets. Together, these improvements will help business growth and retention, enhance tourism, increase spending in the local economy, and reduce the number of blighted and vacant properties.

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