

## **Village of Newark Named Finalist in Downtown Revitalization Initiative \$10 Million Competition**

The Village of Newark is excited to announce it has advanced as a finalist to the next round of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), a statewide competition in which one winner in each of the state's 10 Regional Economic Development Council's will receive \$10 million in State funding for local development.

The Village of Newark submitted an application titled "Choose Newark" last week and was notified by a representative of Empire State Development that they were a Finger Lakes Region finalist. The Village will now make a formal presentation on Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> to the selection committee, with the winner expected to be announced later this summer.

Each applicant must show the community's preparedness to implement projects and an administrative capacity to see them through to completion. They must also demonstrate the community's vision, goals and strategies to implement a variety of projects that will generate local development, generate employment and strengthen the economy.

The Village's submission outlined the historic Erie Canal in the heart of downtown, while identifying several aspects of recent infrastructure investment including the reconstruction of South Main Street, major upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and a new Water Treatment Plant design, all made possible through successful grant awards. The application also highlighted IEC Electronics' decision to remain in the area, including building a new facility, and the recent purchase of the former Newark Florist greenhouses by Honest Pharm Co., a hemp seed producer.

"The Village of Newark hopes to keep the momentum going but needs DRI funding for the downtown area to become a magnet for redevelopment," said Mayor Jonathan Taylor, "There are developers that have shown interest in investing in downtown, and I am confident that receiving the DRI award would move them to action."

"This is exciting news for the Village of Newark! Under the leadership of Mayor Taylor and the Village Board, community partners have worked together to begin the transformation of this historic Erie Canal Village. It has been a privilege to support these efforts by securing grant opportunities for much-needed infrastructure improvements. Mayor Taylor and his team have clearly demonstrated their commitment and their ability to improve the Village for both residents and visitors. I strongly encourage the DRI selection committee to award funding to the Village so these improvements can continue. I look forward to hearing the decision of the selection committee and continuing my partnership with the Village of Newark," Senator Pam Helming said.

"I can't think of a better community than Newark for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative," said Assemblyman Brian Manktelow, "Just in the past few months, there has been an explosion of growth in the village, with new businesses opening, established ones expanding and beautiful landscaping going in along Route 88. Mayor Taylor and the Village Board have been proactive and forward-thinking with a real plan for the municipality. All of their hard work has paid off. I am truly honored to be able to recommend the Village of Newark for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative."

"I am thrilled for the Newark community that we have the opportunity to present for the DRI again this year. This region is at such a positive tipping point and the DRI investment is just what's needed to revitalize the downtown area and bring all kinds of positive opportunities to Newark," said Matt Cook, Newark Central School District Superintendent.

Chamber President Steven Hasseler stated, “The Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce is very pleased that the DRI selection committee has acknowledged Newark’s tremendous recent business growth.” He acknowledged that being able to present to the DRI selection committee will give Newark the ability to showcase its long-standing treasures while at the same time emphasizing its new energy.

“This application, as well as the process as a whole, represents a great deal of hard work by our dedicated staff and community volunteers for which I am so very appreciative. It’s more than an application – it’s a plan for long-term economic sustainability for the Village of Newark and the surrounding region,” Mayor Taylor concluded.