Village of Heuvelton

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51 N State Street, Heuvelton, NY 13654

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Barbara Lashua
Phone: 315-344-2214

Village of Heuvelton Seeks Public Feedback on Downtown Improvement Projects and will Host the Final Local Planning Committee Meeting for NY Forward

Heuvelton, N.Y. – The Village of Heuvelton is pleased to invite residents, business owners, and community stakeholders to participate in a Public Open House to explore and provide feedback on potential downtown improvement projects through the NY Forward Program.

A Public Open House will be held on **Tuesday, October 27, 2026, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Pickens Hall, 83 N State Street, NY 13654**. This interactive event will present potential projects and gather input to help the Local Planning Committee (LPC) identify the most impactful opportunities to recommend to New York State for funding consideration. All community members are encouraged to attend and share their perspectives. Family-friendly activities, including a kid's table, will be available.

This is the second open house hosted by the Village of Heuvelton as part of the NY Forward planning process. Community feedback is essential in shaping a vision for a stronger, more vibrant downtown. The LPC has been evaluating a number of project proposals for potential NY Forward funding consideration based on a series of evaluation criteria. The open house will be an opportunity for the public to review the proposed projects and provide feedback.

In addition, the LPC will hold what is anticipated to be its final meeting the following day, on **Wednesday, October 28, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Pickens Hall**. At this fifth meeting, the Local Planning Committee will focus on developing a final slate of projects to recommend to New York State for funding consideration. The meeting is open to the public and will include an opportunity for public comments at the start. For more information, please visit the Heuvelton NY Forward website at www.HeuveltonNYForward.com or scan the QR code with a smartphone camera.

NY Forward is a central component of the State's economic development efforts, working together with the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), to accelerate and expand the revitalization of New

York's downtowns. NY Forward serves smaller communities with historic character that distinguishes them from the larger, more urban central business districts typically funded through DRI. NY Forward communities are walkable, less dense areas that serve the immediate local community, and are more local in nature - focusing on the immediately surrounding residential or rural agricultural centric development. Governor Kathy Hochul has committed $100 million for the fourth round of the NY Forward program. Each of the State's ten Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) recommended two communities for NY Forward awards. In the North Country Region, Heuvelton and Moriah were each awarded $4.5 million.

NY Forward is led by the Department of State, in close partnership with Empire State Development, NYS Homes and Community Renewal and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

The Local Planning Committee (LPC) includes local and regional leaders, stakeholders, and community representatives. LPC members attend a variety of meetings to brainstorm ideas on behalf of the community, provide direction to consultants, review planning products, prioritize actions and evaluate potential projects. The Village of Heuvelton Mayor Barbara Lashua and Dr. Zvi Szafran, President of SUNY Canton and North Country Regional Economic Development Council member, are the Heuvelton LPC Co-Chairs.

Public engagement is a key component of the NY Forward planning process and fundamental to the success of NY Forward. The objective of public engagement is to ensure that all stakeholders have ample opportunity to be informed about the NY Forward process and its intended outcomes; to comment on the process as it progresses; to express their concerns and contribute ideas; and to participate in building a consensus about the vision for the downtown and other outcomes, culminating in a locally supported NY Forward Strategic Investment Plan. Public workshops and engagement activities will be scheduled throughout the effort to allow opportunity for public input. More information about NY Forward can be found at https://www.ny.gov/programs/ny-forward.

The NY Forward process is being facilitated by a consultant team led by M.J. Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Land Surveying, P.C. and supported by Andropogon, E.M. Pemrick & Company, and Captain Consulting.

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