

## **KITTANNING BOROUGH BUILDINGS SLATED FOR FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS**

Exterior upgrades to a number of downtown Kittanning buildings are in the works for 2020 thanks to state funding secured with the help of Senator Joe Pittman (41<sup>st</sup> District) and through the commitment of business owners willing to match their grant allocation, dollar for dollar.

“I am pleased to support and build upon the efforts by Representative Jeff Pyle and my predecessor Senator Don White in continuing this important economic development initiative,” said Senator Pittman. “The façade grant program gives property owners the financial assistance to be part of the ongoing renaissance that is well under way in the Borough of Kittanning. The new streetscapes, lighting and traffic patterns that we have seen in downtown are changing the face of Kittanning. They provide a more welcoming ambience for residents and visitors. This program gives businesses a real incentive to invest in a figurative and literal facelift for their properties. As we invest in Kittanning, the resulting benefits help the entire county.”

Armstrong County Department of Planning & Development assisted Kittanning Borough in applying for the \$50,000 Keystone Communities Façade Grant. Appointed members of the Downtown Kittanning Façade Grant Committee developed guidelines and criteria to evaluate all eligible applicants.

Kittanning Borough Councilwoman Betsy Wilt, who is also a member of the Downtown Kittanning Façade Grant Committee, noted that the pursuit of grant funding has been an extension of the borough’s beautification efforts.

“Upon completion of the Market Street revitalization project, Kittanning Borough Council continued to work with the Armstrong County Planning & Development office in securing the Façade grant which will now help with some of the cost for businesses in the business district to upgrade the appearance of their storefronts,” she said. “The Borough looks forward to continuing its work with the Planning Office in order to apply for another Façade grant in the near future.”

Armstrong County Board of Commissioners’ Chairman acknowledged the collaboration of all parties involved.

“The board is grateful to Senator Pittman for his assistance in getting this grant, which will help expand on the ongoing revitalization efforts within the borough,” said Chairman Don Myers, of the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners.

Applications for four businesses have been approved, with a total of \$35,000 in grant funds committed to improving the facades of Allegheny Real Estate Services, Keep Me In Stitches, Sprankle's Neighborhood Market, and Hutchison's Jewelers. Approval for several additional projects are pending.

Armstrong County Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Jason Renshaw anticipates the grant will have a far-reaching impact on the community.

"The polish and shine this program gives to specific buildings will improve local pride and cast a positive light on the entire downtown," he said.

The Armstrong County Department of Planning and Development is anticipating that a future Façade Grant application is likely, as staff have already received interest from candidates for projects that could not be included in the current grant round. Eligible projects include storefront façade; exterior restoration/painting; architectural elements and additions; awnings; exterior lighting; lighting signage; and signs.

"This funding can be a big help to a small budget, and it would be great to see more businesses and building owners take advantage of this opportunity," said Armstrong County Commissioner Pat Fabian.

Those interested are asked to contact Autumn Vorpe-Seyler, Community Development Coordinator with the Department of Planning and Development, at 724-548-3725 or by email: [ajvorpeseyle@co.armstrong.pa.us](mailto:ajvorpeseyle@co.armstrong.pa.us).

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A number of businesses in Kittanning Borough's downtown district will improve their building facades this year thanks to a Keystone Communities Façade Grant.

From left: Don Myers, Chairman of the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners; Senator Joe Pittman (41<sup>st</sup> District); Armstrong County Commissioner Pat Fabian; Jason Renshaw, Vice Chairman of the Armstrong Board of Commissioners.



The Hutchison's Jewelers storefront, in 2017, presented with an aging façade and plywood on a storefront window. The building is one of several to receive Keystone Communities Facade Grant funds for improvements slated to begin this year.