

## **Downtown Planter Basket Program**



Since 2011, the Livingston Business Improvement District and the Urban Renewal Agency have worked together to contract the planting of flowers in coco lined planter baskets, installation of the baskets on downtown light poles and storage of baskets at the contracted vendor's establishment during the non-summer months.

At present, between the months of June and as late as October, 44 beautiful baskets grace the downtown district light poles, providing vibrant and welcoming streetscape decor to locals and visitors in the area. The long-term vision for the "Downtown Planter Basket

Program" is to stage up to 50 planter baskets installed during the summer months in the downtown district (once all downtown streets are completely reconstructed). The initial cost of the baskets is \$185 per basket and the average cost per planter basket for growth of the flowers each spring is \$275/basket.

LBID pays for the contracted labor associated with the maintenance (watering, fertilizing and some pruning/detangling) of the flowers in the



baskets. The contractor uses a double tank watering system and two low-flow pumps to water baskets each morning (and sometimes in the evening on extremely hot or particularly windy days). Anywhere between 60 and 80 gallons of water is used per night. Flowers are watered and/or fertilized 7 days a week. The contractor also detangles the flowers on an ongoing basis especially after really windy days. The estimated average cost per year for the flower basket maintenance, watering and fertilizing is \$6,500.

