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Contact: Elizabeth
liz@lewoliverinc.com
lewoliverinc.com
7706090243

Clarkesville, GA Revitalized Community Plan Honored with National Design Award

Clarkesville, GA (November 17, 2021) –Clarkesville, GA in Habersham County has won an award for the On-the-Boards Community in the 2021 Best in American Living™ Awards (BALA) by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). Award levels, including platinum, gold and silver, as well as Best in Region and Of the Year recipients, will be announced at the virtual award ceremony held during the 2022 International Builders' Show in Orlando, Fla.

A Clarkesville-based urbanism and design firm, Lew Oliver Inc., created a master site plan outlining objectives to create social and economic value for the downtown and greater area. Notably, the plan calls for a mixed-use approach with historic renovation as a priority. Lew Oliver, principal of Lew Oliver Inc., calls for revamping the historic courthouse in the downtown to an authentic version, new police and fire stations, forest preservation, an outdoor amphitheater, and an assortment of rental and for-sale product. Oliver's team outlined restoration of the town square and designed authentic facades for the downtown buildings using historic references and goals obtained through meetings with the City. The development team is still being curated.

The land plan specifies 207,100 square feet of residential, 108,050 square feet of commercial, and 18,920 square feet of civic space, including a museum honoring indigenous peoples. Unique glamping sites, canoe launches, a public pavilion and a lagoon highlight the recreational nature of the eastern portion of the plan. Proposed green infrastructure, pedestrian boardwalks and trails, and regenerative landscapes keep sustainability at the forefront of the vision. Retail and consumer services that would be supported by 145 households would position the downtown as a bustling, active, experiential destination. Holistically, the plan proposes multi-use trails, rail systems, bike zones, and greenway systems intertwined with the existing network. Oliver is exploring sustainably responsible construction methods to produce buildings with a lighter environmental footprint, such as geothermal heating and cooling and solar panels roofing.

Now in its 38th year, BALA recognizes outstanding achievement by builders and design professionals in all sectors of the residential housing industry including single-family production, custom, multifamily, affordable, remodeling, community and interiors. BALA is built on the principle that all great homes start with great design, no matter cost or size.

Buying a home is often the most significant purchase people will make in their lifetime, and BALA winners spotlight what building industry professionals need to know to set their project apart and hit the right mark with today's highly educated and discerning home buyers.

Additional Information about the BALA program can be found at bestinamericanliving.com. The 2021 Winners Portfolio, featuring design trends and project photographs, will be available online immediately following the ceremony.

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Lew Oliver Inc. is a Clarkesville-based urbanism and design firm with more than two decades of experience in advancing New Urbanism and residential design. Lew Oliver, principal of Lew Oliver Inc., and his team envision, design, and implement whole towns by curating versatile building typologies and highly marketable site plans. Oliver understands each client's values, local vernacular, and climate to shape each project. Into places of physical and psychological wellbeing for humankind. Enriching the landscape and the pedestrian experience are staples of

the firm's values. Oliver is a preferred design consultant of renowned Duany Plater-Zyberk, having undertaken over 40 charrettes internationally. He was instrumental in the design and development of Trilith (GA), Hartness (SC), Southlands (BC), Vickery (GA), Rosemary Beach (FL), Celebration (FL), Serenbe (GA), Lost Rabbit (MS), Village at Hendrix (AK), and more.