



I JANUARY 2026 I

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



# NEW BUSINESS LICENSES | DECEMBER 2025



**one hope  
united™**

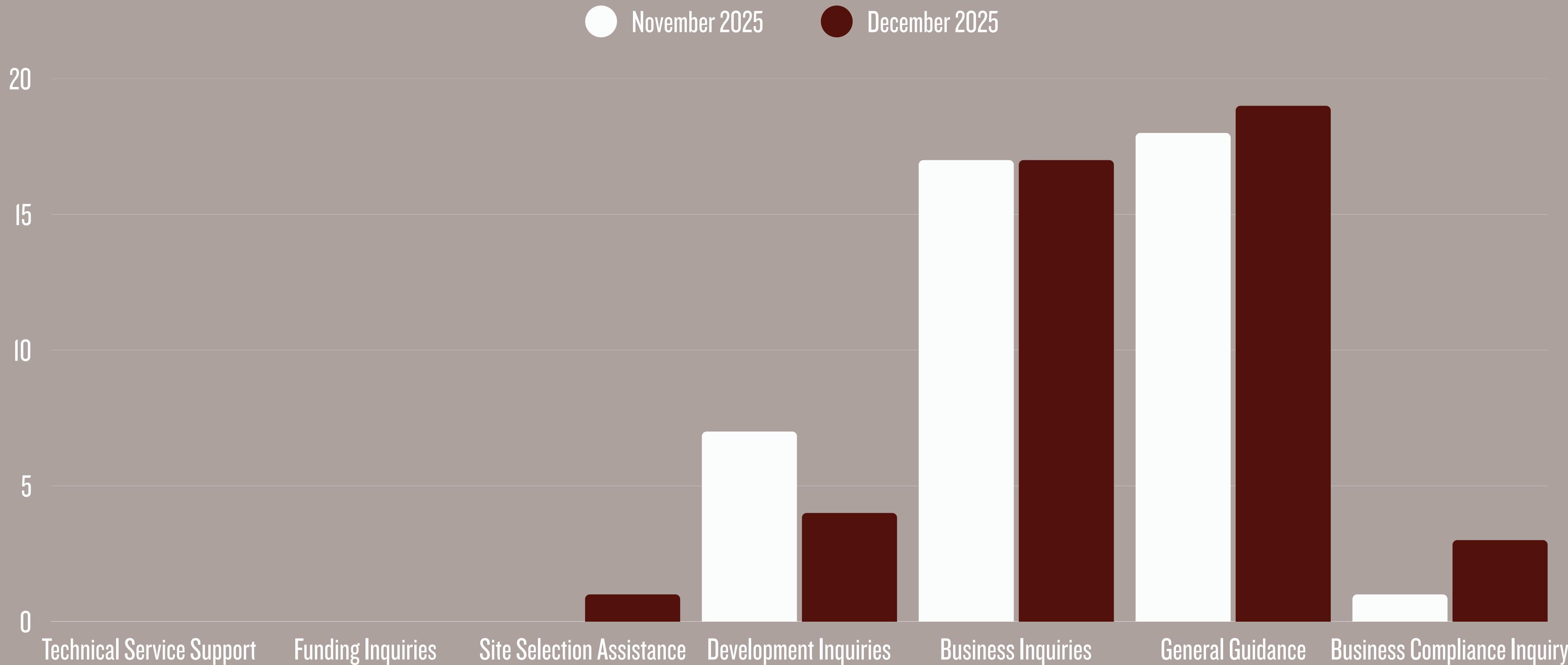


- Phil's Friends Kankakee Hope Center | 12/01
- Kankakee County Chamber Of Commerce | 12/01
- One Hope United | 12/23
- Sakura Garage\* | 12/23

**60 TOTAL TO DATE**

\*indicates home-based

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NAVIGATOR REPORT



## | DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES |

- 10 NEW BUSINESS INQUIRIES
  - MECHANIC
  - REAL ESTATE
  - MARKETING x2
  - RESTAURANT
  - HEALTH CARE x2
  - CONTRACTOR
  - SHORT-TERM RENTAL
  - RETAIL
- 1 LAND
  - SITE SELECTION

## | NLC CIE COMMITMENT |

Working on MOU with Chamber and Community Foundation to distribute the grant funds to the CEO program and the student membership program.

# ATTRACTION REPORT

# BUSINESS RETENTION VISITS REPORT

## COMPANIES SURVEYED:

- KANKAKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- POOR BOY TOO RESTAURANT
- RIGO'S PLACE

## HIGHLIGHTS:

PERMITTING, LICENSING, INSPECTIONS, POLICE, FIRE, PRO-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, STRONG LOCAL SUPPORT, PUBLIC PARKING, COMMUNITY EVENTS

## CITY ASSETS

## CHALLENGES

SIDEWALKS, HIGH SALES TAXES/PROPERTY TAXES/UTILITIES, PUBLIC PARKING AT TIMES, PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON CRIME

## UPCOMING PLANS

MAJORITY DO NOT HAVE PLANS TO RENOVATE, EXPAND, OR RELOCATE



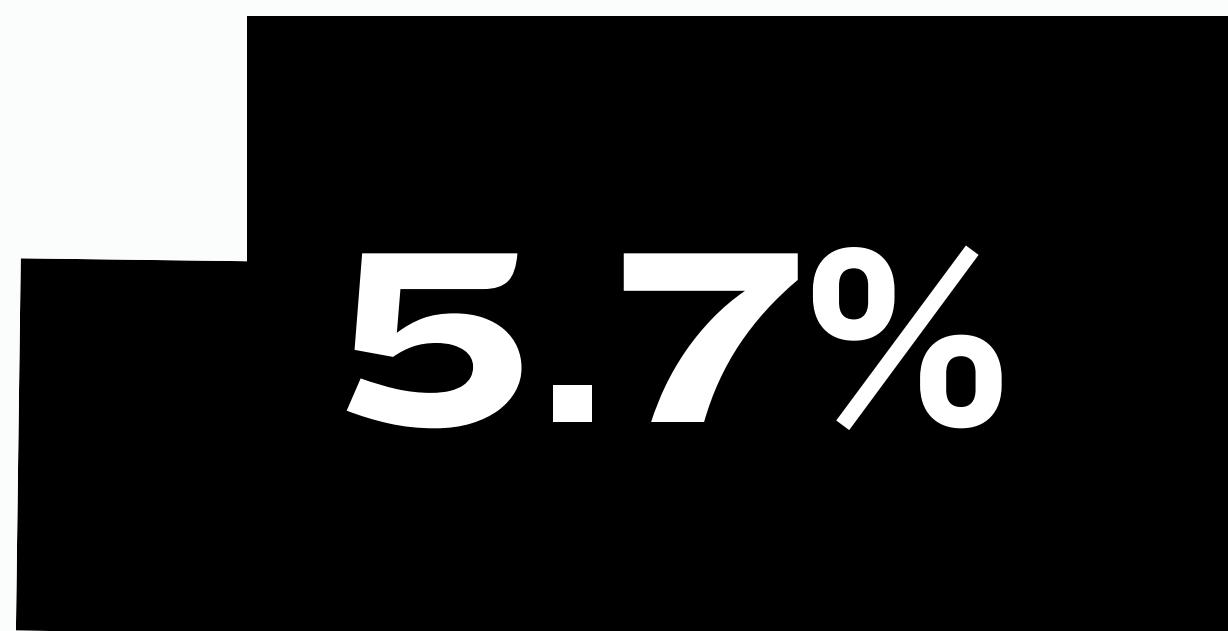
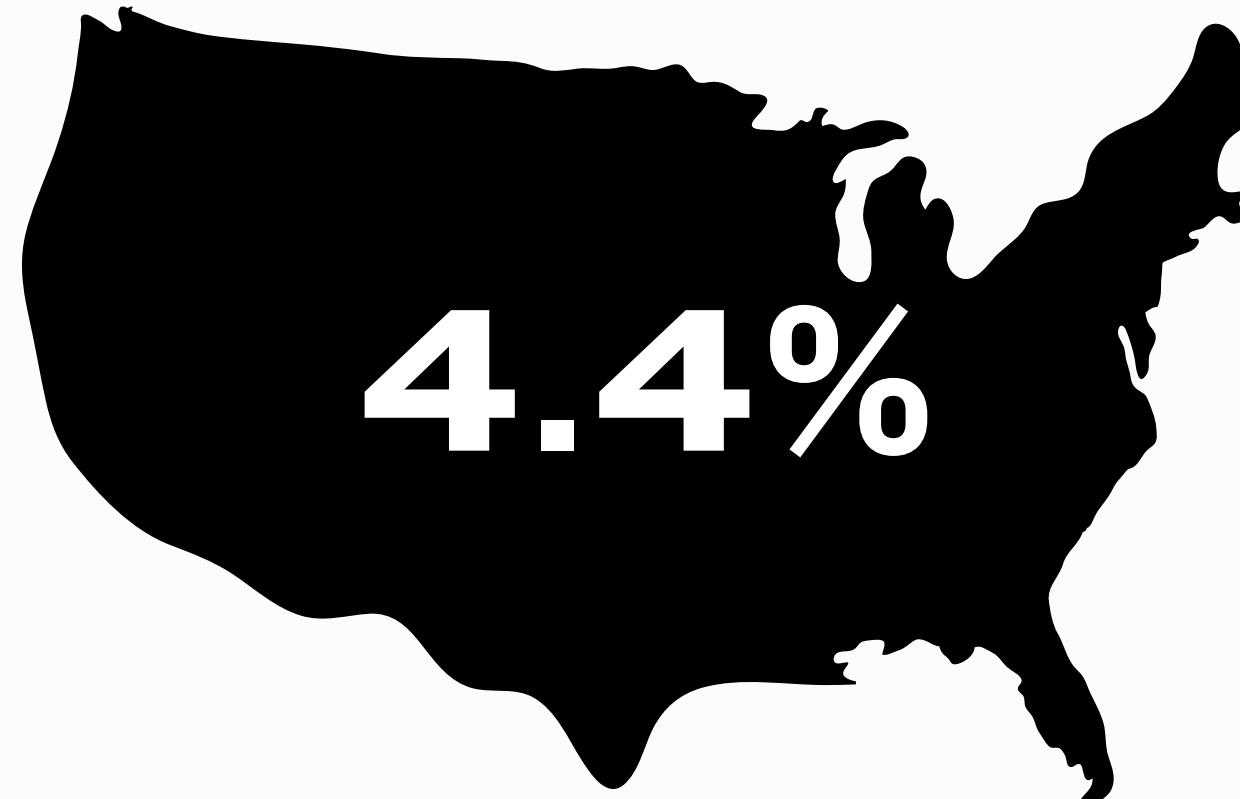
# | MARKETING & ATTRACTION |

- 2026 ECDA Luncheon
  - \$1500 acquired in sponsorship (1/16)
  - Public Sponsor Request Period: February 16-April 30
  - SAVE THE DATE: JULY 23, 2026
- Lunch n' Learns
  - February 2: Tax Info For Business Owners with Zarate Tax Prep (9/20 seats filled)
  - March 3: Access to Capital with Allies For Community Business
  - April 7: How to Start A Business in Kankakee with Essential Smoothies
  - May 5: How to Become a Certified MWBE with Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Website
  - Housing Counseling page: Live 12/29
  - RERZ page: Live 12/29
    - Pipeline: Public Service; Business Retention
- Researching potential video services to help expand inhouse marketing and attraction efforts
- “I Am Kankakee”
  - Planning period to relaunch in spring
    - Call to Action going out in February
- LinkedIn - 161 followers
  - Avg Engagement Rate: 50%
  - Avg Impressions: 133.3
- Incentive booklet & new materials in progress
  - Booklet updates in progress for January digital copy
- Inquiries
  - Sourcing site information for 2 developers
  - Closed out 1 inquiry
- PCED Certification
  - PCED Certification Exam on February 23

# UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

November 2025

LAST UPDATE FOR CITY AND COUNTY



7.5%



[Click here to check  
out new attraction  
video!](#)

# KANKAKEE COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU (KCCVB)

## A Leadership Transition



Angelina Gear, Executive Director

| Board of Directors Meeting |  
3rd Wednesday of each month | 4pm  
Economic Alliance of Kankakee County Board Room

| Executive Committee Meetings |  
2nd Wednesday of each month | 9:30am  
KCCVB Board Room

KCCVB City Representative  
& KCCVB Board Chair  
Alderman Dave Baron





# KANKAKEE RIVERFRONT SOCIETY (KRS)

**THE DREAMERS  
OF KANKAKEE**



Priority notes from Executive Director, Bill Yohnka:

- Working on Community Fundraising Events
- New Goal: \$250,000.00 in fundraising

| Board of Director Meetings |  
2nd Tuesday of each month | 11am  
At KVPD Offices

**KRS City Representative  
Alderman Mike Cobbs**

# PRIORITIES

- 2025 Kankakee County Market Profile
- Quarter 4 Report
- Thrive Magazine Released

## 2025 Q4 REPORT



Angela Morrey, President and CEO



## AGENDA ITEMS:

- 2026 Ambassador Meetings: KHS Community Room
- 2025 Recap & Feedback
- New Ambassador Intros
- Overview of Chamber Blitz
  - March 10-12

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- January 29: YPN Headshots and Happy Hour
- February 6: Coffee and Connections
- February 12: WIN Luncheon
- February 17: BAH St Paul
- February 24: Non-Profit Coffee Talk

| MEETINGS |  
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

| COMMITTEES |  
DEI: LEO  
Ambassador Co-Chair: Devyn



AMBASSADORS: DEVYN & LEO



# KANKAKEE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## January 2026

| MEETINGS |  
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
| MARKETING COMMITTEE |  
1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

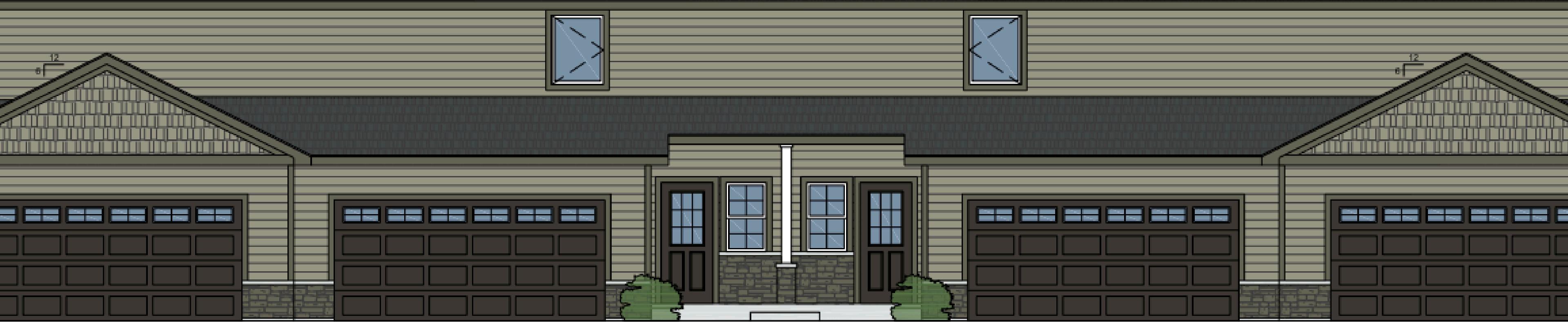
REPRESENTATIVES:  
DEVYN & LEO

- Old Business
  - Steve Harder appointed Secretary
  - Winter Market details: January 24 at Majestic
  - Discussion on Farmers Market On-Site Manager vacancy
    - Few potential candidates
  - Possibly joining Main Street America
- New Business
  - Rent Match Application Approval: NYC Deli
- Marketing Highlights
  - New website in progress - QR code featured in our Development Zone Booklet
  - Katherine Henson hired for social media work





# PROJECT UPDATES



## Indian Meadows

Working on development plan.

## 408 S Dearborn

Working on development agreement.

# HOUSING

# RIVERSTONE DEVELOPMENT ZONE



## PROJECT VENTURE

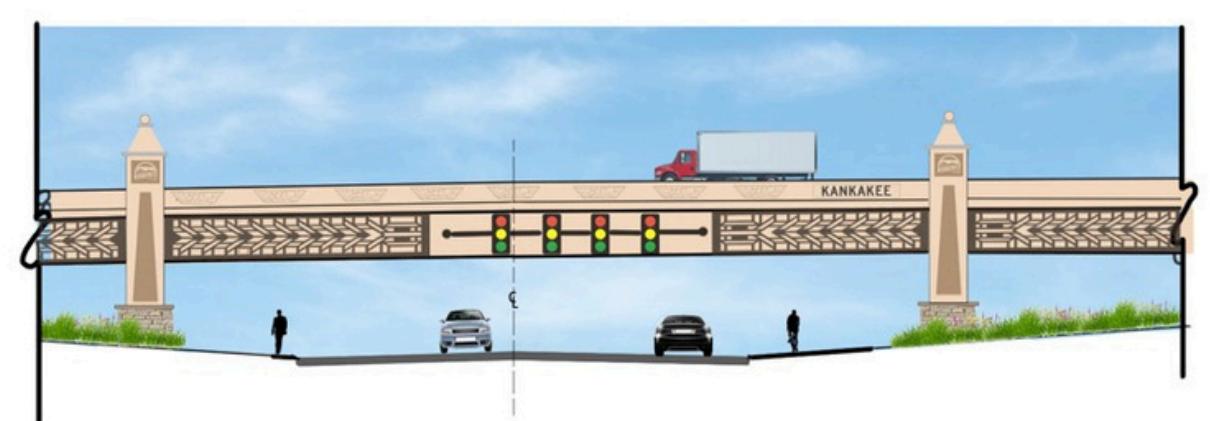
Completed Site Review

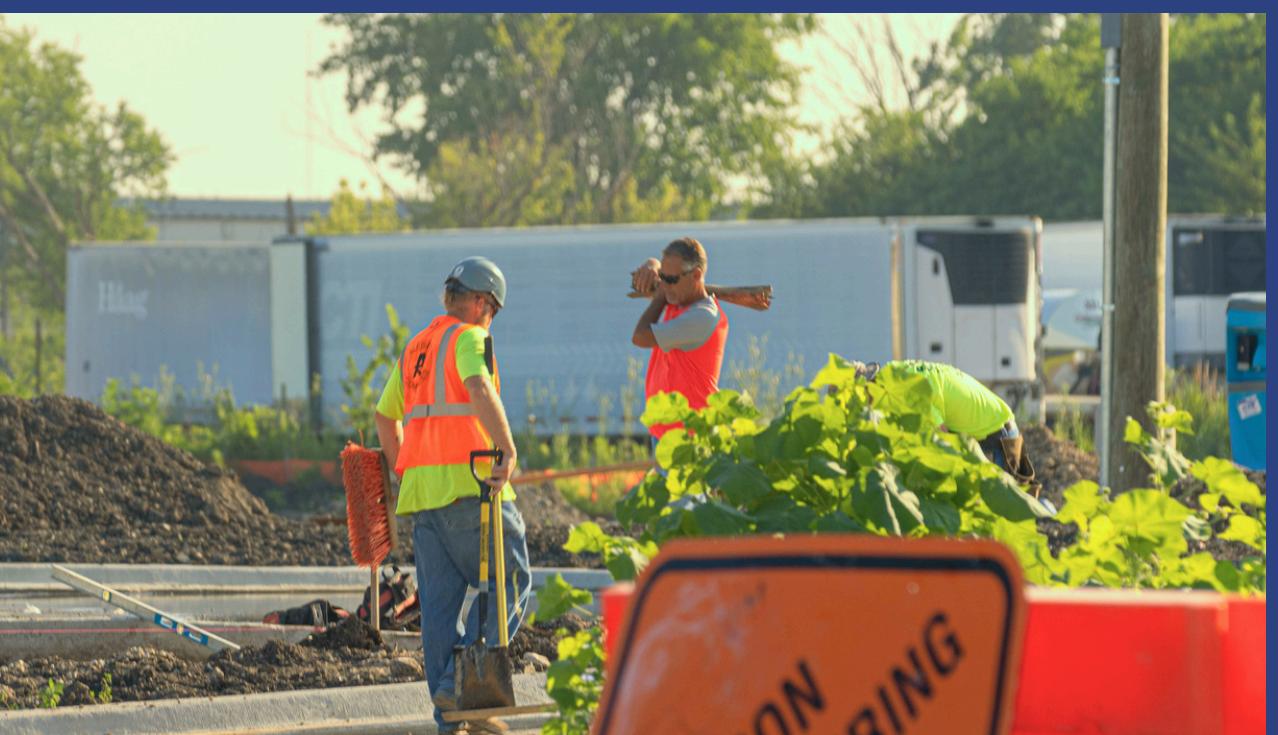
## STORAGE OF AMERICA

Site plan approved; waiting for start date.



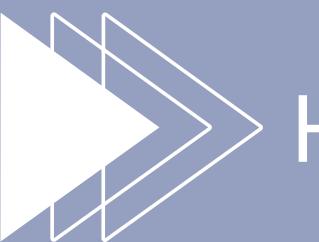
HOTEL IS INTERESTED IN THIS AREA





# EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE

# EXIT 312



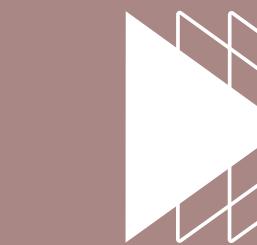
# HOTEL IS INTERESTED IN THIS AREA

# WEST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE





## COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE ON WEST STATION STREET



# No Projects at This Time



# |EAST RIVERWALK|

Construction is ongoing

# |WEST RIVERWALK|

PROPERTY ACQUISITION PHASE - Awarded \$990,000.00 OSLAD Grant

## |WEST AVE|

STREETSCAPE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING PHASE - PLANS ONLINE

<https://ecda.citykankakee-il.gov/perch/resources/2025-11-14-kankakee-west-avenue-streetscape-improvement-renderings.pdf>

## |505 S. SCHUYLER AVE|



# THE SHOPPES OF MEADOWVIEW

**CURRENTLY LISTED**

CBRE:

[The Shoppes at Meadowview Listing](#)



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ZONE

# PROJECT CATALYST



# BUILDING, PLANNING, & COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

## |PRIORITY COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES|

|JAFFE DRUG| ON COURT STREET

|RIVERSTONE CONVENTION CENTER| PART OF PROJECT VENTURE

|SOUTHWEST| CORNER OF COURT STREET & SCHUYLER AVE

|1933 E. COURT ST| DEMO COMPLETE



400 N. BLOCK OF 5th AVE

# KEEP IN MIND



RACIAL & ECONOMIC  
DISPARITIES

MOBILITY

AGING & OBSOLETE  
INFRASTRUCTURE

SWIFTLY CHANGING  
TECHNOLOGY

DIVERSE & AGING  
POPULATION