

| JANUARY 2026 |
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**



NEW BUSINESS LICENSES | DECEMBER 2025

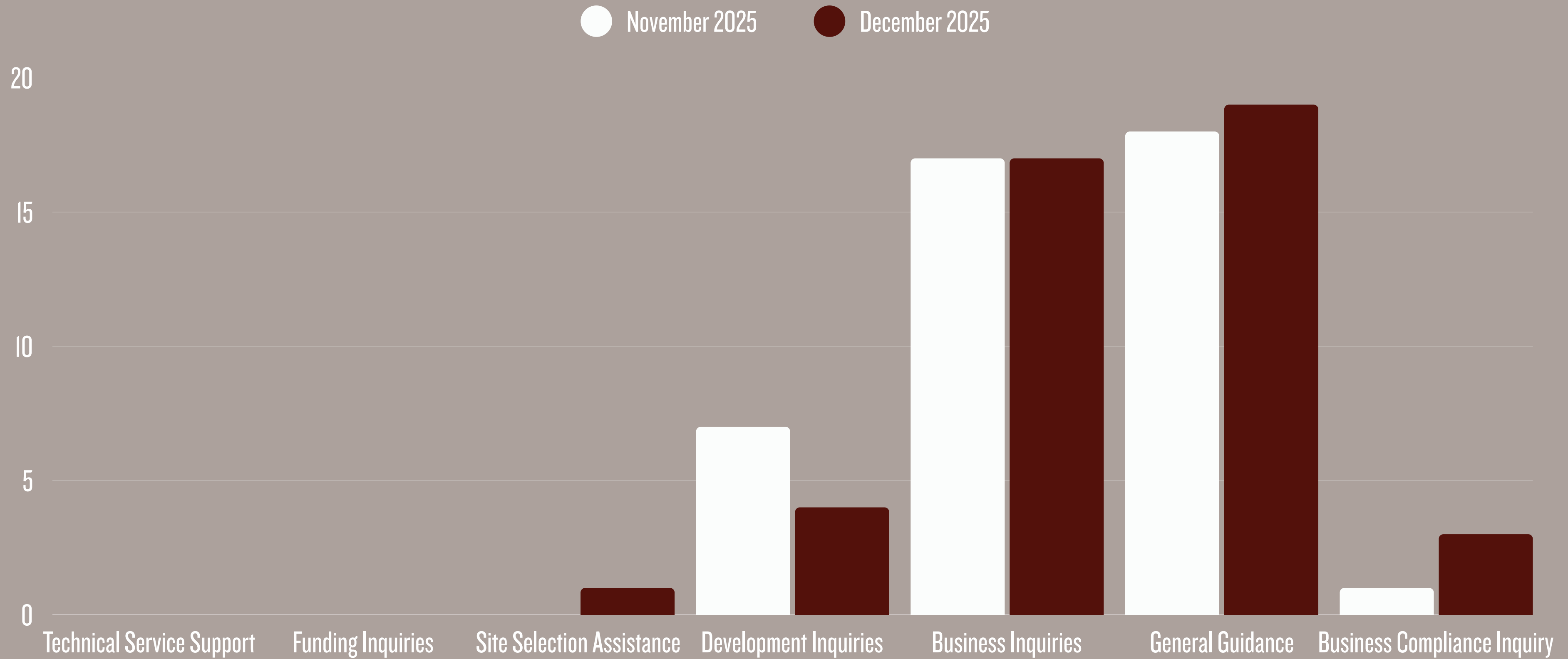


- Phil's Friends Kankakee Hope Center | 12/01
- Kankakee County Chamber Of Commerce | 12/01
- One Hope United | 12/23
- Sakura Garage* | 12/23

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

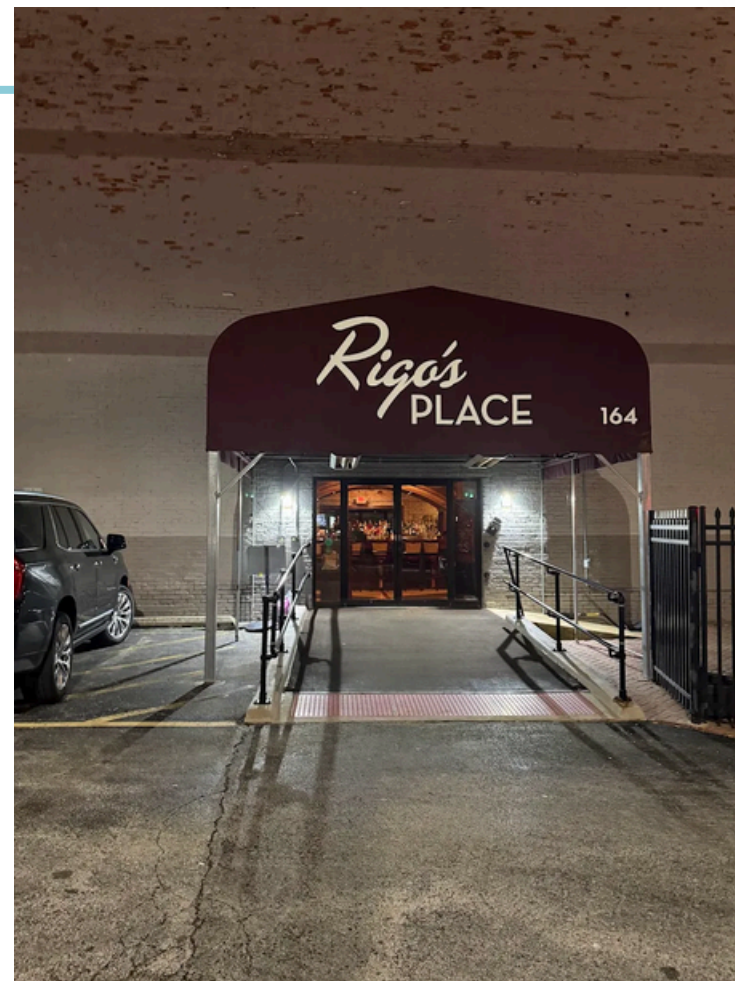
CITY ASSETS

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



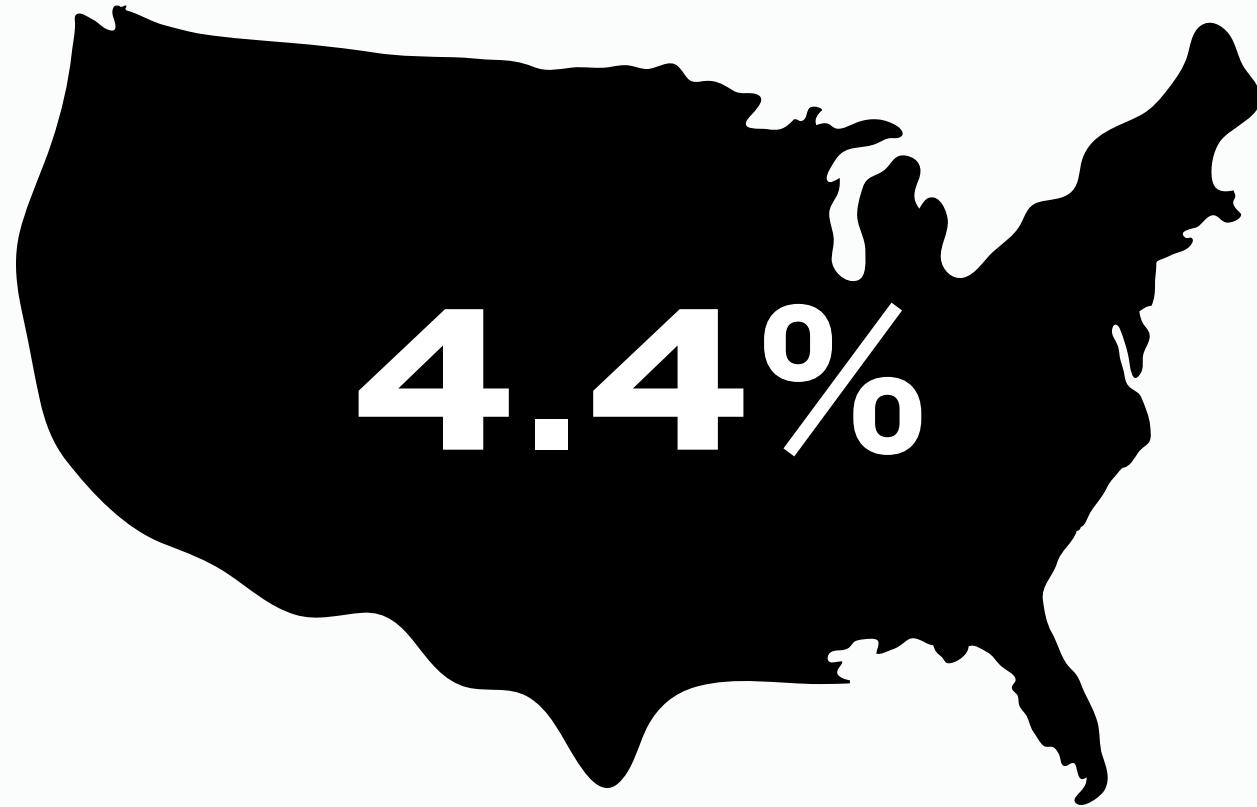
| MARKETING & ATTRACTION |

- 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)

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

THE OUTREACH
OF KANKAKEE

PRIORITIES

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

2025 Q4 REPORT



Angela Morrey, President and CEO



KANKAKEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

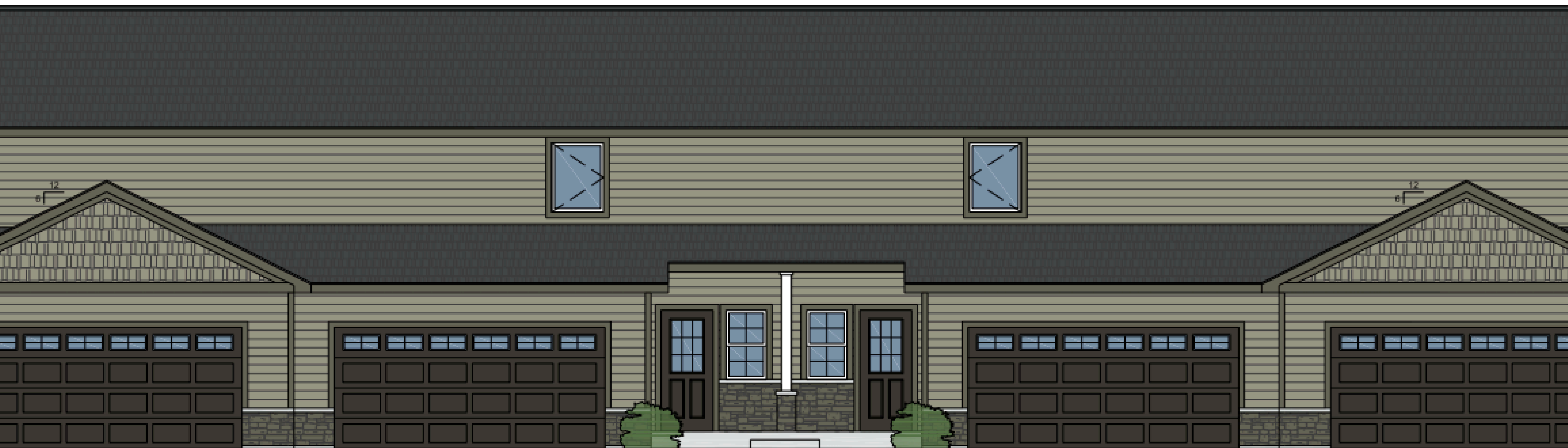
| MEETINGS |
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
| MARKETING COMMITTEE |
1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
REPRESENTATIVES:
DEVYN & LEO

- **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

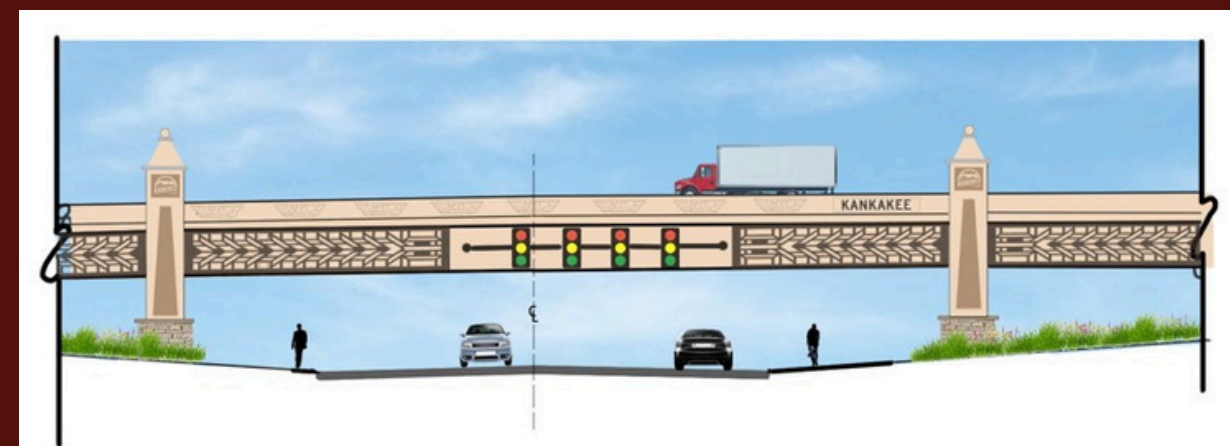
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STORAGE OF AMERICA

Site plan approved; waiting for start date.



HOTEL IS INTERESTED IN THIS AREA



RIVERSTONE DEVELOPMENT ZONE



EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE

|EXIT 312|



HOTEL IS INTERESTED IN THIS AREA

EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE

[illegible]

A wide-angle photograph of the Starting Line Lounge building. The building is a long, single-story structure with a light-colored upper section and a stone-clad lower section. A prominent sign above the entrance reads "STARTING LINE LOUNGE" in a stylized font, with a green and white logo to the left. To the right of the entrance, a sign displays the address "1801". The entrance itself is a glass door framed by a white border. To the left of the door, a sign reads "MAKE EVERY PIN COUNT". The building is topped with a long, horizontal row of rectangular panels. The foreground is a large, paved parking lot with some grass patches. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.





RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

|EAST RIVERWALK|

Construction his 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|

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CURRENTLY LISTED

The Shoppes at Meadowview Listing

A long, covered walkway with a series of vertical support columns and a flat, light-colored ceiling. The walkway is bordered by a building with large glass windows on the right and a parking lot with cars on the left. The perspective leads the eye down the length of the corridor.



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ZONE



|PROJECT CATALYST|

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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**