

| F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 6 |  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**



# NEW BUSINESS LICENSES | JANUARY 2026

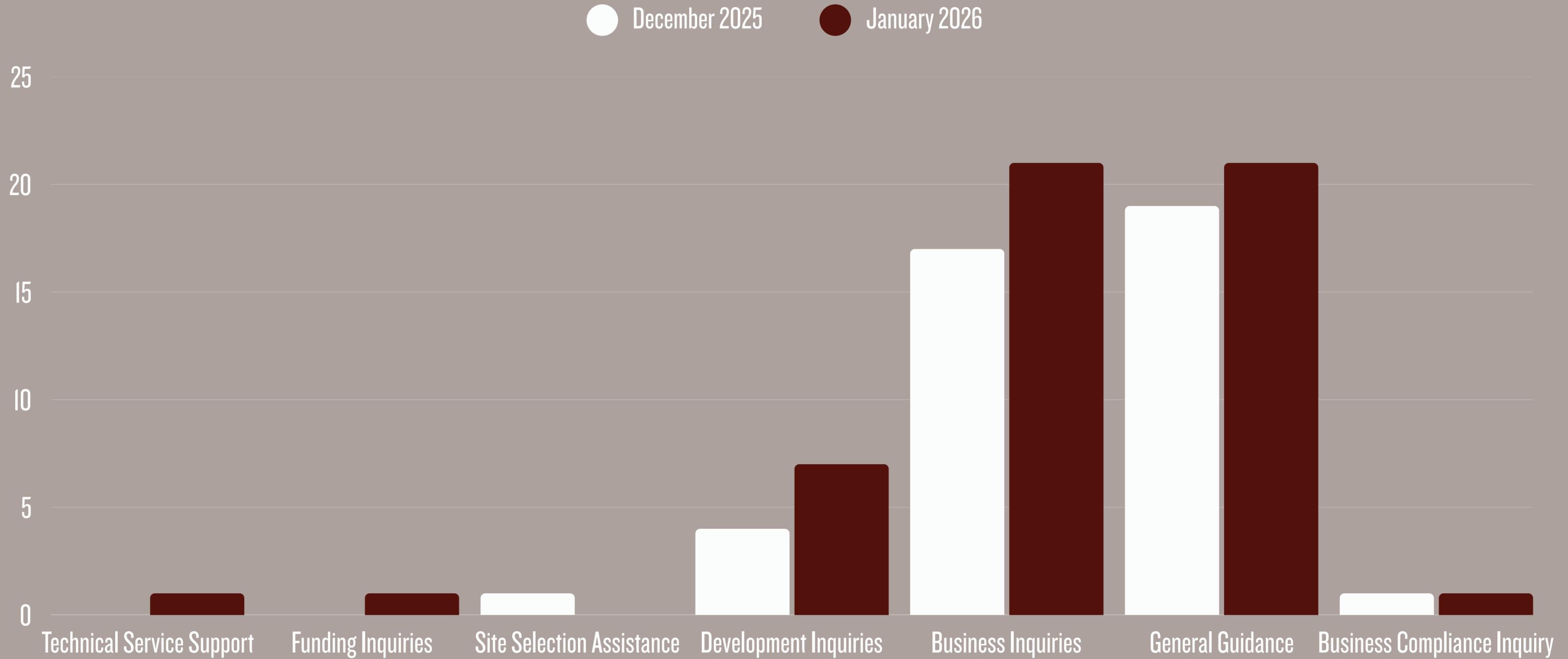


- Yuriria's Kitchen | 1/08
- Alvarado's Taqueria | 1/08
- Taqueria El Country  
3 Corp. | 1/21

**63 TOTAL TO DATE**

\*indicates home-based

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NAVIGATOR REPORT



## | **DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES** |

- 10 NEW BUSINESS INQUIRIES
  - MECHANIC
  - COSMETOLOGIST
  - BANQUET HALL
  - CATERING
  - SENIOR CARE x2
  - CONTRACTOR x2
  - RETAIL x2
- 2 RELOCATION
  - AROMA PARK
  - BRADLEY

## | **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:

- GARDANT MANAGEMENT SOLUTION, INC.
- WYNDHAM GARDEN
- A.N. WEBBER INC.
- PEREGRINE WOODSHOP
- CORNERSTONE SERVICES, INC.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### CITY ASSETS

**LOCATION, LAND AVAILABILITY, COMMUNITY EVENTS & RELATIONSHIPS, LOCAL SUPPORT, DPW, RIVERWALK PROJECT, PRO-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, ACCESSIBILITY, FORWARD THINKING, DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION**

### CHALLENGES

**PUBLIC SAFETY, ROAD/SIDEWALK CONDITIONS, COST COMPETITIVENESS, HIGH RENT RATES, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES, LOCAL REGULATIONS**

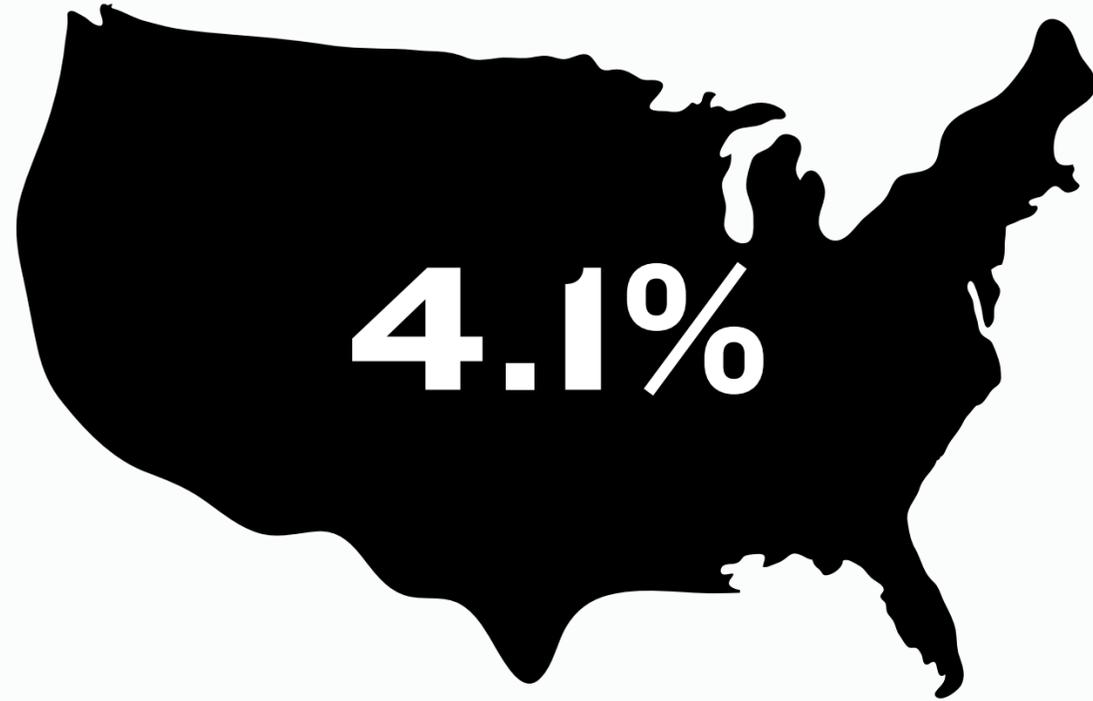
### UPCOMING PLANS

**MAJORITY DO HAVE PLANS TO RENOVATE, EXPAND, OR RELOCATE**



# | MARKETING & ATTRACTION |

- 2026 ECDA Luncheon
  - \$1500 acquired in sponsorship (2/20)
  - Public Sponsor Request Period: February 16-April 30
  - SAVE THE DATE: JULY 23, 2026
- Lunch n' Learns
  - 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
  - 2026 Total Attendees: 9
- 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 went out - 1 response
- LinkedIn - 179 followers (+19/last month)
  - Avg Engagement Rate: 12%
  - Avg Impressions: 532.4
- Updated incentive booklet on website
- Site Marketing Projects In Progress
  - KSD Meadowview Site
- Inquiries
  - Sourcing site information for 2 developers
  - Closed out 1 inquiry
- PCED Certification
  - PCED Certification Exam on February 26



8.9%

[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

- 2026 Kankakee County Market Profile
- Quarter 4 Report
  - 2026 Q1 Report not available online (2/20).
- Thrive Magazine Released

# 2026 Q1 REPORT



Angela Morrey, President and CEO



## AGENDA ITEMS:

- Overview of Chamber Blitz
  - March 10-12
- Overview of Member Benefits
- Overview of Upcoming Events & Social Secretaries
- Community Service Project: Valentines for Seniors

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 3: State of the County - Sponsorships still available
- March 12: YPN Pickleball Tournament - Riverside
- March 26: Level Up Lunch - Addressing Homelessness

Together

| MEETINGS |  
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
AMBASSADORS: DEVYN & LEO

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



Chamber Events Calendar



## February 2026 - Executive Committee Only

- **Marketing Highlights**
  - **Old Business**
    - Website Updates
    - Social Media - Black History Month, Valentine's Day
    - Art Committee
  - **New Business**
    - Marquee Signs
    - Downtown Attire

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





# PROJECT UPDATES



## **Indian Meadows**

Working on development plan.

## **408 S Dearborn**

Working on development agreement.

# **HOUSING**

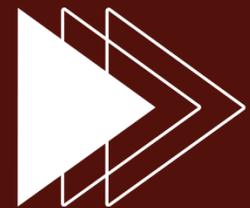
# RIVERSTONE DEVELOPMENT ZONE

## 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

No Projects at This Time



COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE ON WEST STATION STREET



**MCA**  
SENIOR ADULT DAY CENTER



# RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

## 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:

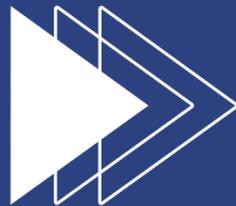
[The Shoppes at Meadowview Listing](#)





# 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**