

| MARCH 2025 |

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

| PRESENTED BY |
BARBARA BREWER-WATSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

| PREPARED BY |
DEVYN FORQUER
LEONEL B. JARAMILLO

NEW BUSINESS LICENSES

FEBRUARY 2025

Premier Truck
Accessories, Inc.

2/13

Stefari Coffee
House

2/13

Awaken Cafe

2/21

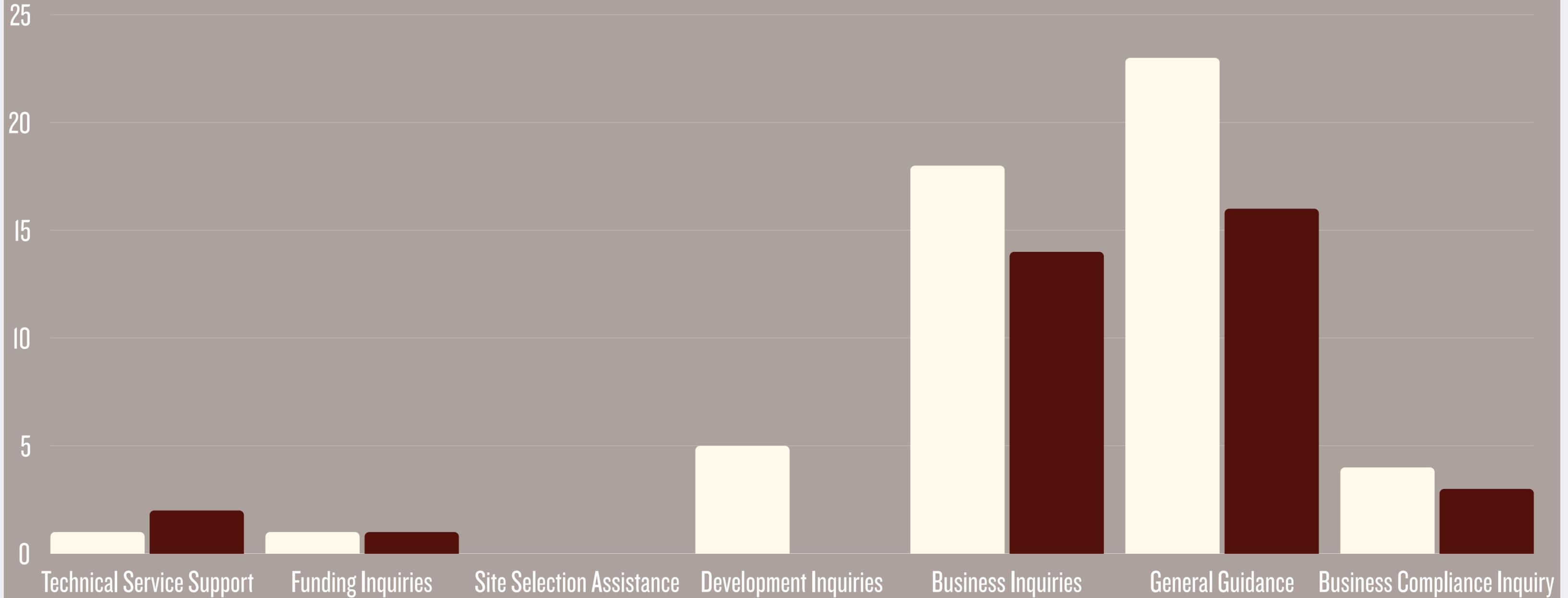
57 TOTAL TO DATE

*indicates home-based



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NAVIGATOR REPORT

● January 2025 ● February 2025



| **DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES** |

- 22 NEW INQUIRIES
 - RETAIL (3)
 - NONPROFIT (2)
 - RESTAURANT (4)
 - TATTOO SHOP
 - USED CAR SALES
 - HEALTH CARE (2)
 - FINANCIAL SERVICES (2)
- 2 OUT OF TOWN: MOMENCE, 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

NLC CIE COMMITMENT

Need to find a facilitator to lead the Kauffman Fastrac Curriculum that guides entrepreneurs in starting a business.

RETENTION VISITS

- Retention Visit Letters for April sent out on 3/07/25
- Retention Visit Letters for May to be sent week of 3/24

RETENTION REPORT

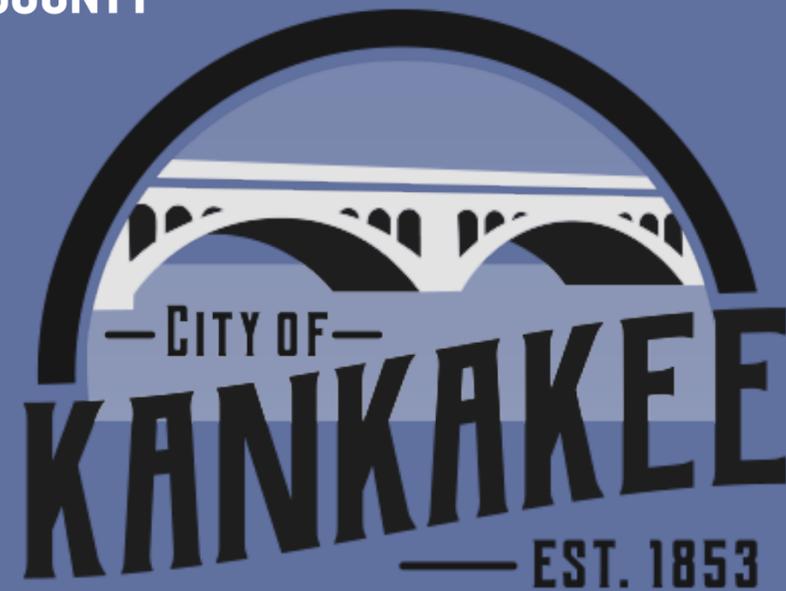
| MARKETING & ATTRACTION |

- 30+ contacts contacted for business attraction targets
- Luncheon planning underway
 - Seeking sponsors and keynote speaker(s),
 - Save the Dates & sponsor requests mailed
- Lunch n' Learns
 - Feb 4: Tax Workshop - 5 attendees
 - March 4: How to Start a Business - Alicia Kleinert, MCA - 13 attendees
 - Upcoming Lunch n' Learns
 - April 1: Access to Capital - Midland States Bank
 - May 6: AI Impact on Business
 - June 2: Why Marketing Matters
 - September 17: Succession Planning - Partnered with Chamber of Commerce
 - October 7: Pitch Competition
- Working with Director King to create Zoning videos
- "I Am Kankakee" recruitment concepts and survey created
 - Call to action posted, 2
- Social media content in progress
 - Assisting with KRS social media content
- Website is live
 - Creating new page for businesses & developers, RFP/RFQs
- 2025 Retention Survey complete
- Youtube is live
- Marketing booklet updated

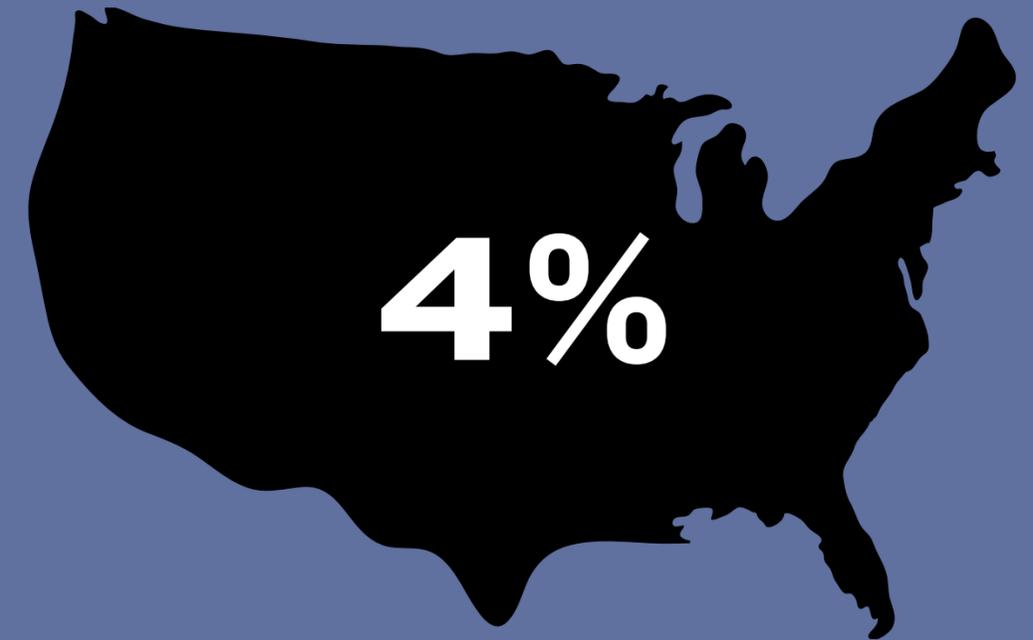
UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

JAN 2025

LAST UPDATE FOR CITY AND COUNTY



8.3%



KANKAKEE COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU (KCCVB)

| 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
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
Meeting Locations Vary

KRS City Representative
Alderman Mike Cobbs

Barbi Watson is the Chairperson.

THE OUTREACH
OF KANKAKEE

PRIORITIES

- **New Market Profile Released February 5**
 - **2025 Kankakee County Market Profile**
- **Q1 2025 Report**

KANKAKEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MARCH 2025 MEETING:

- Upcoming Membership Blitz: 3/25-3/27
- Brainstorming ideas for 2025 Gala

| MEETINGS |
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

| COMMITTEES |
WORKFORCE & EDUCATION:
DEVYN (CO-CHAIR)
DEI: LEO

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 4/10: Chamber Office Open House & RC, 11:30-6pm
- 4/16: Lunch & Learn - Human Resources, 11:30-1pm
- 4/30: BAH - Bishop McNamara, 5-7pm

AMBASSADORS: DEVYN & LEO



KANKAKEE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MARCH 2025

| MEETINGS |
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

| MARKETING COMMITTEE |
1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

- **Old Business**

- North Schuyler Mural deadline is 6/30/25; Artists feel confident they can begin laying out design/prep/painting by April
- Retention Day is tentative May 15 - more details to come
- Marketing Services RFP is open

- **New Business**

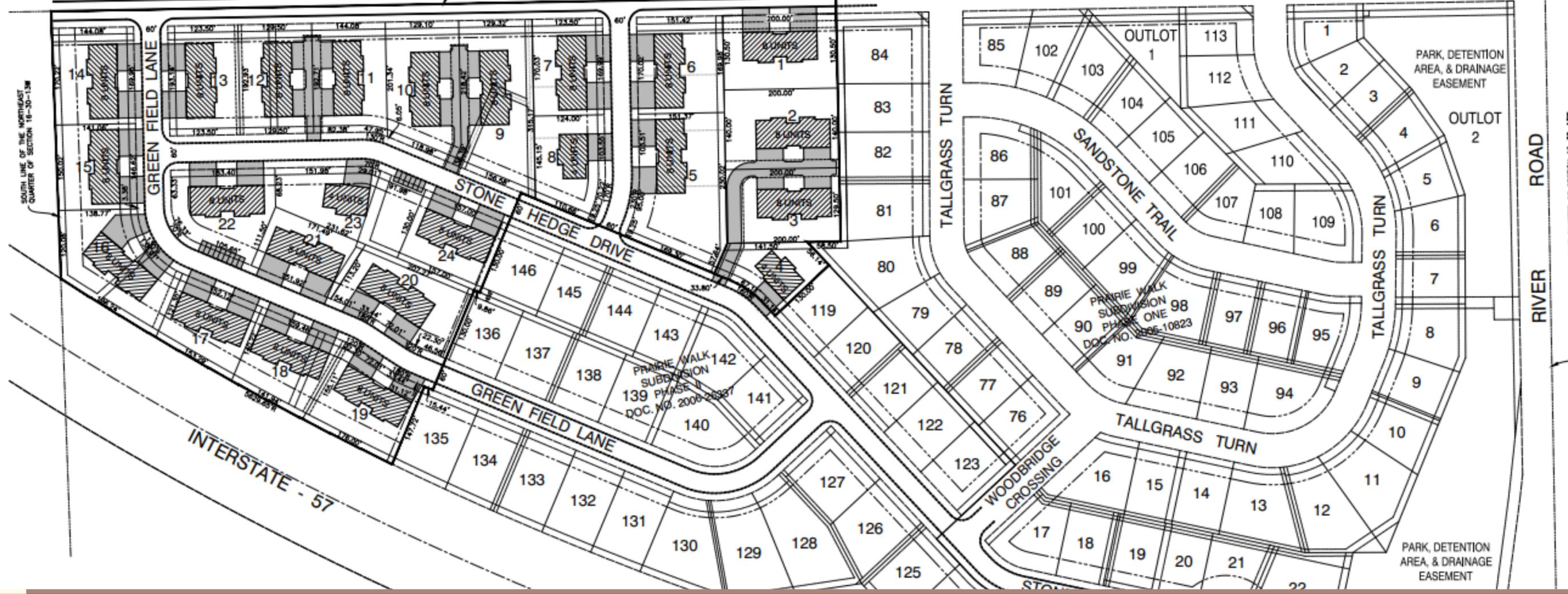
- Chamber Ribbon Cutting is April 10 from 11-6:30p; RC at 5pm
- Garden of Prayer Ribbon Cutting is April 4 @ 5:30pm
- CVB Craft Bev Trail is 3/27
- The Venu is hoppin - Yarn Factory Listeners in April
- Stefari Coffee House is open

REPRESENTATIVES: DEVYN & LEO





PROJECT UPDATES



Harbor Place

Construction is nearing completion. Occupancy on units has been given and families are moving in.

Prairie Walk and Indian Meadows

Incentive request negotiations are ongoing.

Veteran's Housing

Applications are being accepted via the Veterans Commission.

HOUSING

Retail Development Inquiry

Project Discovery Phase

|CURRENTLY LISTED|

LEE & ASSOCIATES:

<https://www.lee-associates.com/properties/?propertyId=1277830-sale&address=17-Meadowview-Center&officeId=15844>

THE SHOPPES OF MEADOWVIEW



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
816 S. SCHUYLER AVE

KEEP IN MIND

**RACIAL & ECONOMIC
DISPARITIES**

MOBILITY

**AGING & OBSOLETE
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**SWIFTLY CHANGING
TECHNOLOGY**

**DIVERSE & AGING
POPULATION**