

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

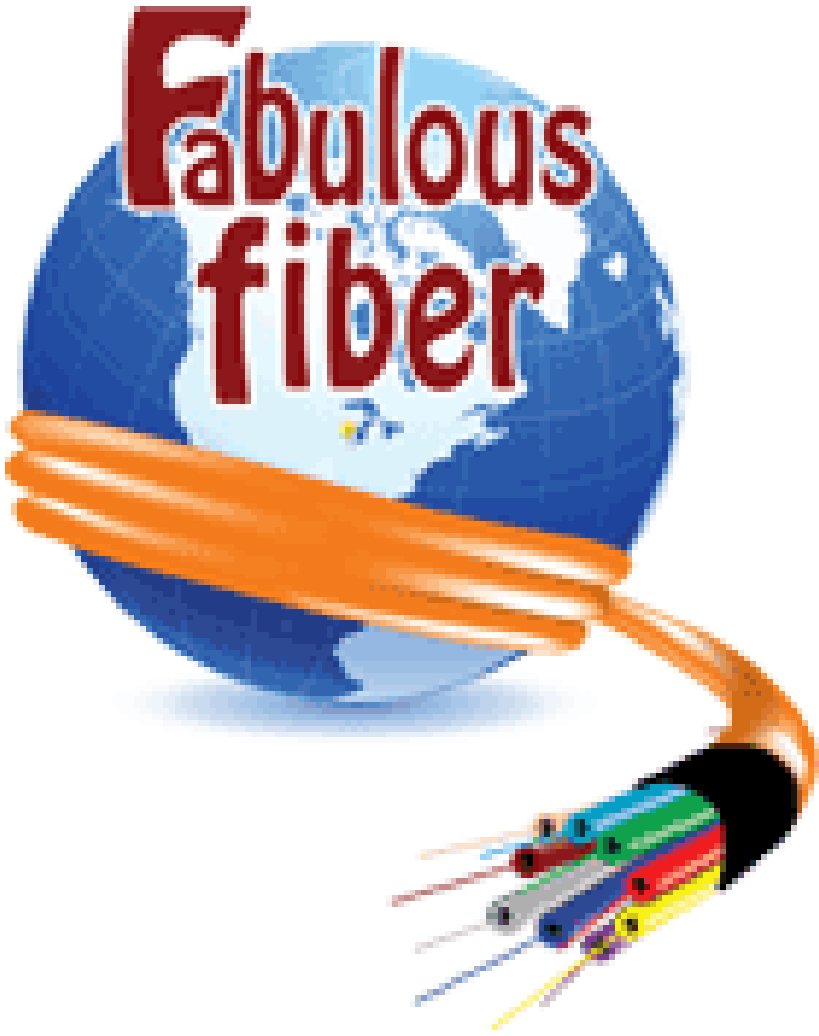


# NEW BUSINESS LICENSES | FEBRUARY 2026



*Our Aging*  
**SERVICES**

Resources for Developmental  
Disabilities & Seniors



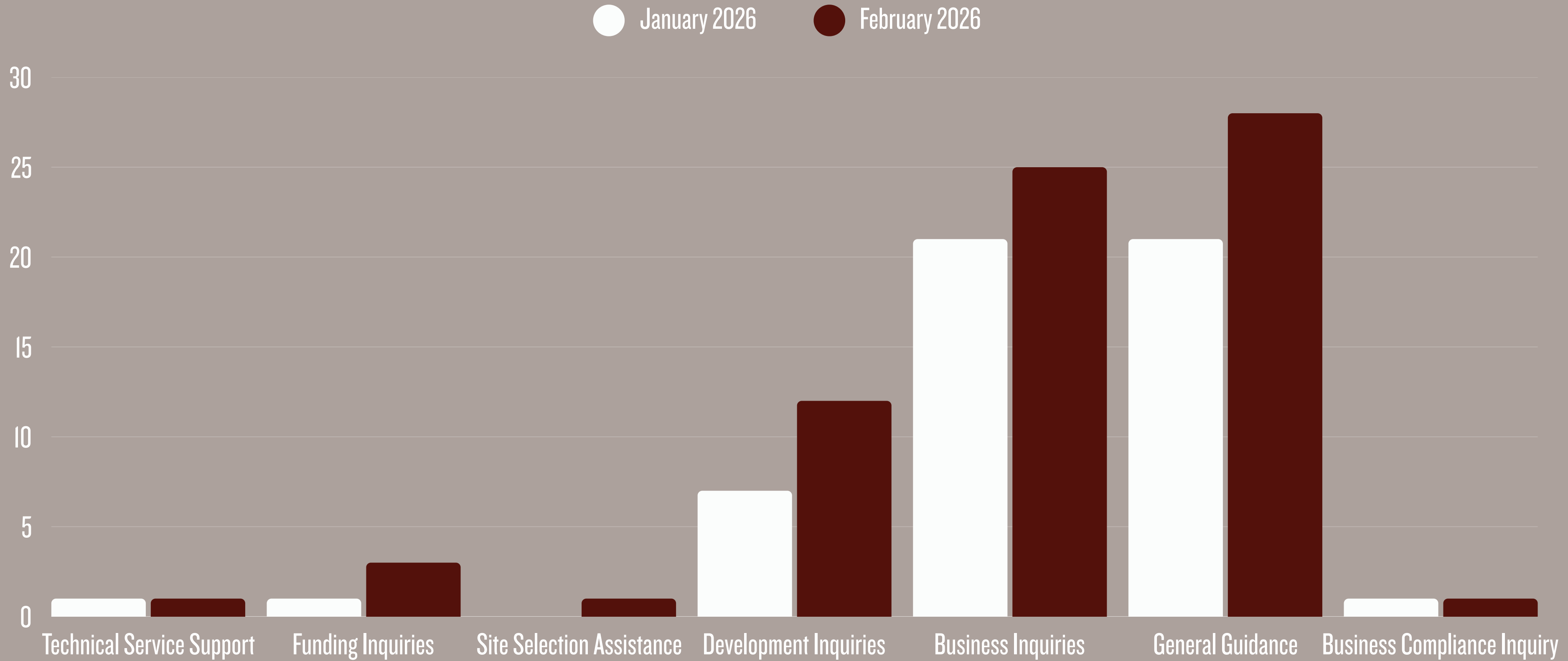
- Always Fresh Kitchen Halal | 2/02
- Our Aging Services\* | 2/02
- Fabulous Fiber | 2/02
- Kankakee Islamic Center | 2/02
- Yara Home | 2/02
- My Storage Kankakee, LLC | 2/12
- Green Pro Services\* | 2/12
- Ravenspring Media LLC | 2/19
- Lunova Soma | 2/19
- Montenegro Construction\* | 2/19



**73 TOTAL TO DATE**

\*indicates home-based

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NAVIGATOR REPORT



## | **DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES** |

- 17 NEW BUSINESS INQUIRIES
  - BAR/TAVERN x2
  - COSMETOLOGIST
  - BANQUET HALL
  - CATERING
  - SENIOR CARE X2
  - CONTRACTOR x2
  - RETAIL
  - VEHICLES
  - NON-PROFIT
  - ENTERTAINMENT x2
  - RESTAURANT x2
  - LIGHT MANUFACTURING
- 1 LAND
  - ZONING
- 3 RELOCATION
  - AROMA PARK
  - BRADLEY
  - WILMINGTON

## | **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:

- DAMN TAP
- THE LUSH VINE
- ESSENTIAL SMOOTHIES
- IKO MIDWEST
- ZIRI FRESH MARKET INC.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### CITY ASSETS

RIVER/RIVERFRONT, OPEN SPACES, COMMUNITY EVENTS, PRO-BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, FIRE, POLICE, ECDA, LOCAL SUPPORT, EXPOSURE OPPORTUNITIES, COMMUNICATIONS, LOCATION, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, RETENTION WORK

### CHALLENGES

FUTURE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, HOMELESS SITUATION, BUILDING & CODE INITIAL PERMITTING, PUBLIC PERCEPTION, WORKFORCE, ROAD/SIDEWALK CONDITIONS

### UPCOMING PLANS

MAJORITY DO HAVE PLANS TO RENOVATE, EXPAND, OR RELOCATE



ECDA LUNCH N' LEARN SERIES

## HOW TO START A BUSINESS

SPONSORED BY ESSENTIAL SMOOTHIES & CAFE

FREE LUNCH N' LEARN FOR ENTREPRENEURS TO LEARN THE BASICS IN LAUNCHING THEIR BUSINESS IN KANKAKEE

APRIL 7 | 11:30-1PM

RSVP BY APRIL 3  
<https://ECDAstartyourbusiness.eventbrite.com>

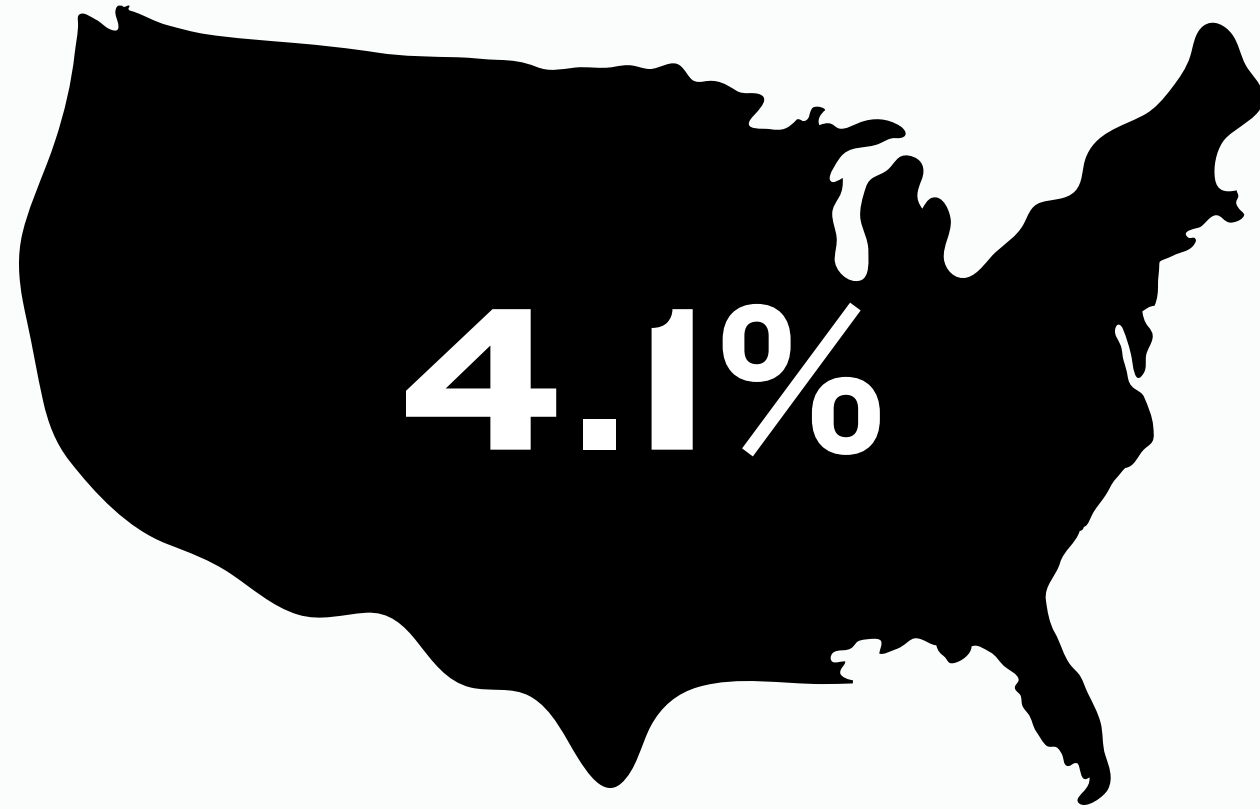
Bilingual Translation Available

**DENISE SMITH**  
FOUNDER & OWNER, ESSENTIAL SMOOTHIES & CAFE



# | MARKETING & ATTRACTION |

- 2026 ECDA Luncheon
  - \$4000 acquired in sponsorship (3/24)
  - Public Sponsor Request Period: February 16-April 30
  - SAVE THE DATE: JULY 23, 2026
- Lunch n' Learns
  - April 7: How to Start A Business in Kankakee with Essential Smoothies
  - May 5: Small Business Success with Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce [workshop]
  - 2026 Total Attendees: 14
- Website
  - Housing Counseling page: Live 12/29
  - RERZ page: Live 12/29
    - Pipeline: Public Service; Business Retention
- Workforce data pull
  - Workforce Services; ILBLS; Grundy-Livingston-Kankakee County Workforce Board
- Researching potential video services to help expand inhouse marketing and attraction efforts
- "I Am Kankakee"
  - Planning period to relaunch in spring
    - 3 interviews scheduled
    - 1 in pipeline
- LinkedIn - 200 followers (+21/last month)
  - Avg Engagement Rate: 17%
  - Avg Impressions: 300.6
- Updated incentive booklet on website
- Site Marketing Projects In Progress
  - KSD Meadowview Site; Eastgate Parcel; East Court Site
- Inquiries
  - Sourcing site information for 2 developers
  - Closed out 1 inquiry



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
- Legion Park Design and Engineering has started

| 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
- 2026 Q1 Report
  - Q2 Meeting April 9 @ Plate'D Social
- 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
- 

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- WIN Luncheon: April 17 - Elizabeth Kubal

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

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



Chamber Events Calendar



## MARCH 2026

- **Old Business**
  - **Website Updates**
    - **Done for now**
  - **Social Media - Women-owned businesses**
  - **Art Committee - Mosaic Mural**
- **New Business**
  - **Rent Match Applications coming in May**

| 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**

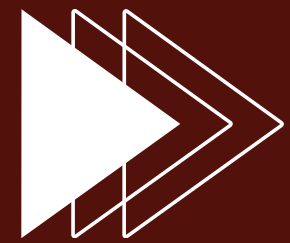
# RIVERSTONE DEVELOPMENT ZONE

## Quik Trip

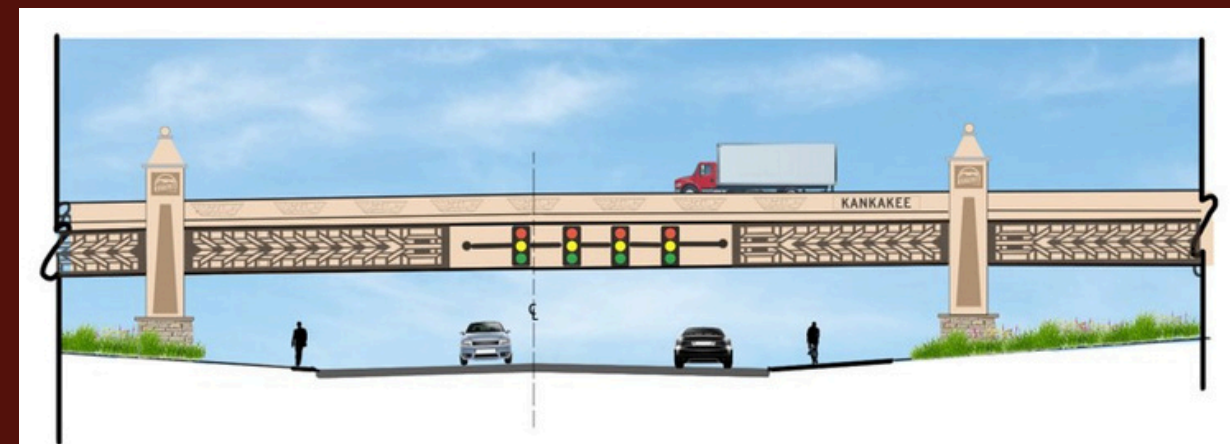
Demolition and Ground work has started.

## Storage of America

Site plan approved; waiting for start date.



HOTEL IS INTERESTED IN THIS AREA

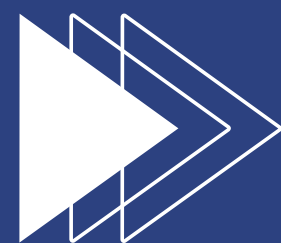




# EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE

## |EXIT 312|

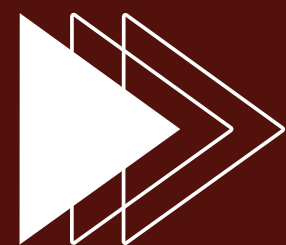
Design and Engineering Phase II is in process



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

No Update at this time



# 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**