

| APRIL 2025 |

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

| PRESENTED BY |
BARBARA BREWER-WATSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

| PREPARED BY |
DEVYN FORQUER
LEONEL B. JARAMILLO

NEW BUSINESS LICENSES

MARCH 2025



Kankakee County
Chamber Of Commerce

3/10

A Taste Like Home

3/25

Smokey Joe's
Kitchen LLC

3/31

MBN Retail Store

3/31

Beaupre's Towing
& Repair

3/31

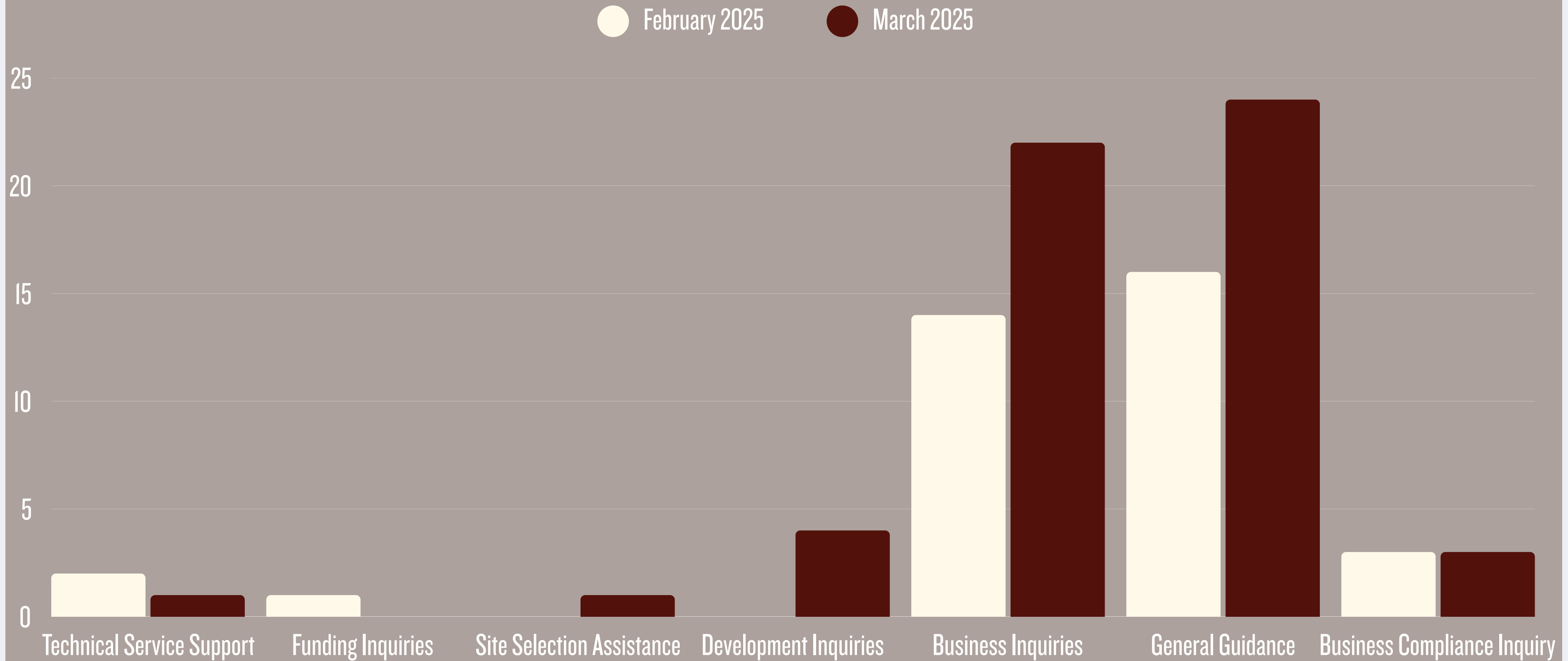
*Perla's Cleaning

3/31

68 TOTAL TO DATE

*indicates home-based

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NAVIGATOR REPORT



| **DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES** |

- II NEW BUSINESS INQUIRIES
 - RETAIL
 - NONPROFIT (2)
 - RESTAURANT (2)
 - USED CAR SALES
 - FINANCIAL SERVICES (2)
 - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
 - SHORT-TERM RENTAL
 - HOME-BASED SERVICE
- I LAND INQUIRIES
 - BUILDING PERMITS

| **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.

| **RETAIL CHAIN INQUIRY** |

Initial call on 4/15; Looking for properties within site requirements;
Project Manager referenced
Meadowview space; Follow Up 4/22

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 May sent out on 4/7/25
- Retention Visit Letters for June to be sent week of 4/28

RETENTION REPORT

| MARKETING & ATTRACTION |

- 30+ contacts contacted for business attraction targets
 - One response
- Luncheon planning underway
- Lunch n' Learns
 - Feb 4: Tax Workshop - 5 attendees
 - March 4: How to Start a Business - Alicia Kleinert, MCA - 13 attendees
 - April 1: Access to Capital - Midland States Bank - 13 attendees
 - Upcoming Lunch n' Learns
 - May 6: AI Impact on Business - Barbi
 - June 2: Why Marketing Matters - Devyn & Visit Kankakee
 - 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
 - 2 in process
 - Kevin Smith, KFD
 - Eric Lawrence, ASIP Local 150
- Social media content in progress
 - Assisting with KRS social media content
- Website is live
 - Creating new page for businesses & developers, RFP/RFQs
- Marketing booklet updated

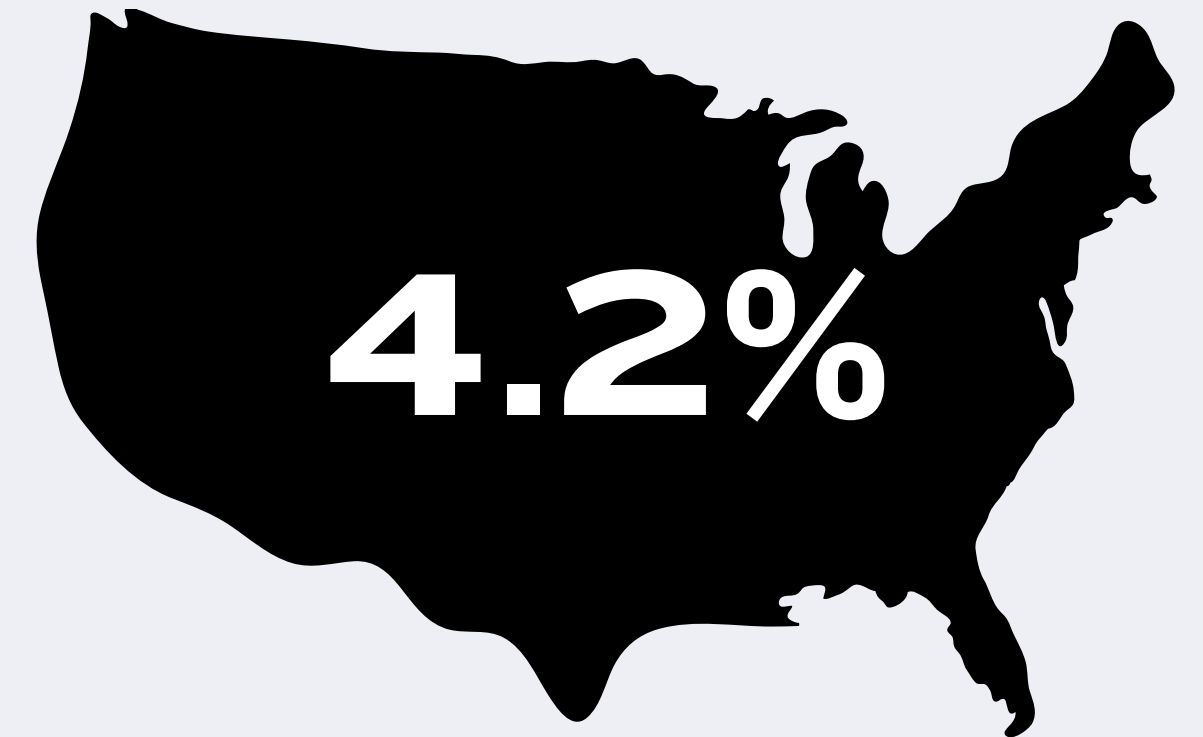
UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

FEB/MARCH 2025

LAST UPDATE FOR CITY AND COUNTY



8.1%



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

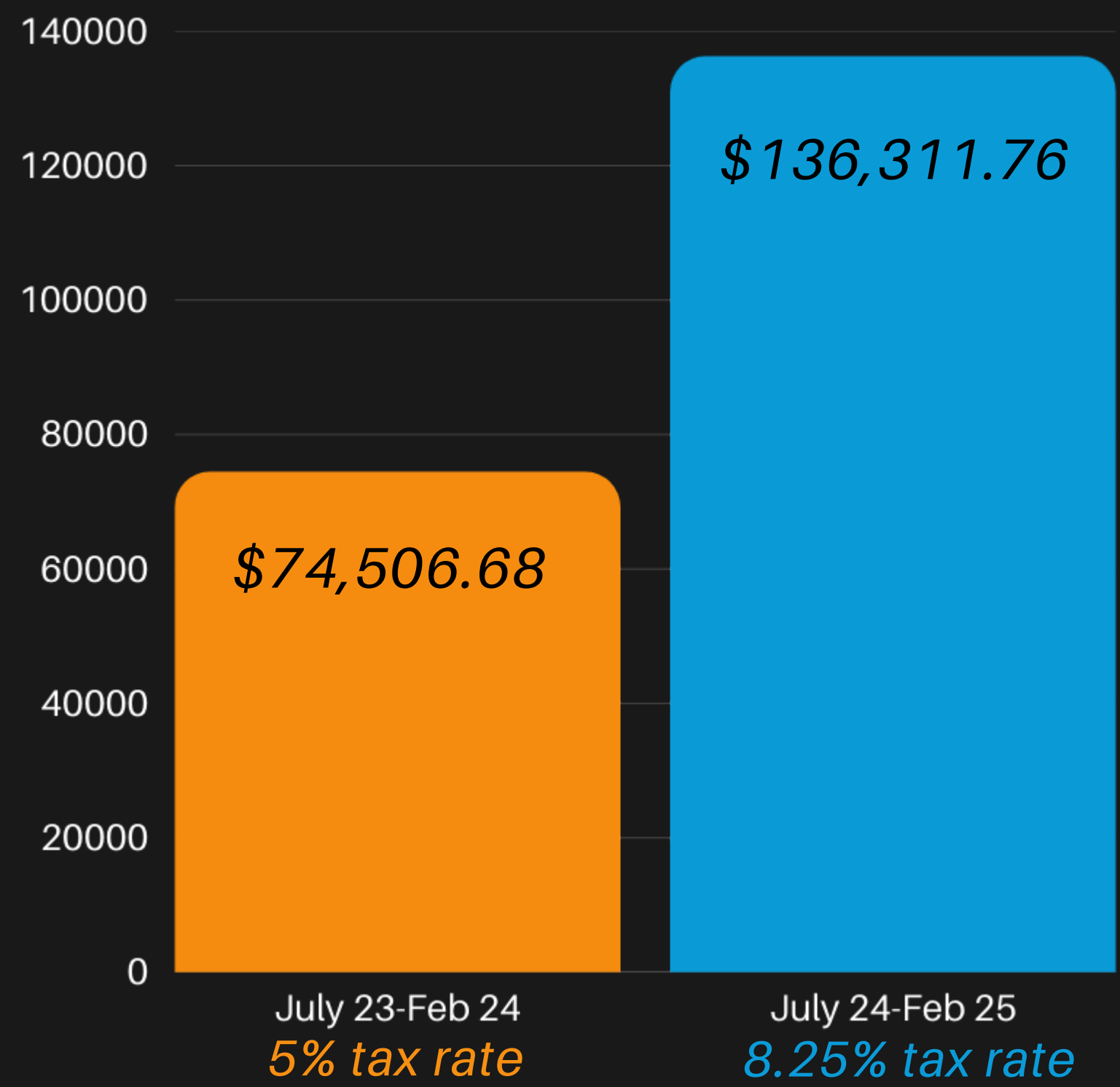
KCCVB City Representative
Alderman Dave Baron



CITY OF KANKAKEE

Hotel Tax Revenue up 83%

● July 23-Feb 24 ● July 24-Feb 25



10.9%



Actual Hotel Revenue Growth

Hotel receipts increased by 10.9%, indicating more visitors and slightly higher ADR.



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
- Q2 2025 Report

APRIL 2025 MEETING:

- Riverside Foundation hosted - gave overview of services offered
- Social Secretary review for events

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 4/30: BAH - Bishop McNamara, 5-7pm
- 5/1: YPN - Advancing Mental Health, 11:30a
- 5/8: RC - Luxe & Loaded, 11:30-1p
- 5/15: WIN - Leading Ladies Luncheon, 11am

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

| MEETINGS |
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH



AMBASSADORS: DEVYN & LEO



KANKAKEE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

APRIL 2025 - Exec Board Only

| MEETINGS |
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

| MARKETING COMMITTEE |
1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

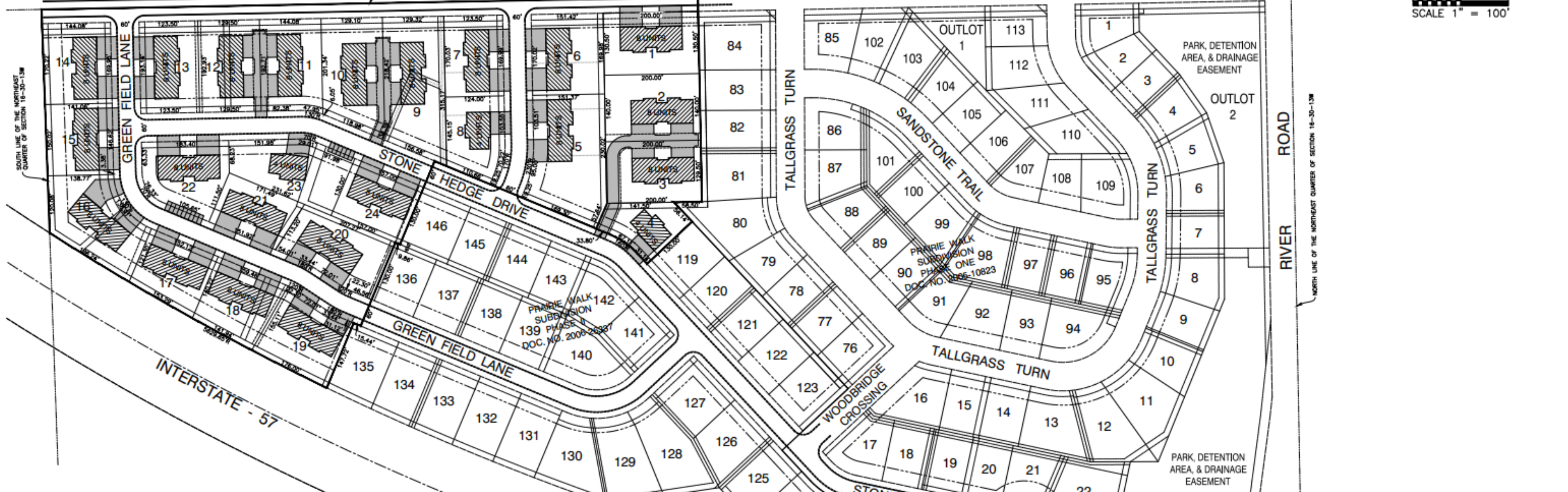
- (Marketing) Old Business
 - Mural committee meeting about walking tour
 - Retention Day & Exec Director Rollout
 - Incentive clings being finalized
 - Downtown Marquee Signs Up
- (Marketing) New Business
 - Media Appearances
 - 5 replies to Marketing Services RFP

REPRESENTATIVES: DEVYN & LEO



A black and white photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a hard hat and safety glasses, smiling. The hard hat has a logo that reads "CITY OF KANKAKEE EST. 1853". She is wearing a dark jacket and has her hands clasped in front of her. The background is a construction site with a large pile of dirt or gravel.

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

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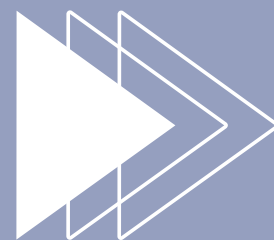
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EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE

WORK IS ONGOING



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

| 1801 W. STATION ST |

PLANNING DEVELOPMENT STAGE

| 1292 W. STATION ST |

MCA Adult Day Care open: Ribbon cutting 5/21



> COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE ON WEST STATION STREET

WEST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE



MCA
SENIOR ADULT DAY CENTER



RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

|EAST RIVERWALK|

Preconstruction work begins Jan. 2025

WEST RIVERWALK

PROPERTY ACQUISITION PHASE

|WEST AVE|

STREETSCAPE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING PHASE

| 505 S. SCHUYLER AVE |

INSPECTION PROCESS STARTED TO BEGIN RELEASE OF FUNDS

RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE
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Retail Development Inquiry

Project Discovery Phase

|CURRENTLY LISTED|

CBRE:

[The Shoppes at Meadowview Listing](#)

THE SHOPPES OF MEADOWVIEW



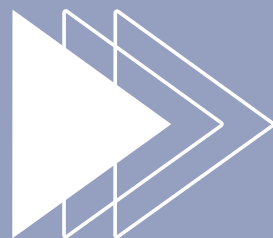


DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ZONE

|PROJECT CATALYST|

Planning and Zoning Permit

Stefari Cafe Opened



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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
816 S. SCHUYLER AVE

KEEP IN MIND

**RACIAL & ECONOMIC
DISPARITIES**

MOBILITY

**AGING & OBSOLETE
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**SWIFTLY CHANGING
TECHNOLOGY**

**DIVERSE & AGING
POPULATION**