

SEPTEMBER 2025

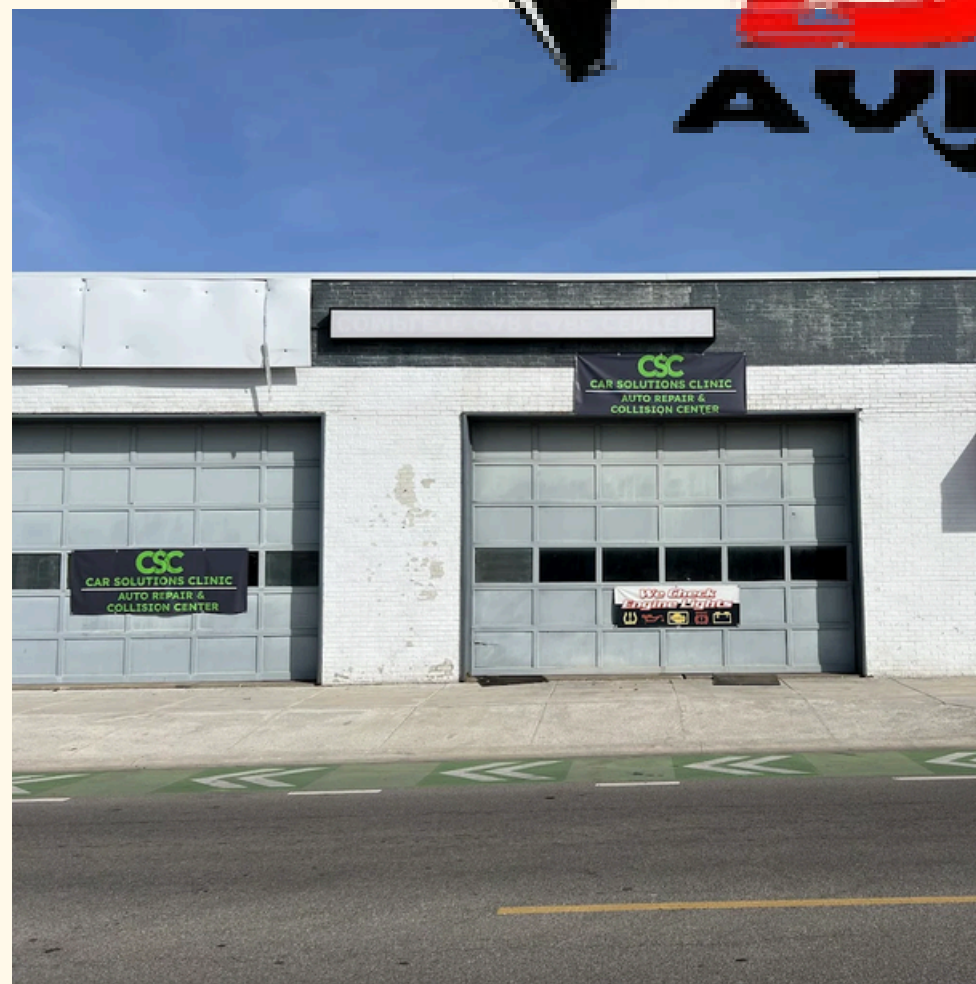


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

| PRESENTED BY |
BARBARA BREWER-WATSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

| PREPARED BY |
DEVYN FORQUER
LEONEL B. JARAMILLO

NEW BUSINESS LICENSES | AUGUST 2025

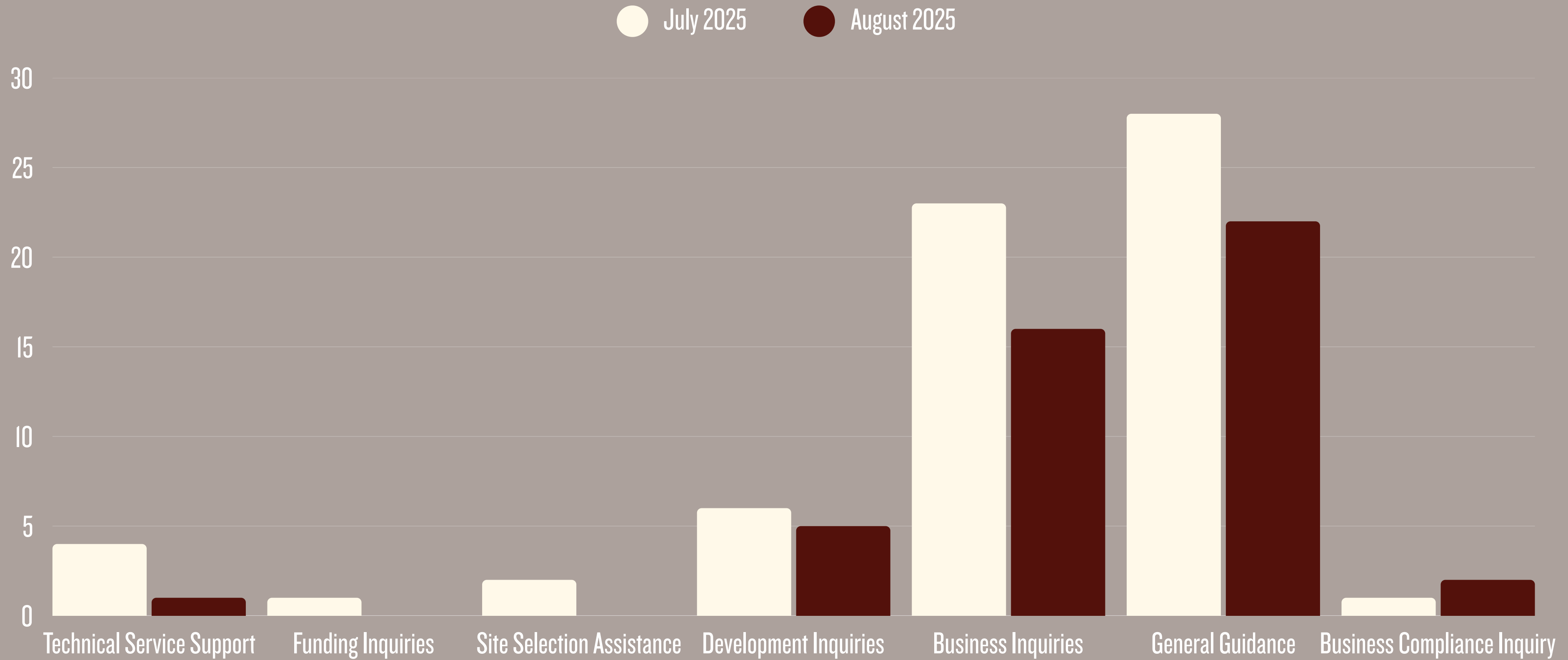


- The Daily Journal | 8/01
- Ziri Fresh Market Inc. | 8/01
- Kankakee River Petroleum LLC | 8/01
- Economy Inn | 8/01
- Quick & Easy Market Inc. | 8/11
- Cornerstone Services | 8/22
- Car Solutions Clinic Inc. | 8/22
- King Fuel Services LLC | 8/22
- Van Drunen Farms | 8/22
- DI4 Aviation | 8/22

33 TOTAL TO DATE

*indicates home-based

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NAVIGATOR REPORT



| **DEVELOPMENT INQUIRIES** |

- **11 NEW BUSINESS INQUIRIES**
 - RETAIL
 - NON-PROFIT (2)
 - RESTAURANT (2)
 - HOME-BASED (2)
 - FINANCIAL SERVICES
 - USED CAR SALES
 - MARKETING
 - CONVENIENCE STORE
- **2 LAND**
 - CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PROCESS
 - 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

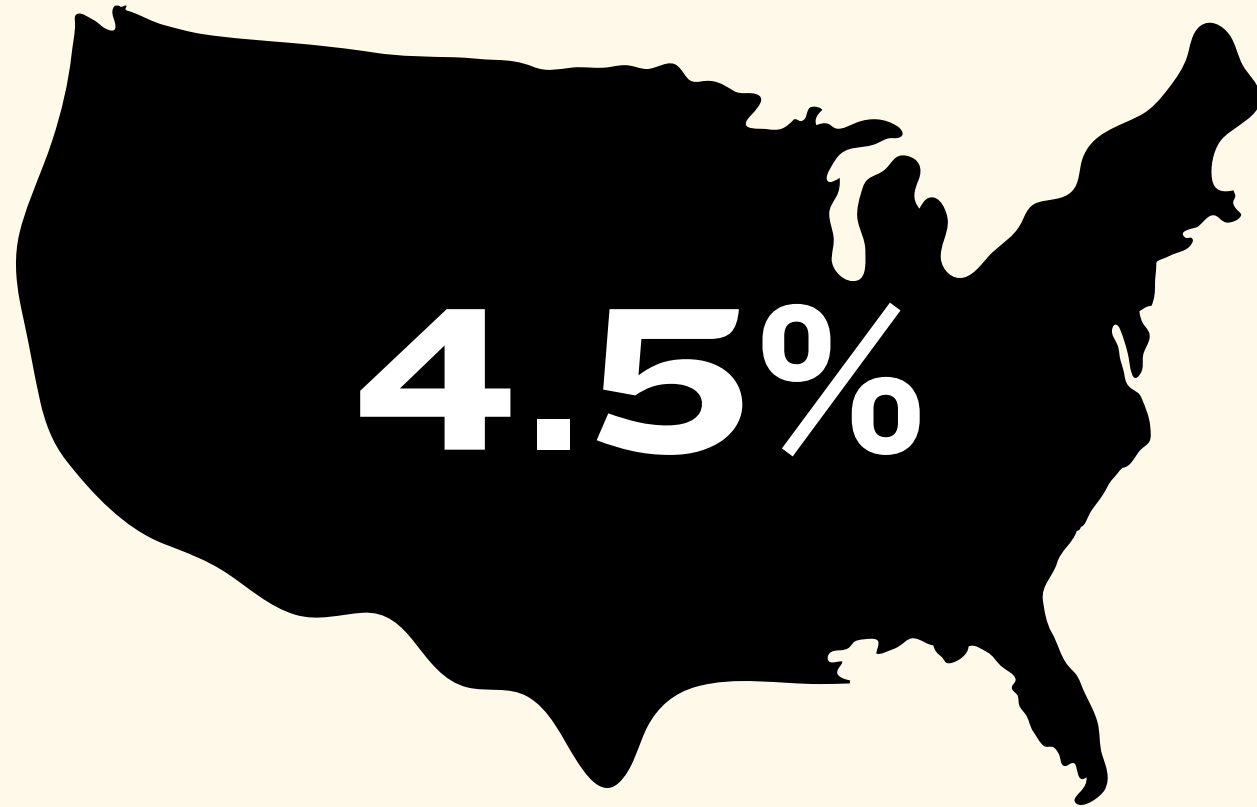
BUSINESS RETENTION VISITS REPORT

6-MONTH RECAP

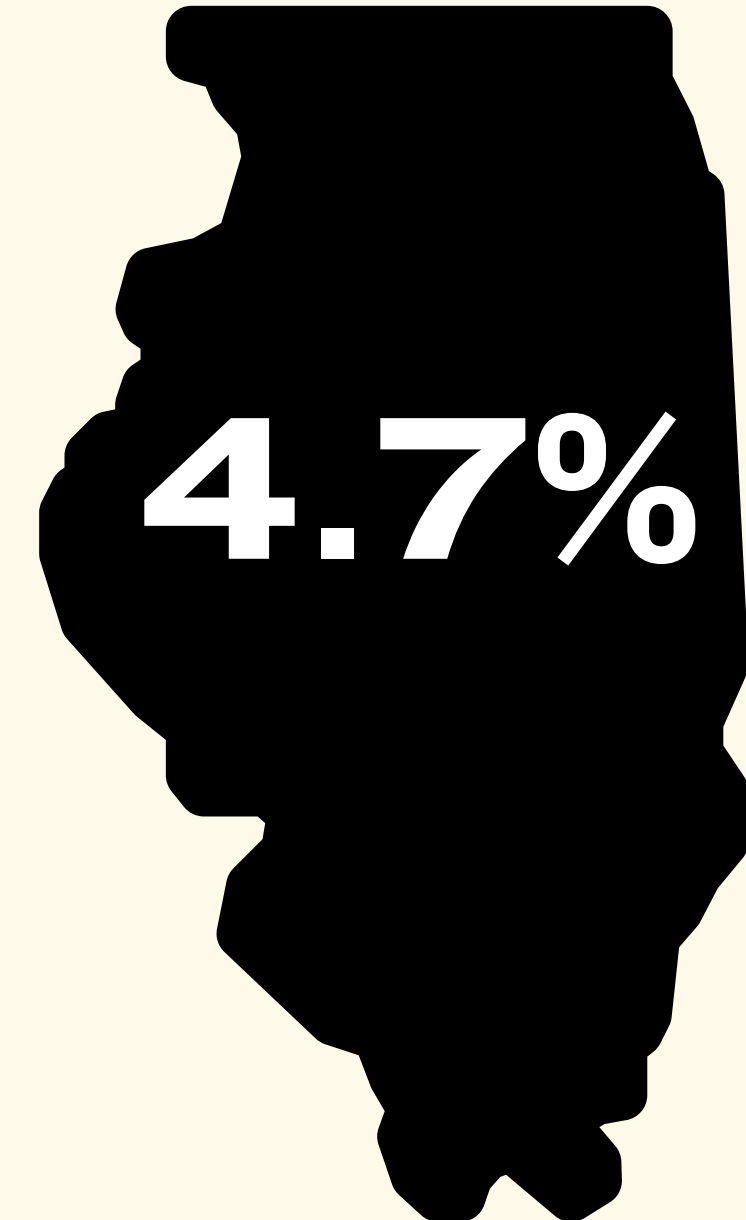
WARD	BUSINESSES SURVEYED	IMPACT
1	Urban Barbershop Co., The Majestic, Brookmont Bowling Center, Rubber Rose Books & Print	• Brookmont Bowling Center emphasized how not all businesses have access to incentive options
2	Knack Brewing & Fermentations, HB Equities LLC, Kankakee-Iroquois-Ford Association of Realtors, Gracie Pie Apothecary, Midwest Meteorites & Minerals LTD	• KIFAR offered website: realtorparty.realtor for potential grant opportunities • Midwest Meteorites appreciated the opportunity to talk about their unique business
3	Autumn The Acne Coach, Oliver's Bar & Grill	• Both businesses were able to complete survey via email • People and diversity were noted as City's greatest assets
4	Taco Bell # 24586, Greater Kankakee Airport - IKK, El Mexicano Restaurant, 2 Rivers Area Credit Union	• Taco Bell is looking forward to QuikTrip Development • Greater Kankakee Airport has plans to expand
5	Glade Plumbing & Heating Company, Duncan Homes Inc., M-Four Service, Hemenover Construction, Kankakee Valley Park District, Fastsigns Of Kankakee, 5 Star Wings & More, LLC, Riverside Community Credit Union	• Glade has a succession plan in place and recently presented at our September business workshop • M-Four wanted follow up on application status towards abandoned property program • K.V.P.D. recently became a Chamber Member
6	N/A	• Mostly residential housing was found • Small pocket of businesses will be part of future retention visits
7	K-Fashion City, Hoekstra Transportation LLC, High Point Residence Kankakee, Our Home Snacks, LaBeau Bros. Inc., J.R. Edwards Brushes & Rollers	• High Point Residence is accepting applications for new residents • Our Home Snacks is hiring • J.R. Edwards is purchasing new production equipment for their facility

| MARKETING & ATTRACTION |

- ICSC@Midwest Prep - 10/9 - Morgan MFG, Chicago
 - Scheduling meetings with target companies
 - Email blast sent
- 2026 Luncheon planning underway
- Lunch n' Learns
 - Upcoming Lunch n' Learns
 - October: Pitch Competition
- Working to organize site visits with 3 companies
 - 2 retail; 1 hospitality
- Website
 - Business page complete
 - Consistent review, edits, updates happening
- Working with Director King to create Zoning videos
 - "In The Zone" intro video editing in progress
- "I Am Kankakee" recruitment concepts and survey created - working on recruitment
 - Kevin Smith, KFD - May feature
 - Eric Lawrence, ASIP Local 150 - June
 - Vince Clark Jr. - August
 - Ximena Sanchez Ramirez - September
- Social media content in progress
- LinkedIn Company Page created - 108 followers (9/18)
 - City of Kankakee, Illinois (City Rising Logo)



6.9%



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

& KCCVB Board Chair
Alderman Dave Baron



CALENDAR YEAR 2024
TOURISM ECONOMICS



\$166.9 million

KANKAKEE COUNTY'S CONTRIBUTION TO STATE TRAVEL EXPENDITURES,
SLIGHTLY DIPPING FROM \$167.7M IN 2023

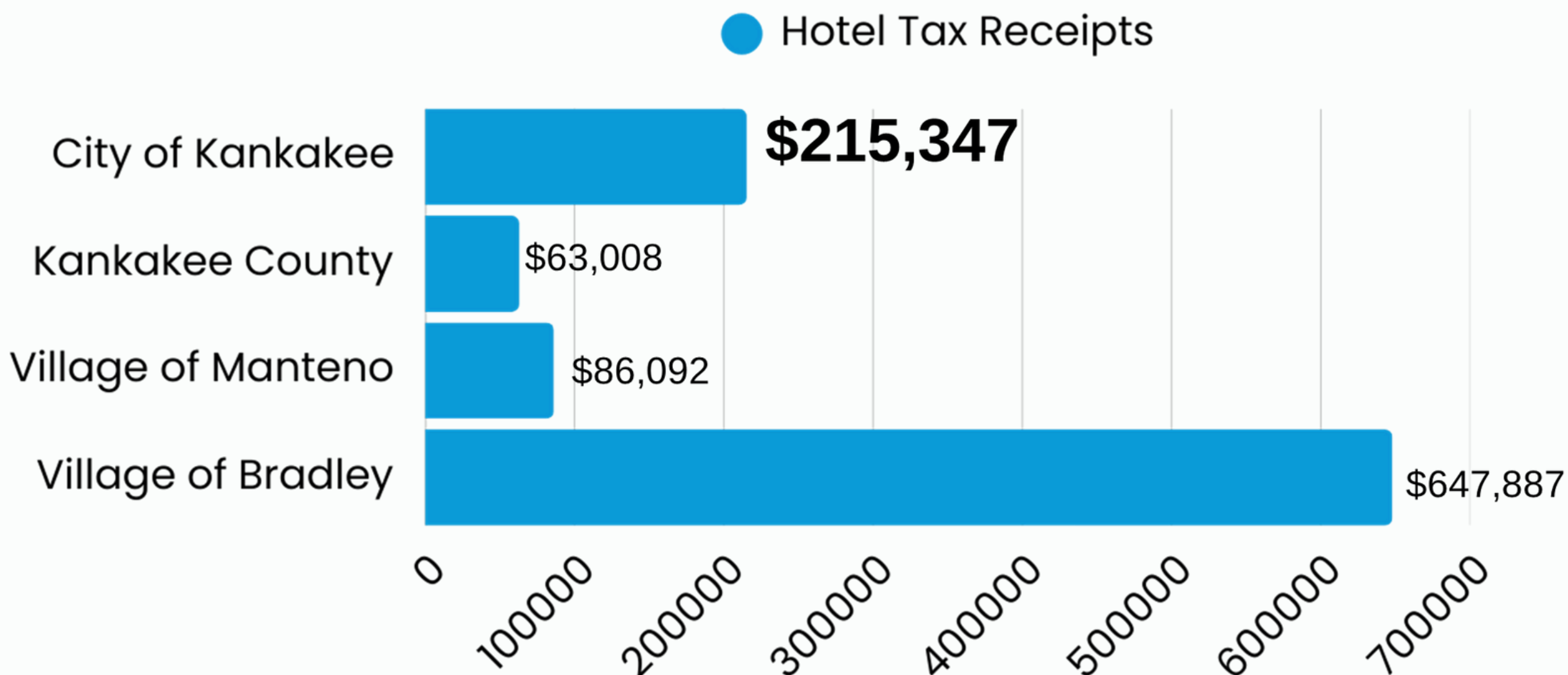
\$6.8million

IN LOCAL TAX REVENUE, UP FROM \$6.7M IN 2023.

1,247 jobs

DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO DOMESTIC TRAVEL SPENDING

EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN ILLINOIS *MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING* CAMPAIGN
GENERATES **\$75** IN VISITOR SPENDING FOR THE STATE.



- 1.Lodging Spend | 2024: **\$31.6M** | 2023: \$30.6M
- 2.Food & Beverage| 2024: **\$35.9M**| 2023: \$35.6M
- 3.Recreation| 2024: **\$12.9M** | 2023: \$12.7M
- 4.Retail | 2024: **\$11.8M** | 2023: \$11.8M
- 5.Transporation | 2024: **\$74.7M** | 2023:\$76.9M

2024 Spend by Industry



KANKAKEE RIVER VALLEY REGATTA

- 4,200 in attendance (30+ minutes)
- Average time at the event: 182 minutes
- 25% of visitors traveled greater than 50-miles
- Top 3 locations visited before the event:
 - Holiday Inn Express
 - McDonalds - East Court St.
 - Meijer
- Top locations visited after the event:
 - Walmart, Kankakee
 - Circle K, Aroma Park
 - Holiday Inn Express



FACEBOOK PAID ADS: (WILL BE IMPLEMENTING FOR PARTNER MUNICIPALITIES THIS FISCAL YEAR!)

Reach: 31,111

Link Clicks: 2,304

Engagements: 9,215!!!!

- Average cost/click: \$0.10 (*industry standard average is \$0.50-\$1.00*)
- Click thru rate: 4.4% - *nearly triple standard benchmarks*
- Broad engagement



Other Marketing Efforts:

- WGN 3-Week Radio Campaign
- WGN LIVE on-air interview & podcast
- Organic Social Media
- E-Newsletter features x 2
- Website & Blog Articles

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 3 Report
- **Angela Morrey Named Acting President/CEO**

2025 Q3 REPORT



Economic Alliance names
Morrey acting president/CEO



KANKAKEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Chamber Blitz - October 14, 15, 16
- 2026 Meeting Location Discussion
- State of Municipality Discussion

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 10/2: State of Municipality
- 10/3: Coffee & Connections
- 10/15: RC - Arc at Kankakee
- 10/21: RC - Riverside Physical Therapy
- 10/23: Women in Networking

| MEETINGS |
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

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



AMBASSADORS: DEVYN & LEO



SEPTEMBER 2025

- Website Transition
- Social Media Committee Initiative
- Business Owner Concerns
 - Potential Funding Allocation for Cameras & Lighting
- Sunset Stroll Debrief
- North Schuyler Avenue Mural Unveiling - October 2

| MEETINGS |
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
| MARKETING COMMITTEE |
1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

REPRESENTATIVES:
DEVYN & LEO



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

PROJECT UPDATES



Harbor Place

Units are occupied.

Indian Meadows

Construction on 1st 4 units is completed.

Veteran's Housing

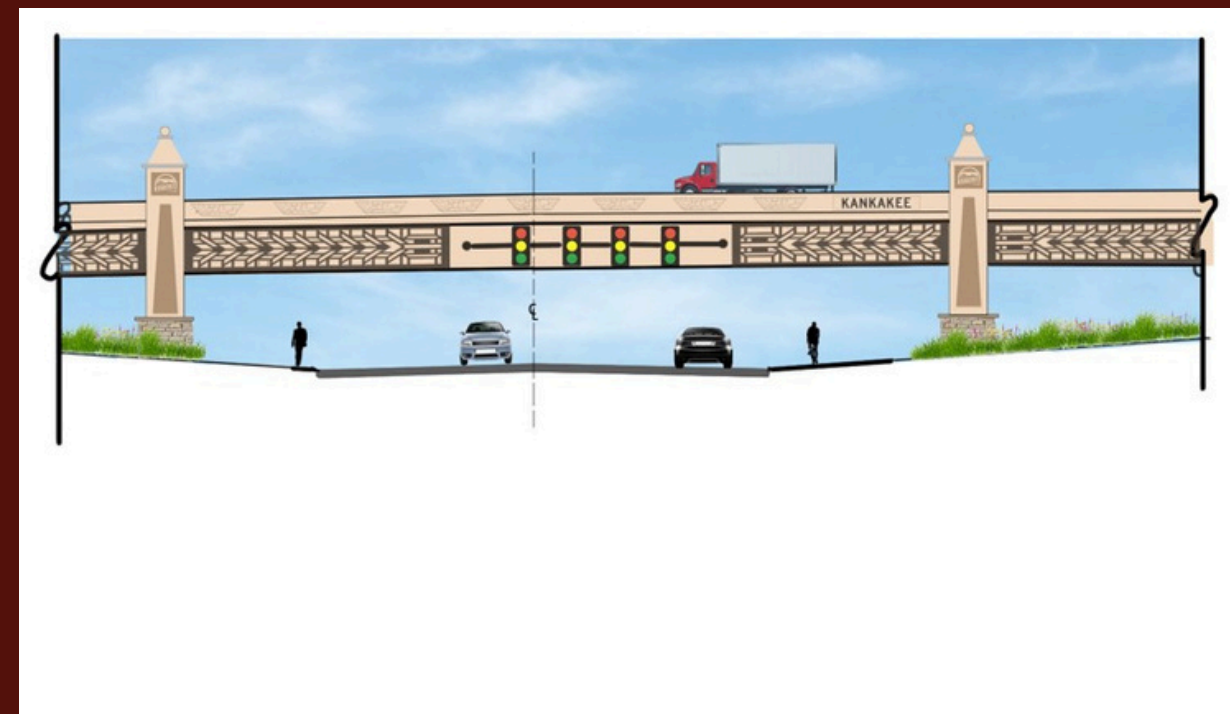
Applications are being accepted
via the Veterans Commission.

HOUSING

**VELOPMENT ZONERIVERSTONE DEVELOPMENT ZONERIVERSTONE DEVELOP
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HOTEL IS INTERESTED IN THIS AREA

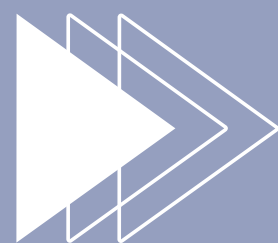
RIVERSTONE DEVELOPMENT ZONE





EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE

|EXIT 312|

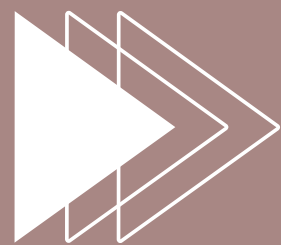


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| 1801 W. STATION ST |

PLANNING DEVELOPMENT STAGE



> COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE ON WEST STATION STREET

WEST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE





RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

|EAST RIVERWALK|

Construction has started

|WEST RIVERWALK|

PROPERTY ACQUISITION PHASE

|WEST AVE|

STREETSCAPE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING PHASE

505 S. SCHUYLER AVE

RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT ZONE
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CURRENTLY LISTED

The Shoppes at Meadowview Listing

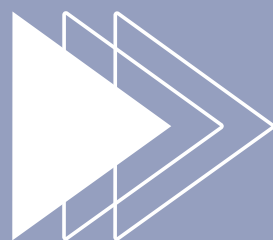
A long, covered walkway with a series of white columns supporting a white ceiling. The walkway is paved with light-colored concrete. To the right, there are large glass windows reflecting the sky and clouds. The walkway extends into the distance, leading towards a parking lot with several cars and a building in the background.



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ZONE

|PROJECT CATALYST|

Waiting on River Edge Redevelopment Zone Certification



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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**