

| 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

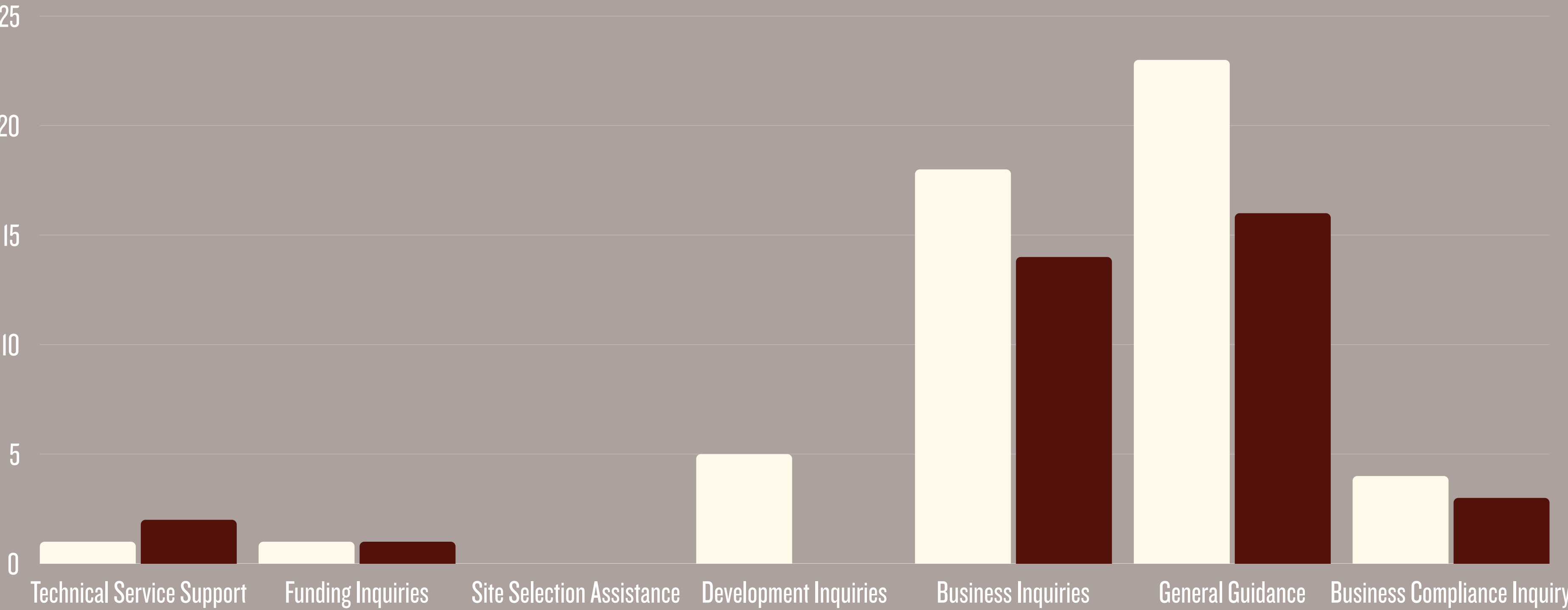
## 57 TOTAL TO DATE

\*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 |

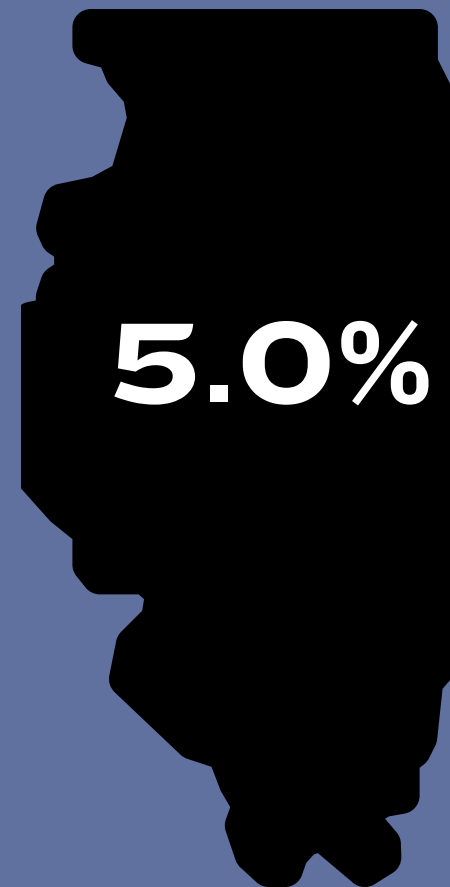
- 30+ contacts contacted for business attraction targets
- Luncheon planning underway
  - Seeking sponsors and keynote speaker(s),
  - Save the Dates & sponsor requests mailed
- Lunch n' Learns
  - Feb 4: Tax Workshop - 5 attendees
  - March 4: How to Start a Business - Alicia Kleinert, MCA - 13 attendees
  - 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



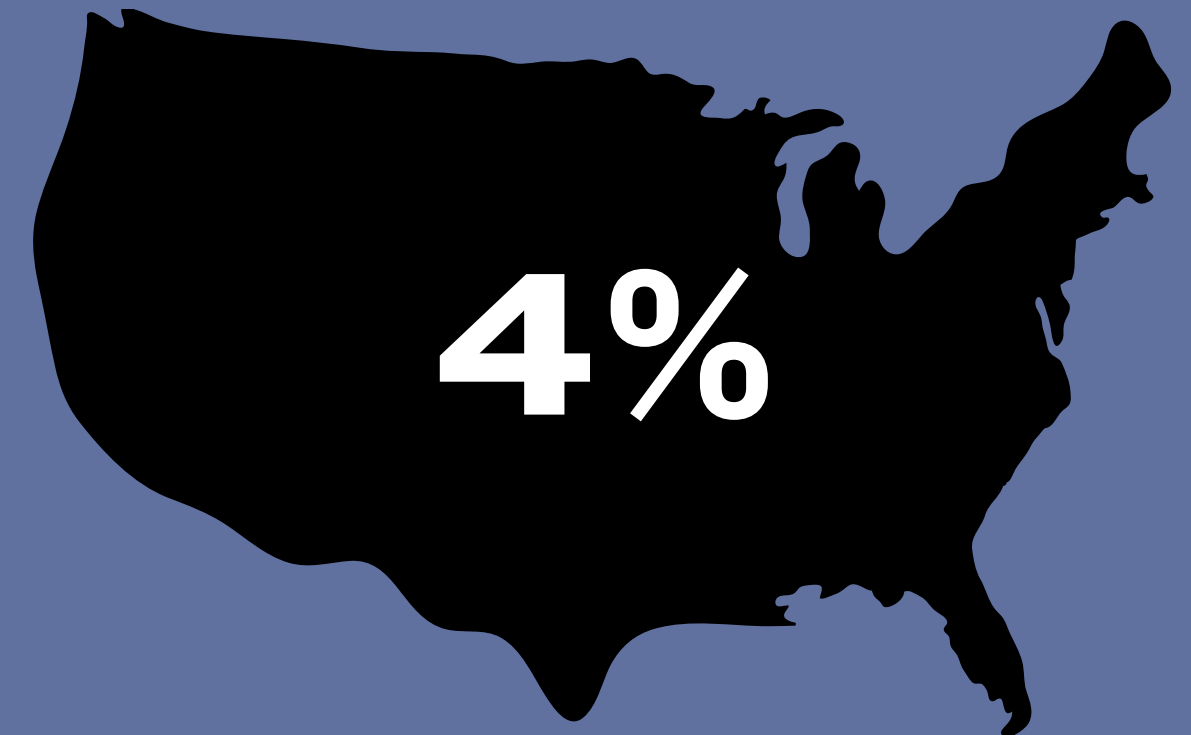
# UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

## 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

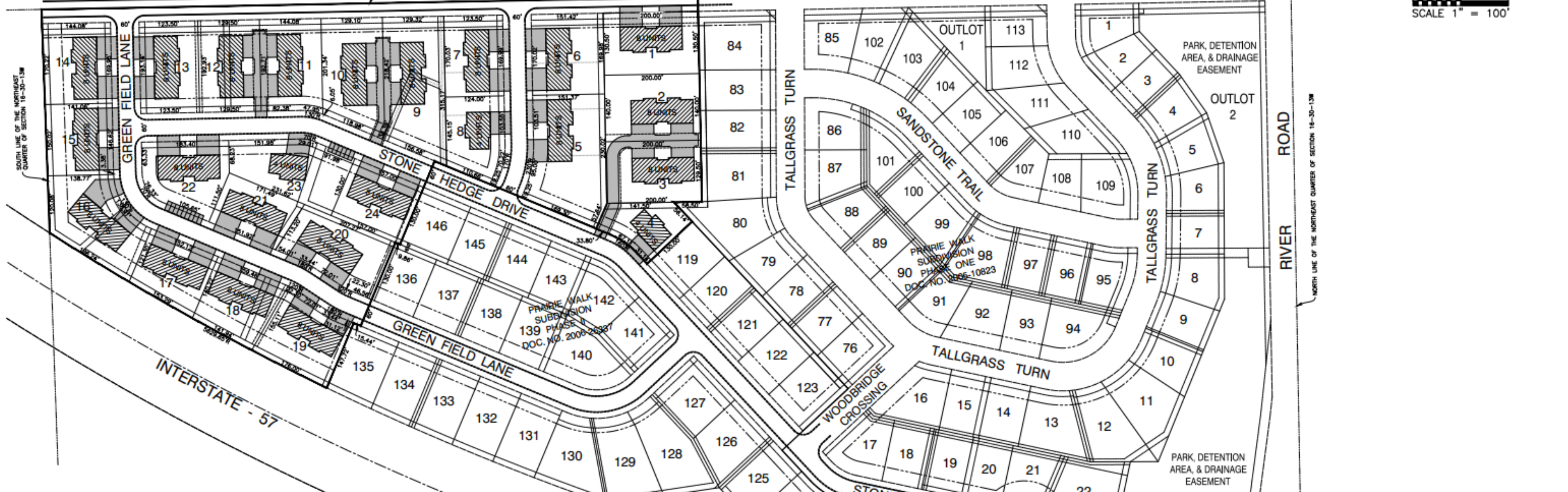




A black and white photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a hard hat and safety glasses, smiling. The hard hat has a logo that reads "CITY OF KANKAKEE EST. 1853". She is wearing a dark jacket and has her hands clasped in front of her. The background is a construction site with a large pile of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



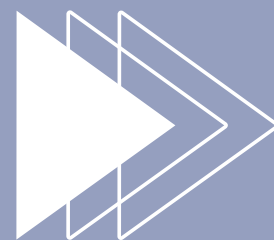






# EAST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE

# WORK IS ONGOING



## HOTEL IS INTERESTED IN THIS AREA

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| 1801 W. STATION ST |

# PLANNING DEVELOPMENT STAGE

**| 1292 W. STATION ST |**

# MCA Adult Day Care open: November 2024



## > COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE ON WEST STATION STREET

**WEST COURT ST. DEVELOPMENT ZONE**









# 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





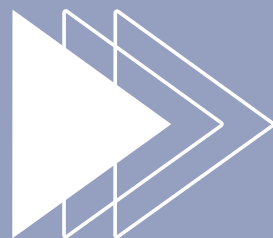


**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT ZONE**

# |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**