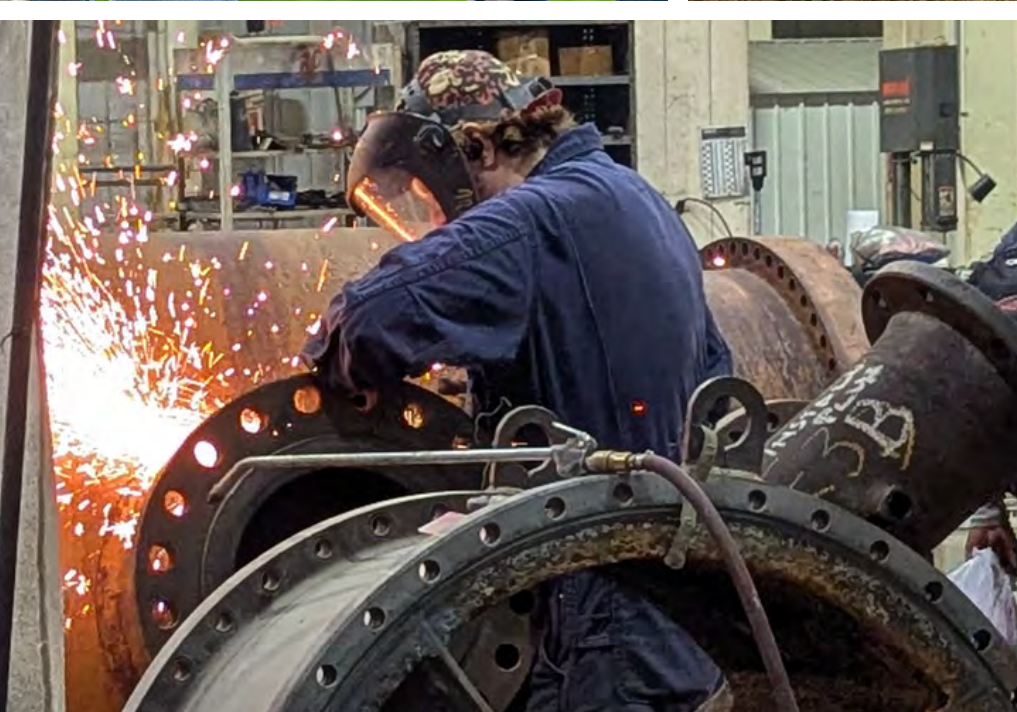




PROGRAM REPORT

September 10, 2026



 **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Bennett,
Chairman

Managing Partner
McColly Bennett
Real Estate

Theodis Pace,
Vice Chair

President
Kankakee County
NAACP

Matt Alexander-Hildebrand, Kankakee County Board

Bernie Anderson, Regional Manager, Community Affairs, Nicor Gas

Dr. Michael Boyd, President, Kankakee Community College

Dr. Gregg Chenoweth, President, Olivet Nazarene University

Rosemary Foster, Kankakee County Board

Jeff Hammes, President / CEO, Peoples Bank

David Johns, Partner, GJM Advisory

Phil Kambic, President / CEO, Riverside Healthcare

Ryan Marion, Kankakee County Board

John McCann, Economic & Business Development Manager, ComEd

Chad Miller, Kankakee County Board

Michael O'Brien, Market President, Midland States Bank

Melissa Tanner, Senior Communication Specialist, CSL Behring

Russell Tobey, Vice President, Kankakee Valley Construction Co.

Dr. Matt Vosberg, Superintendent, Bradley Bourbonnais Com. High School

Patrick Young, President, Kankakee Iroquois Building Trades





MISSION

The Economic Alliance of Kankakee County is a public-private partnership committed to fostering a thriving environment through economic growth initiatives.

The Alliance works collaboratively to improve the local business climate and advance development in key areas including business retention, expansion and attraction, workforce and community development, residential growth, and educational outcomes.



FOCUS AREAS

WORKFORCE



**RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

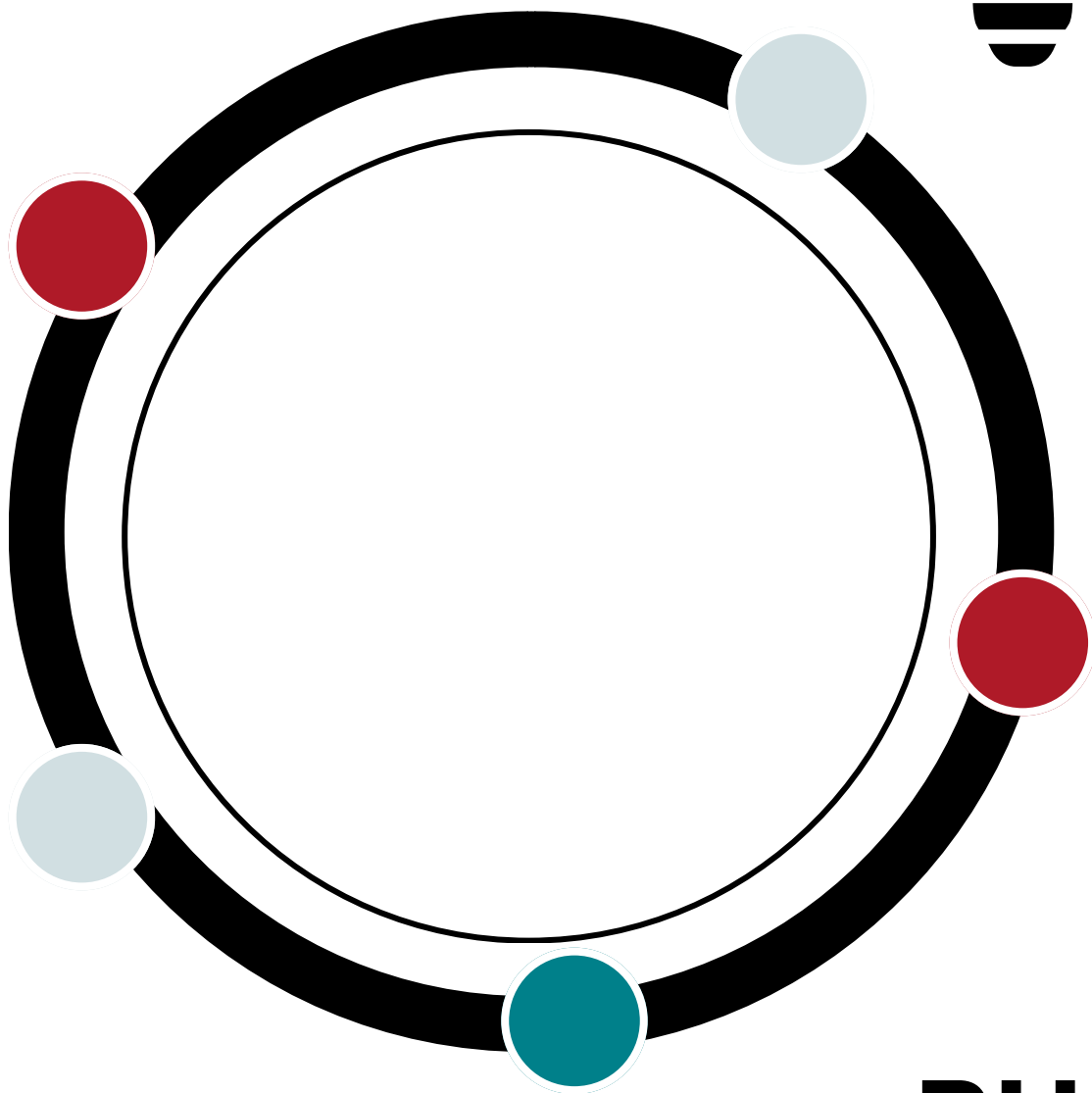
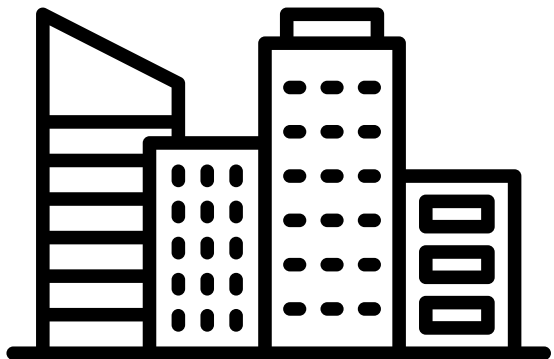


EDUCATION



**BUSINESS
RETENTION**

**BUSINESS
ATTRACTION**





BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



MIGHTY CAKE COMPANY

- Family-owned bakery manufacturer of premium croissants
- Former Johnsonville site, Momence
- 300 employees anticipated, possible opening December / January



QUICK TRIP GROUNDBREAKING KANKAKEE

- \$20M project in south Kankakee
- Anticipated 25 full-and part-time positions
- Set to open April 2027





Wholesale distributor and factory finisher of cedar products, exterior siding, and trim products

- 80 employees, ESOP option
- Produce 10M feet of product a year
- Founded in 1897 in Chicago, relocated to Momence in 1941





Roasting facility, Bradley

- 26,000 lbs. of coffee beans roasted per year
- Source beans from Africa, Asia, Central and South America
- Coffee shop, wholesale (Chicago Cubs, grocery chains, hotels, coffee shops), and 550+ subscription customers



CAFFEINE ANYONE?

- Dutch Bros.
- Scooter's
- Seven Brew





**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**
JB Pritzker, Governor

IL DCEO ROADSHOW, KCC

State programs, resources, opportunities





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State programs, resources, opportunities

ADVANCING INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURING (AIM)

\$10M+ capital improvements over 5 years

Modernizing, automating or upgrading production equipment

Up to 7% income tax credit on qualifying projects





ILLINOIS EDC

REGIONAL RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAM - R2P2

Expand access to data and market information

Develop targeted strategies focused on long-term economic growth

Kankakee County 1 of 8 in the R2P2 Pilot



A male mechanic with dark hair, wearing safety glasses and a blue Champion hoodie, is focused on working on the engine of a car with its hood open. He is holding a black cable. In the foreground, a car battery with red and black cables is visible. The background shows a busy workshop with other vehicles and a person working in the distance.

EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE



UNEMPLOYMENT KANKAKEE COUNTY

4.1%

Kankakee County unemployment
July 2026

4.6%

Illinois unemployment
July 2026

4.4%

U.S. unemployment
July 2026

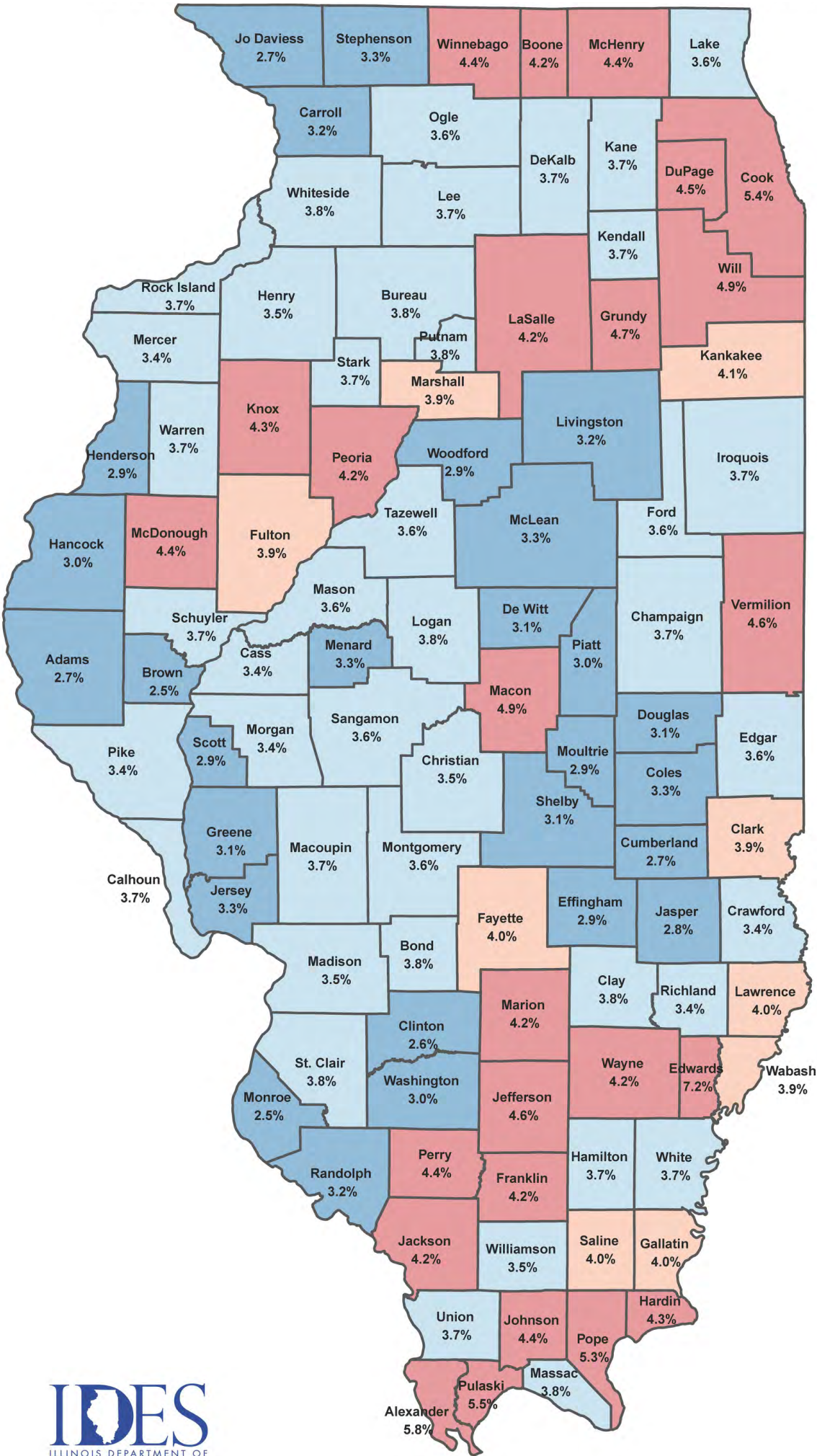


UNEMPLOYMENT KANKAKEE COUNTY

Unemployment Rates

	Seasonally Adjusted	Not Seasonally Adjusted
Illinois	4.9	4.6
United States	4.1	4.4

Unemployment Rate



UNEMPLOYMENT KANKAKEE COUNTY



LABOR FORCE KANKAKEE COUNTY



A wide-angle photograph of a film set on a city street. In the background is a two-story brick building with a storefront that reads "DRUGS JENSEN". A vintage dark blue pickup truck is parked in front of the building. Two large camera cranes with multiple lights are positioned on either side of the building. In the foreground, there are various production elements like equipment cases, a person in a dark jacket, and a traffic cone. A large red arrow-shaped graphic points from the right towards the center of the image, containing the text "COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT".

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT





RIVERSIDE INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

\$30M renovation to support comfort,
dignity, recovery

Youth, Adult, and Geriatric services

FORMER CIGNA SITE BOURBONNAIS

Making way for new development



BBCHS GROUNDBREAKING

- \$74.5M project
 - Main building renovations
 - Remodeled academic spaces
 - Main circulation corridor
 - Field house addition
- Completion: August 2028



PEMBROKE SAVANNA NATURE PRESERVE

Receiving ComEd and Openlands Green Region Grant

- One of 21 communities across Northern Illinois
- Installing interpretive signage at Okan Savanna
 - Encourage environmental education
 - Community engagement
 - Long-term stewardship



KANKAKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Purchase of First Presbyterian Church, Kankakee

- Rental spaces
- New research center
- Non-profit and community organization space sharing
- Historical Society storage





**QUALITY
OF LIFE**



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

CAMP SHAW-WAW-NAS-SEE

Founded in 1946

501(c3) private youth camp

100 acres, 550 campers each summer

3 FT, 40 seasonal employees



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KANKAKEE AREA YMCA

Newly renovated Welcome Center



COST OF LIVING

KANKAKEE COUNTY

Q1 2026

88.4%

HOUSING	69.6%
GROCERY	97.7%
TRANSPORTATION	89.0%
HEALTH CARE	98.8%
UTILITIES	93.2%
MISC. GOODS & SERVICES	98.0%

COLI is a comparative benchmark of after-tax consumer costs contributing to a professional/managerial standard of living



THE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH



GROWTH IN INDUSTRY



UTILITIES



4M customers in northern Illinois, 11,400+ sq. miles

119 years in operation

\$5B+ grid investment since 2012



electric reliability in the U.S.



UTILITIES



2.3M customers

160+ years serving Illinois

\$6M in donations

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE, PEMBROKE TOWNSHIP

136 residents connected

9 businesses connected



UTILITIES



2.3M customers

160+ years serving Illinois

\$6M in donations

PEMBROKE TOWNSHIP

136 residents connected

9 businesses connected



UTILITIES



283k customers, 14 counties

100 employees

32 water systems

19 wastewater systems

\$54M capital investment in 2025



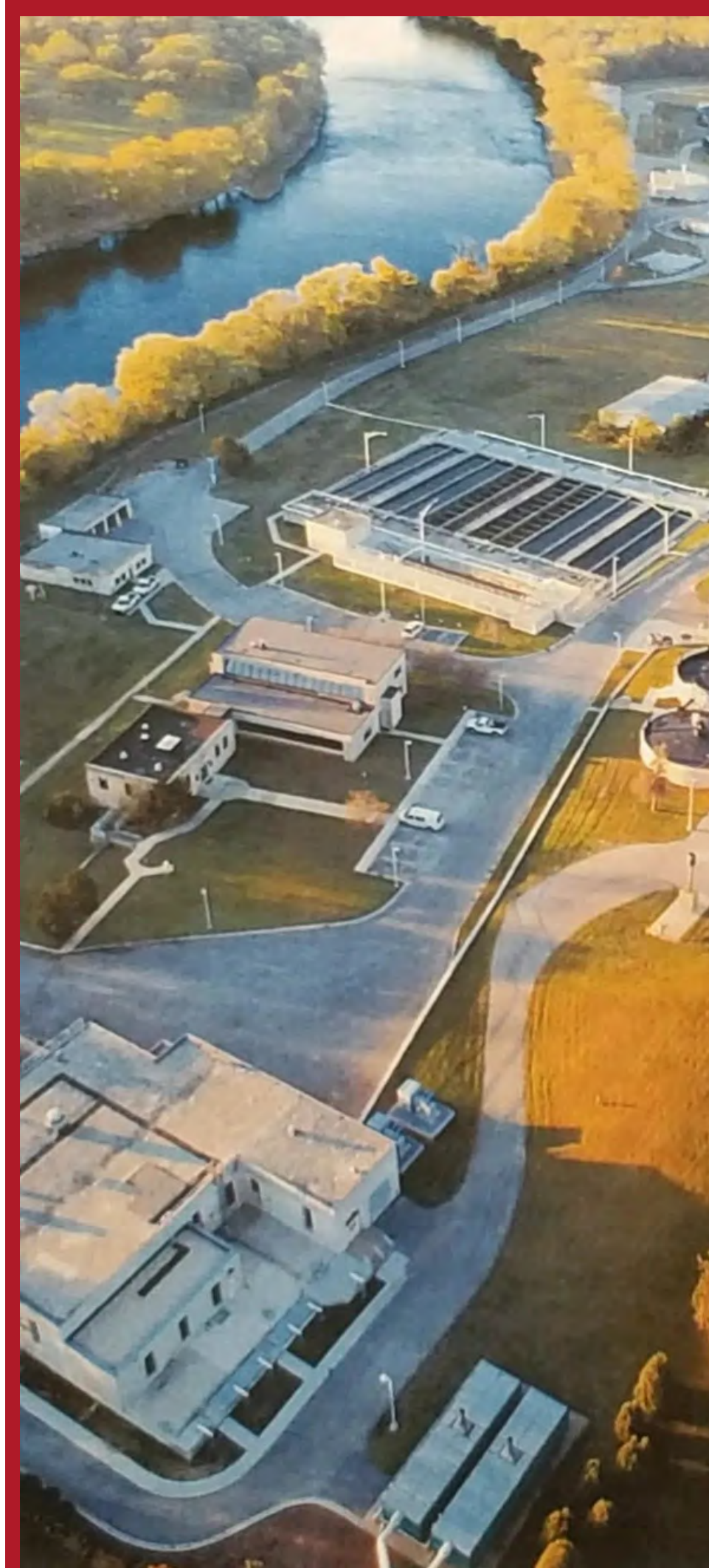
UTILITIES



65k customers

700 commercial users

89 acres of land along the Kankakee River

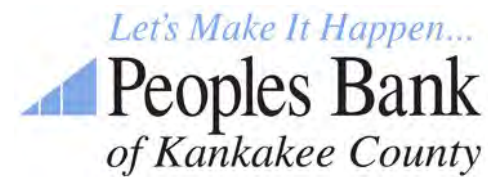




MARKETING & OUTREACH



2026 INVESTORS



Kankakee & Iroquois County
Building and Construction
Trades Council



CONGRATULATIONS

PHIL KAMBIC

- Selected for Becker's Hospital Review "207 Community Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know"
- Kambic joined Riverside Healthcare in 1985, CEO since 2006



CONGRATULATIONS

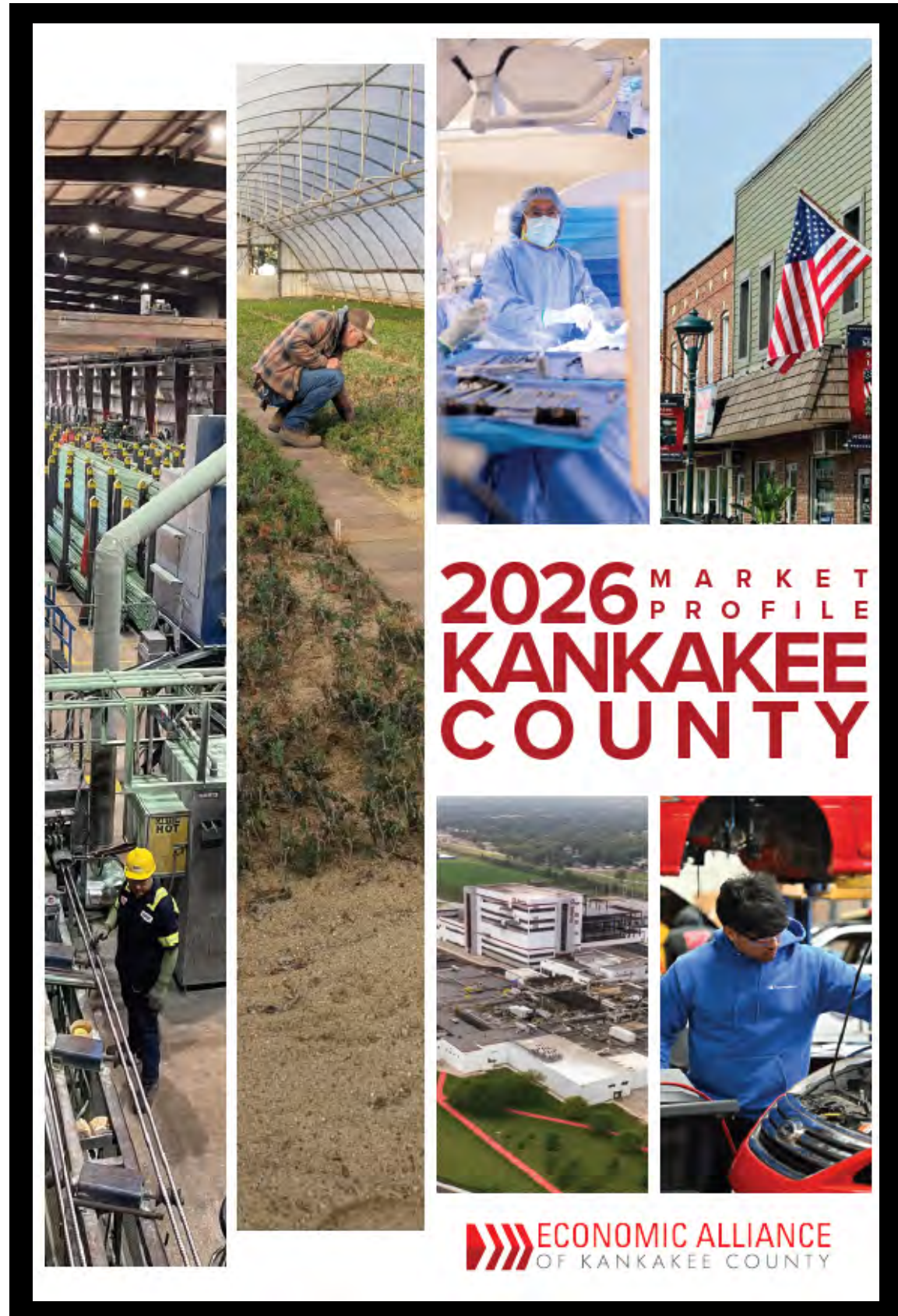


- ComEd receives top honors from Site Selection Magazine for reliability, infrastructure, and economic investment



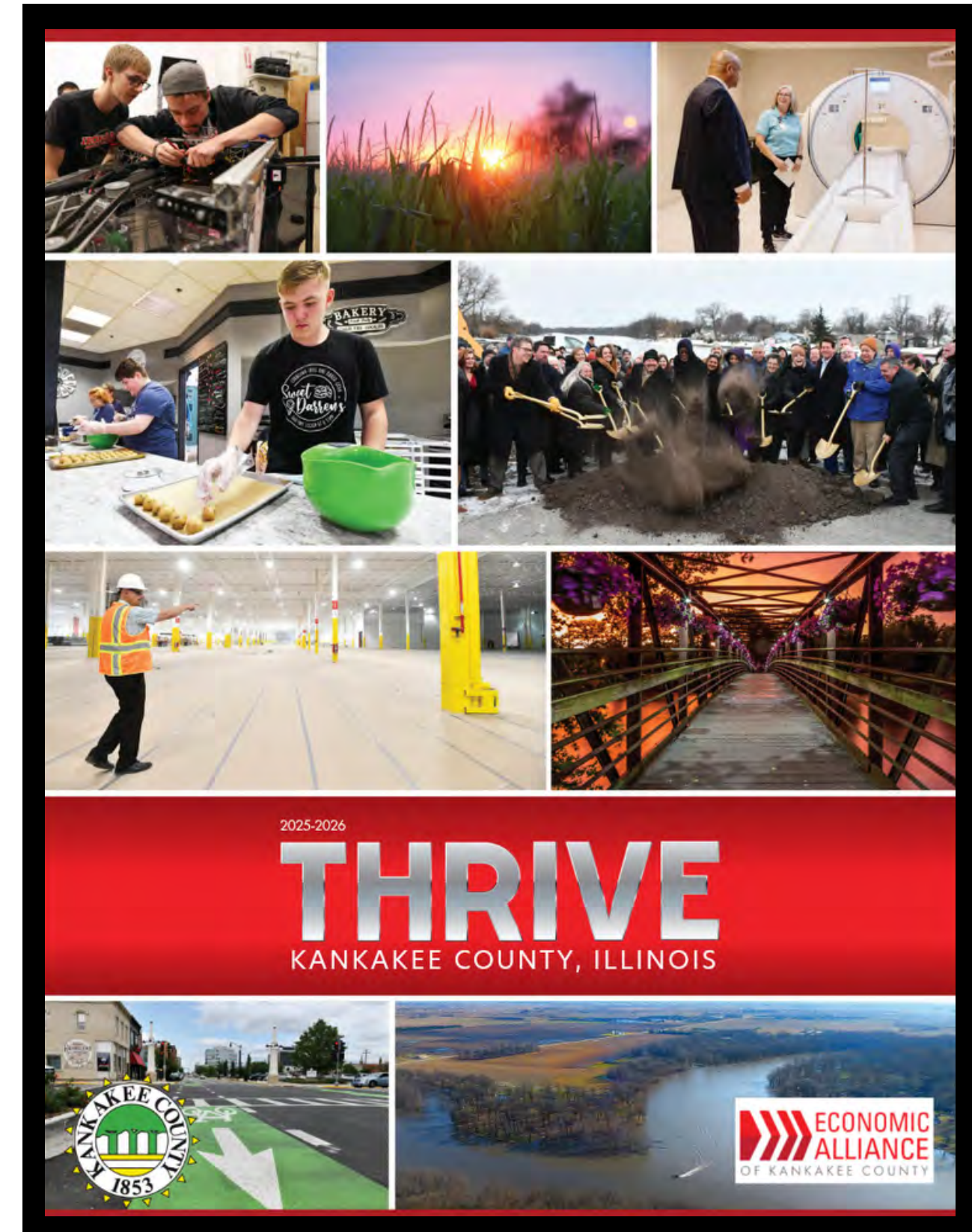
2026 MARKET PROFILE

Contact Hannah Swale
hswale@kankakeecountyed.org



2026 THRIVE MAGAZINE

Contact Hannah Swale
hswale@kankakeecountyed.org



BOARD & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 79th District Economic Opportunity & Advisory Council, IL Representative Jackie Haas
- Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley
- Great Lakes Economic Development Council
- Illinois Industrial Biotechnology Coalition
- International Economic Development Council
- Kankakee Area Career Center Executive Advisory Committee
- Kankakee County Geographic Information System (GIS) Committee
- Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission
- Kankakee Development Corporation
- Kankakee Co.LAB Advisory Committee
- KCC Business/Office Professional Advisory Committee
- KCC Manufacturing Technology Advisory Committee
- KCC Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity President's Council
- Kankakee County CEO
- Kankakee Riverfront Society
- Landmarks Illinois
- Pembroke Township & Village of Hopkins Park Utility Infrastructure Initiative
- United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
- U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly's Economic Development Task Force
- Will Kankakee Regional Development Authority



UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 12, 2026

February 11, 2027

April 8, 2027

June 10, 2027

7:30–9:00 a.m.

Location TBD



Previous board reports available at kankakeecountyed.org

CONTACT US



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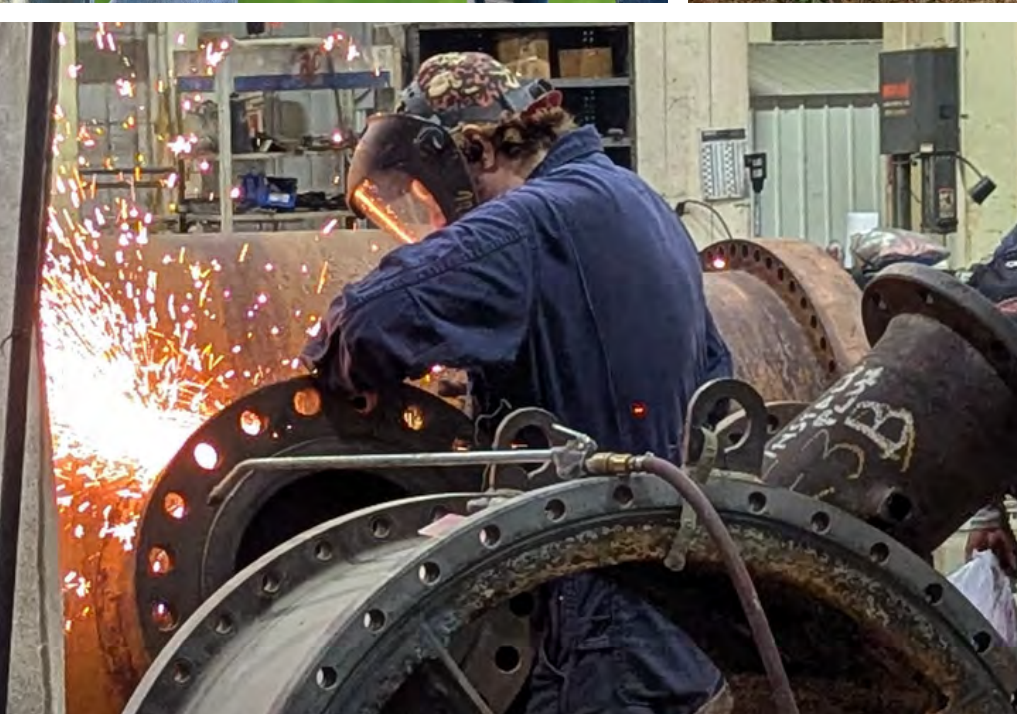
815-935-1177

kankakeecountyed.org





THANK YOU



 **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY