



2021



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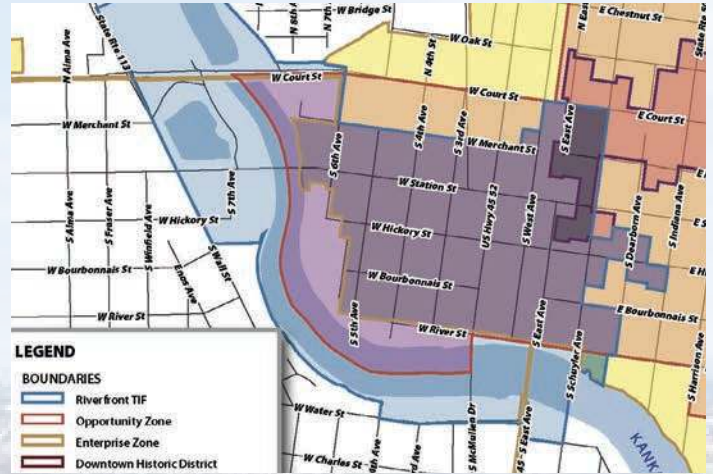
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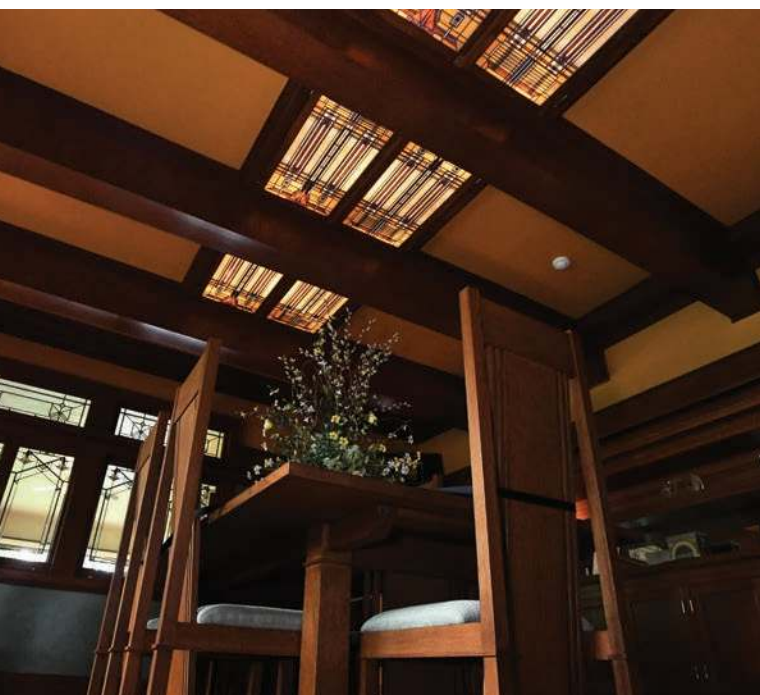


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The Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce Membership Directory/Community Profile was produced by the Chamber on behalf of the more than 400 members of the Chamber who support the business community in the Kankakee County area.

The directory was designed and printed by the Daily Journal. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication as of March 1, 2021.

There is no guarantee, either stated or implied, for the accuracy of the information provided. All information is dependent on that supplied by companies listed herein.

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About the Chamber

The Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce welcomes you to Kankakee County, Illinois! Within these pages you'll encounter the vibrant, unique community we are. You'll discover a small town community feel among our residents and yet a sophisticated, global approach to art, education, health care and business. This guide is also a source of the best our business community has to offer – our chamber members. Use it to find the products and services you need at home and in your business

The Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit incorporated group which unites businesses and professional individuals and firms, thus creating a central agency which lends itself to improving business and building a better community.

The Chamber enables its members to accomplish collectively what no one of them could do individually. The strength of the Chamber lies in attracting the greatest number of individuals and businesses into its membership, thereby creating a pool of resources from which to draw ideas, energy, and finances.

The Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce is proud to be a unified Chamber of Commerce serving the Kankakee County region.

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The Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce supports its members and shall enhance Kankakee County's business community through networking, advocacy, and educational opportunities.

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Networking Matters



WOMEN IN NETWORKING was developed and created to provide networking opportunities to all women. WIN's mission is to empower professional and personal relationships for women through specific programming and service opportunities.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK is a group whose goal is to grow and equip young professionals to lead the community. Focus areas are business and social networking, professional and leadership development, and community and civic involvement. The group meets monthly for networking evening events.



KANKAKEE COUNTY RESTAURANT COUNCIL
The Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce along with the Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau recognizes the challenges of the food and beverage industry. The Restaurant Council was formed to meet the needs, interests, and demands of this unique sector. The Council meets quarterly, helps to plan TasteFest, and provides a voice for our region's culinary artists.



KANKAKEE COUNTY AMBASSADORS
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Kankakee County Character



Main Street Manteno

Kankakee County, located a short distance south of Chicago and also near places that feature a decidedly more rural feel than the big city, has long been considered an ideal place to live as it can offer the best of both worlds.

The approximately 110,000 county residents live in a variety of cities and villages that have developed their own unique character while still establishing a spirit of cooperation that improves the quality of life for all.

The county seat is the City of Kankakee itself, which was created through the railroad boom of the mid 19th century and established in 1853. These days, Kankakee is a truly diverse town blending traditional roots with modern age progress. Its revitalized downtown best symbolizes this mixture, and it is now an attractive spot to conduct business, visit a farmer's market or musical performance, or enjoy a meal and night out with friends and family.

Bradley is Kankakee's immediate neighbor to the north. Once known as a manufacturing center, Bradley is now considered the retail hub of the county as it has a wide array of stores, shops and restaurants located along Illinois Route 50 and other locations, including Broadway Street. Broadway, located in the heart of the village, has maintained its historic look while also blending in modern features which allows it to thrive.

Bourbonnais is Bradley's neighbor to the north, and it is a village that has been in growth mode for decades with a promise the best is yet to come. Bourbonnais Parkway, the business and industrial park unveiled just a few years ago at the new Interstate 57 interchange, is literally growing up before our eyes as places open and ground is broken to construct other new developments. Meanwhile, the village is moving ahead with plans to develop a community campus to host recreation and community events, and to create a second business district at North Convent Street to join the current one that includes Bourbonnais Parkway.

On the northern edge of the county is another town noted for its recent growth, Manteno. A significant increase in population over the last few decades has brought quality housing to the west side of Interstate 57 as well as the east side. In the center is a downtown area where residents gather at virtually all times of the year for community events suitable for the young and old alike. The portion of Route 50 that runs through Manteno is also home to a variety of businesses.

While the aforementioned towns are the county's most populous, there are other communities its residents take pride in. To the east of Kankakee

are Aroma Park, St. Anne, Sun River Terrace, Hopkins Park, Momence and Grant Park. Momence boasts of a historic downtown which has drawn Hollywood film crews because of its classical look.

To the west there are Limestone, Irwin, Bonfield, Goodrich, Union Hill, Buckingham and Herscher. Farming is as predominant in this part of the county as any, which is significant as about 70 percent of the county's land is devoted to agriculture.

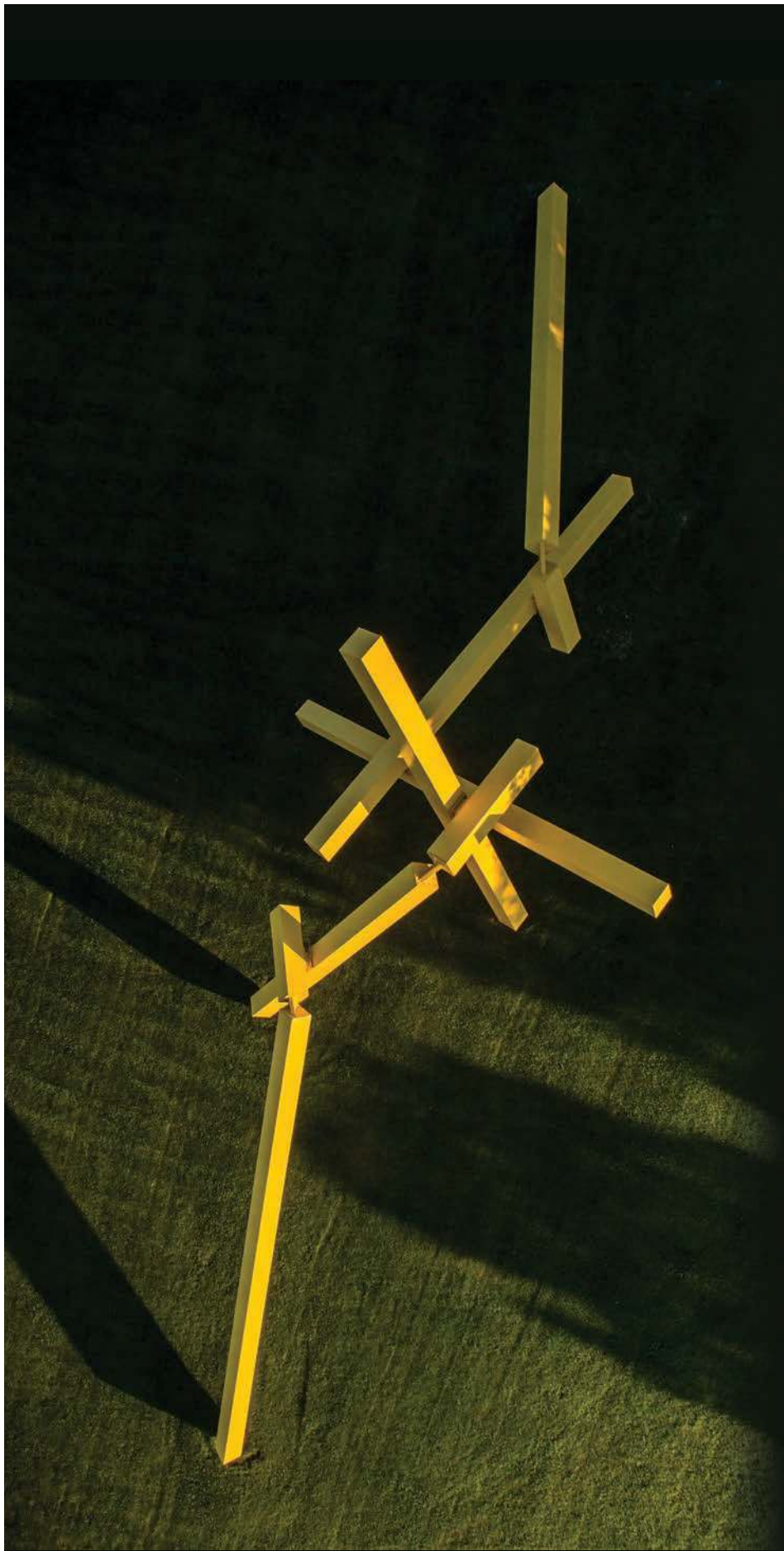
From one end of the county to the other, there is fun to be had. The summer festival season is robust. Bradley has traditionally scheduled its Firefighters Fish Fry in early June, and Broadway Street is filled with visitors from far and wide during that period. Later in the month has come the Bourbonnais Friendship Festival, a five-day festival which normally draws more than 100,000 visitors during its run.

Kankakee's annual Merchant Street MusicFest has brought sweet sounds and plenty of people to the downtown area in the latter days of July, and in early August, both the Kankakee County Fair and time-honored Momence Gladiolus Festival have been held. Another many decades-old event, the Herscher Labor Day Celebration, has been an early September highlight, and the Manteno Oktoberfest, held at the end of September, has become something of a modern classic. Grant Park and St. Anne have also hosted fall celebrations.

Whether it be spring, summer, fall or even winter, outdoor recreation is one of the county's greatest attractions. The Kankakee River State Park welcomes scores of visitors who go there to hike, bike, fish, camp, picnic or just enjoy some of the breathtaking natural scenery found there. The river also runs through parts of Bourbonnais Township Park District and Kankakee Valley Park District properties, and prime recreational opportunities are available there too.

People returning to Kankakee County or visiting for the first time often enter via Interstate 57. At its northern and southern points within the county, a sign informs people they are traveling along the "French-Canadian Heritage Corridor," as the influence of French-Canadian settlers is vast here and still recognized through local museums and historical groups.

Whether or not you are of French-Canadian descent, and regardless if you have lived here for a long time or just moved in, you will find Kankakee County a fine place to call home. It bursts with community pride, a can-do attitude, and an emphasis on honoring its past while also building an exciting future. ♦



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Arts and Culture



Mural, Downtown Kankakee

Arts and culture count for something significant in Kankakee County. Within the county borders exist a symphony, a planetarium, multiple theater groups, several museums, historic churches, homes and sites, and cultural events of all types.

One of the most nationally recognized places on the county map is the B. Harley Bradley House located in Kankakee's historic Riverview neighborhood. Built by famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright at the turn of the 20th century, the home is one of the earliest examples of the distinctive Prairie School style. The home is now on the National Register of Historic Places and has welcomed guests for private and public events.

The Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra formed in the mid 1960s and has entertained audiences with classical musical performances for nearly 50 years. Many of its performances are now held at the state of the art Hawkins Centennial Chapel on the campus of Olivet Nazarene University, where a top-notch venue allows the symphony to offer first-rate performances to its loyal following. The KVSO also sponsors a youth symphony.

The Kankakee Valley Theater Association has also existed since the 1960s, giving local thespians a chance to show their skills in some of the world's most recognizable productions. The KVTA offers opportunities to youth actors as well. Acting Out Theatre Co., based in Bradley, debuted in 2010 and has been known for putting together elaborate outdoor productions.

The Kankakee County Museum is located at Small Memorial Park on the city's southwest side, its permanent home since 1948. It is full of historical artifacts and displays, and its inventory is comparable to museums located in much larger towns. The French Heritage Museum, affiliated with the county museum and located in downtown Kankakee, celebrates the rich French-Canadian heritage the area is known for. The George R. Letourneau Home Museum, located in Bourbonnais, also recognizes the French-Canadian influence.

The Exploration Station...a children's museum, is operated by the Bourbonnais Township Park District and located at Perry Farm Park. It is devoted to children and allows for hands-on exploration. The Bourbonnais Township Park District also operates a hands-on discovery museum at the Willowhaven Park & Nature Center. The Kankakee Railroad Museum, located in the city's downtown, celebrates the industry that put the town on the map.

Olivet Nazarene University hosts Strickler Planetarium, a place where the stars and constellations can be seen and occasional public events are held.

Kankakee County is home to nine churches built in the latter half of the 19th century which still stand today. They include Asbury United Methodist, First Presbyterian, St. Patrick's Catholic, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Paul's Lutheran, and Wildwood Church of the Nazarene (formerly First Baptist) in Kankakee; Maternity B.V.M. in Bourbonnais; and First Presbyterian and St. Anne's Catholic in St. Anne.

The Community Arts Council of Kankakee County has long cultivated and promoted local artists, and it has an Art Center established at Northfield Square mall in Bradley. Art galleries include the Gretchen Charlton Art Gallery, the Merchant Street Art Gallery of Artists with Autism, the Yellow Elephant Gallery, all in Kankakee.

Further art and cultural activity can be found in the county's institutions of learning, including Olivet Nazarene University and Kankakee Community College, as well as the local high schools which feature marching bands and other musical pursuits, as well as school plays and other types of performances.

Those seeking to fulfill their artistic and cultural interests might be tempted to visit Chicago to suit that purpose. But know this: It can be found in Kankakee County in both great quantity and quality. ♦

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Educational Resources



Olivet Nazarene University/Tiffany Blanchette

A quality education can open many doors, and this golden opportunity can be found by entering Kankakee County schools from the high school level and beyond.

Olivet Nazarene University, which has an idyllic 275-acre main campus in Bourbonnais, is the county's only four-year college. Olivet offers 140 areas of undergraduate and postgraduate studies to some 5,000 students. Those students attend a school that has extended a string of success by once again being recognized among the best colleges by U.S. News and World Report for 2021. It is the 16th straight year Olivet has been recognized among the nation's best by the publication.

Those who attend local schools are often educated by teachers trained at Olivet, and the same applies for those who seek health care locally, as Olivet graduates hold many jobs in these fields. Now its burgeoning engineering program is providing plenty of graduates in that field.

Kankakee Community College has capably served the area for more than 50 years, offering two-year associate degrees, associate in applied science degrees and certificates of completion. Through these programs, KCC fills jobs of many types in and outside the county by providing strong education and training to its students.

Some of the graduates are new to the workforce, but many are returning after being retrained for another field of employment through KCC's Office of Corporate and Continuing Education, and its Office of Adult and Community Education. Both offer custom recruitment and training programs to fit the specific needs of area businesses.

Others take their associate degree and enroll at a four-year school, in some cases Olivet, to pursue a bachelor's degree and perhaps a post-graduate degree.

The Kankakee Area Career Center is a hub of vocational training. Located in Bourbonnais, students from high schools throughout the region go there to explore career paths in a variety of fields from automotive technology to welding, and receive the necessary training to either gain more enhanced training beyond high school or immediately enter the job market.

The Grundy Kankakee Livingston Workforce Board is another key training resource. It is part of a national network of organizations involved in workforce preparation and employment, and invests in local workforce training and services to allow businesses and its employs to compete in a changing, global economy.

Of course, students often begin shaping their career plans in high school, and Kankakee County has several fine public and private high schools within its boundaries. Public high schools include Bradley-Bourbonnais, Grant Park, Herscher, Kankakee, Manteno, Momence and St. Anne. Private high schools include Bishop McNamara Catholic, Grace Christian and Trinity Academy, all in Kankakee.

A good education can mean the world to someone, and you don't have to travel the world over to earn one. The resources are right here in Kankakee County. ♦



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KANKAKEE

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Health Care, Area Hospitals



AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital

Nothing is more precious to humankind than good health, and the path toward the type of overall fitness necessary to lead a long, full life runs firmly through Kankakee County.

The county is home to two full-service hospitals, Riverside Medical Center and AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital. Other healthcare providers complement the work of the hospitals in great number.

Riverside was first created in 1964, when its main campus hospital in Kankakee was built along the banks of the Kankakee River. The hospital has grown to extend to both sides of Wall Street, and now has 300-plus beds. Within its walls is a full array of inpatient and outpatient care, including nationally-leading programs in heart care, cancer care, neurosurgery and orthopedics. Riverside now has campuses not only in Kankakee, but also in Bourbonnais, Coal City, Frankfort and Watseka.

Whether you are new to the area, want to explore the possibility of changing doctors or seek a physician dedicated to a specific type of care, you can find what you are searching for at Riverside. To gain further information on such providers, visit riversidehealthcare.org and click on the "providers" tab at the top of the page.

AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital was first established in Kankakee in 1897, and has stood the test of time in the succeeding years. The hospital joined AMITA Health, the world's largest Catholic-based health system, in 2018.. The 182-bed acute care facility provides award-winning services for both primary and specialty care, including a nationally recognized peritoneal dialysis unit - one of only 91 in the country.

Finding a doctor to serve your needs through the AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital system is rather easy. To do so, visit amitahealth.org and click on the "find a doctor" tab at the top of the page.

OAK Orthopedics has served the area in years, and is on the cusp of growth as a two-story, 43,700-square-foot medical campus is currently

being built near Bourbonnais Parkway. It is set to open early next year. Its current location, along Kennedy Drive in Bradley, has a team of world-class physicians who provide treatment for orthopedic injuries and conditions affecting the ankle, back, elbow, foot, hand, hip, knee, neck, shoulder, spine, and wrist, as well as joint replacement and revision, orthopedic trauma, pain management, pediatric orthopedics, podiatry, and sports medicine. You can request an appointment by visiting oakortho.com.

The Kankakee County Health Department is the public source for gaining information on health matters that affect us all. Its wide variety of services and detailed information can be found at kankakeehealth.org.

Other medical services are wide and varied, helping with any physical or mental condition that afflicts the public as well as assisted living facilities that can care for people who have reached their golden years. Here is a list of some of the very best options available: 590 Dental Care; James Martell; Asbury of Kankakee Supportive Living Facility; Associated Orthodontists; Aperion Care Bradley; Athletic Physical Therapy; Beltone Hearing Aid Service; Clove Alliance; Collective Balance Counseling LLC; Cornerstone Services; Duane Dean Behavioral Health Center; Dunlap Vision; Dr. Abraham Kurien; Foot Health Center; Fisher-Swale-Nicholson Eye Center; Helen Wheeler Center for Community Health; Harvest View; Institute of Natura Health and Education; Kankakee Terrace; Koehler Chiropractic, Sports & Spinal Rehab; Main Street Dentistry; Oasis Medical Services; Thresholds; Uplifted Care; West Labs; and Yakos Therapy, Inc.

Years back, some Kankakee County residents had perceived the best way to receive specialized health care of some sort was to head north to Chicago and Cook County to use the facilities based there. That's no longer the case. Regardless of the need or what ails you, the services necessary to make a complete recovery are found in Kankakee County. ♦



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Shopping, Dining & Entertainment



Majestic Theatre, Kankakee/Tiffany Blanchette



Steam Hollow, Manteno/Tiffany Blanchette



Northfield Square, Bourbonnais/
Tiffany Blanchette

Looking for leisure? Then look no further than Kankakee County.

Whether you want to fill your stomach with a good meal obtained at a local eatery, fill the air with laughter you emit at an entertainment venue, or find a merchandise item that fills a need or a want, it all can be had right here, right now.

The dining options are many and varied. If a day or evening of fine dining is what you have in mind, there are multiple choices, including the Bennett-Curtis House in Grant Park and Tucci's in Bourbonnais. Hoppy Pig in Bradley is a unique restaurant and bar which blends elements of fine and popular dining that is exhibited in part by its diverse menu. Cracker Barrel Old Country Store in Bourbonnais is a place you can enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner in a comfortable, down home atmosphere. If comfort food is your choice there are plenty of pizza places around, including Beggar's Pizza in Bourbonnais. If fried chicken is your preference, some of the finest found anywhere is served by JR'S Chicken, which has locations in both Bourbonnais and Kankakee. Is barbecue the best bet for you? Then Jimmy Jo's BBQ in Bourbonnais is the place. Regardless of your preference or the price you are willing to pay, there is something in Kankakee County to satisfy any culinary craving.

If you like to finish off a meal with a tasty dessert, or just enjoy one as a snack, those items can be found at many of the restaurants or at places devoted to the sweet stuff, including Nana's Cakery & Bake Shoppe and Oberweis Ice Cream and Dairy Store, both in Bradley.

Is a good cup of premium coffee your desire? Then try the products offered by Connect Roasters of Bourbonnais, Viers Coffee of Kankakee or Uplifted Bistro of Bradley.

Of course, most eateries offer carryout service, including the ones listed above. If you want pizza, the numerous Casey's General Store outlets in the region are a popular option. The Meijer supercenter store in Bradley is a place you can grab most anything you like while on the go. If you like to play golf and eat something before you return home, Oak Springs Golf Club has an on-site restaurant.

You want someone to cater a banquet or event? The Country Table in Kankakee can fill the bill, as can The Neighborhood Kitchen in Bourbonnais. The Knights of Columbus and Majestic Theatre, both in Kankakee, are prime places to host events. Spotlight Meetings & Events in Kankakee can help you plan your party.

Entertainment venues are abound in Kankakee. There are the public sites that regularly host community festivals and functions, and a number

of other businesses which offer a place to enjoy perhaps a drink, good music or the chance to place a wager most anytime of the year. Among them are Steam Hollow Brewery in Manteno, and Grapes and Hops and Shelby's, both in Kankakee.

Is shopping brings you sheer joy, or if you just need to do it out of necessity, Kankakee County is again the place to be.

Meijer not only offers a full line of groceries at its supercenter, but also sells most everything else you need, including clothing and items used both in and outside the home. Farm & Fleet in Bourbonnais is not a full line grocery, but it has most everything else under the sun, including an auto service center.

Northfield Square Mall in Bradley has a number of shops, including specialty shops, within its walls. Specialty stores of other kinds also dot the landscape.

They include Advantage Copier Equipment & Service, Inc.; Best One Tire & Service of Kankakee; Beltone Hearing Aid Service; Broadway Jewelry and Rare Coins; Dunlap Vision; Door-Masters, Inc.; DK Apparel; Dralle Chevrolet & Buick; David Bruce Auto Center, Inc.; Electric Lady Lounge; FASTSIGNS of Kankakee; Fisher-Swale-Nicholson Eye Center; Fisher-Gentry Eye Care; FCA Floor Covering Associates; Friendly Signs, Inc; Flower Shoppe, Inc.; First Auto Color, Inc.; Foot Health Center; Gordon Electric Supply; GT Express Inc. and Tire House Inc.; Gas N Wash; Glade Plumbing and Piping Co.; Gerber Collision & Glass; Goodberlet Home Services & Girard Electric; Hansen's Window Coverings & Upholstery; Holohan Heating & Sheetmetal, Inc.; H&R Block; Hicksgas Kankakee Inc.; JTS Pools; Kinzie Liquor; Kankakee Natural Foods, Inc.; Kulacz & Sons Heating & Cooling, Inc.; King Music Inc.; Lee's Rental; Netherton's Body Shop Inc.; One Stop Shop Blinds; Phillips Auto Group of Bradley Inc.; Panozzo's Amish Furniture; Randazzo's Gallery; Razzle Dazzle Doggie Bowtique; Spec Performance Inc.; Staples; Superior Embroidery; Supercuts; Scanlon Collision; Tuffy Auto Service Center; Tanner's Collision Center; Tholens' Landscape & Garden Center; Westphal Jewelers; and Xtreme Promotional Products Inc.

It's no secret all merchandise offered by these businesses can be had elsewhere, but why not shop local, especially when the products sold here can match or surpass those found at locations beyond the county line? Not only will you do yourself a favor, you will also help the local economy and your neighbors and friends who fill the jobs local business provides. ♦

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Whatever it may be, the necessary services can be found through the thriving network of banking, finance and insurance businesses that are centered in Kankakee County.

There are several full-service banks which serve county residents. There are also credit unions that offer many of the same services. Financial advisors are present to guarantee that your money stretches into the golden years and beyond, and accounting firms that can make sense of the numbers and ensure that taxes which apply to your assets are being paid. There are also numerous insurance agents who provide financial protections in various forms, including life, home and auto policies, among others.

Peoples Bank of Kankakee County is the county's longest standing local bank. Founded as People's Bank of Marycrest in 1962 by the late Romy Hammes, a highly respected businessman, it has flourished in the succeeding years and now has locations in Kankakee, Bourbonnais and Manteno. The growth has been overseen by the same family as Jerry Hammes, the son of Romy, first took the reins from his father. Jeff Hammes, the son of Jerry and grandson of Romy, has now served as Peoples Bank president and CEO since 2000.

These days, Peoples Bank offers the full array of services, including personal and business banking. Its mortgage loan department has drawn acclaim for helping families realize the American dream, and Peoples Bank has also helped the community by donating more than 5% of its profits back into the county in support of local charities, student scholarships, schools and civic sponsorships.

Municipal Bank is another locally owned and operated bank founded in 1971 by noted area businessman Merlin Karlock. It has grown its total assets tremendously since that time. As of the midway point of 2020, those assets totaled \$331 million with one of the strongest Tier 1 Capital positions within the banking industry of over 15.6% while government guidelines only require 4%.

Municipal Bank has brick-and-mortar locations in Bourbonnais, Manteno and Momence, as well as all the online banking conveniences offered in the modern age. Personal banking, including a quality mortgage department, is available to customers, as is business banking and land trusts. Its current president is Cathy Boicken.

First Trust Bank of Illinois is another local financial institution which has served customers for more than quarter century after being established by a group of community business leaders. It offers personal and business banking, and loan services including mortgage loans.

In addition to the do it anywhere, anytime convenience of online banking, First Trust has its main building in downtown Kankakee, with another in Kankakee, two in Bourbonnais, one in Aroma Park and one in Danforth. First Trust takes great pride in its work, and as current president Scott Smith points out, "don't take our word for it. Our Bauer Five-Star rating ranks us among the strongest banks in the nation."

Iroquois Federal was first established in neighboring Iroquois

County way back in 1883, and has recently expanded into Kankakee County with the addition of a Bourbonnais branch. It offers a full line of banking products, and also includes insurance products within those offerings.

Federated Bank is another local bank which traces its roots to Iroquois County, as it was established as the Onarga State Bank in 1918. It remains firmly rooted in the region to this day, as it has locations along Interstate 57 in Bradley, Chebanse, Onarga and Loda.

Midland States Bank might seem to be a fairly new player on the area banking scene, but it traces its roots back to 1885, when the Kankakee Building and Loan Association was formed. A number of changes occurred over time, until Midland acquired Centru Bank in 2017. The local connection grew stronger in 2019, when Midland acquired the former HomeStar Bank, which could be traced back to 1946.

Its familiar orange sign now sits in front of locations in Bourbonnais, Bradley, Kankakee, Grant Park, Herscher, Manteno and Momence. Additionally, Midland offers detailed online banking, and regardless of how you prefer to do your banking, a full line of products are available.

The State Bank of Herscher was founded in 1902 as a local institution, and was acquired by Foresight Financial Group Inc. in 2015. It offers a full line of services and has locations in Herscher and Limestone.

First Financial Bank is a regional, Ohio-based business established in 1863. With a branch in Kankakee. It offers personal and business banking and specializes in commercial lending.

If a credit union is your preference, they can be readily found in Kankakee County. Among those which stand out are 2 Rivers Credit Union, Elite Community Credit Union and Fieldstone Credit Union.

Few people can independently map a sound long-term financial strategy amid the shifts and changes which occur in today's world, and plenty of help in navigating the process is available within the county.

Among the best options are: Buckingham Strategic Wealth; Chad Regnier Financial Services; Edward Jones-Financial Advisor: David Robinson; Rooted Wealth Advisors; and Stifel.

If you need an accounting service to keep your finances in balance while also managing the tax obligations individuals and businesses face, there are firms that do a thorough job. They include: Borschnack, Pelletier, & Co.; BTPM LLC; Burke, Montague & Associates; Geoffrey Johns & Associates, LLC; Groskreutz, Abraham, Eshelman & Gerretse LLC and SKDO, P.C.

Protecting your holdings is another matter that can present complications, but there is no reason to overly worry. Insurance agents are here to provide help, and whether your need be personal or business related, here are some good places to turn: CIBC of Illinois, Inc.; CIGNA-Connecticut General; Dimond Bros. Insurance, LLC; George Ryan Jr. Insurance; Homestar Insurance Services LLC; Insurance Providers Group; Lee Sharman & Associates Insurance Agency Inc.; McMillan Insurance Services; Spectrum Insurance Group, Inc.; Sarah Viall - COUNTRY Insurance; and The Horton Group.

Money matters truly do matter, and those within the Kankakee County financial network are ready and able to help. ♦



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Parks and Recreation



Kankakee River State Park

All work and no play is no way to live, and Kankakee County is an ideal place to strike a balance between the two.

The region is full of parks, many of which are located near the Kankakee River and the fishing and boating it offers. They also have plenty of paths to walk, bike or run on, as well as baseball and softball diamonds and basketball courts to stage friendly or competitive games. If golf is your preferred activity, there are several courses to choose from. Additionally, there are indoor locations for young and old alike.

The Bourbonnais Township Park District features one of the most extensive parks at Perry Farm Park. Its vast network of trails can lead you to the famous Indian Caves. Exploration Station...a children's museum, and the Barnyard Playground are filled with fun for the kids. The historic farmstead offers a chance to get up close to the animals that reside there, and the large shelter, the gazebos and other open spaces within the park provide places to enjoy a picnic.

In addition to Perry Farm, the Bourbonnais Township Park District operates Diamond Point Park, a place that hosts baseball and softball leagues and tournaments and has a number of other amenities; and Willowhaven Park & Nature Center, which has a discovery center geared toward children and numerous outdoor opportunities.

The Kankakee Valley Park District has a network of more than 30 parks, both large and small. Several are situated along the river with a nearby walking trail. River Road Park has a softball complex which hosts tournaments up to the state level, and Small Memorial Park has both a museum and civic center.

Additionally, the district operates Ice Valley Centre Ice Arena near the Kankakee Community campus, and has made plans to reopen Splash Valley aquatic center.

Momence has its own park district, and its facilities include historic Island Park which is nestled along the Kankakee River.

The Kankakee River State Park remains a jewel among recreational areas. Spanning across 4,000 acres on the northwest end of the county, it has been a destination spot for families and other groups for many decades. You can spend a day or several days, as the Potawatomi Campground located there reopened last fall.

If a long bike, hike or run is your desire, a fairly new development

offers the chance to fulfill your wish. The Kankakee Riverfront Trail has developed incrementally over the past 20 years, and the 10-foot wide, 10-mile long stretch of asphalt now spans from the south edge of the county near Kankakee Community College to the north edge near the state park. The 2018 opening of the Riverfront Trail Bridge, located near Riverside Medical Center's main campus, allowed the trail to connect on both sides of the river.

Other county towns operate a parks system through its governmental body. Bourbonnais has a vast network of attractive parks, as does Bradley. Manteno's parks have grown to become among the most impressive in the county.

If golf is your game, the county can surely accommodate you. There are eight courses to choose from within its boundaries. It's a mixture of public and private venues, including the Kankakee Country Club, the Kankakee Elks Country Club in St. Anne. Aspen Ridge Golf Course in Bourbonnais, Oak Springs Golf Course in St. Anne, Shamrock Golf Course in St. Anne, Manteno Golf Club & Learning Center, Minne Monesse Golf Club in Grant Park, and High Point Golf Club in Essex.

Indoor recreation is readily available for those who don't want to brave the elements or prefer to play under a roof. The Kankakee Area YMCA is proud to acknowledge its facility along Kennedy Drive in Kankakee is "more than just a gym." Devoted to family health and wellness, it offers a myriad of programs to young and old alike, and has a modern facility that allows people to pursue their goals through what is offered there.

If you like to bowl, Brookmont Bowling Center in Kankakee is a prime place to you. Not only can you take your turn at knocking down the pins on the modern lanes, you can also grab something to eat or drink there.

A new player on the local recreational scene is Hero City Adventure Park, a kid and family-oriented place which has opened in Bradley. The 22,000 square foot facility features laser tag and many other thrilling activities.

Getting fit while also having fun can be a challenge, but Kankakee County has so many ways to make the challenge easier to meet. ♦

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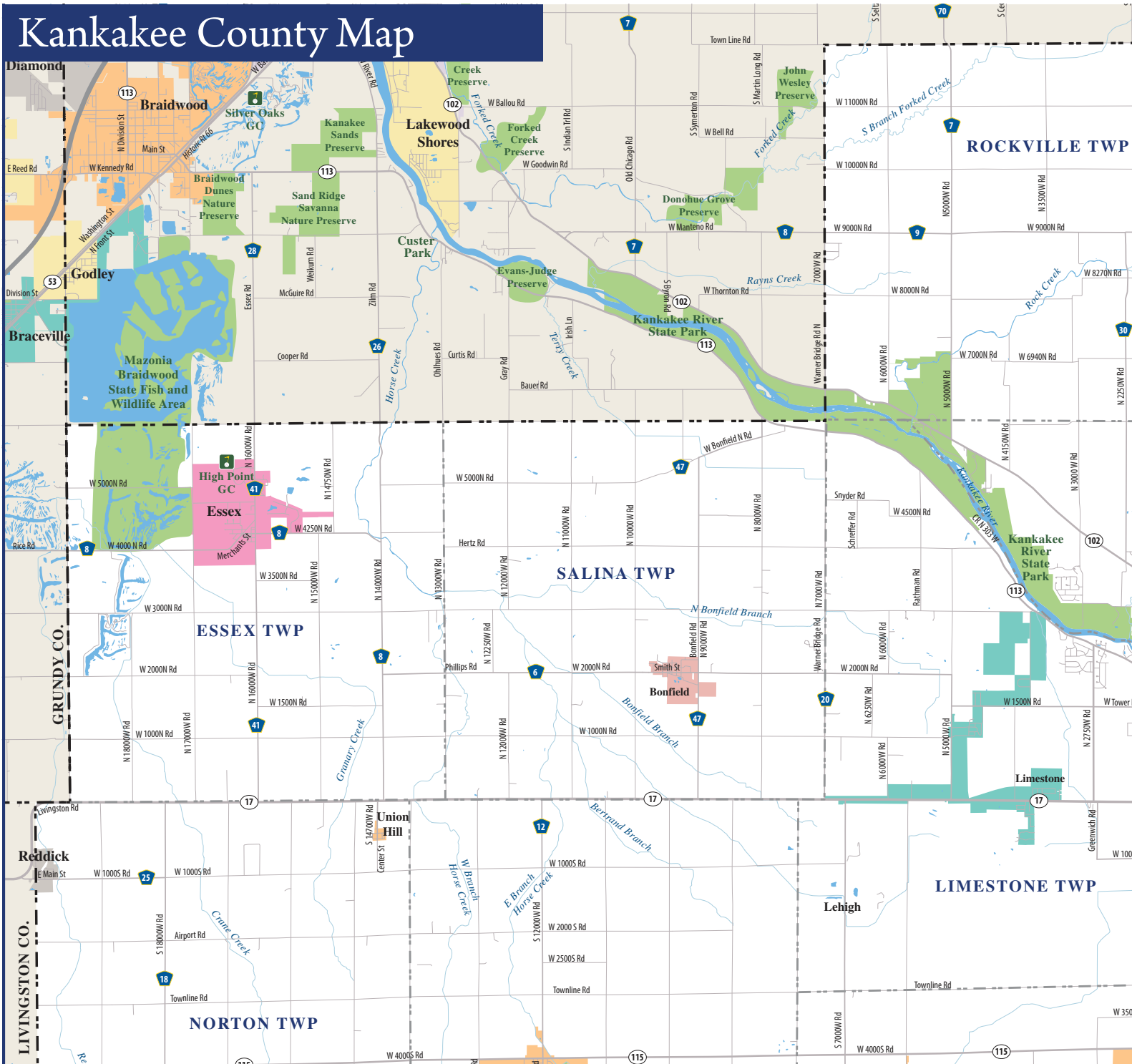
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Kankakee County Map



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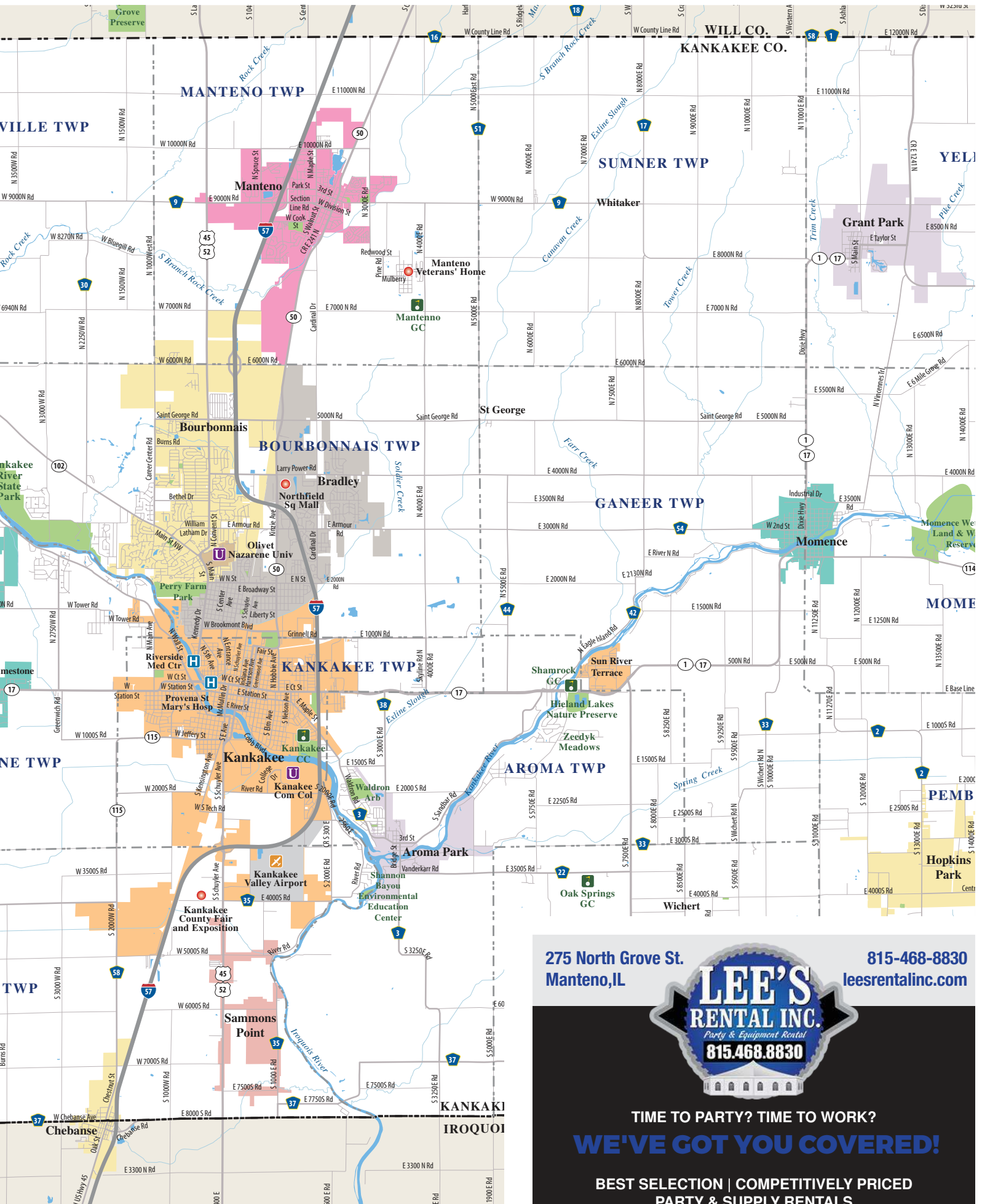


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Calendar of Events

The annual Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing will be held on Friday, Aug. 13 at Oak Springs Golf Club.

The all-inclusive outing provides an ideal way for area businesses to enjoy the golfing season and a great way to engage with clients and friends in a fun, relaxed environment.

The outing includes: green and cart fee; cold beverages; lunch; a steak dinner; games and prizes. The cost is \$125 per player, \$475 for a foursome and \$50 for dinner only.

Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m., lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m., and a shotgun start will be held at noon. Dinner will be served after play concludes.

The Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce annual Legislative Reception will be held on Thursday, Sept. 2 from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Kankakee Country Club.

The reception features a keynote speaker and appearances from numerous state and federal elected officials, or their spoke persons.

The Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce will host the 2021 State of the County Breakfast on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in downtown Kankakee.

The breakfast brings together area civic and business leaders to discuss the highlights which have occurred over the last year, and to tout progress which will carry over into the future.

The ATHENA Awards will be presented on Thursday, Nov. 11, during the Leading Ladies luncheon hosted by the Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce and its Women in Networking committee. The event will be held at the Kankakee Country Club.

The ATHENA Leadership Award will be presented to an individual who is honored for professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills.

The ATHENA Young Professional Award will be presented to an individual under the age of 40 who is honored as an emerging leader who demonstrates excellence, creativity, and initiative in their profession.

The WIN Scholarship will also be presented, and it is open to women who live and/or work in the Kankakee County area, are going back to college to retrain, complete a degree or certificate program, improve skills needed in the workplace, or complete an advanced degree.

The annual Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce Awards Night will be held Thursday, Dec. 9.

Awards will be bestowed in numerous categories, including: Business Partner in Education; Technology and Innovation; Small Business of the Year; Large Business of the Year; New Business of the Year; and Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year.

For more information on these events and all other matters involving the Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce and its members, visit kankakeecountychamber.com.



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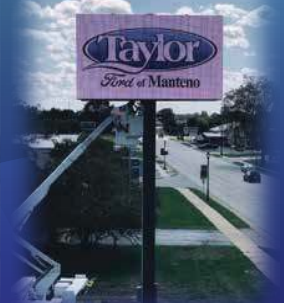


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Kankakee County's Agriculture Makes Many Top 10 Lists

The Kankakee County area was settled as early as 1834 when numbers of settlers came to locate near the Kankakee River where the City of Momence would be established. The natural resources, fertile soil, and early development of the Kankakee area lead to a strong agricultural economy. The Kankakee area has a wealth of natural resources with rivers, forests, plains, and parks and is economically sound due to a strong contribution from its agricultural base.

With over 72 percent of Kankakee County devoted to farm land, Kankakee County agriculture accounts for nearly 17% of the County's economic output. As a result, one in twelve jobs in Kankakee County relate to agriculture. An area known for its diverse agriculture, there are many different crops grown in Kankakee County.

In 2020, Kankakee County farmers harvested 173,400 acres of corn and 134,900 acres of soybeans. Most of the corn grown in the area is what is called "field corn" which is used either for livestock feed (cattle, poultry, or hogs), or processed for human consumption into products such as corn chips, corn meal, and other food additives. A small portion of the corn grown in Kankakee County is sweet corn which is typically the type of corn you would purchase in the grocery or a farm stand to prepare for a meal. Some farmers plant a small amount of sweet corn nearby their field corn for their own use but there are a few farmers in Kankakee County who grow sweet corn on a commercial scale. In the field, sweet corn and field corn look very similar. Field corn is harvested after the kernels are hardened whereas sweet corn is picked when the kernels are still soft and have a much higher moisture content.

Corn and soybeans are the most prevalent crops in Illinois and in Kankakee County, but there are many specialty crops grown on the sandy soils in the eastern part of the County. These sandy soils do not retain moisture as well as soils with a higher content of organic matter and as a result, many fields are irrigated in the eastern part of the county. Kankakee County ranks as the 9th most irrigated county in Illinois based on the number of irrigated acres. Along with the sandy soils being ideal for specialty crops, having Chicago nearby provides an excellent market for these products.

A unique aspect of Kankakee County's specialty agriculture is the large amount of herbs cultivated. Kankakee County ranks 1st in the State in the "other crops and hay" category which includes field grown herbs. Van Drunen Farms is the largest Midwest herb grower and is an international

company based in Kankakee County. They grow herbs sold as a freeze dried product which include basil, chives, dill, chervil, cilantro, fennel, kale, leek, marjoram, sage, parsley, oregano, tarragon, and thyme. Kankakee County ranks 2nd in the state for production of specialty crops such as vegetables, melons, and potatoes. Kankakee County ranks 6th in the state for nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod production. These figures are impressive given that Kankakee County ranks 27th in land area out of Illinois' 102 counties.

While there isn't as much livestock raised in Kankakee County as there used to be, livestock, poultry, and their related products still account for nearly \$20 million in sales annually in Kankakee County with Kankakee County ranking 8th in the state for poultry and egg production.

Kankakee County has another unique distinction being that the Kankakee County Farm Bureau, the County's largest agricultural organization, was formed in 1912 as one of the very first County Farm Bureaus in the state.

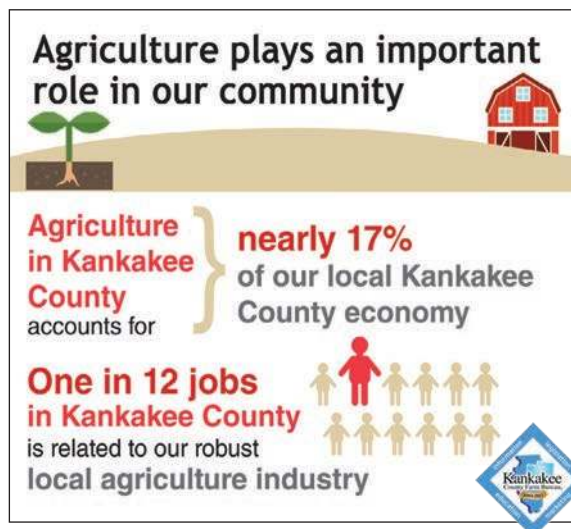
The Kankakee County Farm Bureau is a non-profit, voluntary membership organization governed by 17 Kankakee County farmers who live, farm, and raise their families locally. Kankakee County Farm Bureau works closely with farmers to keep the family farm profitable and our food supply safe and affordable.

Protecting private property rights is a priority as Kankakee County Farm Bureau monitors land developments to prevent loss of property and to prevent damage and pollution to farm land. With a unified voice, Kankakee County Farm Bureau promotes and supports a sustainable future for agriculture so that our natural resources are preserved for future generations.

Kankakee County Farm Bureau also strengthens the future of agriculture by supporting the community's youth. Kankakee County Farm Bureau supports local 4-H and FFA chapters throughout Kankakee County which provides educational and leadership opportunities for kids. Educating youth about where food, fiber, and fuel come from is also a priority for the Kankakee County Farm Bureau. Annually, the Kankakee County Farm Bureau Foundation awards college scholarships to high school seniors and college students. These scholarships support continuing education to prepare these students for a career in agriculture.

For more than 100 years, the Kankakee County Farm Bureau has been an advocate for farmers, landowner rights, and Kankakee County's agriculture industry. The Kankakee County Farm Bureau is proud of the community's agricultural heritage and its agricultural diversity.

For more information, contact the Kankakee County Farm Bureau at 815-932-7471 or stop by their office at 1605 West Court Street in Kankakee, Illinois. Find the Kankakee County Farm Bureau on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kankakeecountyfarmbureau. ♦



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Industrial development, a strong and viable workforce and a suite of incentives proves Kankakee County a top growing metro in Illinois.

The numbers don't lie. Despite a global pandemic, more than \$120M in capital investment was logged in 2020, creating 850+ new jobs, a clear indication that the area is prime for growth moving forward.

"We are seeing national and international companies relocate or expand here," said Timothy Nugent, president and CEO of the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County. "We have the workforce - a strong, dependable pool of talent - that is driving these businesses, and it shows."

Nugent is referring to a 45-minute labor force of 2.8 million, responsive educational institutions such as Olivet Nazarene University and Kankakee Community College, and various workforce training programs for area stakeholders.

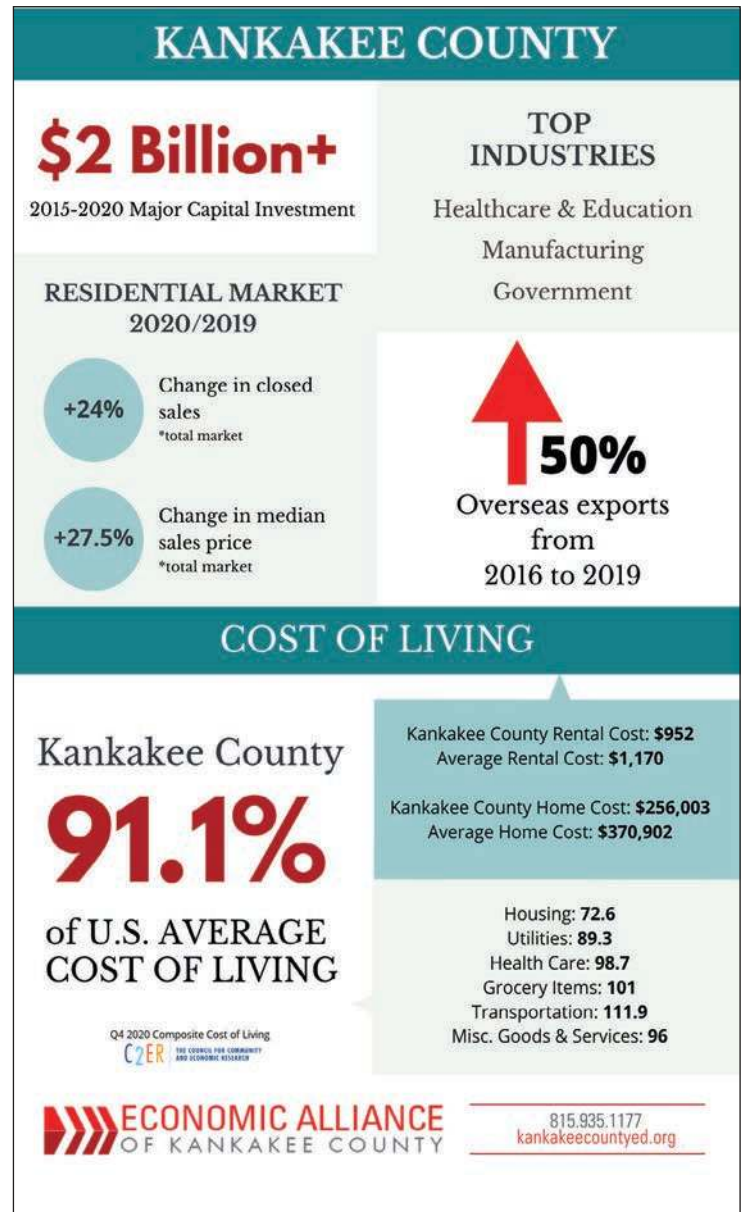
The area's employers continue adding and filling positions, keeping Kankakee County's unemployment rate below the state average and spurring continued investment to the local economy. A few examples include Nucor Corporation's projected enhancements for 2021 to the tune of \$60M, and the consistent commitment and growth by Australia-based bioscience firm CSL Behring.

Complementing these investments is significant growth in the food processing and manufacturing industries, the solar and renewable energy industry, general manufacturing and transportation and logistics.

ESSENTIAL INDUSTRY & WORKFORCE

Kankakee County boasts an incredible 28,000 essential worker positions, 13% above the national average, attracting those in the healthcare, transportation, warehouse and manufacturing industries to the area.

COVID-19 showed the need for these essential industries, and local healthcare powerhouses capitalized with the resurrection of two multi-million-dollar facilities including a \$22M Riverside Healthcare physician center, a \$15M new surgical center for Oak Orthopedic, and several other healthcare investments.



“It is great to see significant growth happening in Kankakee County,” said Phil Kambic, president and CEO of Riverside Healthcare. “The past year has been something unlike any of us have ever seen. For those of us in healthcare, the challenges have been beyond anything we could have imagined. Yet, through the pandemic, I have seen people here at Riverside and throughout the community step up and find new ways to help.

“In that spirit, we are continuing to grow and expand to meet the needs of those in our service area,” Kambic said.

Riverside Healthcare and AMITA Health St. Mary’s Hospital have each added several state-of-the-art surgical robots and cutting-edge technology allowing for patients to remain in Kankakee County for care and expand their options for certain procedures.

“Our hospital has used the challenges of 2020 to energize new plans and investments in available services, physicians and technology,” said Chris Shride, president and CEO of AMITA Health St. Mary’s Hospital.

“We enter 2021 re-asserting a commitment to advanced care and national quality performance for the Kankakee region with two new advanced robotic surgery systems, three new outpatient clinics and expanded cardiology and orthopedic programs. Coupling investment with year over year national Top 10% performance in patient safety and patient experience, the AMITA Health St. Mary’s family is excited about the future,” noted Shride.

AMITA’s future investments of \$500k will also expand the community outreach program to address access to health, chronic disease management and social determinants of health needs in the county.

The growing economy means a renewed focus on community livability, with increased prioritization in the areas of housing, transportation and downtown/commercial development.



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“Kankakee County is consistently ranked on Forbes’ Best Places to do Business as an affordable location for industry,” notes Nugent. “That is matched with our very competitive cost of living figures. When you factor in our Enterprise Zone and other incentives for site and workforce development here, our community’s investment advantage is very clear.” ♦

Article by Angela Morrey, Director of Marketing & Business Attraction for the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County. The Alliance is a public-private partnership tasked with encouraging and facilitating new investment in the Greater Chicago community of Kankakee County, Illinois. The Alliance works in the spirit of collaboration to support development in the strategic areas of business retention, expansion and attraction and workforce and community development. Visit kankakeecountyed.org for more information.

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