



March is National Social Work Month. Social workers work in a variety of fields including education, healthcare, law, social services and even public policy. One of my heroes is Frances Perkins who was the first woman appointed to a U.S. Cabinet position serving under President Franklin Roosevelt as Secretary of Labor. Her work is still impacting Americans today as she drafted a significant portion of the New Deal legislation which provided protections to workers including a 40-hour work-week, minimum wage laws, and child labor laws. She was also active in the suffrage and labor movement. As a social worker myself, I am proud to live in a community with so many dynamic social workers who are making a difference in so many lives. Thank you to all of our social workers who keep moving Kankakee Forward. Happy Social Work Month!

# KANKAKEE CONNECTIONS

## MARCH 2020

Office of the Mayor · 304 South Indiana Avenue, Kankakee, IL 60901

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### Updates

#### Invitation to the 2020 Census

The first invitation to respond to the 2020 census will be delivered between March 12-20. Each home will receive an invitation to respond by phone, online or mail. Based on the results, every year billions of dollars in federal funding go to healthcare, schools, roads, programs, and other resources. It will also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The census takes place every ten years for a population count. The 2020 census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790. The United States Census Bureau is still hiring for census takers. Temporary positions are also available part-time. To apply, visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov).

#### The Economic and Community Development Agency Office Awarded Community Revitalization Grant Under the Land Bank Capacity Program (LBCP)

The Economic and Community Development Agency (ECDA) office was awarded a grant of \$52,000 from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) to be used in initial capital for startup costs of creating a land bank, operating costs, land acquisition and other locally managed revitalization techniques. "This grant will greatly enhance our efforts to revitalize the City of Kankakee. Vacant lots are a concern for the community, and we will continue to address this issue," said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

#### 5 Star Wings Expands at New Location and Set for Mingle with the Mayor

Since opening for business at the new location in Kankakee, 5 Star Wings located at 125 West Station Street continues to see ongoing business. Business owner, Troy Clark, started cooking out of his home. His business has now been opened for four years. 5 Star Wings was previously located at 559 East Court Street with not much seating room to dine-in. The new location on Station Street can now hold up to five dozen people with an upstairs and a downstairs dining area. Mayor Wells-Armstrong is set to host the next "Mingle with the Mayor" at 5 Star Wings on Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. where the community is invited to ask questions, share ideas, as well as concerns in the City of Kankakee.

#### City of Kankakee Submission for HGTV's Hometown Takeover Contest

Staff with the Economic and Community Development Agency (ECDA) partnered with local video production company, Ravenspring Creative, to create a submission video to HGTV's Home Town Takeover Contest. Ben and Erin Napier are the hosts of "Home Town," an HGTV show featuring residential and community improvement projects. For the upcoming season, they will choose a smaller city. The City of Kankakee submitted a video for the contest early February. HGTV has not announced when they will reveal which city has been chosen, though the six-episode special is slated to air on HGTV in 2021.

### Community Outreach & Events

Love My City has launched! Visit [citykankakee-il.gov](http://citykankakee-il.gov) for more.



For more events or to submit an event, visit [citykankakee-il.gov](http://citykankakee-il.gov).

#### Economic and Community Development Agency (ECDA) Workshop: Track Spending and Money Management

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 @ ECDA Conference Room  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

#### Mayor Wells-Armstrong Presents Diversity & Inclusion Series: Illinois RISE Act Presentation with Guest Speaker Patricia Santoyo-Marin

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 @ Kankakee Public Library on the 4th floor  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

#### Feed Friday: Crème of the Crop

Friday, March 13, 2020 @ Kankakee Public Library  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

#### Luck of the Irish Skate

Saturday, March 14, 2020 @ Ice Valley Centre Ice Arena in Kankakee  
1:00 PM

#### Kankakee Chats: Now streaming LIVE on Facebook, YouTube and the City of Kankakee's website

Thursday, March 26, 2020  
7:30 PM

#### KC-CASA Presents "Glo Bingo"

Friday, March 27, 2020  
Kankakee Fairgrounds  
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

### Monthly Observances

March is social work month! In 1984, the White House officially recognized Social Work Month. Since then each year has had its own theme and goal to bring more understanding to the work that social workers do. This year's theme is Generations Strong. Social workers often come into our lives when we are not at our best. Let's take this time to show them our appreciation. Thank you to all social workers for making a difference in lives every day!



### Now Hiring!



Interested parties are encouraged to visit Human Resources in the City of Kankakee's Administration Building to complete an application for the following position:

- Substitute crossing guard