

January 1, 2019

Press Releases



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I am excited to introduce our newsletter, *Kankakee Konnections* to the community as another source of information. As your Mayor, I am grateful to work with a wonderful team of people who are committed to moving *Kankakee Forward*. I am excited for this year's upcoming projects. Stay tuned...

Kudos and Thank You...



to Kankakee's Police and Fire Department for their daily courageous efforts of making certain that our City is safe. Thanks to Republic Services for completing the audit related to our curb-side recycling program; updates are forthcoming. Check the City's website (citykankakee-il.gov) for details on what is permissible.



Welcome James Ellexson to the City of Kankakee Administrative Team as our Human Resources Director. James joins us, with an extensive back-ground in strategic planning, employee relations, employment law, recruitment, retention, training, development, benefit administration, finance, budgeting, and payroll. We are excited to have James on our Administrative Team.



Interested parties are encouraged to visit the City's website (citykankakee-il.gov) to complete an application for the following open positions:

- Director of Planning and Zoning
- Chief of Police
- Building Inspector

Scholarship Available

- In Honor of Black History month, applications are being accepted for the 2019 African American Civic Leaders Scholarship, which will be awarded on April 18, 2019 (Kankakee Public Library—7:00 p.m.). The scholarship amount is \$2,000.00. Reference the City's website for additional information.

Planning & Development Agenda

Schuyler Avenue Streetscape Project Goals:

- Enhance the City's motif with additional antique lighting, landscaping and bike lanes for cyclists
- Expand the downtown footprint throughout north & south Schuyler Avenue
- Address ADA compliance concerns with curbs and sidewalks

- Mayor and City Council Deliver Property Tax Relief for Residents and Business Owners. With three months of trending revenues, the City is averaging \$425,000 per month, which yields \$5.1 million per year. As a result of the increased revenues to be applied to the pension line items, the tax rate will be reduced from the current rate of 8.309 to 6.265. Property owners will see an approximate 25% reduction of the CITY portion on their property tax bills.
- Mayor secures Technical Assistance for Residents seeking Work in the Gig Economy. The City of Kankakee has been chosen as one of the three cities nationally, to benefit from the partnership of the National League of Cities (NLC) and Samaschool, a non-profit focused on preparing low-income populations to succeed as independent workers through digital skills training and a connection to internet-based jobs that pay a living wage.
- The City of Kankakee will be awarded \$3,000,000 in Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction grant program funding and \$600,000 in Healthy Homes Supplemental funding. Thanks to HUD's support, the City of Kankakee will address lead hazards in 170 housing units and provide safer homes for low-income families with children.

Community Out Reach/Events

- Mingle with the Mayor on Jan 12, 2019 at Lori's Diner (364 E Court Street) from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
- Tune-in to Kankakee Chats live broadcast on January 31, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. Kankakee Chats is streamed live on the last Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. until 8:10 p.m. on the City's website (citykankakee-il.gov).

Community Business

- Kankakee businesses should watch the mail and/or the City's website for updated information on required annual renewals (such as: vehicle stickers, liquor & video gaming license compliance, etc.).
- Visit the City's website (citykankakee-il.gov) for additional information on a host of community events and business affairs.

Winter Safety Tips

During our Winter Season, let us be mindful to check on our seniors (relatives, neighbors and friends) well-being. Warming centers/shelters are in place throughout Kankakee County:

- Monday—Resurrection Community Church, Kankakee
- Tuesday—Central Christian Church, Bourbonnais
- Wednesday—First Church of the Nazarene, Kankakee
- Thursday—River Valley Christian Fellowship, Bourbonnais
- Saturday—Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee