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## Help inform a robust report for NE Indiana employers!

2021 Wage & Benefit survey deadline extended to March 19



[More about survey](#)

[Instructions & survey link for participants](#)

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### Sampson to leave Regional Partnership

It was announced on February 25 that President and CEO John Sampson has decided to step down from the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership effective March 31. A press release from the organization indicates the Regional Partnership will immediately begin a national search for a replacement. Sampson has served as the organization's leader since 2006.

"The collaboration that has been critical to the creation and success of the Regional Partnership will be at the forefront of our search criteria for the organization's next leader," noted David Findlay, Regional Partnership board of directors executive committee member.

Sampson stated he is "entirely grateful" and noted that "working together, our region has overcome challenges and achieved major milestones many thought not possible."

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## Ley announces plans to retire

Bill Ley, Avilla Town Manager, has announced plans to retire. Ley's intentions to retire from full-time employment were shared with Avilla Town Council in a public meeting on February 18. Details are yet to be worked out, though Ley said he hopes the council will find a replacement before he leaves. Ley was first hired by the town in 1982 and he worked for the utilities department before assuming the role of town manager in June 2002.



## Albion RDC plans for future

The Albion Redevelopment Commission amended the town's economic development plan recently to add properties it may have an interest in some day acquiring to accommodate industrial, residential, or park land growth.

The amendment makes it possible for the commission to act more quickly than if a property

was not already listed in the plan. Listing the property in the plan does not negate all normal legal proceedings required for the commission to make a purchase or affect negotiations. Fourteen properties were identified, most near or adjoining the existing industrial park on the east side of town, or near Hidden Diamonds Park.

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## Hess to share marketing expertise

Through a partnership with the Kendallville Chamber of Commerce, Patrick Hess, owner of Day 6 Agency, is presenting a series of 90-minute marketing classes to help local businesses and residents improve their promotional efforts. The courses are open to the public. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch and beverages. To register, call the Kendallville Chamber at (260) 347-1554 or go online using the button at right.



REGISTER

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## KSN Kammerer will present case for abatement

Noble County Council reached a consensus at a meeting in early February for KSN Kammerer LLC in Kendallville to apply for a five-year tax abatement on \$631,060 of new equipment, including a crane and laser cutter. This is the first abatement the company has sought. Although the abatement was on the company's radar prior to beginning construction, due to timing issues the council will need to approve a waiver in order for the abatement to be approved. Kammerer will be allowed to state their case in March.

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[Learn more...](#)

## Thrive plans celebration

Thrive Noble County is planning a Celebration 2021, an inaugural community event that will inform, inspire, and immerse those who live, work, and play in Noble County in what makes the local communities thrive. The public is invited to come together to hear the stories of some of the people, places, and organizations that help make life better here by engaging in and supporting local entrepreneurs, youth, and culture.



**Each month we celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of Noble County's people and places. Congratulations!**

Deemed an "essential part" of Quick Tanks for the past 40 years, **Randy Davis**, plant supervisor, is retiring from the Kendallville company. Davis was honored recently for his hard work and dedication. The company said, "Randy will be deeply missed and we commend him for his exemplary years of service."

**John Huelsenbeck** is a Vietnam veteran, twice wounded, and recipient of the Purple Heart. This April, Huelsenbeck, nominated by the Purple Heart Patriot Project by a New Jersey state commander which whom he served, is scheduled to participate in an all-expense-paid trip to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, historic Washington's Headquarters, and the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor with fellow Purple Heart heroes. Huelsenbeck is an Avilla resident and graduate of Avilla High School who was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966.

**Andrea Kern**, former Community Liaison for Indiana's Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) has accepted a new position as the state's Stellar Communities program director. This news came shortly after an announcement that Kern would be leaving OCRA to head up Auburn Main Street. As a result of taking a new position at OCRA, Kern will not be joining Auburn Main Street.

**Indiana Representative David Abbott**, representing District 82, received The Humane Society of the United States Indiana Legislator of the Year Award recently. Abbott was recognized for his work on a state bill introduced in 2020 to end the possession, sale, transfer or breeding of exotic or dangerous wild animals, and other limitations, by private owners in Indiana. His district includes Albion, where Black Pine Animal Sanctuary operates and provides permanent refuge to displaced exotic animals, most former "pets".

**Jamie M. Groves** is Noble County's new deputy prosecutor. The new hire was announced by Noble County Prosecuting Attorney James Mowery. Groves replaces Adam Mildred. Groves held positions previously in Allen County, Huntington County, and Porter County. He currently resides with his family in Huntington and is a graduate of Indiana University's Mauer School of Law in Indianapolis.

**West Noble School Corporation** is celebrating 60 years of service in a district that includes Ligonier, Cromwell, Wawaka, and Kimmell, plus Elkhart, Perry, Sparta, and Washington townships in western Noble County. The corporation, home of the Chargers, was formed in 1961 and has been served by six superintendents.

**Noble County Highway Department** was successful in their effort to secure nearly \$4.6 million in federal aid, according to an announcement from the Indiana Department of Transportation. Funding will be used maintain the stretch of Old State Road 3 between Avilla and Laotto, a popular stretch designated a "primary collector" that carries higher traffic counts than some other state routes. Engineer **Zack Smith** was "a bit surprised" and said the process was "very competitive". The grant is one of 54 totaling over \$100 million awarded in Indiana. Work is expected to take place in 2026.

**Town of Avilla** is a recipient of a 2021 safety grant award from the Indiana Public Employers' Plan Inc. The grant will help maximize opportunities to promote a safe work environment and help stretch risk management resources. Funds will be used to buy safety equipment and/or training programs.

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COVID-19 RESOURCES & UPDATES



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