

Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



June 2021



REGISTER NOW

Noble County

2021 Economic Development Breakfast

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Sylvan Cellars Event Center

2725 E. Northport Road

Rome City, IN 46784

Join us for this free breakfast event!

Industry 4.0, the "fourth generation of manufacturing"

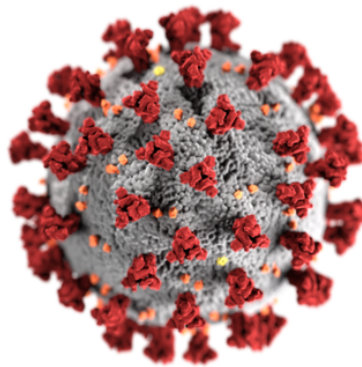
Keynote speaker: Joshua Meinika

Plus ~ Local State of the Economy report

*presented by Noble County Economic Development,
dedicated exclusively to enabling a thriving economy
in Noble County, Indiana.*

Proactive efforts boost vaccine participation

Language barriers and misunderstandings were largely overcome to help bring the projected rate of vaccinated employees at Dexter, the county's largest employer, to 75%. Armed with vaccination information translated into Burmese and free transportation to the clinic, Noble County Health Department personnel were able to educate and answer questions to increase Dexter's employee vaccination rate. Many experts have indicated that 70% of the people in a community must be vaccinated to reach a "herd immunity" threshold. As of May 30, according to Indiana Department of Health statistics cited by the News Sun, zip codes in Noble County reported a range of participation from 24.6% (in Ligonier) to 40% (in Rome City). During May, Noble County logged 214 new cases of COVID-19, the highest case count in the four-county area.



[About vaccine clinic](#)



[About Wickfab](#)

Wickfab granted 10-year abatement

Avilla Town Council recently approved a 10-year tax abatement on equipment for Wickfab. The company announced plans to add a \$520,000 laser cutter and \$32,000 forklift to their operations and expect to add one new hire as a result of new investments.

Redevelopment Commission supports facade fixes

Unlike some communities that restrict facade grant funding to only buildings that face certain streets, communities in Noble County, including Kendallville, offer matching funds for roof repairs and work on the back side of buildings in qualifying areas, too. Four more buildings in Kendallville will soon be upgraded thanks to nearly \$26,000 in matching funds approved by the Kendallville Redevelopment Commission. All four sit along Main Street downtown. A recent expansion to a TIF district in the city last year made more projects eligible. Those interested in learning more about matching facade grant programs available locally are encouraged to reach out to their local town hall or mayor's office for information.



Attendance numbers grew at the second quarterly Noble County HR Roundtable held on May 12 featuring guest speaker Allie Sutherland, Community Engagement Specialist with Indiana Child Care and Resource Referral Network. Sutherland shared updates and recommendations to provide more, affordable, high-quality child care options in Noble County.

Human Resource personnel representing Noble County industrial employers are invited to join these free, one-hour morning meetings held at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville. The Noble County EDC hosts and provides updates about various initiatives and projects aimed at helping Noble County's economy thrive. Special guest speakers and topics are announced in advance. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 11

from 8 to 9 AM. To RSVP, or for more information, email info@noblecountyedc.com or call (260) 636-3800.

A graphic for an HR Roundtable event. It features a dark blue circular background with a gear pattern. The text "Noble County" is at the top in dark blue. "HR Roundtable" is written in a large, green, curved font on the left side of the circle. "SAVE THE DATE!" is in white, bold, uppercase letters in the center. Below that, the date and time "Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8AM-9AM" are in white. The phrase "Updates on issues that matter to you!" is in green. The location "Community Learning Center Reception Area - 2nd Floor 401 E. Diamond Street Kendallville" is in white. A small green and white logo of Noble County is on the right. At the bottom, the RSVP information "(260) 636-3800 or info@noblecountyedc.com" is in white.

Noble County

HR Roundtable

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, August 11, 2021
8AM-9AM

Updates on issues that matter to you!

Community Learning Center
Reception Area - 2nd Floor
401 E. Diamond Street
Kendallville

RSVP (260) 636-3800 or info@noblecountyedc.com

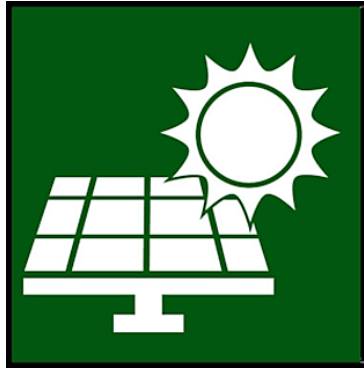
New businesses open in Kendallville

The Kendallville Chamber of Commerce held two ribbon-cuttings in the city in May. Century 21 Bradley opened a new office at 125 E. North Street (US 6). It serves as home base for the Hoosier Heartland Team, an elite group of local real estate agents working with Century 21 to serve Northeastern Indiana. Knight and Day has expanded from operating a food truck to a full-service restaurant. Owner Brandi Lewis cut a ribbon on May 11th to mark the beginning of a new chapter for Knight and Day Sandwich Pub, now open in the Cornerstone Plaza at US 6 and SR 3 North where Crazy Horse II formerly operated.

B&J Medical approved for tax abatement

New equipment and new construction for a 20,000 square foot expansion at B&J Medical on US 6 west of Kendallville were approved for an abatement by Noble County Council in

early May. The equipment investment of \$4M was approved for a five-year abatement of taxes and the real property investment of \$1.4M was abated for seven years.



Renewable Energy Systems awarded Kendallville contract

After months of planning, the City of Kendallville has awarded a \$2.52M contract to Avilla-based Renewable Energy Systems to install a solar panel array at the former site of McCray Refrigeration. The power generated by the solar field will reduce annual operating costs at the city's wastewater treatment plant by as much as 82% to around \$38,000 per year, a savings projected at around \$178,500 annually. Savings could go higher since the system selected may produce more overall power than was originally anticipated when bids were sought. Renewable Energy Systems has installed solar panels at other local locations including the Community Learning Center and Reliable, also located in Kendallville.



This conceptual drawing provided by Renewable Energy Systems shows the layout for a 3,876 panel solar field approved for installation at the former McCray Refrigeration plant near Kendallville's wastewater treatment plant. (Shared with permission from KPC Media).



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

NIPSCO has awarded a \$4,000 grant to **Oak Farm Montessori School** in Avilla. The funding from the utility's Environmental Action Grant program will aid the school in a prairie and oak woodland restoration project.

Mayor Patty Fisel was honored as Noble County's 2021 Republican of the Year at the party's Lincoln Day Dinner in May. Fisel got into politics in 2005, winning her first term as May of Ligonier.

Noble County Commissioner **Justin Stump** will replace **Mick Newton**, director of Noble County Emergency Management, when Newton retires in early July. Stump has held a seat on the Commission since January 2019 and brings more than 25 years of emergency service experience to his new role. The Republic Party will caucus to identify a replacement for Stump.

Dawn McGahen is Kendallville's new Parks Director. McGahen took over in mid-May as Jim Pankop announced his retirement from the post after 36 years of service. McGahen has worked part-time and full-time for Kendallville Parks and Recreation Department for the past 10 years and is a former police officer.

The **City of Kendallville** shared a conceptual drawing for a newly proposed pocket park to be installed at the corner of Main and Rush Streets across from City Hall. The property is currently vacant and would serve as a space for food trucks, a mobile stage, and green space to enhance the downtown district. Donors are being sought to help bring the park from concept to reality at an anticipated cost of \$216,000. Donate online at kendallvillepocketpark.com.

Four tigers seized under orders from the U.S. Justice Department from Jeff and Lauren Lowe, subjects of popular the Tiger King Netflix series aired during the pandemic, are now residing at **Black Pine Animal Sanctuary**. Permanent forfeiture of the predators is pending.

COVID-19 RESOURCES & UPDATES



Noble County EDC, 110 S Orange St, Albion, IN 46701, 260-636-3800

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