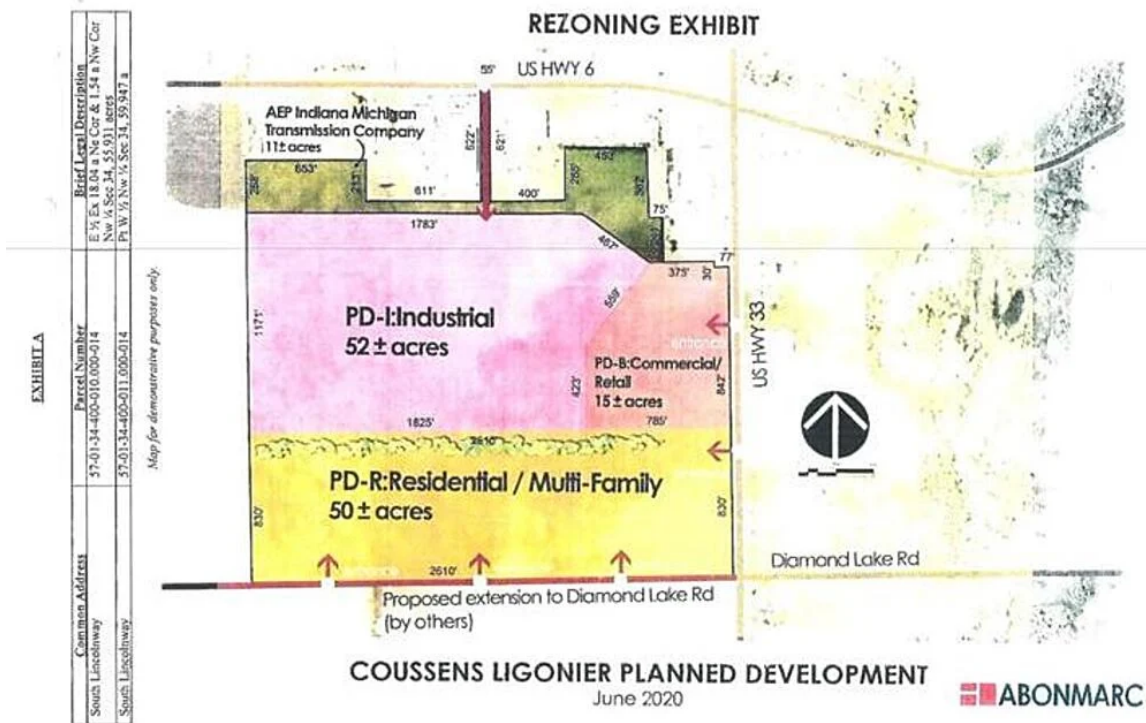


Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



Development map illustrates newly annexed and zoned acreage located on the west side of US 33, just south of US 6, in Ligonier.

Ligonier eyes growth on city's south side

Mayor Patty Fisel's top priority for commercial expansion on a portion of 117 acres of land recently annexed and rezoned is attracting a hotel to Ligonier. The Coussens Ligonier Planned Development received the city's approval recently and includes 52 acres zoned for industry, 50 acres for residential growth, and about 15 acres zoned for commercial business growth. Ligonier no longer has a hotel, causing visitors to seek out overnight accommodations elsewhere in Noble County or nearby Goshen. Fisel hopes to see a hotel

with about 30 beds. She also sees a need for another grocery store in the city, perhaps a discount chain like Aldi, and more fast food restaurants as a good fit.

\$2M for PreservING Main Street

Kendallville named a Pilot Community

Kendallville has been selected to receive \$2 million to transform historic buildings along Main Street. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs made the announcement on September 10 following a presentation made and attended by stakeholders from across the county at the Strand Theatre in August.



[EHK Website](#)

Brookville, Indiana was also named a pilot community, a decision that doubled the amount of funding originally announced. According to Mayor SuzAnne Handshoe, Kendallville plans to use the money to work towards renovating one or more "demonstration blocks" to serve as a model for historic preservation renovation and to help build capacity and resources to keep the momentum going. Other projects could include the development of a cultural, historic "trail" and programming for building owners. Experience the Heart of Kendallville (EHK), the lead organization, is seeking to raise the \$200,000 required funding match. The organization's website offers a way to donate and follow the project.



[About the early childhood coalition](#)

Foundation investing in children

As the Community Foundation of Noble County celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is committed to identifying and responding to emerging local issues and helping the region prepare for the future. One such issue identified is access to high quality, affordable child care and early learning opportunities. The Foundation has partnered with the Noble County EDC and Crossroads United Way to execute a strategy to address this need. An early childhood coalition has been formed and, soon, a full-time coordinator will be onboarded. In addition, the Foundation has awarded six grants to local organizations in recognition of their work in child care and early learning, as well as youth entrepreneurship.

[Read full article](#)

Partnership names new CEO

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – The Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership has named a new leader. Economic development professional Stephane Frijia will assume the role of president and CEO in October. Frijia has served in a business development leadership role within the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) for over 10 years as senior vice president of strategy. He will relocate to Northeast Indiana from his current home in Phoenix in the coming weeks.

[Read more](#)



Stephane Frijia

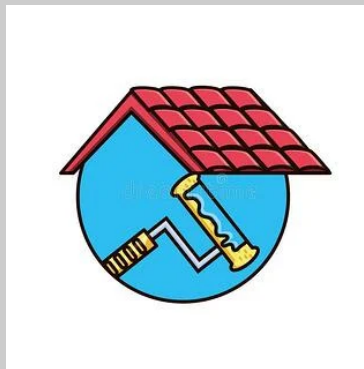


Noble companies receive grants

Two Noble County manufacturers are recipients of Manufacturing Readiness Grants in the fourth round of investments by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation in partnership with Conexus Indiana. Kammerer Dynamics Inc. and Reliable Tool & Machine Co. will receive \$65,000 and \$10,000 respectively in support of technology-based capital investments. The companies are among a total of 34 across the state to be awarded funding this round.

Commissions award facade grants

The Kendallville Redevelopment Commission recently approved a facade grant to reimburse 50% of the costs of improvements planned for The Breakfast House on South Main Street. Roofing, siding, new doors, and other updates will cost an estimated \$26,279. The Albion Redevelopment Commission also approved a funding



match for updates at Albion Pizza Depot. Those improvements are expected to cost about \$19,954 and will include roofing, new doors, and paint. In Ligonier, the Redevelopment Commission approved gutter replacements for the Ligonier Visitors Center. The city agreed to pay up to \$5,207 through a facade grant for upgrades.



Students expand their impact

Local high school students enrolled in the Impact Institute Building Trades program are honing their skills and sharing time and talents again in Noble County. This time, students are working on a one-story home for a single mom and her two sons. The build, taking place on Newnam Avenue in Kendallville, is a project of Habitat for Humanity of Northeast Indiana. Students at Impact also played a significant role in home renovation projects of Kendallville Restorations Inc. (KRI), a local non-profit organization working to eliminate blight and provide affordable single-family housing. Such collaborations are significant as Noble County continues to be challenged by a lack of housing needed to grow the workforce.

Boost Noble County's case for broadband

Noble County is leading the state in the number of locations that have recorded speed tests, and all those who experience slow or intermittent internet connectivity in rural Noble County are encouraged to participate. The Indiana Speed Test takes less than one minute to complete using any internet connected device and does not collect any personal information. The data derived, however, may prove critical for Noble County ISPs competing for funding to expand fiber optic networks.

[Take the Indiana Speed Test](#)





Central Noble fifth grade teacher **Deb Sieber** has been named Teacher of the Year by KPC Media Group and Fort Wayne Business Weekly for 2021. The award follows open nominations in 14 different categories and deliberations by the sponsors to select 14 teachers, principals, professionals, and counselors for recognition. View a segment on Sieber beginning at 35:33 in the video, shared courtesy of KPC Media.

Freedom Academy is celebrating 30 years of providing adult continuing education programs to Noble County and northeast Indiana. The private, non-profit workforce development training organization was founded in Kendallville in 1991 and now serves all 11 counties that make up the Northeast Indiana Region with a variety of certificate programs.

Congratulations to the **Albion Volunteer Fire Department** on a \$5,000 grant award from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Funds awarded may be used for training, installation of dry hydrants, or to purchase equipment and gear to combat wildfires.

Cromwell is one of just 30 communities in Indiana to receive a sapling from the Callery pear tree in New York City known as the "9/11 Survivor Tree". The sapling was planted in front of Cromwell Town Hall on September 11 at a dedication ceremony. The pear tree at the World Trade Center was discovered damaged, but still alive, following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Cromwell firefighter **Rick Rockford** traveled to New York to pick up the sapling, set aside by a cousin who is a New York City police detective.

A past president of the Beta Associate of Tri Kappa, **Laurie Bloom**, was recently elected Tri Kappa's state vice president to serve from 2021 to 2023, putting her in line to be the

organization's state president. Bloom's election marks the first time Kendallville has had a state vice president among their local membership.

Angela Scott has been named library director at the Ligonier Public Library. Scott previously served as program coordinator and succeeds Jerry Nesbitt. Nesbitt served as the library's director from 1975 until his unexpected passing in 2021.

COVID-19 RESOURCES & UPDATES



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

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