

November 2021



**Vacant industrial space, like the interior of this Kendallville property, has become scarce in Noble County over the past few months.**

## **Industrial vacancies drop dramatically in Noble County**

The speed and level of industrial occupancy that has occurred across Noble County in recent months is extraordinary.

A total of 20 industrial buildings across the county have been sold or leased in recent months. New occupants include local, expanding companies as well as employers that are new to the county. New occupancies have taken 560,000 square feet of industrial space off the market so far this year.

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## INDUSTRY 4.0

VIRTUAL

5-COUNTY NORTHEAST INDIANA  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

**Wednesday, November 10**  
**9 AM - 11 AM**

**Join LEDOs for a virtual forum featuring county development updates and guest speakers who will define Industry 4.0 and highlight the impacts and the future of work in Northeast Indiana.**

### Virtual LEDO Forum Nov. 10

LEDOs from Dekalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley Counties in Northeast Indiana are hosting a virtual economic development forum on Wednesday, November 10 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Stakeholders across the region are encouraged to attend to hear brief updates from each county's economic development official as well as special guests who will speak about Industry 4.0, what it means, and the impacts to workplaces and the workforce. Joshua Meinika, Noble County's keynote speaker at the June 2021 annual meeting of the Noble County Economic Development Corporation, will cover the topic and provide updates related to Bosch's recent implementation of the Internet of Things at the Albion plant.

[Learn more](#)

[Register now](#)



BOUNDLESS ENERGY™



## Give the 'Be Noble Card'

### Eat, shop, and support local small businesses

The Be Noble Card is a community e-gift card like no other! The Be Noble Card is a gift to eat, shop, play, and support nearly 20 (and the list is growing) of Noble County's most popular locally owned small businesses. The digital Mastercard product may be used once, or multiples times, until the balance is used up. Participating businesses accept it just as they would any other credit card. The e-gift card can be printed and presented to a merchant on paper, or on a mobile device. SHOPNoble will help employers



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who plan to spend \$1,000 or more on gifts for employees enjoy discounts and other perks, as well as explore multiple ways to give Be Noble Cards this Christmas. Call us at (260) 636-3800 to learn more.



Apply now

## "Coolest thing" made in Noble?

Noble County manufacturers have an opportunity to celebrate what they make! The "Coolest Thing Made in Indiana" competition, sponsored by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, celebrates the state's long manufacturing history and is open to companies who make all kinds of things. Companies entered in the tournament will face off in a single-elimination bracket format. Winners will be chosen through public fan voting. Applications are open through December 15, 2021.

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## Ligonier pursues bonds to fund water improvements

Ligonier City Council has approved the final reading of an ordinance to begin the process of selling bonds to cover the costs of maintenance and painting projects on the city's water tower and upgrades to water lines along Second and Third Streets. The bonds will enable Ligonier to borrow money to complete the projects at a very low interest rate and to pay back the loan using future tax and fee revenues.

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## Population of youth declining

Noble County overall population flat

A smaller number of people, 79 to be exact, were counted in Noble County in 2020 than in the previous census in 2010. This slight decline is attributed to a 7.3% decline among people under 18 years of age. Noble County gained adult population, but the increase of 2.5% was the smallest among all neighboring counties.

[Read more](#)

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## Nominations open for manufacturers

KPC Media Group is now seeking nominations of Northeast Indiana manufacturers to recognize achievements in a variety of categories. Noble County companies named winners in 2020 include Reliable, Flint & Walling, and No-Sag. 2021 winners will be announced at an expo at Parkview Mirro Center on January 20, 2022.



[Expo & Award Details](#)



**BIGGBY**<sup>®</sup>  
COFFEE

## Biggby Coffee coming to Avilla

### Construction underway

Avilla will soon be home to a Biggby Coffee. Construction is now underway just west of SR 3 on Albion Street. Biggby is a chain based in Lansing, MI. The new location marks the

third this year for the franchise. The Avilla location will be the first in Noble County. There are also locations in Fort Wayne and Angola. An opening date has not yet been announced.

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## 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



**Jenna Anderson** has become the face behind the Noble County Early Childhood Education Coalition mission increase the availability, affordability, and quality of childcare in Noble County. Anderson, previously a support services manager and marketing specialist at the Kendallville Public Library, will lead a program called **Noble Thrive by 5**. Her office is at the Community Foundation of Noble County. For more information, contact Anderson at [jenna@noblenthriveby5.org](mailto:jenna@noblenthriveby5.org).

**Terry Householder**, publisher, president, and chairman of the board at KPC Media Group since 2001, has fully retired from the company. Householder began his career with Kendallville Publishing Co. in 1969. He will retain a board seat at KPC, however **Richard F. Stolz** has taken on the leadership roles. Stolz joined the company in 1977 as a reporter and, like Householder, is a son-in-law of the company's Publisher Emeritus George O. Witwer.

Elkhart-based **Dexter Axle Co.** has acquired Canada-based National Trailer Parts Warehouse Ltd. The company, located in Saskatchewan, makes utility trailer, RV, marine, and other components to support dealers, manufacturers, and service centers in western Canada. Dexter is Noble County's largest employer with a plant in Albion and operates 17 manufacturing facilities in the U.S. and Canada.

In partnership with Governor Eric Holcomb and State Health Commissioner Kris Box, MD, FACOG, **Parkview Noble Hospital** has been recognized for its commitment to infant and maternal health. For implementing best practices in six key areas impacting the health of moms and babies, Parkview Noble was honored at the second annual INspire Hospital of Distinction program.



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