

Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



March 2022

Visit Noble County hires Caswell

The Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau has hired Grace Caswell as executive director. Caswell holds a Master of Art Leadership and Organizational Physiology concentrating on non-profit Management and was most recently employed by St. Martin's Healthcare as a development director. She assumed her new role on February 20 with an office located adjacent to Noble County Economic Development in Albion.



Grace Caswell



New leadership program launched

A new leadership program has been announced by Freedom Academy. The first classes, for those who register by March 2, will be held March 7-21, on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Dekko Lakeside Center (formerly the Dekko Foundation) in Kendallville.

Making a Difference: Influential Leadership Development Series is designed with a comprehensive approach to meet individuals where they are and develop the skills they need to increase overall efficiency and effectiveness. All modules are interactive and engaging. They include Leadership 101, Emotional Intelligence, DISC Assessment, Communication 101, and Boundaries for Leaders. In addition to the first scheduled class noted above, employers may also seek to have customized training delivered at their location on a custom schedule. For more information contact Anita Shepherd at 800-200-6499 or ashepherd@freedomacademy.net.



Sharon Montoya

Montoya new Chamber leader

The Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce has a new executive director. Sharon Montoya took over the role on February 7. Montoya was most recently a community director for The Arc Noble County Foundations. Prior to that, she was a paramedic. Cathy Michelbrink was also hired this year as the Chamber's new office manager. The new staff are currently making plans for the organization's annual banquet in April, which will feature keynote speaker Jaylon Smith, linebacker for the New York Giants.

New retail planned for Albion

An Ohio-based development company is set to construct a combined Family Dollar and Dollar Tree store in Albion. Site development plans approved recently describe a 10,000 square foot retail store to be located at 819 Trailridge Road on Albion's north side. The new

store could be up and running within six months and will be first combined store of its kind in the region.



[Learn more](#)

CITY OF KENDALLVILLE

State of the City
2022

Mayor Handshoe delivers wrap-up on 2021

Parkview seeking volunteers to serve on advisory council

Parkview Noble Hospital is currently looking for volunteers to serve on its Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC). PFAC volunteers provide valuable input to help the hospital improve for a better patient experience. Those interested in volunteering on PFAC, or in other capacities at the hospital, may request an application by contacting Erin Goldsberry at (260) 347-8143 or erin.goldsberry@parkview.com.

New VP of community impact hired

Natalie Evans has been hired by Crossroads United Way, serving Noble, Elkhart, and LaGrange Counties. Evans will develop strategic partnerships with local nonprofits, businesses, and governments to identify and address the most pressing community issues, as well as guide social service programs, volunteer efforts, and annual community impact grants. Denise Landers will continue to lead fundraising efforts in Noble County and maintain the office located at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville.



Crossroads United Way
Serving Elkhart, LaGrange
& Noble Counties

Evans Bio

Cromwell will upgrade water treatment plant

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) has awarded a \$700,000 grant to the Town of Cromwell to upgrade the town's water treatment plant. Design work is already underway to rehabilitate a water tower put up in 1974, replace fire hydrants, and install new water meters for users of the town's utility. Construction is expected to take up to 18 months and will likely begin mid-summer. Cromwell will also see a significant upgrade with the replacement of a culvert on SR 5 at the railroad tracks, relocating electrical, water, and sewer utilities.

NoblePalooza, an Expo to Thrive Saturday, March 12, 2022

Community Learning Center 10 AM - 1 PM

NoblePalooza brings an extraordinary opportunity for everyone who lives, works, and plays in Noble County to tap into the resources and services of nearly 75 local businesses and organizations in one place! This free community event will feature free family-friendly activities and information to help every individual thrive, including health and wellness, family services, youth programs, leadership development,

entrepreneurial support, government and politics, the judicial system, plus a vibrant marketplace featuring young entrepreneurs and other locally owned small businesses.

NoblePalooza.com



Local dog owners will be excited to learn Restore Avilla, a local non-profit organization that focuses on economic development in Avilla, has reached its fundraising goal of \$38,000 and will construct a new dog park. The county's first dog park will be called **Crump's Canine Corral**, named in honor of Vinnie and Camille Crump, top donors to the project. Organizers hope the park, to be located near the Avilla branch of the Noble County Public Library on Ley Street in Avilla, will be completed this spring. 🐾🐾

Dollar General opened a new store near the intersection of SR 9 north and US 6 between Ligonier and Kendallville recently. The addition of the Rome City-area store opens opportunities for nonprofit organizations, libraries, and schools within a 15-mile radius of the new location, to apply for Dollar General Literacy Foundation grants. The company typically hires six to 10 employees at each store. 🗝️

Inez Mynhier, baker of thousands of cakes, has retired. Mynhier, a resident of Brimfield, began baking in her home in Rome City in the 1950s. At 90 years of age, Mynhier has given all of her supplies to her granddaughter, Kari Mynhier, in hopes of carrying on the business and Inez's legacy. The elder entrepreneur and once-avid ice fishing enthusiast is celebrated for her 64-year entrepreneurial career. 🏠

The historic **Strand Theatre** in Kendallville will be one of nine sites across Indiana to host a screening of six short documentary films about Indiana's waterways. The films are part of Indiana Humanities' "Unearthed" initiative. The Kendallville screening will occur on

Wednesday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit

IndianaHumanities.org/Films. 🎬

An eyesore has been removed in downtown Kendallville. After filing suit against the property's owner, the **former pawn shop** (once the site of Sears), located just north of the railroad tracks on Main Street, has been demolished. Though unrelated, the removal is a positive step that aligns with the city's efforts to revitalize and spruce up downtown Kendallville. 🚧



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