

# Be Noble

*Noble County Economic Development*



April 2022

## **Noble County EDC restructures**

The Noble County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) introduced its new brand, featuring the words “Be Noble,” in 2021. The organization just recently completed a change in its organizational structure as well. Noble County Economic Development is officially doing business as Be Noble Inc., effective April 1.

Gary Gatman, executive director, says the name change, and the transition from a 501(c)6 to a 501(c)3 organization, was made for a variety of reasons. Among them are opportunities to expand funding streams and better represent multiple strategies and projects the organization is now involved in.

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## **Free small biz tax webinar April 11**

The NE Indiana Small Business Development Center (NE-ISBDC) is partnering with the Indiana Department of Revenue (DOR) to offer a no-cost webinar to assist business owners with tax questions. The session will be presented by the DOR, virtually, on Monday, April 11th, at 10:00 AM and is intended for small business owners who are just starting or growing their business and have questions about state tax requirements or want to navigate bills, audits, payments, and how to stay compliant.



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## Mayor shares state of the city address

Ligonier Mayor Patty Fisel addressed residents, city employees, and elected officials at the Ligonier City Hall on March 3 with updates about a wide variety of development topics including the arrival of new businesses, work on the Strawberry Valley Cultural Trail, street improvements, annexations, and the new fire station.

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## More investments approved for abatements

The trend of significant investments to expand production capacities and upgrade to industrial technologies does not appear to be slowing down in Noble County. Two more local employers were recently approved to receive tax breaks by members of the Noble County Council in early



March. B&J Specialty in Wawaka will spend \$263,000 on a precision surface grinding machine, earning a 3-year tax abatement. Color Master Inc. announced plans to invest \$1.6 million to add another production line at their facility west of Kendallville. Both companies cited job retention, new job growth, and increased sales opportunities as a result of the projects.



## Trail to expand in Ligonier

Phase III development of the Strawberry Valley Cultural will connect Kenney Park to downtown, according to Mayor Patty Fisel. Fisel shared visions for the expansion at her recent State of the City address. When complete, sometime in the next two to four years, the trail will cover a total of five miles. Phase III will bring the trail through downtown, then on to Woodlawn Park Skate Plaza, located along Lincolnway West. Fisel's goal is to take advantage of the Elkhart River as an asset and make downtown Ligonier a destination.

## "Top Micropolitans" list released

Kendallville ties for 39th in US

Site Selection Magazine announced winners of the 2021 Site Selection Governor's Cup awards recently, noting a pronounced upswing in project activity compared to 2020. The City of Kendallville tied for 39th place on the magazine's list of the Top 100 Micropolitans in the U.S. for number of projects in 2021. The list ranks over 5,000 micropolitans across the U.S. Indiana had ten communities



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on the Top 100 Micropolitans list. The state ranked second overall for economic development projects in the nation, just behind Ohio.



## **End of an era**

### **Superior Sample closes after nearly 65 years**

Founded in 1957 and family-owned, Superior Sample Company in Ligonier is closing its doors. Founded by the Hagen family, Superior Sample Company produced sample books and cards for a variety of products including apparel, upholstery, draperies, and wall covering. Employees averaged a tenure or more than 15 years, helping to provide consistent quality and reliability to clients. According to reports, the building on Gerber Street has been sold and will soon serve a new purpose in the Ligonier Industrial Park.

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An estimated **250-300 people** participated in Noble County's first-ever NoblePalooza, an Expo to Thrive on March 12. Attendees enjoyed opportunities to engage with 81 different

organizations, small businesses, and young entrepreneurs during the three-hour free community event. Organizers are eyeing the possibility of making NoblePalooza an annual event.

**Cindy O'Brien**, a long-time Rome City resident and community volunteer, was recently named Noble County Zone Lion of the Year. O'Brien was the first woman to join the Rome City-Brimfield Lions Club in 2004. Six more have followed in her footsteps since then. O'Brien supports a variety of Lions Club projects and volunteers at Black Pine Animal Sanctuary in Albion. She cites the opportunity to build new friendships and serve as inspirations for giving back to the community.

**Central Noble and the Albion community** celebrates the winningest senior class of players in school history. **Connor Essegian, Logan Gard, Ryan Schroeder, Noah Shepherd, and Aidan Dreibelbis** helped lead the CN high school boys basketball team to 89 wins over the past four years and bring home three Northeast Corner Conference (NECC) tournament titles plus sectional, regional, and semi-state wins. Essegian, the school's first player to ever be recruited by a Big 10 school, will head to the University of Wisconsin this fall as the school's lone 2022 scholarship recruit. A final five finalist for Indiana's Mr. Basketball, Essegian was named to the Indiana All-State Team.

A new **East Noble Alumni Association** has been launched. Information is available on the school corporation's website at <https://www.eastnoble.net/page/alumni>.



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