

Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



May 2, 2023

Invest in Be Noble!

Be Noble Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit, charitable organization, the only one that works exclusively to ensure a thriving economy in Noble County. We are a connector, working to help reduce duplicity of effort, streamline processes and communications, and enhance results. Our continued dedication to collaboration has helped us leverage capital, identify and pursue development opportunities, innovate, and grow. Please give today and support our Annual Operating budget to help sustain services. Thank you!

[DONATE NOW](#)



Invest in tomorrow's workforce now

The East Noble Robotics Team invites employers and other businesses to come meet "Sir Big Boy", their latest robot. A free demonstration and opportunities to support students who are engaged in learning and using skills in high demand will be shared at this free event on May 11 at noon at the CLC in Kendallville.

[Learn more & register to attend](#)



Patty Fisel

Remembering Mayor Patty

The community is mourning the loss of an enthusiastic and passionate advocate. Mayor Patricia "Patty" Fisel of Ligonier passed away on April 25 following a year-long illness. She was 82. Mayor Fisel was a business owner before being elected as Mayor of Ligonier in 2007.

Fisel is remembered for her energy, passion, and dedication to making Ligonier and Noble County a better place for all.

Weigh in on topics by May 11

To help provide navigation through what has become a new normal, Northeast Indiana Works is planning to host another Employer Seminar focusing on topics that matter to local employers. Organizers are seeking the input of employees to help determine the topics that are most important in this region. Please help by participating in their survey by May 11.

**NORTHEAST
INDIANA
WORKS**



[Brief Survey](#)



Network targets employee transportation

An innovative approach to help employees in Noble County achieve safe, reliable transportation to gain and sustain employment is taking root in Noble County. Common Grace Ministries is leading an effort to build a local network that connects assets already in place to neighbors who need assistance with automotive repairs. Organizers are seeking information from local employers to learn how transportation is challenging current workers and affects their business. Information gathered via a survey will help inform ongoing program development of "Getting Started".

[Learn more & take survey](#)

More road improvements coming to Noble

The Indiana Department of Transportation has awarded another round of Community Crossings grants. As a result, the Town of Albion will see about four miles of improvements to streets. Cromwell plans to mill and pave three streets in that community. Noble County also received a maximum award of \$1,000,000 for upgrades to roads in unincorporated areas of the county.

[See full list of recipients](#)

New leadership academy to launch

Seeking cohort candidates & sponsors

[Thrive Noble County](#) has announced plans to launch Engage Noble, a new Noble leadership academy designed to cultivate civic leaders, build regional capacity, and ensure a thriving economy. Local sponsorships are available for employers and other stakeholders to invest in this important initiative. Sponsorships include tuition for



[Learn more](#)

one or more cohorts to attend and will help cover costs of program development and sustainability. Individuals and employers interested in being contacted when applications open for the first cohort in Fall 2023 are encouraged to sign up now to receive that information this summer.



Caswell attends Tourism Academy

Grace Caswell, executive director of the Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau, has been selected to participate in the Indiana Tourism Academy Class of 2024. She joins several colleagues from across Northeast Indiana striving to strengthen and grow the tourism sector in the region by learning and implementing best practices.

Inflation Reduction Act offers significant solar incentives

A panel of experts addressed a full house of business executives and economic developers about "going solar" at a breakfast hosted by Greater Fort Wayne Inc. last week.

Representative from Sweetwater, Junior Achievement of Northeast Indiana, Turnstone Center, Solar Solutions



[Learn more](#)

Technologies, Baker Tilly, and Halo funding shared their experiences and tips for companies considering the use of solar. Information provided included recommended due diligence when screening solar installers, questions for utility providers, an overview of the \$499B in available funding through direct pay tax credits and qualifying energy credits, and financing.



Attendees learn about Noble's "housing market potential"

Over 50 representatives from across Noble County came together on April 21 for the Noble County Housing Symposium. The gathering marked a key milestone in the process of building a housing strategy for Noble County, the objective of the Housing Coalition of Noble County.

[Read more](#)



Support available for housing development plans

Housing Resource Hub is asking community stakeholders, including local governments, developers, builders, banks and lenders to request support for their housing development plans, either envisioned or underway, by visiting their "Communities" webpage and clicking the "Request Help with My Project" button. If you have a potential site for a housing

development, are interested in receiving support for projects with barriers, or offer mortgage loans, construction loans, or other financial tools for housing, please reach out.

Contact the Hub

Focused on housing growth

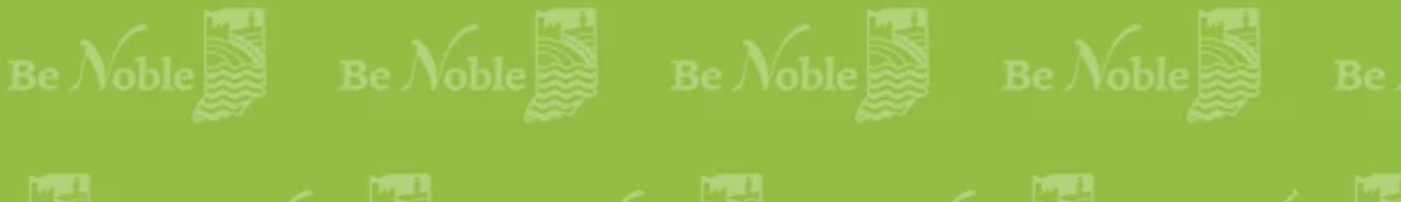
The Ligonier Redevelopment Commission (RDC) recently acquired the former Community Foundation of Noble County offices and 27 acres of land on the Lincoln Highway. They hope to see the land utilized for new housing development. The Foundation says the sale of the property to the RDC helps fulfill their legal duty of care, duty of loyalty, and duty of obedience. They hope to see the property be a catalyst for positive impact.

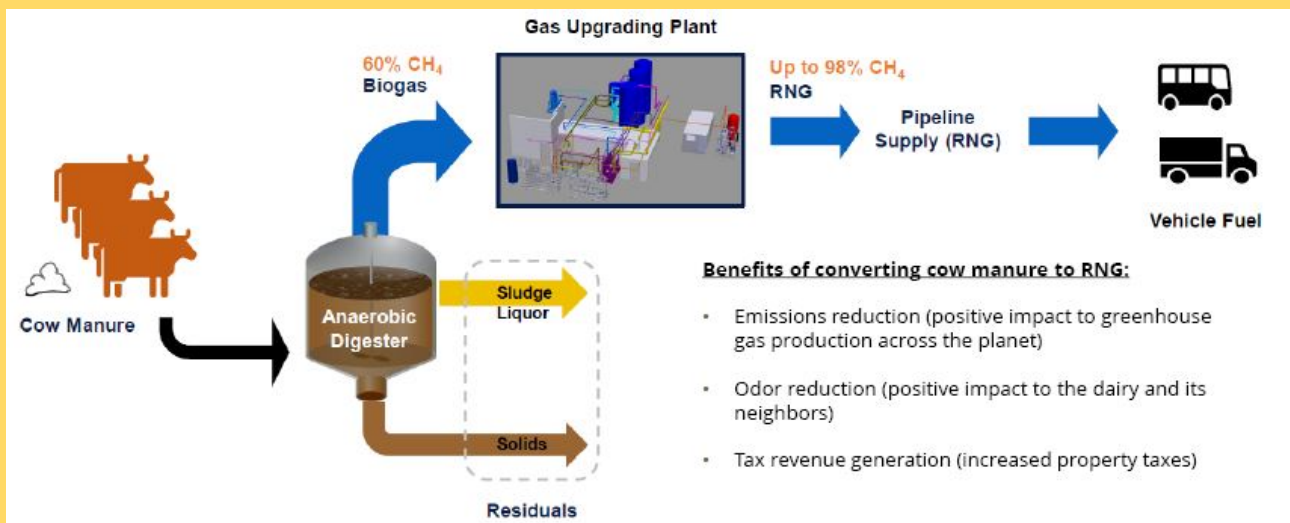


1599 Lincolnway South, Ligonier



Biofuel project to enhance Noble's green energy footprint





Source: www.bartlettwest.com/insights/cow-power-renewable-fuel-manure

A unanimous vote of the Noble County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) on April 5 gave the green light for Metzger Dairy Inc., operating on the western outskirts of Wolf Lake in Noble Township, to construct an anaerobic digester system and produce renewable natural gas (RNG) on site. Once in operation, the system at Metzger Dairy is expected to generate a full tanker truck of RNG every three to five days, which will be transported to an injection point to be added to the natural gas pipeline.

[Read more](#)

Resources for local entrepreneurs online now

Be Noble Inc. has added a landing page to the economic development organization's website to provide "one-stop" access to local resources and development partners focused on local entrepreneurial growth. Resources are available within Noble County, many of them free.



[Entrepreneurial Resources](#)

Notable Noble



"Best Short" awarded to Impact students

Four students at the Impact Institute's Interactive Media program won first place in the animated short category at the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters annual high school contest.

[Read more](#)

The **Community Foundation of Noble County** has announced plans to move back to Ligonier. An announcement published recently on social media indicated the organization will eventually lease the historic, former City Hall building at 103 W Third Street, from the City of Ligonier. Leatherman Construction Inc. has been hired to complete renovations to the building. The Foundation will continue to operate out of the former Dekko Foundation offices at Baby Mountain in Kendallville until renovations are complete.

The Hooley farm in Noble County was honored recently with a Hoosier Homestead Award. The family accepted the Centennial Award from Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch in recognition of more than 100 years of consecutive family ownership of the farm. They join over 6,000 families in the Hoosier state that have received the award since the program's inception in 1976.

Dexter in Albion challenged employees recently to help ensure Central Noble students continue to receive nutritional meals after the account to assist families in paying for school lunches fell into the red. Workers rose to the challenge and raised over \$3,600, exceeding the deficit. **#communityinvestment**

The Kendallville Board of Works and Public Safety approved the selling of a vacant residential lot in the city to **Habitat for Humanity** for \$10.00. The generous transaction took place recently to enable the property, where a blighted home was demolished, to be restored to the tax rolls once construction of a new home is completed. Habitat for Humanity benefited from a similar transaction in Kendallville that in 2020, resulting in a new home for a family completed in 2022.

Construction and renovations at the **Noble County Courthouse** are set to begin in earnest in August this year. Most county offices not associated with the justice system relocated to the new Noble County Annex late last summer. When completed, the courthouse will exclusively house all justice-related county offices and courtrooms.



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