

# Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



★ July 6, 2023 ★

*Congratulations,  
Class of 2023!*



**Be Noble**  
Noble County Economic Development



**We want you to choose Noble County  
for your future career & life!**

## What does Be Noble do for local employers?

Economic development touches every sector of the economy, which means the Be Noble Inc. team is consistently working on a variety of projects that fall under any of seven strategic priorities. One of those priorities is business retention and expansion - helping existing employers sustain, grow, and thrive! Check out the new "EMPLOYERS" landing page to explore.

**Employer Services**



**Noble County Human Resource Alliance (NCHRA) meets quarterly.**

## **Free meet-up for HR professionals**

Matt Crouch, Vice President of Community Economic Development at Brightpoint, will discuss the [Community Loan Center \(CLC\) of Indiana](#), an employer-based, affordable, small-dollar loan and employee benefit program at the next meeting of the Noble County Human Resource Alliance. The meeting will be held on Thursday, July 20 from 8-9 AM at Be Noble Inc., 110 S Orange Street, Albion.

**Save a seat!**



## **Hendrickson to invest \$17M+**

Hendrickson, located in the Kendallville East Industrial Park, has announced plans to add 133,000 square feet of production space and invest \$1.8 million in new equipment to furnish it. The project, slated for completion by next spring, represents a total investment of more than \$17 million dollars and is expected to add 50 new jobs.

## **Tax break approved for new mill**

The City of Ligonier approved two 10-year tax abatements for real and personal property in support of Star of the West's major expansion project announced recently. The project represents what is believed to be the largest single industrial investment in decades in Noble County,



bringing an estimated increase in assessed values of \$122.3 million. Star of the West will build an all-new flour mill and add new capacity in the Ligonier Industrial Park.

### Wage study

Region	2022
U.S. ....	\$70,343
Indiana.....	\$58,604
Allen.....	\$55,882
DeKalb.....	\$62,132
LaGrange...	\$56,969
Noble.....	\$48,028
Steuben.....	\$45,507
Whitley.....	\$56,781

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF  
LABOR STATISTICS

## Wages remain low in Indiana

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation and local economic development organizations, including Be Noble, are consistently focused on building talent development systems to create a highly skilled workforce in order to retain and attract jobs that pay well. Such strategies are supported by the latest wage study released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics that show Northeast Indiana's counties, for the most part, lag well below the state and national averages for wages paid.

[Read full article](#)



## Central Noble approves child care

The Central Noble School Board has approved a partnership that will help working parents with children enrolled at the schools. The Boys and Girls Club of Elkhart County will set up a KidsCare operation at the Central Noble Elementary School this fall. The program will provide before-school care from 5:30 a.m. until classes begin for K-6th Grade students, as well as after-school care from the time classes are released until 5:30 p.m. Costs for care will be \$55 per week for one time period, or \$75 for both, per student. Bus service will be provided to those who attend classes at Central Noble Primary in Wolf Lake.

## Invest in Be Noble to support:

- New business attraction - [Available properties](#) have been submitted 40 times to site selectors this year; new soil borings Kendallville East Ind. Park.
- Free local business support services - Local investments of \$146.7M supported by state and local incentives this year-to-date.
- Enhancement of talent development systems - [Manufacturing Experience '23](#); [Engage Noble Leadership Academy](#) first cohort this fall.
- Enhancement of entrepreneurial ecosystems - New coworking spaces; [SHOPNoble](#). promoting locally-owned small businesses.
- Support for new housing development - Partnership with the [Housing Resource Hub](#).
- Support for child care infrastructure - Partnership with [Thrive by 5](#).
- Convening of stakeholders around common interests - Noble County Human Resource Alliance (NCHRA), [Noble County Housing Coalition](#), Thrive by 5, [Thrive Steering Committee](#), [NoblePalooza](#), an Expo to Thrive, etc.
- And more! [Explore our website](#) to learn more!

Be Noble Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit, charitable organization, TID 86-3876110. Contributions are tax deductible.

**GIVE NOW**



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# TALENT DEVELOPMENT

*News & Opportunities*



[Learn more](#)

## Applications are now open!

### Leadership academy begins September 21

[Thrive Noble County](#) introduces Engage Noble, a new Noble Leadership Academy designed to cultivate civic leaders, build regional capacity, and ensure a thriving economy.

Applications for the first cohort are now open! The academy includes eight 1/2 day seminars featuring leadership training as well as interactive discussions with local leaders and topic experts around quality of life in Noble County. The custom-designed course plan is highly focused on Noble County and its unique assets and opportunities, visiting multiple venues across the region. Students will also enjoy bookend networking events, a mid-course community engagement opportunity, and free food at each session.

### Funding available for welding

Funding is now available for an 80-hour course in welding, certified by the American Welding Society (AWS) and offered by Freedom Academy. Classes will run from August 21 through October 23, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the Anthis Career Center in Fort Wayne. Learn more by calling (800) 200-6499 or by [emailing Anita Shepherd](#).

A banner with a dark blue background. On the left, there is a logo consisting of two stylized houses with green leaves above them. To the right of the logo, the text "HOUSING COALITION of Noble County" is written in a dark blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "HIGHLIGHTS" is written in a large, light green, serif font.

## HOUSING COALITION of Noble County HIGHLIGHTS

### **Albion and Ligonier take steps to grow**

At a meeting of the Housing Coalition of Noble County on June 22, called together by the Housing Resource Hub (the Hub), stakeholders heard updates and details from two Noble County communities that have identified "catalyst sites" for housing development. Representatives involved in the projects shared the steps taken thus far, as well as their visions for next steps.



**Ligonier catalyst site**

[Continue reading...](#)

# SPOTLIGHT

GREAT VENTURES START FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS

*on entrepreneurial ecosystem*

## Kendallville to launch county's first coworking space

The Kendallville Redevelopment Commission has committed \$102,000 to acquire a building on Historic Downtown Kendallville's Main Street for the purpose of developing a coworking space. Funds will be granted over a two-year period to Historic Downtown Kendallville (HDK) to purchase, then remodel, the former car dealership at the corner of Main and Rush Streets. HDK is collaborating with Eskywell Consulting, a company with several successful coworking spaces in Michigan and Ohio. HDK and Be Noble Inc. have already been successful in attaining grants to help with some costs of the project.

## Entrepreneurs invited to "Social"

Those who are looking to start or already own a new small business are invited to join fellow entrepreneurs and [KEDCO](#) - in partnership with [Fortitude Fund](#) and [StartUp Wawasee](#) - for brews and camaraderie on Wednesday, July 26 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at [Boondocks Restaurant](#) in Syracuse, just west of Noble County.

[Continue reading...](#)



**Nate Scherer & Jeff Dyson, StartUp Wawasee**



Register

## Caffeinated Conversation for small business owners & start-ups

The Northeast Indiana Innovation Center (NIIC) offers Caffeinated Conversations for small business owners, or those thinking about starting a business, to present their business or concept to attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, marketers, and business advisors. The networking opportunities will enable attendees to help one another, learn how they might collaborate, and identify any "blind spots" that may exist. Anyone with a business or business idea is welcome. The next "Conversation" is on Saturday, July 15 with two sessions: one from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM and another from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Sessions are held at the NIIC, 3201 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne. Space is limited and registration required.

More entrepreneurial resources



Happy 160th Birthday, Kendallville!

Kudos to the organizations and people who revitalized the former Kendallville schools building in a neighborhood in Kendallville to become what is now known as the **Community Learning Center (CLC)**. The CLC has been awarded the 2023 ARCHie Outreach Award by ARCH Inc. of Fort Wayne in honor of the project.

**Noble REMC Operation Round Up** grants were announced recently. \$20,000 will impact 12 organizations, including LaOtto Community Park, Noble Trails, Junior Achievement, Central Noble schools, Helping Hands in Rome City, Bear Lake Camp, West Noble schools, VFW Post 4717, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the City of Kendallville, Drug-Free Noble County, and Black Pine Animal Sanctuary.



Wishing a Happy 25th Anniversary to **Cobblestone Golf Course**. A groundbreaking on the course's 5,000 square foot clubhouse was held 25 years ago in June. Cobblestone is home to Great Indiana Golf, which brings in hundreds of visitors to Noble County and the region each year.

Congratulations to Be Noble's own **Lori Gagen**, operations director. Gagen was recently honored by the Albion Rotary as the community's Citizen of the Year. Gagen currently serves as Vice President of the Albion STAR Team, as a member of the Albion Redevelopment Commission, and owns and operates Catchy Creations LLC to provide affordable websites to local small businesses.

Noble County is a land of 117 lakes and more than 30 public access sites. Those looking to be rejuvenated by these natural assets, or just throw out a line, can download an **upgraded, free smartphone app from the DNR** to maximize their enjoyment. Search the app store for "Indiana DNR" or visit [on.IN.gov/dnr-apps](https://on.IN.gov/dnr-apps) for more information.

Noble County's **public art displays** just grew with the installation of two metalworks in Kendallville's downtown pocket park, located on Main Street south of City Hall. A new "bird man", with red cardinals perched on outstretched arms, and a playful pup were created by Dale Rogers of Haverhill, Massachusetts. The artworks were commissioned as a project of the Kendallville Rotary Club.



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