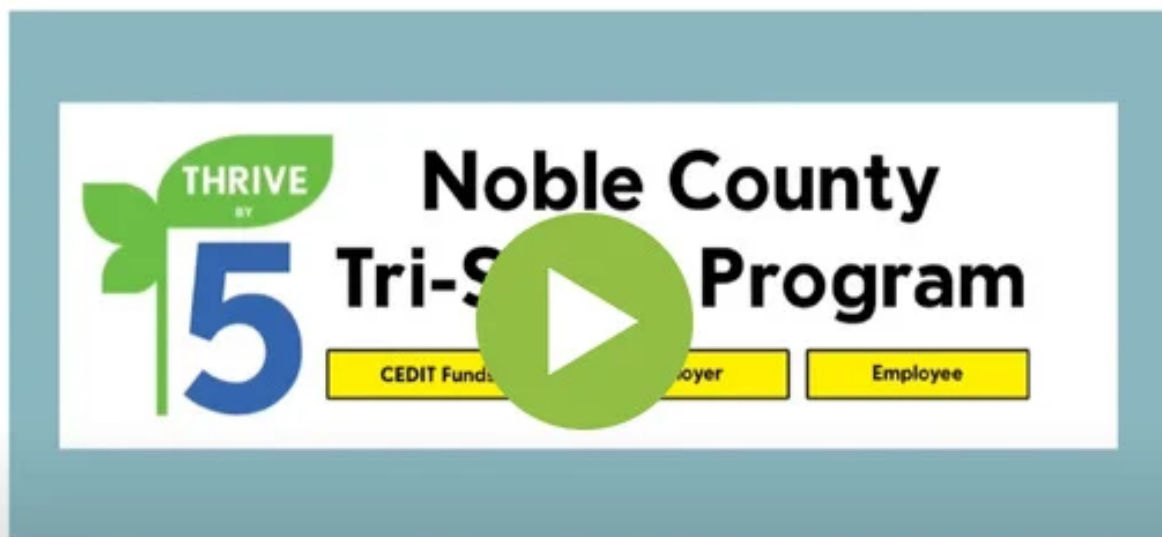


Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



August 1, 2023



SPLITS CHILD CARE COSTS THREE WAYS

"I don't know why you wouldn't want to do it"

Thrive by 5, the early childhood coalition serving Noble and LaGrange counties, is grabbing a lot of attention recently for its launch of Indiana's first Tri-Share Program, an initiative that splits the costs of childcare between parents, employers, and public funds allocated to help sustain and grow the local workforce. Be Noble Inc. recently debuted, at its annual meeting in June, the video above. It was released by Thrive by 5 and features Community State Bank, the first Noble employer to sign onto the program. Program coordinator Jenna Anderson is available to discuss how Tri-Share works, who is eligible, where the idea came from, and where it's headed with any local employer interested in learning more. Contact Anderson at (260) 894-3335 or by email at jenna@noblethriveby5.org.

Subscribe to Thrive by 5 e-Newsletters

Transformation continues

PreservING Main Street

The Kendallville Redevelopment Commission (RDC) recommended a grant of \$48,571 to fund 75% of the costs of replacing all 14 upper-level windows in the historic building at 112 S Main Street. Inspiration Ministries, the applicant, opted to take advantage of a short-term opportunity to receive an additional 25% of matching funds under the RDC's



112 S Main Street, Kendallville

PreservING Main Street companion program. The RDC made \$300,000 available as a 75/25 match (versus the normal 50/50 match) to spur more facade projects that may not qualify for the city's [PreservING Main Street](#) grant. The 75/25 match expires when funds have been depleted, or on November 1, 2023, whichever comes first. The Inspiration project is the largest "ask" so far under the RDC's companion program.

RDC PMS Matching Grant



Trine seeks business projects

Is your company in need of engineering support, or other business intellect, to help solve a problem or move a new concept forward? Trine University is currently seeking engineering senior design and business capstone project proposals to tap into Trine's incubator for creativity, invention, and design. Trine is looking for business projects that align with their curriculum for the 2023-2024 academic year. Any area that your company is seeking to further advance may become a great project for Trine

students. Contact Timerson Downing, Project Manager - Innovation One, at (260) 665-4644 or tldowning@trine.edu for more information.

Alliance renews in Ligonier

Becoming "Main Street Ligonier"

Following the successes of Main Street organization in Noble County and across Indiana, the Future Ligonier



Alliance, an organization founded by a group of business and property owners in downtown Ligonier in 2003, is coming back together with a renewed mission to help revitalize and restore downtown Ligonier. At a meeting in July, a newly organized board of directors decided to move forward by working to obtain Indiana Main Street Affiliation. They will officially become Main Street Ligonier, and in the coming weeks will be updating a website and social media accounts. The group's first fundraising event, a food truck and live music evening, is planned to take place in late September. Daric Weimer is the organization's president. Other officers are David Cisney, vice president; Chera Nelson, secretary; and Lori Cunningham, Secretary. Twelve additional members complete the organization's current roster of members and advisors.



Noble farm honored

The Frank Evers family and Plainview Farms LLC of Wolcottville has been named the recipient of the 2023 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation from Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau.

[Continue reading](#)

Ligonier leads in per capita investments in parks

A recent KPC News report highlights the City of Ligonier for budgeting more per capita for its parks department than any other local municipality. The city's 2023 budget provided an average of \$115 per resident for maintaining its parks system, which includes six different green spaces, the largest being the 40-acre Kenney Park. Within Northeast Indiana, Angola and Auburn follow with per capita investments of \$109 and \$97 per person based on the 2021 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. By comparison, the per capita investments budgeted in 2023 for other incorporated communities in Noble County are: Albion - \$82; Avilla - \$33; Cromwell - \$68; Kendallville - \$78; and Rome City - \$0 (there is no line item in the Rome City budget for "parks".)

Cell phones prohibited in new annex

If you have business in the new Noble County Annex, leave your cell phone behind - at least for the time being. While the Noble County Courthouse is under renovation, and the annex is temporarily accommodating court judges, cell phones will be prohibited within the annex building. Anyone needing to use their cell phone for non-court related business is advised to contact the appropriate county office ahead of their visit to find a work-around.



[County Directory](#)

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 Be Noble's "EMPLOYERS" landing page to explore how we can help!

[Employer Services](#)

Invest in Be Noble to support:

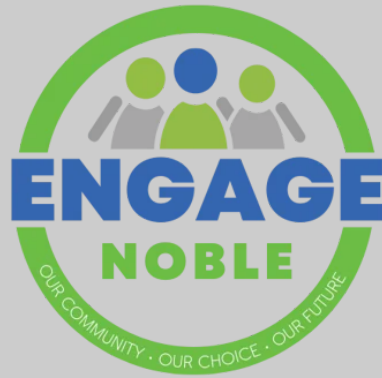
- New business attraction - [Available properties](#) have been submitted 54 times to site selectors this year; new soil borings Kendallville East Ind. Park.
- Free local business support services - Local investments of \$146.7M supported by state and local incentives this year-to-date.
- Enhancement of talent development systems - [Manufacturing Experience '23](#); [Engage Noble Leadership Academy](#) first cohort this fall.
- Enhancement of entrepreneurial ecosystems - New co-working 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

TALENT  **DEVELOPMENT**
News & Opportunities





Application open until 8/31

Leadership academy begins September 21

If you are 17 years of age or older, living or working in Noble County, and can demonstrate a connection to Noble County and a desire to enhance local engagement for the greater good of the community, please consider applying

for the first cohort of Engage Noble Leadership Academy!

Engage Noble is Noble County's new, interactive, in-depth learning opportunity, designed to cultivate civic leaders, build regional capacity, and ensure a thriving economy. Those selected to participate stand to draw insights from voices across the county and region, discover local assets and resources, tour multiple venues and businesses, network, uncover local leadership opportunities, and gain valuable servant leadership skills. Tuition is just \$500 and financial assistance is available.

Apply now!



GROW YOUR BUSINESS UP

**Are you doing enough for
your employees?**

Freedom Academy on-site courses provide customized, tailored training and facilitation to meet the needs of individual businesses, industries, banks, hospitals, municipalities, and non-profit organizations throughout Northeast Indiana.

For more info,
Contact Anita Shepherd at
Ashepherd@freedomacademy.net



401 E Diamond St. Kendallville IN, 46755
800-200-6499
www.freedomacademy.net

For more information about how the Freedom Academy can help enhance talent in your workplace, contact Anita Shepherd at ashepherd@freedomacademy.net or call (800) 200-6499. Freedom Academy is a non-profit continuing education provider founded in Noble County, serving the region since 1991 by offering demand-driven workforce development.



HOUSING COALITION of Noble County
HIGHLIGHTS



Downtown Kendallville

Kendallville commits \$50k to housing

The Kendallville City Council unanimously approved the allocation of \$50,000 to sign on with the Housing Resource Hub to help connect developers to available downtown properties suitable for upper floor housing development.

The funds will be used to help the Hub connect with developers, and explore tools and programs, to help make

housing development more affordable and bring units to market more quickly. Kristen Johnson, Kendallville Main Street Manager, noted an abundance of spaces available along historic Main Street in the heart of the city. Between 30 and 40 housing units could be developed in the heart of the city.

[Continue reading...](#)

SPOTLIGHT

GREAT VENTURES START FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS

on entrepreneurial ecosystem

HDK purchases building

Co-working space coming soon

Historic Downtown Kendallville (HDK) has closed the deal on the purchase of the building at 231 S Main Street for the purpose of launching a co-working space.



Former garage to become co-working space to support entrepreneurs.

The purchase was made possible in part by an investment of public dollars approved by the Kendallville Redevelopment Commission. The co-working space will be developed in partnership with [Eskywell Consulting](#), a company that has launched several successful, similar spaces in Michigan and Ohio. Private contributions have also been committed to help fund the asset as part of Noble County's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

More entrepreneurial resources



Congratulations to community members recently honored as "Citizen of the Year". They include Lori Gagen, Albion; Tom Janes, Ligonier; and Ruby Ramey, Rome City.

The Town of Albion will join Kendallville and Ligonier in offering "Safe Haven" to babies. Albion received a \$10,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to install Noble County's third Safe Haven Baby Box at the Albion Fire Station. Safe Haven's mission is to prevent illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers, and specially designed boxes that, when used, trigger an alert to emergency personnel.

Kayla Pauley, Cromwell clerk-treasurer, was recently elected secretary-treasurer of the Indiana League of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers. The office is a first step that will be followed by a move up to vice president, president, and past-president of the organization. The League promotes the best methods of conducting the affairs of their elected offices and provides educational information for growth and advancement.

Ligonier's Marshmallow Festival will receive a \$4,000 grant made possible by The Indiana Arts Commission and has been designated as an Arts Trust License Plate Project, meaning the festival will continue to receive financial support when Hoosiers choose an Arts Trust License Plate at vehicle registration. The Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau sought and was awarded the grant on behalf of one of Noble County's most diverse and long-running community festivals. The festival was selected as Noble County's featured Arts Trust project in honor of exemplary commitment to community, education, economy, and health. Learn more about the license plate program [here](#).



Be Noble Inc., 110 S Orange Street, Albion, IN 46701, 260-636-3800

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