

Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



September 18, 2023



5-County ED Forum Oct. 4

Noble County plays host to the 2023 5-County ED Forum on October 4, 2023, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Sylvan Cellars in Rome City. Be Noble Inc. will be joined by economic development colleagues in DeKalb, LaGrange, Steuben, and Whitley Counties to provide attendees with a foundational understanding of different economic development principles, strategies, and best practices. The event will bring together experts, policymakers, academics, practitioners, and the general public to discuss and explore various aspects of economic development, its importance, and its impact on the region, with an eye on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Save your seats

FREE!

Fire Extinguisher Training

Oct. 9 at the Community Learning Center

thecommunitylearningcenter.org

HR Professionals

[Noble Co. Human Resource Alliance](#)

Meets on Oct. 12, 8:00 - 9:00 AM

at Be Noble Inc.

Know a middle schooler?

Do they like tinkering or tech?

Collaborators in Northeast Indiana are excited to bring back another Manufacturing Experience day camp for kids! More than two dozen middle school-age kids had a blast at the region's first camp last fall, held in the iSMART Lab in Kendallville. The camp returns on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to middle school age kids. Seats are free and limited and pre-registration is required. Camp includes lunch & freebies.

[Learn more & register](#)



The poster features a QR code in the top left corner. The main title is 'FREE TECHNOLOGY CAMP' in large, bold, orange letters, with 'for middle school-aged kids!' underneath. Below this, it asks 'ENJOY TECHNOLOGY?' and 'CURIOUS HOW THINGS WORK?'. The date and time are 'Saturday, October 28, 9 AM - 3 PM'. The location is 'at the iSMART Lab, Community Learning Center, Kendallville'. A circular inset photo shows a man and a child working with a laptop and wires. At the bottom, it says 'Featuring Advanced Manufacturing technologies!' and 'WORKNOBLE.ORG'. Logos for Northeast Indiana Works, Freedom Academy Skill Development, Impact Institute, iSMART, Don Wood Foundation, and Be Noble are at the bottom.



ME
MANUFACTURING
EXPERIENCE 2023

FREE TECHNOLOGY CAMP
for middle school-aged kids!

ENJOY TECHNOLOGY?
CURIOUS HOW THINGS WORK?

Saturday, October 28
9 AM - 3 PM
at the
iSMART Lab
Community Learning Center
Kendallville

Featuring
Advanced Manufacturing technologies!
WORKNOBLE.ORG Space is limited!

Register now!

NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS
FREEDOM ACADEMY SKILL DEVELOPMENT
IMPACT INSTITUTE
iSMART
DON WOOD FOUNDATION
Come join us and help lead this region's industrial revolution.
Our manufacturing begins with you.
Be Noble

B&J growing again

B&J Medical, located on US 6 west of Kendallville, will purchase another \$4 million in new manufacturing equipment and expects to add 10 new jobs as a result of expanding capacity. Members of the Noble County Council

B & J Medical

approved a tax break on the new personal property through a 7-year, decreasing abatement. B&J has been continuously growing in Noble County. In 2022, the company added \$6.8 million in new equipment and projected 11 new jobs would result. At the time of the new request, the company had added 54 new hires.



INVets seeks to attract veterans

Indiana's INVets program is the only one of its kind in the nation, and since its launch in 2020 the initiative has reached out to add over 3,500 personnel being discharged from the military to the system to aid them in considering relocating to Indiana as they transition out of military service. INVets has already documented nearly 400 new Indiana residents. The program's inception is credited to the Indiana Economic Development Association as a strategy to grow the workforce.

[Learn more](#)



William Purcell

Purcell to lead the "Way"

In a press release on September 7, Crossroads United Way announced the appointment of William Purcell as the organization's new President and CEO. Purcell succeeds Bill Rieth in the role and brings more than 30 years of extensive, applicable experience. Purcell will work with Reith until he takes over his new role on October 2.

Fall Parks Summit announced

The Noble County Parks & Recreation Fall Summit will be held on October 11, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center. Stakeholders are invited to attend. The meeting will take place in the Gathering Room at the Kesling Farmstead, located at 2152 S 425 W, Albion, Indiana (south of Wolf Lake.)



[Read more](#)

SP  TLIGHT
on entrepreneurial ecosystem





OPEN MIC
SPEED PITCH

OCT 17, 2023
6-8 PM
Community Learning Center
401 E Diamond St.
Kendallville, IN

Hosted By:
elevate northeast indiana
Be Noble
Noble County Economic Development

Who's Invited:
Entrepreneurs
Innovators
Business Service Providers

Pitch Points:
1. What is the problem?
2. How are you solving it?
3. How are you different?
4. Who is on your team?
5. Next steps?
6. A non-money ask.

RSVP
[NoblePitch.Eventbrite.com](https://www.noblepitch.com)

*5 min pitch, no pitch decks, 5 min Q&A

Entrepreneurs & Innovators Invited

[Elevate Northeast Indiana](#) and [Be Noble Inc.](#) share this special invitation to an evening of innovation and inspiration at an Open Mic Speed Pitch Event at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville. Entrepreneurs are invited to take the stage to present groundbreaking idea or ventures. Local business service providers are also encouraged to attend.

[Read more](#)

Rally Innovation Conference Sept. 29-31

Northeast Indiana entrepreneurs are invited to connect at the upcoming Rally Conference. Rally promises to become the largest global, cross-sector innovation conference bringing companies, entrepreneurs, investors, and universities together. A \$5 million cash prize pitch competition highlights the event. The NEIN Network Meet-up will be held during Rally on Wednesday, August 30 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis, sponsored by STAR Bank. To learn more, contact the [NIIC](#).

[Rally Innovation](#)

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

News & Opportunities



Instructor Steve Hill (second from left) introduces local employers to one of the iSMART Lab classrooms and provides a look at some of the hands-on learning technologies available.

Freedom Academy hosts Lunch 'n' Learn on i4.0

Industry 4.0 and local learning opportunities were showcased at a mid-day Lunch 'n' Learn presented by [Freedom Academy](#) recently. Around 50 individuals gathered for a series of updates and a keynote presentation at the Community Learning Center (CLC) to hear how Noble County's talent development systems are working to provide the skills needed by employers utilizing advanced manufacturing technologies. Joshua Meinika, a local industrial engineer who specializes in industrial technology, provided his insights and experiences before attendees enjoyed guided tours of the [iSMART Lab](#) at the CLC. Freedom Academy offers programs for adult learners to earn credentials from the Smart Automation Certification Association (SACA) ranging from basic operations to specialist. Impact

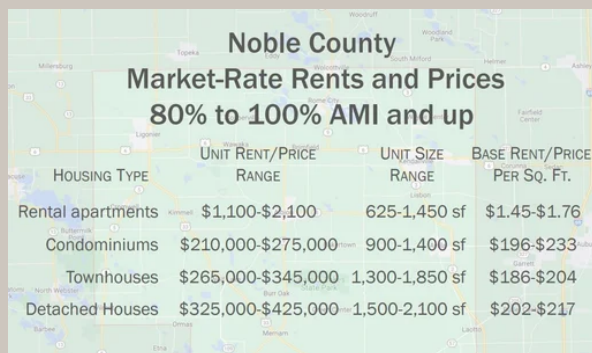
Institute also offers [Smart Technologies and Automation](#) programs for juniors in high school. Contact these local education partners to learn more.



HOUSING COALITION of Noble County HIGHLIGHTS

Ligonier takes a next step in housing development project

The Ligonier Redevelopment Commission has approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Housing Resource Hub. The MOU outlines an agreement to provide site design, consulting services, access to market data and developers, soil tests, fees for real estate and attorney services, and more to help move the city's housing project at the former site of the Community Foundation of Noble County into the "catalyst phase." Services to be provided over the next few months also include the exploration of financing tools to help with capital stacking. The Hub also provides resources to help homebuyers explore financing tools available. Similar efforts have helped communities including Topeka and Wabash bring more housing units to market.



HOUSING TYPE	UNIT RENT/PRICE RANGE	UNIT SIZE RANGE	BASE RENT/PRICE PER SQ. FT.
Rental apartments	\$1,100-\$2,100	625-1,450 sf	\$1.45-\$1.76
Condominiums	\$210,000-\$275,000	900-1,400 sf	\$196-\$233
Townhouses	\$265,000-\$345,000	1,300-1,850 sf	\$186-\$204
Detached Houses	\$325,000-\$425,000	1,500-2,100 sf	\$202-\$217

Market Potential report is now available for download.

Housing Strategy Guide released

Stakeholders – members of the Housing Coalition of Noble County – gathered at the offices of Be Noble Inc. on September 7 to review the county's new Housing Strategy Guide, assembled by the Housing Resource Hub. The partnership has helped spur multiple potential catalyst sites in three Noble County communities in recent months.

The strategy lays out the process kicked off by Be Noble Inc. in May 2022 when the project was initiated. Following the formation of the Housing Coalition of Noble County,

acting as a steering committee for the project, five incorporated communities were selected to be included in a Market Potential Analysis. A communications plan was also developed.

Keep reading...

What does Be Noble do for local employers?

One of our top strategic priorities is business retention and expansion - helping existing employers sustain, grow, and thrive!

- Data & reports
- Promote opportunities to the workforce
- Find incentives to invest and grow here
- Attend local human resource networking meetings
- Get connected to resources to help you enter new markets

Check out Be Noble's ["EMPLOYERS"](#) landing page to see how we can help!

Invest in Noble County!

Donate now!



Thrive by 5 is the recipient of \$315,000 in funding from Early Learning Indiana's Early Years Initiative to benefit Noble County. Funds will be used to support another high-quality provider in the development of additional early learning seats at a location to be determined. The gift is one of 86 awarded across the state. Thrive by 5 also received \$500,000 to benefit LaGrange County. Those funds will be used for a new facility that is in early stages of planning and development.

The **2023 Family of the Year** was presented to **Nelson and Joy LeCount** of Wawaka recently by The Oliver Gang, a tri-state organization dedicated to the collection and preservation of Oliver tractors and farm equipment and their history. Nelson is a charter member and past president of The Oliver Gang. Oliver implements were manufactured in South Bend. The LeCounts have been heavily involved in maintaining and promoting the heritage of Oliver.

The **Ligonier Police Department's** school resource program is one of only 13 honored nationwide in 2023 as a "Model Agency" by the National Association of School Resource Officers (SRO). Officers **Chris Shearer** and **Grant Moser** serve as SROs at **West Noble** during the school year. The program works to build relationships within the community by bridging gaps between students and law enforcement, as well as parents and officers.



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