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Be Noble
Noble County Economic Development



September 5, 2023



Save your seats

5-County ED Forum Oct. 4

Noble County plays host to the 2023 5-County Economic Development (ED) Forum on October 4, 2023. Joined by economic development colleagues in DeKalb, LaGrange, Steuben, and Whitley Counties, the ED Forum is designed 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.

SAVE THE DATE

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

What is the NEI Strategic Development Commission?

Northeast Indiana is known as a region that has collaborated across city and county lines for many years.



Organizations like the [Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership](#), [Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana](#), and [Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority](#) have made great strides and set the tone, working to leverage investments and achieve shared goals regardless of real or perceived boundaries.

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State Health Commissioner coming to Noble

The Noble County Health Department has announced a presentation by State Health Commissioner, Dr. Lindsay Weaver, will take place in Noble County at the Augusta Hills Learning, Recreation & Community Center on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, beginning at 11:30 am. Dr. Weaver will be in the area to present on [Health First Indiana](#) and its impact on Noble County.

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50% of student wages reimbursed

EARN Indiana funds are being made available to Hoosier employers that offer high-quality work-based learning

experiences to high school students. Employers can promote internships and receive 50% student wage reimbursement. Qualifying positions must align with Next Level Job industries, including advanced manufacturing, building and construction, health and life sciences, IT and business services, transportation and logistics, education, and agriculture.

[Learn more and apply](#)

UPDATE!

Broadband expansion in Noble

Subcontractors have been actively laying fiber optic cables in multiple areas of Noble County, evidence of the ongoing work to expand the availability of high-speed broadband Internet to the residents and businesses across the region. Internet service providers (ISPs) are now eyeing more funding opportunities, announced in recent weeks, to keep the momentum going.



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New leadership for Noble and LaGrange hospitals



Jordi Disler (pictured at left) is now serving as Parkview Health North market president, providing leadership for both Parkview Noble Hospital and Parkview LaGrange Hospital. Disler formerly served as president of Parkview LaGrange Hospital and succeeds Gary Adkins in leading Parkview Noble Hospital. Adkins retired after more than eight years at the helm in Noble County.

[Read more](#)

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](#)



[Read more](#)

New director leads ISDA

A second generation farmer and agribusinessman, Don Lamb, has been named the new executive director of the Indiana Department of Agriculture. Lamb, a Purdue grad, is from Lebanon, IN and is a member of the Advisory Council for the Indiana Agricultural Law Foundation.

Rosenberg is Indiana's new Secretary of Commerce

David Rosenberg, CEO and Chief of Staff of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, has been named Secretary of State. Rosenberg succeeds Brad Chambers in the

role. Chambers stepped down from the post effective August 6.

Lewellen stepping down at IEDA

The president/CEO of the Indiana Economic Development Association announced he will step down at the end of 2023 after 10 years of service. Lee Lewellen will return full-time to his consulting company. A search for his replacement will begin soon.



About IEDA



Regional updates



An **AEP** Company

I&M introduces new rider

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) has implemented a new Economic Development Rider to encourage new private investment, job creation, and revenue generation. New qualifying criteria applies.

For information, contact a member of I&M's Economic Development team - Ashley Savieo at (260) 438-5426 (ansavieo@aep.com) or Nathan Powelson at nwpowelson@aep.com.

Foundation office opens in Ligonier

The Community Foundation of Noble County is officially back in the "894" after opening its doors at 103 W 3rd Street in Ligonier recently. The foundation's new headquarters is located in Ligonier's historic former city hall, also a former police and fire station. In celebration of the new location, the foundation's Board of Directors has launched a \$100,000 match supporting three opportunities.



Match Opportunities



Phone rules change again

Plans to prohibit phones in the Noble County Annex, where courts are temporarily housed during courthouse remodeling, have been changed. Visitors to the Annex may now bring in cell phones, so long as they are not carried into courtrooms. Those who carry cell phones into courts risk being cited for contempt of court.



An initiative first introduced to stakeholders in Noble County in June 2022, at the Annual Meeting of Be Noble Inc., has culminated in the launch of an innovative digital portal, [ConnectIND](#).



ConnectIND is designed to make it easier for entrepreneurs and growing small businesses to find the support they need to succeed and thrive. The website provides a comprehensive, statewide directory to help connect people to resources, when and where they need them.

[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](#)

[NEIN Meet-up](#)

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

News & Opportunities



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



HOUSING COALITION of Noble County

HIGHLIGHTS

City to serve as "legal go-between" on housing effort

The Kendallville City Council agreed to partner with Inspiration Ministries in an effort to bring apartments to Historic Downtown Kendallville. By a unanimous vote, council members agreed the city would serve as a lead applicant for a grant proposal to Indiana's Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) that could enable 13 to 15 men, graduates of Inspiration's recovery program, to live downtown. The city is not required nor planning to invest funding, but can serve as the legal grant applicant, making Inspiration a sub-recipient of \$750,000 in funding.

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

Invest in Noble County!

[Donate now!](#)



Congratulations to the nominees and first recipient of the Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award from [Thrive by 5](#) of Noble & Lagrange Counties! **Nichole Jahnke** of Lakeland School Corporation Preschool at Lima-Brighton is the first award recipient. Noble County nominees included **Brooke Straessle, Angela Taylor, Stephanie Sanders, Tonia Chiddister,** and **Yova Teusch**. Nominations open for the next round in October.

The **Jack and Mary Metzger family** was recently named the 2023 Grand Marshal of the Wolf Lake Onion Days festival and parade. Jack and Mary took over their dairy farm near Wolf Lake in 1960 from Jack's parents, starting with a few cows. Their sons, **John and Dutch,** took over operations in the 1980s and have expanded the Metzger Dairy to about 1,200 cows. The dairy was recently in the news for the planned construction of an anaerobic digester system that will produce renewable natural gas (RNG) on site.

The Albion Town Council has given its unanimous support to the creation of the **Albion Youth Advisory Council**. The effort, led by Councilwoman Abby Lindsey and Town Manager Jacob Ihrle, is also being supported by Central Noble social studies teacher Randy Handshoe. Students in grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to meet routinely and lead projects within the Albion community once the program is up and running. The town will fund food and beverages for the meetings.

One10 West Main owners Ashley and Anne Peterson recently heard the roar of Prince, a tiger and resident of **Black Pine Animal Sanctuary** in Albion. Prince, suffering from a

detached retina and cataracts, could regain his sight, but for the high costs of the surgery needed. The folks at One10, in response, held a "Tigerloin" special on August 15 and raised \$4,000 to cover the costs, exceeding the need by more than \$1,000. The additional funds will be used for pre-surgery dental work Prince also needs. Community investment to the rescue!



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