

Be Noble

Noble County Economic Development



January 17, 2024



Be Noble names the Top 10 economic stories of '23

The only organization in Noble County working exclusively to ensure a thriving economy, Be Noble Inc., selected its top stories of the last year. Check it out!

Top 10

Making headway in Ligonier

Efforts to expand the capacity and quality of child care in Noble County are moving forward at a rapid pace in western Noble County. In recent weeks, Thrive by 5 has collaborated with multiple partners to move the needle on one of the top challenges for employers and working parents in the region.



Leaders in Ligonier are making plans after Thrive by 5 coordinator Jenna Anderson, Mayor Earle Franklin, and public safety director Bryan Shearer made the case at a December 18 meeting in the city. On January 8, West Noble School district officials expressed their willingness to take part in future discussions, citing many potential benefits to the community. Ligonier City Council also agreed to apply for a \$500,000 Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant in the second half of this year.

Just two days later, the Ligonier Redevelopment Commission expressed support of a proposal to bring a 50-seat child care center to the community, approving a request to work with financial consultant Baker Tilly to determine if tax incremental financing (TIF) funds could be dedicated to the project.

A Lilly Endowment Gift VIII grant of \$315,000 is transferable, awarded to Thrive by 5 for an Albion project that stalled, to support the Ligonier project. To learn more or add to this effort, contact Anderson at (260) 894-3335.



Lilly invests \$250M to sweeten READI 2.0 pot

Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb announced on January 9, 2024, an historic investment from Lilly Endowment that will support projects statewide focused on blight remediation and redevelopment projects, as well as arts and culture initiatives.

[Read more](#)

WORKPLACE PREPAREDNESS GRANT



[Apply now](#)

Exclusive grant for Noble workers opens

The **Workplace Preparedness Grant** has been announced by Be Noble Inc. in partnership with the Community Foundation of Noble County. The application deadline is February 16, 2024.

The Workplace Preparedness Grant is targeted to help workers who have prospective or secured employment in Noble County and are enrolled in a program to earn, or who have recently earned, a workforce certification, Associates Degree, or Bachelor Degree. Eligible workers may receive up to \$1,000 for the exclusive purpose of acquiring tools, equipment or other supplies needed in their occupation, but not provided by their employer or prospective employer.

[Keep reading](#)

Dollar General fills a gap

In 2002, Kendallville residents south of downtown lost a staple in their community, the Big Blue Market. The small, neighborhood market that opened in 1954 as South Side Market closed its doors and left that part of the city in a "food desert." A brand new Dollar General store that recently opened about 2.5 blocks north of where Big Blue once was has helped fill that void.



625 S Main Street, Kendallville

Following the demolition of the former Nightmare on Main, Dollar General has opened a larger store that aims to compete with bigger grocery stores by offering fresh produce and other food selections. The new store is currently hiring to fill employment needs. Information to apply can be found at careers.dollargeneral.com; search for store 25344, located at 625 S Main Street, Kendallville.



Alexis Wagner

Visitor bureau welcomes new staff

Executing on a need identified through strategic planning, the Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce the hiring of Alexis Wagner as its new associate administrative director and data specialist. Wagner, an East Noble graduate, holds a bachelors degree in linguistics and global studies from Indiana University. She has worked in customer service and office administration previously, including a stint as a branch

manager. Wagner joins executive director Grace Caswell in the bureau's Albion office. The tourism team can be reached at (260) 636-3602 or via visitnoblecounty.org.

Employers can recruit at Trine Career Fair Feb 13-15

Trine University's Career Center will host a Spring Career Fair Week February 13-15. Employers are invited to participate to recruit for specific majors on designated days. Sign up for one or more days, based on need, by registering using the links below.

[Civil/Mechanical Engineers](#)

[Other Engineers & Business](#)

[Social Service & Health](#)



Pictured, from left: Ryan Twiss, Regional Development Authority; Julia Tipton, Community Learning Center; Robert Probst, Community Learning Center; and Bob Marshall, NEI Board.

iSMART Lab to expand

The Community Learning Center (CLC) was recently presented a check from the Northeast Indiana Regional Development Authority for the purchase of Phase II equipment for its iSMART Lab, an Industry 4.0 learning lab that was launched in 2022.

The iSMART Lab at the CLC enables teens and adults to learn the skills needed for occupations in high demand across Northeast Indiana. The grant for \$198,450 was awarded through Indiana's READI program.

With construction underway on the 1915 section of the CLC, plans include the expansion of the lab in order to add new, smart factory simulation modules. These enhancements will bring more advanced skills training opportunities under programs offered by Freedom Academy and Impact Institute. Other educators are encouraged to explore potential program development made possible by the iSMART Lab. For more information, contact Julia Tipton at the CLC at (260) 544-3455.



[Enroll in Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#)

Noble kids eligible for free books

Any child newborn to age five living in Noble County can now be enrolled to receive a free book every month. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is now available locally, made possible by Crossroads United Way (CUW) serving Elkhart, LaGrange and Noble counties.

After enrollment, the first book will arrive in six to eight weeks, then one each month will be shipped through the child's fifth year. There are no costs, income limitations, or other requirements. Questions can be directed to CUW at (574) 295-1690.

Rezoning approved for new school

Noble County Commissioners recently approved a request to rezone three acres on the west side of Noble County to make way for a new school to service Amish members of the community. Since the 1960s, according to a report in the News Sun, Amish schools, which typically serve students through eighth grade, are limited to 50 pupils. This means as demand grows, more schools must be constructed. In Noble County, the number of schools to serve Amish residents is growing. There are currently nine in operation, with two more pending.



Noble teens invited to Youth Business Fair

Be Noble Inc. and Thrive Noble County are working to increase the number of entrepreneurs across Noble County by providing a pathway for teens to gain traction, receive feedback, and grow in their entrepreneurial interests.

Local efforts are getting a boost through NoblePalooza, an Expo to Thrive, coming to the Community Learning Center in March. Organizers have announced the opening of applications for Noble County teens to participate in NoblePalooza's Youth Business Fair.

[Read more](#)

Invest in Noble County!

Donate now!



Parkview Noble Hospital has been recognized by the Indiana Hospital Association, in partnership with Governor Eric Holcomb and State Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver, at the fourth annual INspire Hospital of Distinction recognition program. Parkview was honored for a commitment to infant and maternal health, based on implementing best practices in seven key areas. This marks one of many distinctions of honor for Noble County's local hospital in recent years.

Bell ringers raised \$31,865.06 in 2023, beating the 2022 Christmastime fundraising efforts by a little over \$2,100. Common Grace Ministries coordinates the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign for Noble County to support neighbors in need with rent, utilities, and other financial hardships and unexpected needs. Bell ringers are always needed and can begin to plan now to help during the holiday season in 2024. For more information, contact Common Grace at (260) 349-1942. Volunteering on behalf of an employer or non-profit organization is a great way to give back during the holiday season.

Bob Amber, Albion Fire Chief, was surprised to receive a State Fire Marshal's Heroic Life Saving Award recently. On December 15, Amber was on his way home when he saw smoke. Upon closer inspection, he saw the smoke was rising from both sides of a home in the 1000 block of East Seneca Street in Albion - and spotted a car in the drive with a handicap sticker on it. After reporting the emergency to get fire trucks rolling, Amber geared up and entered the home, saving the life of a 62-year-old resident who was suffering from smoke inhalation and thermal injuries. The resident, later flown by helicopter for specialized care, has since been released from the hospital and is recovering in a local care facility.

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

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)

Send free email today

