



April 2, 2024



Five years in:

A look at Kendallville's housing and community transformation

Substandard houses affect families, neighborhoods, public safety, and community pride. Driven by a passion to act, a group of local citizens and business leaders came together in 2019 to form Kendallville Restorations Inc. (KRI), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to eliminate blight while preserving historic integrity to bring more, affordable housing to the Kendallville community.

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Albion Town Manager steps down

Jacob Ihrle has resigned as Albion Town Manager effective May 16. Ihrle, a native of Albion, has been serving in that position, as well as an officer on the Be Noble Inc.'s board of directors since August 2021. The 2011 Central Noble graduate and U.S. Navy Veteran holds a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a master's degree in city planning from Ball State University. Ihrle cited a new job opportunity that will allow him to spend more time with his young family as the reason for his resignation. A reception for Ihrle will

be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Albion Municipal Building on East Park Drive. The public is invited.



Jacob Ihrie

Kaydence Isaac, at right, joined other local young entrepreneurs at the Youth Business Fair, one of the areas highlighting many of Noble County's assets at NoblePalooza, an Expo to Thrive, held March 9.



NoblePalooza helps hundreds of people engage in Noble

Organizers estimate that nearly 1,000 individuals participated in NoblePalooza, an Expo to Thrive on March 9. The celebration of "all things Noble" was held for the third consecutive year at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville. Over 100 organizations, small businesses, and other vendors who operate in Noble County provided many opportunities for residents and others with ties to the county to learn, interact, and network. The annual event is free for attendees, made possible by sponsors including NIPSCO, Crossroads United Way, Visit Noble County, Community Foundation of Noble County, and Dekko Foundation. NoblePalooza will return on Saturday, March 8, 2025. Find more information at noblepalooza.com or call (260) 636-3800.

NoblePalooza 2024 photo gallery



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April 11 Summit to feature EV panel discussion

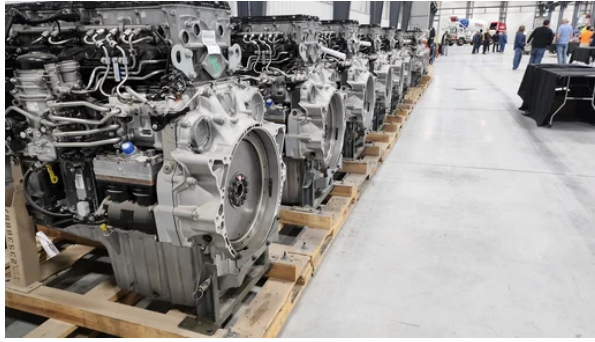
The Indiana Fiscal Policy Summit 2024: Cultivating Big Ideas is an all-day event taking place on Thursday, April 11 in Noblesville. Indiana's energy transition, work with hydrogen and tech hubs, the state of housing, and a panel discussion regarding electric vehicles (EV) and their impact are among the topics of the day. Ranae Stewart from Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership will be among the experts joining the panel discussion. Register and find more information at the link below.

Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute Summit 2024

Expansion in Avilla

Hollingshead Mixer Company (HMC) in Avilla recently celebrated the completion of an 80,000 SF expansion. The company held an open house on March 12. HMC employs 155 in Avilla and its new digs allowed the company to maximize efficiencies while increasing truck production. A record 440 concrete trucks were produced at the plant during construction, a record. SRM Concrete, the parent company, is the single largest producer of ready mixed concrete in the nation. Learn more at smyrnareadymix.com/





HMC in Avilla added 80,000 SF



Local developers honored among Forty under 40

Grace Caswell (left), executive director of the Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau recently graduated from the Indiana Tourism Academy and was named as one of Forty Under 40 by Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly. Melanie Kellogg (right), executive director of Be Noble Inc., was also honored as one of Forty Under 40. Caswell's graduation from the Indiana Tourism Academy took place on March 11. On March 28, Caswell and Kellogg were honored at a reception hosted by KPC Media.

Smith lands \$5.2 million for Noble bridge work

Grant funds will pay 80% of the cost of replacing two bridges on the northwest side of Noble County. Bridge 56, located at CR 900N (Perry Road) and Bridge 61, on CR 300W, both crossing over the Elkhart River, will be repaired thanks to a \$5.2 million grant award made by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). Noble County was the only one selected from the four-county area for an award. The timeline for construction will be determined at a later date. This makes 13 active federal aid successful project proposals submitted by county engineer Zack Smith, making critical infrastructure work possible in the unincorporated areas of Noble County. Two more funded projects have already been completed during his tenure.

Employer Investments matched

Employer-Sponsored Child Care Fund Grants are available to match employer investments in the Noble Count Tri-Share Program that splits the costs of child care between parents, employers, and county government. Tri-Share matching funds are available until the grant – totaling \$26,250 - is used up, or December 31, 2024 (whichever comes first). For more information, contact Jenna Anderson at (260) 894-3335.





CN College & Career Fair April 18

Noble County businesses are invited to participate in the first ever Central Noble College and Career Fair taking place at the school's main gymnasium on Thursday, April 18 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Employers are encouraged to bring pamphlets, sign-ups, employment applications, and information about career pathways and opportunities. Those who wish to participate are asked to register and may send questions to Kelly Behm at behmk@centralnoble.k12.in.us or call (260) 636-2117, Option 4.

[Register to recruit at CN Career Fair](#)



Noble native selected for Fellowship

Rhonda Ladig, a native of Noble County and director of strategic initiatives at The Northeast Indiana Innovation Center (NIIC) has been selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of the Make Startups Executive Fellowship. The program, a six-month intensive training course, is made possible by a grant from the Ecosystem Builder Leadership Network Field Advancement Fund.

[Learn more](#)



Rhonda Ladig



[Learn more](#)

JA young entrepreneur camp in June

Youth with aspirations of becoming their own boss will have an opportunity to find inspiration and develop their business skills when Junior Achievement of Northeast Indiana hosts its Youth Entrepreneur Summer Camp. The camp will be held June 17-21 on Wallen Road on the north side of Fort Wayne and includes field trips across the region for an immersive experience. Students going into grades 6-8 this fall are eligible to participate. The cost is \$200 per student and includes all field trips, activities, supplies, lunches, and snacks.

TALENT  **DEVELOPMENT**
News & Opportunities



[About Engage Noble](#)

[Register to attend](#)

Graduation to highlight impacts of leadership development program

The first cohort of Engage Noble Leadership Academy will graduate on Thursday, April 11 at a celebration at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. The free, public celebration will feature a comprehensive overview of the objectives and impacts of the servant leadership program, the first of its kind offered in Noble County in more than two decades. Individuals and employers interested in learning about Engage Noble, upcoming enrollment for the next cohort, sponsorship, and scholarship development opportunities are encouraged to attend.



Grant covers costs of undergraduate certificates

Individuals may qualify to earn undergraduate certificates in a variety of in-demand occupations at no cost through Indiana's Workforce Ready Grant. Indiana Tech is an approved education provider for the program. Classes will begin soon, and students can register for online courses 24/7. For more information, contact Greg Perigo at (260) 422-5561 extension 2463 or click the button below to download a flier.

[Get more info](#)



Upcoming Courses

2024

IMT

Kendallville-April 9
T/TH 4-8pm
North Manchester- April 23
T/TH 5-9pm
Angola -Sept. 10
T/W 8am-12pm & 4:-8pm

CNC

Kendallville -April 9
T/W/Th 5-9pm

Advanced CNC

Kendallville- July 9
T/Th 5-9pm

Welding

Kendallville - June 3
M/T/Th 4-8pm

FANUC

Angola- Aug. 21
W/Th 5-9pm



FOR MORE INFORMATION

800.200.6499

NEC offers job placement help through new program

The Northeastern Center is one of four providers statewide to offer a new program to help individuals living with mental health concerns in finding competitive jobs based on their strengths and skills. The Individual Placement and Support (ISP) Program is based on eight evidence-based practices for supported employment. Those with disabilities or felonies are eligible to participate. Employers interested in learning more can call (260) 242-6888 for information.

Invest in Noble County!

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Congratulations to the first winner of the first Civics Bee in Noble County! **Ally Lazoff**, a student at St. Mary's School in Avilla, took home a \$500 cash prize in the competition hosted at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville and sponsored by the Kendallville Area Chamber of Commerce. Second place went to **Roarck Lemmon**, a Central Noble Middle School student. **Allison Hauck**, an East Noble Middle School student, took the third place prize. The competition was open to all Noble County middle school students and all 12 participants were awarded a new Apple iPad, made possible by a grant.

Bowen Center in Albion joyfully cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of a Bowen Health Clinic, co-located with the outpatient office at 101 E Park Drive. The opening marks the organization's commitment toward integrating physical health care with mental health care. Patients are served no matter their ability to pay. By April 11, all Bowen locations will offer health care services. To make an appointment, call 800-342-5653.

Phil Jacob and **Mark Hunter**, longtime firefighters and volunteers for the Albion Fire Department, were recently honored for their years of service. Jacob was recognized for 55 years, and Hunter for 43 years, with the department.

The **Community Foundation of Noble County (CFNC)** has been awarded a \$750,000 grant as part of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s initiative, Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow. The Gift VIII funds will boost CFNC's community giving capacity by matching 2-to-1 gifts made from its endowment. Community projects and programs and capacity-building activity proposals will also be eligible for 1-to-1 matches made possible by Gift VIII funds.

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

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