

# the Cover

## NOBLE COUNTY



Noble County, situated in the northeastern corner of Indiana, is comprised of serene, rolling farmland, punctuated by more than 120 natural lakes. Charming small towns with vintage architecture and local lore are easily accessible by US Rt. 6, one of the nation's earliest coast-to-coast highways. Whether it's a quiet kayaking adventure or rugged hiking experience, outdoors lovers from all walks of life will find something to their liking. Shoppers will find treasures in our independent family-owned shops.

Noble County proudly boasts the fact that it is home to many successful business ventures. Small, independent businesses under second, third and fourth generations of family ownership succeed along side international industries that have chosen to base their North American operations in Noble County. Quality of life, quality education, and an overall feeling of hometown pride combine to make Noble County a comfortable and attractive place to live, work, and visit.



Noble County's population of roughly 46,300 assures us that we are a predominately rural county. The county's largest town, Kendallville, boasts a population of slightly fewer than 10,000. The beautiful downtown section is listed on the "National Register of Historic Places" and a brochure directing a self-guided walking tour is available. Ligonier is our second-largest town and is home to approximately 4,500. Stately mansions line Main Street, and are a

reflection of the founding father's wealth and successful business ventures. Albion, our County Seat, is home to approximately 2,500 residents and is located in the geographical center of the county. Avilla is also a town of approximately 2,500. Additional villages include Brimfield, Cromwell, Kimmell, LaOtto, Merriam, Rome City, Wawaka, Wolcottville, and Wolf Lake. Populations in these communities range from about 165 in Brimfield to 1,600 in Rome City.

The "natural" aspect of Noble County makes this a haven for those seeking the solitude and beauty of outdoor recreation and nature. Outstanding parks, including our gem, Chain O'Lakes State Park, and the



City of Kendallville's Bixler Lake Park provide extraordinary opportunities for recreation. We have an abundance of lakes, many of which offer free public access. These lakes are quiet and pristine, although some do allow motorized watercraft at designated times. Whether you want to quietly kayak the Elkhart River, peacefully troll for fish, or zip off on your jet-ski, Noble County has a lake or waterway for you! Request our free "Lakes, Waterways, and Outdoor Recreation Guide" from the Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau for all the details.

Noble County is extremely privileged to have six woodland preserves managed by ACRES, Inc. These lands are open to the public, free of charge, for hiking, wild-flower walks, bird watching, and nature photography.



*Continued on page 26*