



Ligonier's rich history is cemented in time through their historic clock in Triangle Park.

LIGONIER: CELEBRATING A GREAT COMMUNITY

The nostalgic downtown is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. America's first transcontinental road passes through town. The Indiana Historical Radio Museum broadcasts a rich local and national history.

But ask folks in Noble County to transmit the sights and sounds of Ligonier, and these boastings would be a mere sampling of praises.

According to Sarah Thomas, Executive Director of the Noble County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Ligonier is undergoing a magical revitalization.

Once home to wealthy Jewish settlers, the town is teeming with "energy and enthusiasm of the people, leading to an impressive development. It's really a great community," she says.

The deep history of the place is all-encompassing, from the mansions and grain-ways nestled on the banks of the Elkhart River, to the main cemetery, whose plots include historic Hebrew gravestones. And the townspeople have recently begun work on the most historic attractions.

Stately Victorian homes are on Ligonier's must-see list, opulent architectural remnants from the town's early days. Among them is what is now the Solomon Mier Manor Bed and Breakfast.

Ligonier continuously celebrates its roots with annual festivals and attractions such as Stones Trace Pioneer Festival. This annual festival is held during the weekend after Labor Day, when prairie-skirted ladies and men in overalls demonstrate life in the "olden days."

All of Ligonier's popular festivals celebrate the past and present variety of cultures that, Thomas says, "celebrate diversity, not only in Noble County, but throughout the world." This includes one very special celebration, The Taste of Noble County Ethnic Festival. A grand medley of food, drink, and merriment, the event draws a crowd of more than 6,000 each year.

But Ligonier doesn't stop at that when it comes to food and festivities. Another crowd-pleaser is the annual Marshmallow Festival. Throughout Labor Day weekend, those sticky gourmet treats once produced here hold center stage, surrounded by sticky games, musical entertainment, parades and family-friendly exhibits.

It seems the party never stops. But in Ligonier, the community has much to celebrate.

BY SHANNON BREWER PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE BY DEREK JENSEN; LEFT BY SARAH THOMAS