MENDOTA PROGRESS 2022

Pillars of Progress

SECTION 1

FEATURING:

- Black Bros. Co.
- City of Mendota
- Eureka Savings Bank
- Financial Plus Credit Union
- Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Mendota Civic Center
 - Mendota High School District 280
 - Sullivan's Foods



Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022

Black Bros. Co. – Going strong in Mendota since 1899

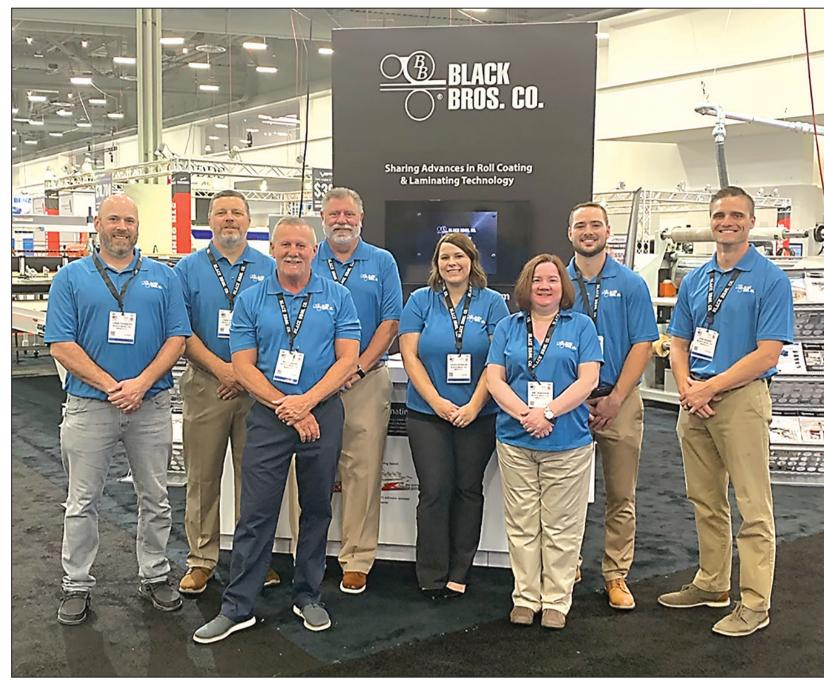
Black Bros. Co., the oldest manufacturing firm in Mendota, can trace its roots in the area back to the turn of the 20th century, although the company history goes even farther back than that. Founded in 1882 in Lanark, Scotland, by the five original Black brothers - William, John, James, Walter and David, as well as their father, William Sr. - the business was relocated in the late 1880s to Chicago before the five brothers, their father, and their families ultimately settled in Mendota in 1899.

Over the next 120 years, Black Bros. Co. has transformed from a small woodworking shop into a world-renowned manufacturer of roll coating and laminating equipment. Originally used for wood only, Black Bros. Co. has expanded over the years into a wide variety of other industries and applications including metals, plastics, foam and electronics.

Black Bros. associates have designed, built and tested more than 30,000 machines and delivered them across the globe to every continent except Antarctica, earning them an international reputation for innovative engineering, quality manufacturing and dedicated support.

The manufacturers who use Black Bros. Co.'s equipment include producers of furniture, kitchen cabinets, doors, windows, wall paneling, ceiling and floor tile, insulation, rubber flooring, plastic containers and RVs, to name a few.

The people at Black Bros. are not only committed to producing quality machines, but also to the city of Mendota. Black



Black Bros. Co. employees at their booth at the AWFS® Fair held in Las Vegas in July 2021. Left to right, are Chris Fusinetti, Todd Phalen, Bill Masear, Tim Eich, Laura Robison, Amy Shaddick, Evan Carroll and Erik Weber. (Photo contributed)

Bros. employees can be found volunteering for many area organizations, including the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, Mendota Lions Club, Mendota Elks Lodge #1212,

Mendota Moose Lodge and the Mendota Area YMCA. Youth sports organizations and the United Way are also benefactors of Black Bros. and its people.

Matt Carroll, current

Chief Executive Officer and great-grandson of original founder John Black, represents the fifth generation of family ownership. Matt's son Evan, the sixth generation of family ownership,

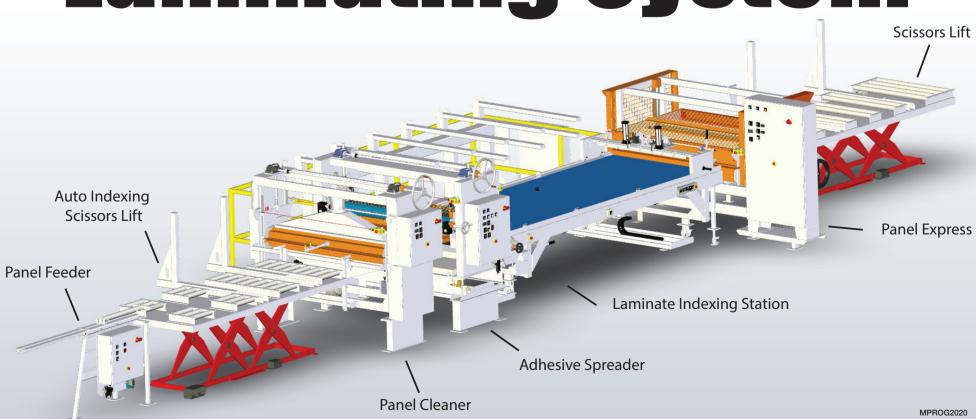
currently serves the company in the role of Assistant Plant Manager.

Times and technology may change, but Black Bros. Co. continues to adhere to the values that have sepa-

rated it from the competition and allowed the company to grow into the sixth-generation of family ownership: impeccable quality, unmatched durability, and dedicated service.

The Black Bros. Panel Express Heat-Assisted Rotary Laminator is designed to laminate all types of HPL, decorative plastics, and other sheet products to plywood, or MDF. When used in conjunctions with "fast tack" (high solids) PVA adhesives, the Panel Express Laminating System allows you to move from laminating into production without the need for additional press time.





Pillars of Progress

Chamber to present 75th Sweet Corn Festival in August

The Mendota Chamber of Commerce benefits its members – and the community - in many ways. The Chamber provides an upto-date website, sponsorship of the annual Sweet Corn Festival and many other events and programs that help to enhance business and community life in Mendota.

President and CEO, Shelby Weide, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Chamber along with the programs and policies of the board of directors and ambassador club. Responsibilities include public relations, fiscal oversight and the task of marketing Mendota. Weide is assisted by Becky Biers, who has served as the Executive Assistant since October 2021. Together, they work to plan promotional events and carry out the directions of the chamber board.

The Chamber's website, www.mendotachamber.com, is a premier benefit for Chamber members and is an important tool for connecting consumers with members' businesses. The site includes a directory that lists all Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce members and provides links to members? websites. The website includes members' job listings and coupons, as well as an updated Calendar of Events

listing members' events. Every year, the Chamber's largest project is to coordinate the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, which celebrates our community and the importance that agriculture and corn have played in Mendota's history. Always an impressive event, this year's Mendota Sweet Corn Festival will be no exception as it marks 75 years. The 2022 celebration is scheduled for Aug. 11-14. The Chamber's Sweet Corn Festival website, www. sweetcornfestival.com, will show the 2022 calendar of events by late spring. The Chamber also compiles and distributes a brochure highlighting festival event sponsors and promoting member restaurants and motels. 2017 was the first year in 30 years that the chamber brought a new carnival to town, which helped draw a record-breaking crowd of between 60,000-65,000 in attendance.

Some of the other benefits of Chamber membership are mailings, which keep members informed of upcoming events and programs; an e-newsletter broadcasting Chamber news, member events, and new members; advertising opportunities on the Chamber's double sided LED sign located at the Mendota Civic Center; referrals of Chamber members: the Chamber ambassador's club, which welcomes new businesses and assists with grand openings and ribbon cutting; free participation in the Mendota Gift Certificate program; Chamber sponsored events and networking opportunities; free seminars and workshops on topics of interest and concern to members; community events and tourism; opportunity to post job listings and coupons on the Chamber website; a Prescription Discount Card, and the Mendota Community Calendar published monthly in The Mendota Reporter and free listing of Chamber members as monthly sponsors. All Chamber Members are also included in the Mendota Community Profile Book, which highlights different aspects of Mendota including City Government, School System, Industry, Health Care options, Tourism, etc. This publication is available in the Chamber Office or at www.mendotachamber.com.

The Chamber once again sponsored the Shop Local program this holiday season. The program ran from Nov. 20 through Dec. 31. For every \$10 spent in one of the over 60 participating businesses, customers received a sticker for their Shop Local



market place and flea market at the 2021 Sweet Corn Festival in downtown Mendota. The 75th Annual Sweet Corn Festival will be held Aug. 11-14.



Santa and Mrs. Claus along with Sweet Corn Festival royalty make their way down Illinois Avenue to the accompaniment of Christmas music provided by local student band members during the "A Mendota Christmas" event in December.

card. Once cards were filled, they were turned into the Chamber office. The grand prize winner was Mary Lou Flahive of Mendota, who received over \$1,000 in gift certificates and merchandise donated by participating businesses. This holiday season, the Chamber had 622 Shop Local cards turned in, which is a grand total of \$155,550 spent in Mendota this holiday season.

The Mendota Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner/ Awards Banquet, held at the Mendota Civic Center, recognizes the accomplishments of several area individuals and businesses with a number of special awards. The recipient of the H.D. Hume Outstanding Service Award for 2021 was Steve Lauer, the 2021 Tom Merwin Gold Star Employee Award went to Jamie Bromenschenkel of West Side Family Dentistry, and the 2021 Sweet Corn Festival Volunteer of the Year went to Brian Basil. The Beautification awards were presented to the Mendota Fire Department and Blackstone School.

Other events sponsored by the Chamber include the Valentine Baby Contest, The Chamber Games, Sweet Corn Festival Golf Classic, Fly In Breakfast, Mendota's 4th of July Celebration, A Mendota Christmas, Operation Elf Action,

and the Chamber Playday golf outing. In addition, the Chamber partners with The Mendota Reporter in co-sponsoring the Mendota Community Calendar, which appears monthly in The Reporter.

The Chamber also serves to support and assist Mendota retailers in their promotions such as the Mrs. Santa Cookie Sales, Sidewalk Sales and the "Woodhaven" and "Hi Neighbor" coupon books. The Chamber is also busy writing Chamber Gift Certificates throughout the year. Chamber Gift Certificates make wonderful gifts for the hard-to-buy-for person because they can be used at more than 60 businesses.

The Chamber Ambassadors are another important part of the Chamber of Commerce serving as hosts for the annual Chamber Playday golf outing and annual dinner. The Ambassadors conduct Operation Elf Action during the holidays, which involves roughly 200 children annually. The Chamber Ambassadors also serve as a welcoming committee for new businesses in town for grand openings, ribbon cuttings, and Chamber After Hour events.

The Chamber office is located in the Mendota Municipal Building at 800 Washington St. in downtown Mendota. The building houses the city clerk's

office and the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber office has long been an information center for visitors and residents providing answers to the many questions that are asked each day. The Chamber supplies the community with information on Chamber members' businesses and gives out maps of the city, county and state.

Tourism is also a Chamber priority and the office provides a comprehensive list of activities and events. The Chamber continues to focus on the marketing of Mendota and the business interests of its members. They hope you will "Make Mendota a Destination!"



Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce

.Serving Your Community And YOU!

MCS Advertising

Mendota Agri-Products

4m Graphix Abigails Women's Center ADM Grain Co. **Advanced Drainage Systems Aimee Holland** Al Bonnell American Machine, Inc. **Ancare Veterinary Clinic ARS Auto Repair Service August Hill Winery** Barkman Concrete Contruction, Inc. **Basil Construction** Beck Oil BP & I-39 Plaza **Becker Chiropractic Best Employeement Skills Team** Black Brothers Co. **Boelk Truck Lines Buckman Iron** Carriage House Electric Casey's General Store **Central Bank of Illinois** Chamlin & Assoc. **Chris Eller-The Retirement Specialist** Cindy's on 34 City of Mendota Com Ed Community Health Partnership of Illinois Country Company / Mike Organ **Crossbody Shop** D & D Antiques De La O's **Delong's Auto Body Designs & Signs by Anderson Dimond Bro. Insurance Edward Jones Ekana Nursery** El Rey Del Taco El Zarape **Euclid Eureka Savings Bank Expressions Salon**

First Presbyterian Church **First State Bank First State Insurance Floralcrest** Frank Kobilsek **G & M Distributors Gahan Goy Ganz Electric Graves-Hume Public Library Greg Vaccaro Guilfoyle Law Firm** H & H Builders H.D. Hume Company HCC, Inc. Heritage Health Therapy & Senior Care **Holy Cross School Homestead Realty** Illinois Valley Community College Illinois Valley Counseling Services Impact Networking, LLC JJ&L Carpentry **Janelaine** John Elston Jones Home Improvement **Judge Troy Holland** Jurassic Bark Kaleel Law Office Ken Otterbach Excav. Kingspan KM Radio of Earlville **Knights of Columbus** Krenz Dental Corp. Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance Lakeside Liquors & Tabacco **LaSalle County Veterans Assistantance** Commission Lee Stocking Lilja Tiling & Excavating

M S Electric

Main St. Station

Mauch Carpentry, Inc.

Mc Donalds #15712

Mc Donalds #37038

McConville Realty & Auctioneering

Mendota Animal Companion Centre Mendota Area Senior Services Mendota Area YMCA Mendota Business & Professional Women **Mendota Civic Center Mendota Community Theatre** Mendota Elks Lodge #1212 Mendota FFA Alumni **Mendota Fire Department Mendota Ford** Mendota Golf Club Mendota High School Mendota Lions Club Mendota Lutheran Home Mendota Moose Lodge # 714 Mendota Museum & Historical Society **Mendota Mutual Insurance** Mendota Police Department Mendota Reporter Mendota School Dist. 289 **Merritt Funeral Home** Midland States Bank **Moore Tires** News Tribune/LaSalle Publishing **Nightengales Thrift Shop North Central Area Transit** Northern Illinois Ambulance Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing **Northern Partners Cooperative OSF St. Paul Medical Center** Painting Parties w/ Lucy Phalen Steel Const. Co. Pizzas by Marchelloni Plano Molding Pohl's Office Supply **Power Care Rehabilitation Prairie State Tractor Prarie Land Millwright** Prescott Brothers, Inc **Purpose Nutrition** Quality Inn & Suites

Ridley Feed Ingredients Rosati's Pizza Pub **Rose Concrete** Schimmers GM Sew Quiltable Specialty Body & Paint, Inc. Sports-N-Stuff **Starved Rock Country Community Foundation** Starved Rock Media/ WAJK/WLPO **Starved Rock Wood Products** Stephenitch Do It Best Hardware Stonecroft Village Studio 1500 Studstill Media Subway Sullivan's Ace Hardware Sullivan's Foods Super 8 Motel **T2 Enterprises Taco Madre Tacos Guzman** Tara VanDeWyngaerde O.D., P.C. **Town & Country Realty** Travel to You, Inc. Triple Service Plumbing, Heating & Cooling **Uncle Joe's Gaming United Way of Illinois Valley** VFW Post #4079 Victory Babtist Church Walter Brothers Plumbing, Heating & Waltham Curling Club **Wasmer Funeral Home** West Side Family Dentistry Western Sand & Gravel **Windy City Amusements** Winny's Place **Woodhaven Association** Yeakel Piano **Ziggies**



Financial Plus Credit Union

The Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, established in 1945, is a not-for-profit organization of businesses, representing industry, retail service, professionals and agriculture in partnership with tourism and government to further promote economic growth and quality of life in Mendota and the surrounding area. The strength of the Chamber lies in the active involvement of its membership. The Chamber office makes referrals of its members, and promotes them through a variety of activities, making the public aware of the goods and services available here in Mendota from its membership. The Mendota Chamber is a voice for business and is devoted to strengthening the business community and maintaining the exceptional characteristics of life here in Mendota.

CHAMBER OFFICERS

Jennifer Masini - Past Chair Michelle Barkman - Chair Evan Wixom - Vice Chair Marion Quintana - Secretary Tina McPheeters - Treasurer

CHAMBER STAFF

Shelby Weide – President & CEO **Administrative Assistant**

Becky Biers

Being a high school student during a pandemic

Five Mendota High School students, seniors Andrew Stamberger, Faith Anderson, Aliza Salinas-Cervantes and Ethan Hanaman and junior Rafa Romero, recently sat down to discuss the challenges they faced attending school the past two years. While people around the globe were forced to adjust their daily routines in many ways, students' lives were some of the most impacted by COVID.

When the pandemic hit locally in March of 2020 and schools moved to remote learning, the MHS students said they weren't too concerned, thinking it would just be a temporary change. In fact, they thought it would be a nice break from the regular pace of high school. But as time went on, that changed. "After those first couple weeks, it was kind of a shock we weren't going back the rest of the year,' Stamberger said.

Even though remote learning was problematic those first few months, MHS students were very fortunate to have Chromebooks, which they were already comfortable using. Many other schools did not have that luxury. And yet, the abruptness of the switch to fully remote gave educators no time to prepare for the change. "A lot of teachers didn't post stuff online for awhile because it was new to everybody," Anderson noted.

Another issue at first was with internet connections. Even though students had Chromebooks, some had limited or no internet access at home. "It was one thing to have a remote day once in a while, but to suddenly go to full time remote was different," Stamberger explained. "We were gone on March 17, and it wasn't like we had any

"After those first couple weeks, it was kind of a shock we weren't going back the rest of the year."

–MHS senior Andrew Stamberger, after school was closed in March 2020

time to prepare."

As a freshman that year, Romero found those first months difficult and the learning loss significant. "There was a lot of material I needed to get second semester and the teachers were trying to figure things out," he said.

Salinas-Cervantes, who was a sophomore that year, said even though it was hard for teachers to push out content, she did not feel she missed out on much those first months. "But junior year and now this year, I feel like I missed out on some opportunities," she noted.

For Anderson, who participates in fine arts, the shutdown those first few months was more impactful. "It sucked because at the end of 2020, the Show Choir was supposed to perform in New York City and that trip was canceled. We had been fundraising for that since freshman year," she said. "And the spring musical was going to start the weekend everything closed down so all that work was gone. That was really disappointing."

Since then, Anderson said a lot of their band concerts have been canceled because of COVID cases going through the band. "When all those people are gone, you can't really do anything in whatever you're in as far as fine arts. You don't have enough people," she explained.

The impact on the graduating Class of 2020 was significant as well. Two milestone events, prom and graduation, would not go on as normal. "Everyone felt bad for the seniors who were graduating in 2020," Anderson said. "Then the next year, those seniors missed out on their entire senior year [of normal activities] and it just keeps happening every year."

Return to school

By the fall of 2020, all state-mandated safety protocols and a new Block Schedule were in place at MHS and the high school felt it was safe to resume in-person classes. All five students said they looked forward to returning. "The lack of not seeing anybody that last semester had us excited to go back and be able to talk to people," Stamberger emphasized.

But the return to the classroom brought many changes for students and staff including masks and social distancing. Romero, who had always enjoyed socializing during lunchtime as a freshman, was quick to point out that it was very different sophomore year. "We didn't have the big tables, we ate at desks that were spaced three feet apart and there were big plastic dividers so it was hard to hear," he said.

Students had assigned seats during lunch as well. "We were allowed to talk during lunch," Hanaman explained, "but there were only two people per table and I would have to yell to talk to the person at my own table."

Another change was in the food served to students. Fewer truck drivers were available at the time to deliv-



Some Mendota High School students might have trouble deciding what to wear to school each day, but all of them have gotten used to face coverings being a part of their everyday wardrobe.

er food, so there were shortages. While the cafeteria staff worked hard to provide meals, the best they could do was assemble sack lunches, so students had no choice in what they got. "That was a big change from going to the cafeteria and having so many choices," Anderson said.

Quarantine

Although COVID cases remained quite low at MHS during the 2020-21 school year, many students lost time in the classroom due to quarantines. Salinas-Cervantes said she missed quite a few days junior year because there was a 10-day quarantine for anyone who was sick or exposed to COVID.

As for remote learning that year, the students thought teachers worked hard to make improvements in a short amount of time and some lasting benefits have emerged. Snow days can be remote learning days, so the time out of the classroom does not have to be made up at the end of the year. Additionally, Stamberger said it's easier to make up work if you have to miss school ause all the lessons available online.

The quarantines had a major affect on sports that

Continued from Page A5

Chris Coughlin of North

year as well. Romero said the soccer season was moved from that fall to the spring of 2021. "We had 10 games that year but no post-season," he said. "In basketball, the season was even shorter."

For Hanaman, who participates in wrestling, there was no season his junior year. In football, the team all got quarantined and Anderson noted there was no Homecoming game or dance

While those cancellations were disappointing at the time, the students did their best to accept the situation. Stamberger said they were just happy to be in school and had expected that some extracurricular activities would get canceled.

While many of the student athletes were able to participate in their sport - even if only on a limited basis - for fine arts, the canceled events could not be made up. "We never had the trips or performances we expected," Anderson said.

A new school year 2021-22

When students returned to school in August 2021, things were looking up. Masks were still required but COVID cases were down, a vaccine had been available for months

and free weekly saliva testing was offered to students and staff, which helped to prevent the spread of the virus in school. The outdoor fall sports were back to a more normal schedule, marching band was able to perform more and lunchtime was less restrictive with students able to eat and socialize outdoors when weather permitted.

Then toward the end of first semester, the new COVID variants hit and the number of positive cases rose dramatically. The fall outdoor sports were able to have their seasons but Salinas-Cervantes said volleyball and basketball were hit harder and half the team was gone due to quarantine.

By December, so many students and staff were quarantined that local schools closed a few days before their scheduled holiday break, which meant no final exams. The growing number of cases continued into January. Romero said he missed the first three weeks of second semester due to COVID and Hanaman missed the first two weeks.

Despite the disappointments, the four seniors agreed that they feel good about this year and are grateful for everything they were able to do and no longer take so much for granted. "We didn't get to do a lot of things that make high school a great time of life," Anderson said. "It puts into perspective what really matters. We made the most out of the situation and enjoyed what we were able to have. Being upset about it doesn't do any good."

Stamberger said it also helped to know that this wasn't just affecting them, it was happening worldwide. "And we were much more fortunate than many others," he said.

Romero, now a junior, said he was also happy just to be in school again, socializing with his classmates. "I think I would go insane if I had to do remote learning all the time. I only had one semester of regular high school and my favorite part of it was lunch," he said, drawing a laugh from the other students. "COVID hit during my freshman year, so I hope by my senior year things will be back to normal."



The learning environment of Mendota Township High School offers educational opportunities for the individual to develop a personally satisfying life, to function as an intelligent and responsible member of our society, and to achieve what is necessary to become a productive citizen.



Central Illinois ARTworks in Peru and Michelle Wade of Triple Service Plumbing, Heating, Cooling and Electric in Mendota spoke to the city council about the possibility of bringing a historic mural to downtown Mendota. The mural would be 127 feet wide and 50 feet tall, and would recreate a historically accurate version of the Mendota Union Depot built in 1888. The site is the south side of the Triple Service building on Illinois Avenue.

SEPTEMBER

A traffic study was done at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Seventh Street and it was determined that yield signs are warranted northbound and southbound on Fifth Avenue at Seventh **OCTOBER**

The Mendota Police Department purchased new uniforms for the officers. The cost for the entire department was \$22,000. Kellen emphasized that the uniforms were financed through the state drug account fund at no cost to the taxpayers nor will the money come out of any budget. He said the uniforms are of a stronger and lighter weight polyester fabric that allow for better movement by the officers. This is the first change in uniform attire

for the police department in 30 years.

NOVEMBER Will Hansen was sworn City

Improvements to the sewer system in Mendota have been made, including the construction of a lift station on Seventh Avenue.

in as an officer with the Mendota Police Department. **DECEMBER**

Surf Broadband Solutions will be installing fiber optic lines and offering its internet services to every household and business in Mendota. With that, the council approved right-ofway and understanding of cooperation agreements with Surf to begin its process of installation. Terry Barr, Central Illinois Regional Manager for Surf, said the company will be installing main lines at the street, and then homeowners that choose to subscribe to the service will feed off of that line with one run to the house, most likely placed underground if possible. Weather permitting, Surf hopes to be up and running in Mendota sometime this spring. The council approved

Day Spa) in the amount of

\$210,000.

Cleaners property on Illithe purchase of the building at 1017 Main St. (formerly The Head Hunter Salon &

2022 PROJECTS

The resurfacing project for Route 251 did not get completed as planned in 2021. City clerk Emily McConville said it is one of the first items on the agenda for 2022, with work to commence when weather permits. The South East Mendota

Sanitary Sewer Systems Improvements program is continuing. Work is nearly completed on the Seventh Avenue Pump Station, the S&L Pump Station Demolition and the Front Street Gravity Sewer, the Seventh Avenue Force Main Replacement project and the Cherry Street Gravity Sewer Extension project. The cleanup process at

nois Avenue is continuing In an ongoing effort to

the site of the Campbell's

improve security, 18 security cameras are now in place in the downtown area in addition to cameras located at Strouss Park.

Section I

The Mendota Reporter • A5

Mendota Civic Center



For more than 30 years, the Mendota Civic Center has offered accommodating, professional and consistent services to become a north central Illinois leader in event planning. The Mendota Civic Center offers a landscaped patio, wedding pergola, two meeting rooms and a grand ballroom. MCC is the perfect venue for weddings, receptions, business meetings, holiday parties, funeral dinners, and events, accommodating up to 350 guests. The friendly staff will assist you in choosing the space that best suits your needs and provides the perfect guest experience. With on-site catering, event planning has never been easier or more stress free. For more information, availability, pricing, and catering options, contact the Mendota Civic Center at (815) 539-3411 or info@mendotaciviccenter. com. The Mendota Civic Center is conveniently located on Illinois Route 251, on the north edge of Mendota, across from beautiful Lake Mendota. Let Rachel or Cathy help plan your next event.



The friendly and helpful team at Financial Plus Credit Union in Mendota includes, front row, left to right, Nancy Faber and Rose Bonnell. Back row, Alejandra Hernandez, Jennifer Truckenbrod, Audrey Holocker and Laurie Eich. Not pictured: Celina Garza.

Financial Plus Credit Union – 71 years in business and going strong

Financial Plus Credit Union has been providing exceptional service to members since 1951. Membership has expanded to 10 counties. With offices in Mendota, Ottawa, Peru, Morris and Diamond they are a member-owned, federally insured cooperative that offers financial strength and exceptional service to members. The Credit Union insures members' deposits up to \$500,000 through the NCUA (National Credit Union Association) and ESI, (Excess Share Insurance Corp).

Financial Plus members are part-owners who share in Credit Union profits and enjoy competitive or higher dividends on savings, reduced loan rates and minimal or no fees. Financial Plus offers services such as free checking, low-cost loans, savings certificates, instant issue debit cards, a VISA Credit Card with a rewards program, convenient payroll deduction, direct deposit, online banking, mobile banking, tablet banking, online check deposits, smart watch banking, mobile payment solutions, youth savings clubs and more.

Financial Plus also offers a safe mortgage loan program with money to lend from traditional mortgage loans to the Ownership Advantage Mortgage Loan allowing you to finance up to 95 percent of the purchase price. The mortgage loans are kept in-house and you can save thousands of dollars over the life of the

loan by paying weekly. Since 1951, Financial Plus has served its members, it has catered to young members, offering a Wiley

Wabbit Savings Club for children ages 9 and younger and a Tweens n' Teens Club for ages 10 through 19. Through these clubs, children learn about savings, the fundamentals of finance and how to manage their money. Financial Plus offers these kids fun contests throughout the year, an annual pool party, financial literacy in the local schools, their first debit card, their first auto loan, and

Isn't time you joined? A \$1 savings account entitles you to a lifetime membership. Membership is open to anyone living or working in Bureau, De Kalb, Grundy, Lee, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, Livingston, Putnam, and Will counties. For more information, log onto www.financialplus.org, call 815-539-3444 or visit their Mendota facility at 1905 13th Ave. "We Belong to You. .



City sees improvements in '21; 251 resurfacing on '22 agenda

The city of Mendota continued to make improvements in 2021 and the completion of projects will be among the items on the agenda for 2022. Below are some of the highlights of 2021.

JANUARY

Brady Rutishauser was sworn in as a full-time firefighter/paramedic with the Mendota Fire Department. Rutishauser has progressed through different phases of firefighter instruction, beginning with the Explorer program. He attended a firefighter course through the La-Salle-Peru Vocational School and was also a member of the Cadet program through the Mendota Fire Department. He has most recently been a firefighter/EMT.

The Mendota City Council adopted an ordinance establishing a Public Works Department and director. Tim Kimrey was appointed to the position to oversee the water, sewer, streets and parks departments.

FEBRUARY

The city council adopted a resolution for funding the city's portion of the 13th Avenue resurfacing project. The council approved an expenditure of \$17,000 to repair the sidewalks so they comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The Illinois Department of Transportation is hoping to start the process of resurfacing Route 251 throughout the city sometime this year.

Brandon Hornung was administered the oath of office as a part-time officer with Mendota Police Department.

MARCH

Four bids were received for disinfection improvements to the city's waste water treatment plant. The low bid from Whittaker Construction of Earlville was accepted in the amount of \$507,150.

APRIL

Mendota Police Department officer Joshua Sarver was sworn in to the position of sergeant. Sarver has been a member of the department for four years. He will be assigned to the afternoon watch. Also, Sarver is the department's new K-9 handler and attended training with

his new K-9 officer in Iowa. Mayor David Boelk was



Six solar-powered speed limit signs have been erected in Mendota - two near Blackstone School, two on Meriden Street and two on West Main Street.

tasked with appointing a new treasurer and his recommendation of Heath Davis was approved by the council. Davis began his duties on May 1. He is employed by Black Bros. Co. in Mendota.

The council approved the hiring of three new city employees. Sean Fox joined the water department, while Ethan Guelde and Jackson Prather are new members of the street department.

MAY

City attorney Mike Guilfoyle said the city and Del Monte have closed on the deal for the city to take over approximately 77 acres of Del Monte property, which includes ponds. Del Monte paid the city \$3.95 million for the deal.

Mayor Boelk said Del Monte was taking bids from five companies to clean up the ponds and the city decided it would get in on the bidding process. "Del Monte left the city, and left in a bad way," said Boelk. "We thought we would throw our hat in for the bidding."

The city will now be responsible for the cost of cleaning up the ponds. Boelk emphasized that the pond clean-up is a non-EPA issue but there is an overflow of sludge into the Little Vermilion River. There are no contaminants, he said. He added that the sludge can be

utilized by the city in various

Boelk said the ponds will be leveled off once they are empty and then the city will decide what to do with the land. He mentioned it could be used as farm land, and noted that it will be great frontage property for U.S. 34. "This is a good deal for

said. "I think you'll see that in the next couple of years." **JUNE**

the citizens of Mendota," he

It was announced that the Illinois Department of Transportation will resurface Illinois Route 251 this summer. Work was scheduled to be done in August or September from near the cemeteries at the north end to one-quarter mile past the railroad viaduct on the south end.

JULY

Police Chief Greg Kellen introduced a new member of the police force - Johnny the K-9 officer. Johnny's handler is Officer Josh Sarver. Johnny and Officer Sarver recently completed a four-week training session in Iowa. Johnny hit the streets after receiving state certification.

Six solar-powered speed limit signs were erected near Blackstone School, on Meriden Street and on West Main Street.

See City, Page A4

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ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING Carriage House Electric

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FAST TITLE & LICENSE Setchell Agency, Ltd.

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chris@chris-eller.com

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Eureka Savings Bank has five locations to serve its customers, including at 1300 13th

Eureka Savings Bank is constantly evolving to serve customer needs

Eureka Savings Bank has been proudly serving its customers and supporting its communities since 1885 and looks forward to continuing this tradition. The banking industry is continuously changing and Eureka Savings Bank is working to provide all of you with the safest, most current access to your accounts and its services.

Eureka Savings Bank is now offering commercial loans and deposit accounts and has had great success with its mobile banking app. Online mortgage applications and mobile deposit capture are the next services Eureka is excited to provide

While Eureka Savings Bank has made it more convenient for you to access your accounts and do business when it is convenient, you may also stop in any of its locations - LaSalle, Mendota, Oglesby, Peru, and Wenonawhere its friendly, dedicated staff is ready to serve you. Thank you for your loyalty and patronage and Eureka will continue working to earn it in the future.

2022 Mortgage **Promotion**

Eureka Savings Bank offers 24/7 services for all of your banking needs through its e-Banking options. Now you can send and receive money with Zelle®.

Eureka Savings Bank is pleased to announce that it is partnering with Cops 4 Cancer in 2022 as part of a commitment to its community. Cops 4 Cancer has been an asset to the community by making a difference in the lives of community members who are suffering from cancer. Eureka Savings Bank will donate \$25 to Cops 4 Cancer for every mortgage loan that is closed in 2022. Customers and members of the community will also be able to make donations to Cops 4 Cancer at any Eureka Savings Bank branch. Eureka is proud to support Cops 4 Cancer with another successful fundraising year.

e-Banking Services

Eureka Savings Bank offers 24/7 services for all of

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The services Eureka offers through its e-Banking are mobile check deposit, personal finance, external transfers, stop payments, tokenization, bill pay, e-Alerts, internal transfers, text banking, digital receipts, Secur-LOCK equip, calculators, e-Statements, online check ordering and mobile pay

Still on the horizon is online account opening, where you can open a deposit account in the comfort on your own home 24/7.

For more information about what Eureka Savings Bank has to offer, log on to eurekasavings.com or visit one of its five locations.

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Vicki Johnson
John Hessenberger
Jim Fitzpatrick
John Holland
Jay Miller
Mark Peasley
Leo Hochstatter

Building Inspector
Al Engel

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Wendy Letterly

Rita Borelli

Public Works Director

Tim Kimrey

Water Dept.
Kevin McPheeters
Daniel Falcon
Jason Phalen
Sean Fox

Sewer Dept.

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Street Dept. Nick Stremlau

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