

Pillars of Progress

SECTION 2

FEATURING:

- **Davis Family Health, LLC**
 - **Erbes Realty, LLC**
 - **First State Bank**
- **First State Insurance Earlville**
 - **Mauch Carpentry/
No. Illinois Seamless Roofing**
 - **Setchell Agency, LTD**
- **Triple Service Plumbing, Heating,
Cooling and Electric**
 - **Vaessen Bros Chevrolet**
 - **Vaessen Implement Repair**
 - **Years of Service Pages**



Wednesday, February 16, 2022

First State Bank - 82 years in business, 19 Illinois locations



FSB offers community banking since its founding

First State Bank is celebrating over 80 years of community banking in the Mendota area. Founded in 1940, First State Bank has transformed over the last eight decades from a small single-location facility on Washington Street into a 19-branch strong \$1.4 billion financial institution with a presence from Champaign to St. Charles.

What hasn't changed, though, is our commitment to community banking — offering the high-quality financial products like the big banks, but with the personal community banking touch you've come to depend on.

From interest-building FSBPremier checking to Treasury Management Services, we offer a full suite of business and personal banking options for every customer. Our digital banking solutions — including internet banking, our mobile app and FSBDirect — allow you to seamlessly conduct business 24/7, wherever you are. MobilePay allows you to add your FSB debit or credit card information to your mobile phone for contactless payments. Instant issue debit cards can replace your lost or stolen card in minutes. FSBCards allows you to see every purchase made with your FSB debit card, create spending controls, turn your card on and off and more.

Zelle is a person to person payment platform. Zelle is a fast, safe and easy way to send money directly between almost any bank, typically within minutes. With just an email address or U.S. mobile phone number, you can send money to people you trust, regardless of where they bank.

As a federally insured institution, your deposits are covered by the FDIC's general deposit insurance guidelines. For additional coverage, check out our IntraFi deposit products, just ask for details.

First State Bank is committed to the forefront of the technology necessary to be competitive in the financial industry, while maintaining our community banking roots. #comeseeyourfriends.

First State Bank has three locations in Mendota. The main facility, above, is located at 706 Washington St. The drive-up ATM, right, is at 800 Illinois Ave. and Plaza North is at 1403 13th Ave.



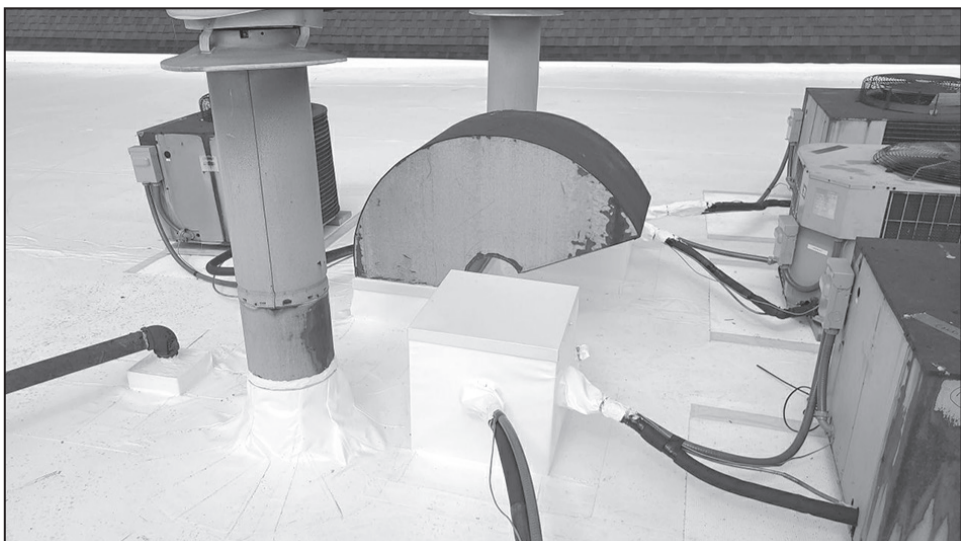
PROUD TO BE YOUR COMMUNITY BANK



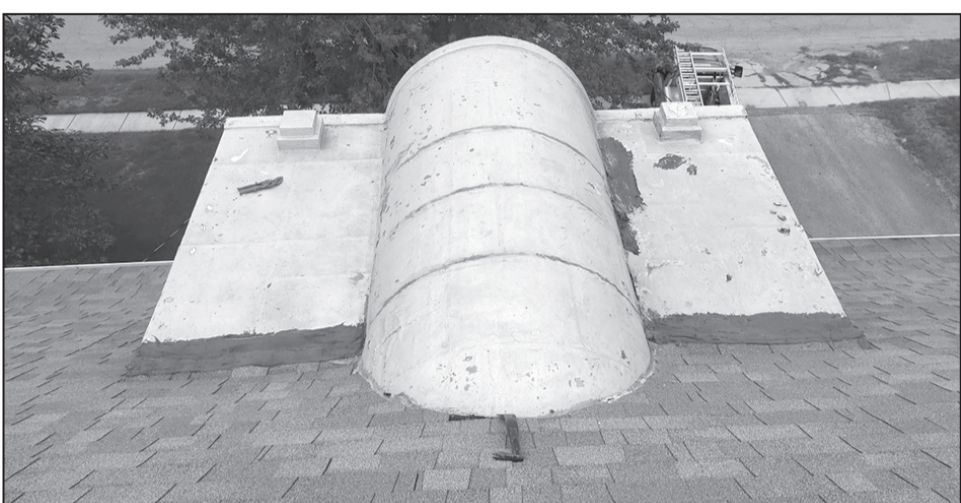
FIRST STATE BANK



First State Bank has transformed over the last eight decades from a small single-location facility on Washington Street into a 19-branch strong \$1.4 billion financial institution with a presence from Champaign to St. Charles.



Here is a good example of overcoming complex roofing situations using Duro-Last's prefabricated accessories. Where most others fail, Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing can prevail.



Above, a job site before Duro-Last installation. Below, the same job site after Duro-Last installation.



Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing, Inc. specializes in flat and low slope commercial roofing by installing the Duro-Last family of roofing systems. Duro-Last is the world's largest manufacturer of pre-fabricated single-ply roof systems. This system is ideal for any flat or low-slope roof.



Lane Mauch, left, lead foreman, Wanda Mauch, accounting, and David Mauch, owner, work together in this family-owned business. From the Mauchs, to the carpenters and certified roofing technicians, to their friendly office staff, you will find hardworking, knowledgeable people eager to exceed your expectations.

Mauch Carpentry & NI Seamless Roofing offer top-line products

Mauch Carpentry is a 37-year-old family business. David Mauch founded the business in April of 1985 to meet the growing needs of the area.

Mauch noted that they use top-line products like the Certain Teed complete line of products, Pella windows and doors, Tempco windows, Decra steel shingles, Exceptional Metals steel roofing and custom-formed metal detail parts for roofs and walls.

In 1997, Mauch expanded with a sister company, Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing, Inc. The company specializes in flat and low slope commercial roofing by installing the Duro-Last

family of roofing systems. Duro-Last is the world's largest manufacturer of pre-fabricated single-ply roof systems. This system is ideal for any flat or low-slope roof.

Both companies are members of the Better Business Bureau and Natural Roofing Contractors Association. The NRCA sets standards of workmanship for all types of roofing. They also have training for workers and information to educate the consumers.

Mauch stated that the crews are certified and the products they install.

Mauch has watched his children grow up and be a

part of the business, too. Lane Mauch is the field foreman, and during snow-removal weather, his other two sons work alongside him. His wife, Wanda, takes care of accounting.

"It is amazing how quick these past 36 years have gone," remarked Mauch.

Mauch Carpentry and Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing are located at 705 Illinois Ave., Mendota. Visit them online at www.mauchcarpentryinc.com or www.northernillinoisseamlessroofing.com. Mauch Carpentry can also be reached at 815-539-7867. Contact Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing at 815-539-5142.

Mauch
CARPENTRY INC.
815-539-7867

New to remodel,
windows siding
& more
IL License
#104-005528

705 Illinois Ave. • Mendota, IL 61342
www.mauchcarpentryinc.com

1985 37 YEARS 2022

NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Seamless Roofing INC.

815-539-5142

DURO-LAST
THE WORLD'S BEST ROOF®

www.northernillinoisseamlessroofing.com

PILLARS OF PROGRESS

4,301

Years of Service to the community on these 4 pages!

169 Years

Since 1853

City of Mendota

815-539-7459
Mendota

168 Years

Since 1854

First United Methodist Church

815-538-5587
Mendota

164 Years

Since 1858

St. John's Lutheran Church

815-539-5626
Mendota

164 Years

Since 1858

Holy Cross Church

815-538-6151
Mendota



144 Years

Since 1878

The Mendota Reporter

815-539-9396
Mendota

140 Years

Since 1882

Black Bros. Company

815-539-7451
Mendota

137 Years

Since 1885

Eureka Savings Bank

815-539-5656
Mendota
MEMBER FDIC

139 Years

Since 1883

HCC, Inc.

815-539-9371
Mendota

133 Years

Since 1889

First Federal Savings Bank

30 Years In Mendota
Member FDIC
815-539-6757

129 Years

Since 1893

Stephenitch Do It Best Hardware

815-539-9394
Mendota

115 Years

Since 1907

Northern Partners Co-op

815-539-6772
Mendota

109 Years

Since 1913

Mendota Monument

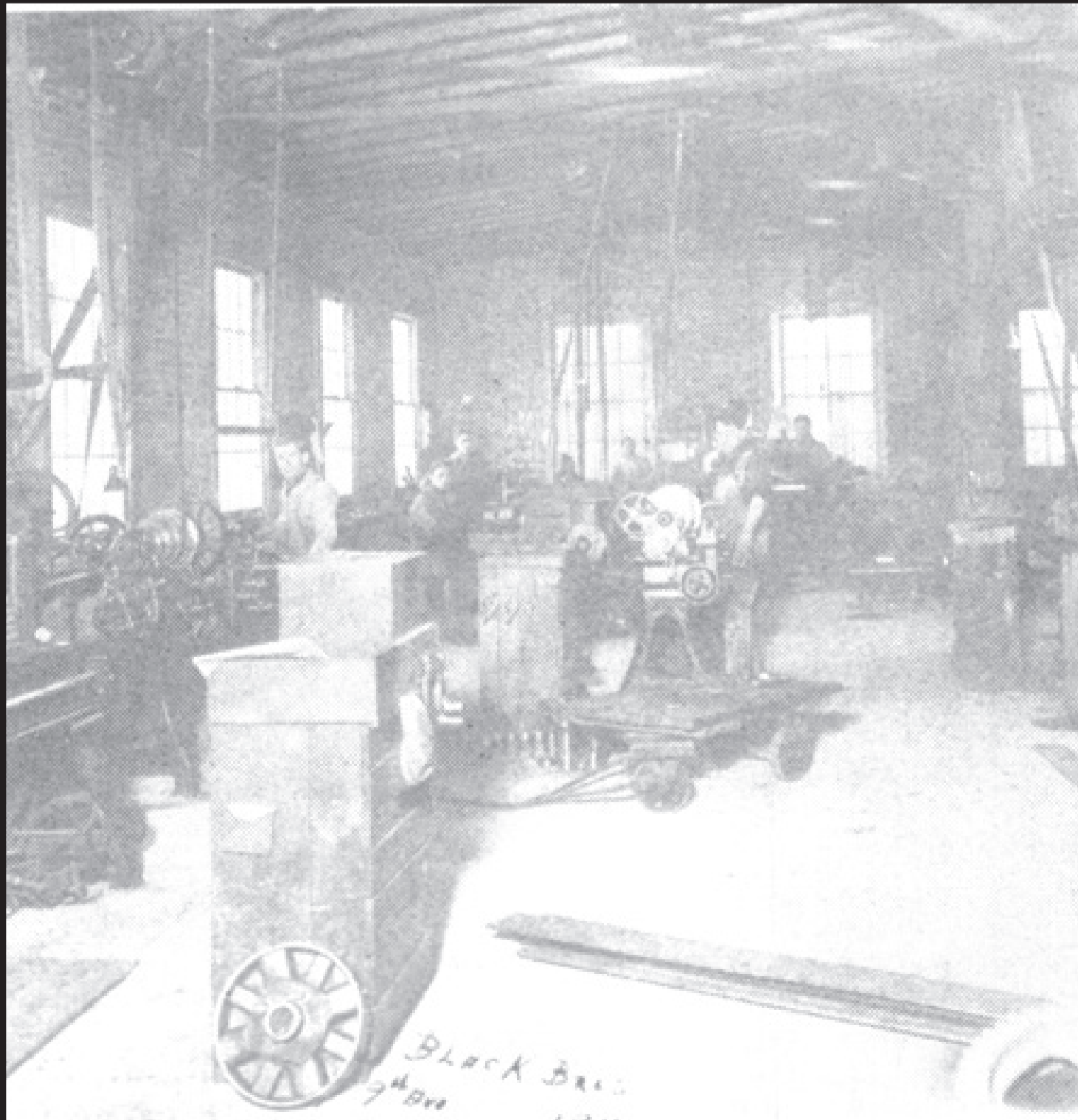
815-539-7276
Mendota

98 Years

Since 1924

Illinois Valley Community College

815-224-2720
Oglesby



PILLARS OF PROGRESS

4,301

Years of Service to the community on these 4 pages!

96 Years

Since 1926

Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet
1-800-227-5203
Sublette

84 Years

Since 1938

Merritt Funeral Home Ltd.
815-539-7211
Mendota

82 Years

Since 1940

First State Bank
815-538-2265 • Mendota
Member FDIC

77 Years

Since 1945

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce
815-539-6507
Mendota

77 Years

Since 1945

Schimmer, Inc.
815-539-9343
Mendota

74 Years

Since 1948

Cross Body Shop
815-539-7010
Mendota

72 Years

Since 1950

Triple Service Heating, Plumbing, Air Conditioning & Electric
815-539-3828
Mendota

72 Years

Since 1950

**Robert Krenz, DDS
Jon Krenz, DMD**
815-538-5316
Mendota

71 Years

Since 1951

Financial Plus Credit Union
815-539-3444 • Mendota
Member NCUA • ESI

70 Years

Since 1952

Vita Tone Cleaners & Tux Shop
815-539-6161 • Mendota

68 Years

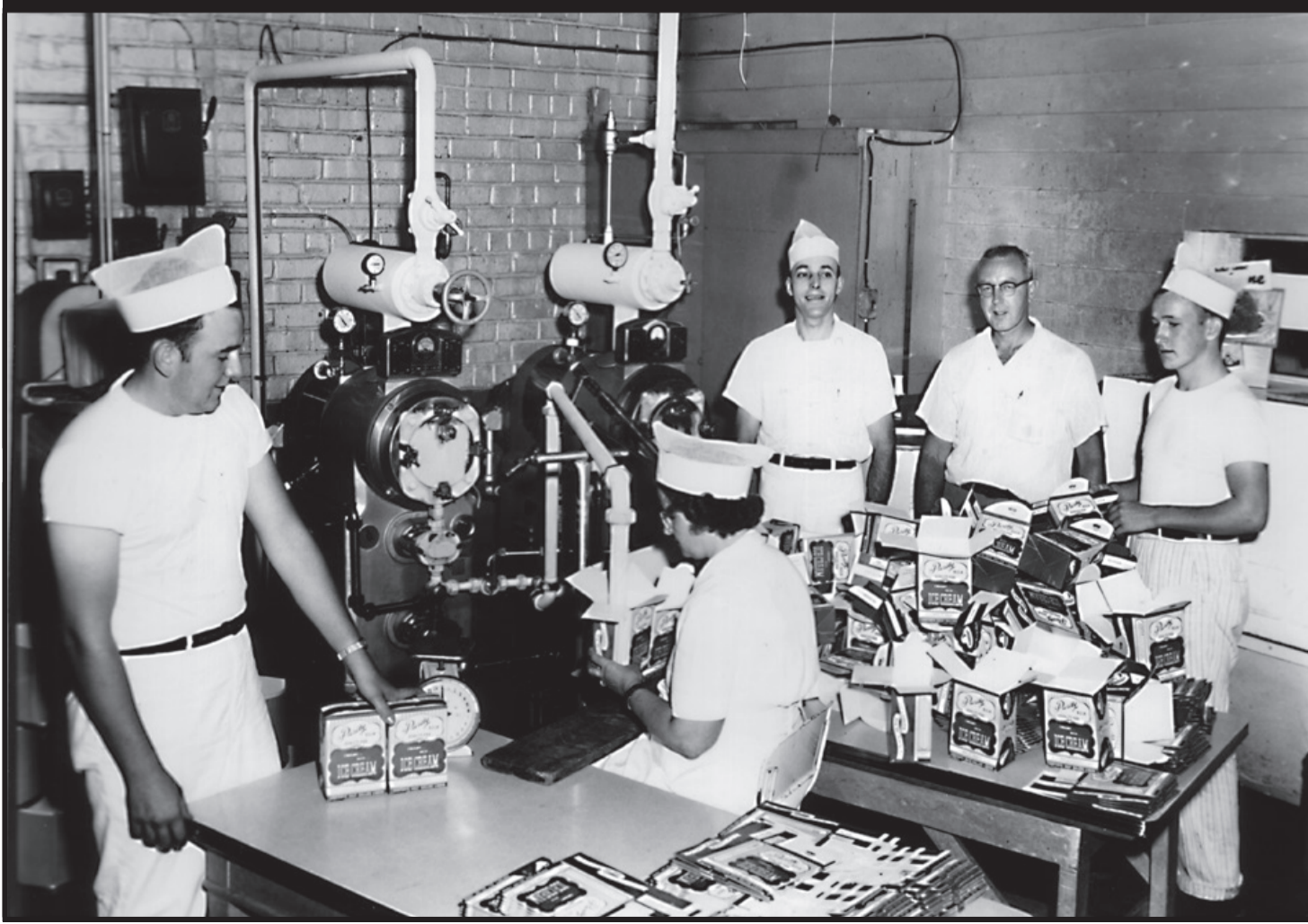
Since 1954

Sullivan's Foods
815-539-9341
Mendota

61 Years

Since 1961

Floralcrest, Inc.
815-539-9306
Mendota



61 Years

Since 1961

Ridley Feed Ingredients
815-539-9321
Mendota

59 Years

Since 1963

Meyers Furniture
815-539-6263
Mendota

PILLARS OF PROGRESS

4,301

Years of Service to the community on these 4 pages!

51 Years

Since 1971

**Walter Bros.
Plumbing, Heating,
& Cooling**
815-538-6516 • Mendota

51 Years

Since 1971

**Woodhaven
Lakes
Association**
815-849-5209
Sublette

50 Years

Since 1972

**Ziggie's Family
Restaurant**
815-539-5060
Mendota

48 Years

Since 1974

**N.L. Morton
Buildings, Ltd**
815-539-9325
Mendota

47 Years

Since 1975

**McConville
Realty &
Auctioneering**
815-539-5673
Mendota

45 Years

Since 1977

**Pohl's Office
Supply**
815-538-5741
Mendota

45 Years

Since 1977

**The Setchell
Agency Ltd.**
815-539-9311
Mendota

44 Years

Since 1978

**Mendota
Area Senior
Services**
815-539-9673
Mendota

43 Years

Since 1979

Sports-N-Stuff
815-539-6354
Mendota

42 Years

Since 1980

**Ramer
Automotive**
815-539-5321
Mendota

42 Years

Since 1980

**Town &
Country Realty**
815-539-6635
Mendota

41 Years

Since 1981

**H&R
Block**
815-539-7610
Mendota

39 Years

Since 1983

**Furar's Body
Shop**
815-539-6075
Mendota



39 Years

Since 1983

**Kaleel Law
Office**
815-539-5616
Mendota

39 Years

Since 1983

**Specialty Body
& Paint**
815-539-7801
Mendota

39 Years

Since 1983

**Homestead
Realty**
815-539-3811
Mendota

37 Years

Since 1985

**Mauch
Carpentry, Inc**
815-539-7867
Mendota

35 Years

Since 1987

**JC's
Headquarters**
815-538-5171
Mendota

33 Years

Since 1989

**Main St.
Station Bar &
Grill**
815-539-7011
Mendota

30 Years

Since 1992

**Mendota Child
Development
Center**
815-538-3333 • Mendota



29 Years

Since 1993

**Carriage
House
Electric**
815-538-5598
Mendota



PILLARS OF PROGRESS

4,301

Years of Service to the community on these 4 pages!

25 Years
Since 1997

Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing
815-539-5142 • Mendota

24 Years
Since 1998

Gahan Goy CPA's LTD
815-539-3614
Mendota

24 Years
Since 1998

Baker's Computer & Office Services
815-538-6290 • Mendota

23 Years
Since 1999

ARS Auto Repair Inc.
815-538-2412
Mendota

22 Years
Since 2000

First State Insurance
815-539-5651
Mendota



21 Years
Since 2001

Stonecroft Village
815-538-5300
Mendota

18 Years
Since 2004

West Side Family Dentistry LTD
815-539-7004
Mendota

15 Years
Since 2007

Dr. Tara N. Van De Wyngaerde Optometrist
815-539-6291 • Mendota

13 Years
Since 2009

Melecio Attachments Inc.
815-539-6057
Mendota

11 Years
Since 2011

Cindy's on 34
815-539-9000
Mendota

10 Years
Since 2012

Dirty Dawgs Grooming
815-538-2550
Mendota

9 Years
Since 2013

Mendota Area YMCA
815-538-2900
Mendota

5 Years
Since 2017

Quality Inn of Mendota
815-538-3355
Mendota

5 Years
Since 2017

Erbes Realty, LLC
815-535-6293
Sublette

3 Years
Since 2019

Purpose Nutrition
815-503-3853
Mendota

3 Years
Since 2019

Mendota Pet Salon
815-878-3185
Mendota

2 Years
Since 2020

Albers Tree Service, LLC
815-303-3751
Mendota

2 Years
Since 2020

Wasmer Funeral Home
815-539-8500
Mendota



1 Year
Since 2021

UJ Pets
815-878-3454
Mendota

1 Year
Since 2021

Davis Family Health
815-538-1800
Mendota

Vaessen Brothers – 96 years strong

Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet, Inc. was started in 1926 by Paul and Ralph Vaessen as an auto repair shop. In 1933, the Vaessens obtained the dealership with Chevrolet. In 1953, the franchise expanded. While repairs were still being made at the first location, the new building (currently known as Rt. 52 Roadhouse) consisted of a showroom, office and a three-bay service station. By 1976, the dealership was ready for expansion again to where they are currently located. In 1977, Ralph Vaessen retired and his son, Neal joined the business.

When Paul retired, Neal and his wife, Donna, became full owners of the business. Their three sons, Greg (Fixed Operations Manager), Jeff (Parts Manager) and Nick (Sales Manager) have all joined the business. In 1998, the business underwent a remodel in the current building. Greg's daughter, Kourtney joined the business as the Internet Manager and is the first of the fourth generation to join the business. In the year of 2012, the dealership underwent a full remodel of their building

and expanded the showroom by adding a new-car delivery stall and two more sales offices. The remodel was fully finished in 2014.

Today the second, third and fourth generation all work together to help provide the customers with the best car buying experience in the area.

"We are a family owned and operated business providing the best in the area service department, a great parts department and wide selection of new Chevrolets and used vehicles."

This year, Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet, Inc. will be celebrating 96 years of business. Their most recent remodel in 2012 changed the front of the building and the inside from top to bottom. Come see how great their building looks for yourself.

In the sales department, they have sales consultants who have received the Mark of Excellence Award for their outstanding work, and in the service department they have ASE and GM Certified technicians.

They are family owned and operated – let them treat you like family too!



Vaessen Brothers Chevrolet in Sublette is a family-owned and operated business providing the best in the area service department, a great parts department and a wide selection of new Chevrolets and used vehicles.

Village of Sublette meets challenges and has another year of progress

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 was a very good year for the Sublette community.

The year began with the 39th annual Sublette Farm Toy Show, without toys. The show consisted of a farm tractor show in downtown Sublette and even without toys, the show attracted a large following.

Some of the other annual community events were also held on an abbreviated scale, but the 'Pullin in the Park' tractor pull brought a record crowd.

Area campgrounds enjoyed good attendance, which in turn brought many visitors to the village, so Sublette businesses enjoyed another good year. Home sales have also been brisk in the village.

All in all, the village of Sublette showed another year of continued progress.



The 2022 Sublette Farm Toy & Antique Tractor Show will return to full capacity. This will be the 40th year for the show.

CELEBRATING 96 YEARS OF SERVICE

Greg, Kourtney, Neal, Jeff, & Nick Vaessen all agree - Customer service & satisfaction are the most important quality they offer.

VAESSEN BROTHERS CHEVROLET, INC.
"Great Deals - Great Service Since 1926"

FIND NEW ROADS™

HIGHWAY 52 • SUBLETTE, IL 61367
(815) 849-5232 • 1-800-227-5203
www.vaessenbrothers.com

MPROG2022

Come See Us for ALL Your Real Estate Needs!
Residential • Agricultural • Commercial • Recreation Properties

Looking for a place to getaway? Look no further than Woodhaven Lakes! Call us to see the properties listed below!

Sec 4, Lot 192 \$65,900
Amazing log cabin style Park Model with double loft. 2009 Cabin Park Model, room addition built in 2015 with screen room, landscaping, central air and heat, 1 window a/c, appliances, storage shed, deck with roof, gravel driveway. Call for more info.

Sec 26, Lot 167 \$42,000
Beautiful shaded lot with 2019 Passport GT series by Keystone trailer with deck and shed. Trailer is like new. Ready for you to move right in. The lot backs up to common property that is not going to be built on. Trailer can be removed and sold as lot only for \$12,000. Schedule a showing today.

Sec 26, Lot 161 \$49,900
Very nice shaded lot with common area to the rear. 1999 Kropp Park Model with winter water and full room addition. All skirting. Located right across the street from comfort station 26. Includes all appliances, new central A/C, new roof in 2020, fire pit, shed negotiable, three mattresses will stay, one in jack and jill bedroom, one in the loft, but mattress in the master bedroom will be going. NO FURNITURE INCLUDED IN ROOM OR PARK MODEL

Sec 5, Lots 190 & 191 \$60,000
Looking for two lots, but don't want to pay for two sewer assessments? There is plenty of room to enjoy your days and nights at Woodhaven Lakes. This property offer two beautiful shaded lots close to Sunset Lake and Comfort Station. Lot 190 is sewer and Lot 191 is non-sewered. Very well maintained 2004 Breckenridge Park Model with 1 bedroom, double loft with plenty of space. All appliances stay except central air and heat. Deck with grill, and screened in room. Screened in room has ceiling fan. Can sleep up to 12 - there is plenty of room for your family. Two sheds with two lawn mowers, and fire pit. Basketball hoop.

Sec 1, Lot 9	\$16,000
Sec 1, Lot 66	\$23,000
Sec 1, Lot 116 CONTINGENT	\$50,000
Sec 4, Lot 192	\$65,900
Sec 5, Lot 177	\$31,000
Sec 5, Lots 190 & 191	\$60,000
Sec 5, Lot 195 CONTINGENT	\$17,500
Sec 5, Lot 228	\$35,000
Sec 5, Lot 342	\$20,000
Sec 5, Lot 378	\$28,900
Sec 7, Lots 181 & 182	\$29,900
Sec 7, Lot 191 CONTINGENT	\$16,000
Sec 10, Lot 52	\$17,500
Sec 10, Lot 291	\$25,000
Sec 10, Lot 292	\$20,000
Sec 10, Lot 312	\$27,000
Sec 11, Lot 74	\$29,900
Sec 11, Lot 88	\$16,000
Sec 11, Lot 203	\$23,000
Sec 12, Lot 73	\$31,900
Sec 13, Lot 110	\$11,600
Sec 15, Lot 161	\$38,000
Sec 16, Lot 121 CONTINGENT	\$80,000
Sec 16, Lot 211	\$95,000
Sec 17, Lot 3	\$15,000
Sec 19, Lot 80	\$59,900
Sec 21, Lot 84	\$84,900
Sec 21, Lot 96	\$28,500
Sec 23, Lot 92	\$49,900
Sec 23, Lot 183	\$63,000
Sec 23, Lot 195	\$25,000
Sec 23, Lot 196	\$25,000
Sec 24, Lot 105	\$69,900
Sec 24, Lot 110	\$79,900
Sec 26, Lot 102	\$15,000
Sec 26, Lot 159	\$25,000
Sec 26, Lot 161	\$49,900
Sec 26, Lot 167	\$42,000
Sec 27, Lot 145	\$60,000
Sec 28, Lot 91	\$15,000
Sec 29, Lot 369 CONTINGENT	\$18,000
Sec 29, Lot 307	\$13,000

If you're buying or selling a home, Erbes Realty can make it happen

Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest decisions a person will make in their life. Finding a reliable, reputable real estate agent is essential when you are considering buying or selling a home. These professionals can guide you through complicated negotiations and contracts to secure you the best deal you can get. They'll also be able to inform you of the precise steps you need to take just before buying or selling.

Lori Erbes of Erbes Realty, LLC, in Sublette, has more than 30 years' experience and a long history of success. The realty company is dedicated, hardworking, and skilled in all facets of real estate sales. Its agents are passionate

about providing exceptional care to all of its customers.

Erbes Realty, LLC has been expanding the last few years. In 2020, they welcomed new Broker Abigail Vaessen to the team. Vaessen is a Sublette native and loves being part of such a small and close-knit community. Her goal is to ensure that all of her clients have a fun, exciting, and stress-free real estate transaction.

In 2021, the brokerage welcomed Broker Marcia Kosowski. Kosowski, who resides in Amboy, loves meeting new people, and has been doing just that since she began her real estate career in Illinois in 2018. Kosowski said she has learned so much about viewing life through

a different lens and looks forward to meeting many more new friends.

Stop by or call today and let Erbes Realty help you find your dream home or seasonal vacation spot at Woodhaven Lakes camping resort.

Erbes Realty specializes in commercial, residential and farmland real estate. For all your real estate needs, stop by and see the friendly and honest staff.

Erbes Realty is located at 1922 Tower Road, Sublette, and is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except for Sunday and Tuesdays, which is by appointment only.

Call Lori Erbes at 815-535-6295 or visit Erbes Realty online at www.erbes-realty.com.

VAESSEN IMPLEMENT REPAIR

Sublette, IL
Peter Vaessen, Owner
Work: 815-849-9010

Servicing All Makes & Models of Farm Equipment

L-R: Brian Quest, Peter Vaessen, Ben Vaessen, Seth VanBuren, Mitch Mullis, and Dave Thompson.

BUSH HOG®
Performance You Can Count On™

WESTFIELD AUGERS

Lori Erbes, GRI - Designated Managing Broker

Abigail Vaessen - Broker

Marcia Kosowski - Broker

ERBES Realty LLC

815-535-6295
www.Erbes-Realty.com

Lori Erbes, GRI
Designated Managing Broker
Over 30 years experience
815-535-6295
lorierbes@gmail.com

Marcia Kosowski
Broker
779-423-5947

Abigail Vaessen
Broker
815-508-9715

02162022

Setchell Agency, Ltd.



Setchell Agency, Ltd. is your one stop service stop for so many things. Located prominently on the northeast corner of Sixth Street and Seventh Avenue, it is just across the tracks from downtown Mendota. Since 1977, Setchell Agency has been providing insurance protection for families and businesses throughout the tri-county area. In addition to covering all your insurance needs, they offer license and title work for all vehicles. Whether you just need your sticker renewed, title and plates for that new, used car you just bought, or have an unusual titling situation, Carol Ramer, center, Myrna Simon, right, and Stephanie Ramer are there to help. Need a title fast? Expedited titles can be issued and received in less than a week when processed through them. Need a FOID issued or your old one renewed? Yes, they can help you through that process too. Don't forget their income tax preparation service. Professional service for all your tax needs. No appointment necessary, just stop on in with those tax forms and they will get the job done. A new service gaining popularity is Setchell Agency's new "Truck Start" program for new and existing trucking entities to keep them on the road. Insurance, authority filings, tax form preparation including 2290 and IFTA, and licensing and title of all trucks and trailers are all available in just one location. They even have 4-H raised tractor fresh fruits for sale. Professional, confidential, professional and ready to serve – traits that Setchell Agency is proud to possess. Open six days a week, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Thursday and Saturday they are open 8 a.m. to noon.

New Earlville mayor is excited about direction the city is going

A new grocery store is coming to town, which is welcome news for local residents. Earlville Mayor Mark Actis said the new Earlville Fresh Market will be located downtown where the former grocery store was. "They're remodeling the building, and I think it will be a nice addition to town and much more convenient for people," he said.

Another new business, The Lounge, was also opened downtown recently by Sandy, owner of Sandy's Shear Magic, and her husband, Jeff. Located in a former law office, the coffee, wine, beer and gaming bar is intended to be a social gathering spot for the community.

Actis, who was elected mayor in April 2021, believes Earlville is now going in the right direction and sees good things for the town in the future. "I'm working on a new water tower and filtration system, if the federal government passes the infrastructure bill," he said. "We hope to buy one acre of land from the school, and the water tower would be located on that land west of the school."

A few community events were able to return in 2021. Actis said there was decent weather and a good turnout for the car show in May. Lions Fest was scaled back to a drive-thru dinner and a golf outing was also held.

During his short tenure as mayor, Actis said the past several months have been hectic. "I also have a 1-year-old, but I'm managing," he chuckled. "And I hope to have some big announcements coming in this year. Every day it's something new, you never know what to expect. But I was an al-

"This is a nice place to live. I don't think there's an empty house in town - as soon as homes go on the market, they're sold. That tells you something."

—Mayor Mark Actis

derman for six years, so I was familiar with city government. I enjoy it - I like serving the community and I've done a lot of volunteer work over the years."

Looking ahead, Actis firmly believes there is a lot of potential in Earlville. "We

needed a better step forward, a new image, and things are going to change," he said. "This is a nice place to live. I don't think there's an empty house in town - as soon as homes go on the market, they're sold. That tells you something."

Kelly Davis and her staff welcome you to Davis Family Health LLC



Cathy Gibertini, Massage Therapy
Nancy Escatel, MA
Dr. Kelly Tonielli, DNP, APRN FNP BC CMEWGN

Davis Family Health LLC
1201 Meriden St.
Mendota, IL
(Across from Sullivan's)
815-538-1800



Our clinic hours are:

Monday: 8:30-12 & 1-4
Tuesday: 8-12 & 1-4
*with Dr. Kelly in office
Wednesday: 8:30-12 & 1-4
Thursday: 8:30-12 & 1-4
Friday: 8-12 & 1-4
**with Dr. Kelly in office for provider appts.

Closed Sat./Sun.

Now offering onsite cosmetology with Payton Gibertini by appt. only on Saturdays-all day! Treat yourself to a mani/pedi this winter!

Dr. Kelly is also in the Rochelle office on M, W and Th 1212 Currency Ct. Rochelle, IL **815-561-8500**

The office takes Medicaid, Medicare and almost all commercial insurances

Turning a hobby into a career

Hobbies are enjoyable and often educational ways to spend free time. Over the last year-plus, hobbies have become even more important as people were forced to stay home due to the pandemic.

Hobbies can be side hustles or even primary jobs, but a successful transition from hobby to income-generating profession requires some research and planning.

Conduct market research

A hobby may be fun to you and provide value, but is it a marketable venture? Determine if the hobby has potential as a business. Factors to look for include whether the hobby helps solve a problem, educates the public or produces a product someone would want to purchase, advises the career-building site. Indeed. Research competitors in the area and study industry trends to analyze how well this business may perform. Look to an unbiased advisor to provide feedback on your idea.

Make a business plan

A business plan is essential for businesses big and small. A plan puts your ideas on paper and dictates how you will achieve goals and run the business. A business plan will include how you will finance start-up costs, whether you will be taking on investors, how many employees you will hire, costs like membership fees for enrollment in professional associations, advertising outlets, and much more.

Get social

Look to social media as an easy way to make connections with people who operate similar businesses or can help you with your venture.

Start small

Test the waters by holding on to a current job while simultaneously seeing if your new venture can gain momentum and earn you money. A test run will help you understand if you have the finances to keep a business afloat and what kind of time commitment will go into the venture.



In a World of What-ifs. We Have You Covered.

Disasters can happen at any time. Make sure your insurance is ready to help you handle the unexpected.

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L-R: Tony Ayala, Erica Escatel, Jennifer Smith



We welcome Jennifer Hendren and Gary Fraunek to our Earlville office. Both formerly worked at our Paw Paw office for 10 years.



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Triple Service's top priority is high-quality service to each client

Triple Service Inc. is a full-service plumbing, electric, heating and cooling company that has provided service to Northern Illinois for more than 70 years. Triple Service Inc. was started in January 1950 by Glen Wade and remains a family-owned and operated company. Gabe and Michelle Wade of Mendota are the third generation of Wade family members to manage the operations.

At Triple Service Inc. the top priority is to provide high-quality service to each client. Our family values are the core values of our business. We are a multi-faceted business and our goal is to be the source of one that you turn to whether you need repair, maintenance or renovations to your home.

Our team is comprised of knowledgeable, friendly, high qualified experts. Education is a priority and our team is always seeking out information to provide the best possible solutions for our clients.

We treat each individual client's home as a unique opportunity to provide comfort, health and safety. Whether we are solving a complex plumbing issue, installing a high efficiency home comfort system or providing annual maintenance, we put the customer's safety as a top priority.

We believe that no two homes are the same and we take pride knowing that we can provide customized solutions for each individual home. You can trust Triple Service Inc. to help you feel safe and comfortable. Everyone who works for our team has passed a criminal background check and is drug free. We maintain high work standards and our team will wear shoe coverings, provide coverings for the floor where they are working and clean up after their services.



Gabe and Michelle Wade, owners of Triple Service Inc., stand in their modern showroom at 801 Monroe St., Mendota. Triple Service has been serving the needs of customers in Mendota and the surrounding area since 1950.

We understand that the safety and comfort you feel in your home is important. We offer 24/7 emergency services. Whether you are experiencing an aging furnace, a failed sump pump or electrical problems, we are there to help resolve the issues.

We have the experience and the knowledge to help improve your home and meet your needs. Our team members have experience and expertise in bathroom remodeling to create walk-in tubs and shower. We can install energy efficient systems that will save money and provide better temperature controls. And our licensed plumbers can help make your

home storm ready.

We stand behind our work with a 100 percent satisfaction guarantee. Our family and team take great pride in providing the best service in every one of our service areas.

Our family's long-time history in the community means going above and beyond with service in our business and to our neighbors. You'll see our family and our team members in the community, lending support to organizations, activities and events.

A great example of this is Michelle and Gabe's recent commitment to commissioning the art and providing the wall space for a mural of the iconic 250- by 100-

foot Mendota Union Depot that was built in 1888 and demolished in 1942. The mural is a half-scale painting constructed of hand-painted aluminum sheets, mounted on a steel support grid. Artist Ray Paseka and his team at Westclox Studios, Inc. are using archival information from the Union Depot Railroad Museum to capture the details of the structure. The permanent display will also feature lighted windows, a painting of a period locomotive slightly in front of the depot platform, and a 12-foot-deep promenade along the front of the mural. The mural will be installed on the north side of Triple Service, Inc., the family business, at 801 Monroe St.

North Central Illinois (NCI) ARTworks, which helps connect communities through art, counts the mural project as the fifth work of public art along its Silo Pathways Countryside Public Art Tour (a tourism attraction for visitors to the region with public art currently in Streator, Princeton, Cherry and Mendota). The targeted installation date is prior to the 75th annual Mendota Sweet Corn Festival this August.

Back by popular demand, Triple Service conducted its Comfort a Hero Veterans Day Giveaway promotion again this year in which a Complete Home Comfort heating and cooling system and installation was given away to a current military

service person or veteran. This year's Comfort a Hero winner was Matthew Brown of Mendota.

Whether we are helping the community or making a repair at your home, you can trust us to provide the best service.



Matthew Brown of Mendota was this year's winner of the Comfort a Hero giveaway.



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