

Welcome

# Newcomer's

# GUIDE 2021-22

## Welcome to Mendota!

**Mendota was founded** in 1853. The name "Mendota" is derived from a Lakota word meaning "junction of two trails," which was found appropriate for the city since there was a nearby railroad junction.

**Mendota's population** is 7,061 people as of the 2020 census: 24.5 percent are ages 0-18 and 75.5 percent are ages 19 and older.

**Mendota is located** in LaSalle County. The median property tax in Mendota is \$3,900 per year for a home worth the median value of \$125,000. LaSalle County collects, on average, 2.1% of a property's assessed fair market value as property tax.

**City government** is an aldermanic form with a mayor and eight aldermen. The city council meets formally at 5:30 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month except when a holiday falls on the Monday. Meetings are held at 607 8th Ave. The city has a revolving loan fund and tax increment financing. An

industrial park offers business and light manufacturing opportunities.

**Mendota Police Department** has 16 full-time and six part-time commissioned officers. The department has one K-9 officer who handles K-9 Johnny. Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch handles 24-hour emergency communication for police, fire and ambulance calls, including the Enhanced 911 emergency call system. Fourteen radio-equipped cars are on 24-hour service. The police department also has one resource officer for Mendota High School.

**Mendota Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service** is located at the firehouse at 610 Main Street. It has a combination of career and paid-on-call personnel for fire, rescue and paramedic services. The department responds to all fire, medical, and rescue calls for the city of Mendota, and also provides

contractual response for the Mendota-Troy Grove Rural Fire Protection District. The fire protection district is approximately 130 square miles and is one of the largest in the State of Illinois. They are a member of the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 25, which includes all of LaSalle County (second largest in Illinois) as well as part of Bureau County. This mutual aid association gives the Mendota Fire Department a vast number of available resources for fire, medical, and specialized rescue responses.

The department's fleet includes two fire engines, one aerial tower, a heavy-duty rescue vehicle, one rapid response vehicle and three ALS ambulances. The city of Mendota has a class 4/8B fire insurance rating.

**Sewage service** is by a modern tertiary process with a capacity to treat a maximum of 2,400,000 gallons per day. There is once-a-week garbage pickup and

every other week pickup for recyclables.

**Four deep wells** provide about 750,000 gallons of water for Mendotans daily. The tower near Lake Mendota has a capacity of 500,000 gallons. The tower near I-39 has a capacity of 750,000 gallons. Treatment capacity is 4,000,000 gallons per day. The 750,000-gallon tower was put into service in November 2010. A shallow well and treatment facility was completed in 2015.

**Mendota's streets**, all 100 miles of them, are hard-surfaced and most have curbing. Resurfacing is done where the greatest need is evident each year as funds are available.

**Utilities serving Mendota** are Commonwealth Edison from the district office in Dixon, 1-800-334-7661; Northern Illinois Gas served from the Ottawa district office, 1-800-942-6100; Frontier telephone 1-800-483-4000; cellular phone service and internet



providers are also available.

**The trading area** extends for about a 20-mile radius from town and has a population of about 20,000. Agricultural wealth in the area is among the highest in the nation. The city is served by three federal highways - U.S. 52, 34 and 251; one

state highway, Rt. 92; and one interstate, I-39. Interstates 80 and 88 are nearby.

**Mendota's weather** shows a mean annual temperature of 50 degrees, an annual rainfall of 33 inches and humidity average of 70 percent. The town is 760 feet above sea level.

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# "World's Greatest Little City"



## NEED TO KNOW

...**To register to vote** at the city clerk's office, 800 Washington St., a person must have lived 30 days in the precinct and have two forms of identification, one of which must be a photo ID with birthdate and permanent address.

...**Units of garbage** are limited to one city-issued 90-gallon toter. Additional garbage must use stickers, purchased at the city clerk's office and Sullivan's Foods. Toters may not be removed from the premises. For more information, call the city clerk's office at (815) 539-7459.

...**Garbage men will not** pick up electronics, appliances, bricks, cement, lumber or other building material scraps with regular garbage pickup. They will pick up one large item (such

as mattress or furniture) each week. Mattresses must be wrapped in plastic. No appliances or air conditioners will be collected.

...**Recyclables** are picked up free of charge every other week. Recyclable materials include newspaper, rinsed plastics (codes: 1 PET, 2 HDPE, 3 PVCV, 4 LPDE, 5 PP, 7 Other), clean aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, and a variety of papers including magazines, junk mail and envelopes, cereal boxes, and computer paper. Electronics may only be disposed of at an electronic recycling center or during a special electronic drop off day.

...**The city incinerator**, located on South Seventh Avenue near the sewage treatment plant, is open

from 3-6 p.m. Mondays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Tree limbs, leaves and yard waste only are accepted. Hours vary during winter months.

...**The water deposit** for all who rent in the city is \$150. Water bills are sent out monthly.

...**Licenses** are required for all dogs and cats at \$5 each and are available April 1 through May 31 at the city clerk's office. After May 31, a penalty of \$10 is added.

...**There is an ordinance** against blowing grass clippings into the street.

...**Burning dry leaves** and small branches only is allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as

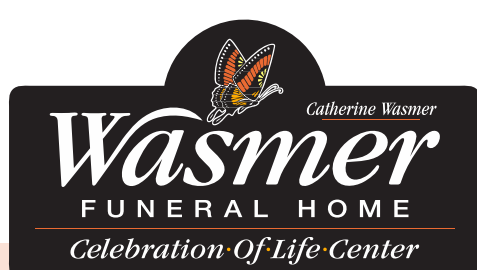
long as the fire is attended by a responsible adult but no burning is allowed on any streets.

...**A leaf vacuum program** runs in October and

November. Leaves are picked up on Monday in the First Ward, Tuesday in the Second Ward, Wednesday in the Third Ward and Thursday in the Fourth

Ward. Friday is used as a catch-up day.

...**After a snowfall** of two inches or more, cars must be off the streets so city crews can remove snow.



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Bus: 815-539-8500  
wasmerfh@gmail.com  
wasmerfuneralhome.com



**Mendota Governmental Offices**  
800 Washington St.



# Mendota takes pride in educational facilities

Mendota has four grade schools, one high school and two Christian schools. Nearby is a community college; several four-year colleges and universities are an hour drive or less.

**Mendota Public Grade Schools, District 289**, serve 1,014 students in three public grade schools under Superintendent K. Bradley Cox. The elementary district has a total of 173 certified staff and support employees. Mendota also has two parochial schools - Holy Cross Catholic School and Northern Illinois School of Christian Excellence.

**Blackstone Grade School** on the west side of town at 1309 Jefferson St., serves 203 students in grades K-1. Stacy Kelly is the principal, phone (815) 539-6888.

**Lincoln Grade School** on the east side of town is located at 805 Fourth Ave. and has 321 students in 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. David Lawrence is principal, phone (815) 538-6226.

**Northbrook Middle School** is District 289's largest school, housing 445 5th



through 8th grade students. They also provide classes for preschool students. Paula Daley is the principal and Emory Burdette is the assistant principal at Northbrook. The school is located at 1804 Guiles Ave., on the north side of town, phone (815) 539-6237.

**Holy Cross School** is a Catholic school serving 180 students in preschool-8th grade. Michael Struna, principal, is assisted by 21 staff members. Students attend Pre-8 classes at the school located at 1004 Jefferson St., phone (815) 539-7003.

**Northern Illinois School of Christian Excellence** is a non-denomination Christian school serving 62 students in preschool-12th grade. Brian and Sandy Hamiel are co-administrators. The school, which is a ministry of Victory Baptist Church, is located at 505 Seventh Ave., phone (815) 830-8941.

**Mendota High School District 280** has an enrollment of 517 for the 2021-22 school year. Three administrators, superintendent Jeff Prusator, principal Denise Aughenbaugh and assistant principal Joe Masini, work



with a total of 70 certified and support staff. The high school facility opened for classes in January 2003 at 2300 W. Main St. on the northwest side of town. The school offers college preparation and vocational classes and has a variety of sports for both girls and boys. MHS may be reached at (815) 539-7446.

**Illinois Valley Community College**, 815 N. Orlando Smith Ave., Oglesby serves Mendota residents and is easily accessed from

I-39 or Rt. 251. The college district covers all and parts of eight counties in North Central Illinois.

**Four-year colleges and universities** in the surrounding area include Northern Illinois University, DeKalb; North Central College, Naperville; Rockford College, Rockford; Illinois State University, Bloomington-Normal; Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington-Normal; Bradley University, Peoria; Augustana College, Rock Island.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Crossroads Coffee House & House of Prayer**—A non-denominational Christian coffee house providing fellowship, music, and beverages in a safe relaxing environment. Crossroads House of Prayer is a prayer room with prayer counselors and intercessors when coffee house doors are open. Located in the Mendota Civic Center, 1901 Tom Merwin Drive, Mendota; Visit <http://crossroadshop.com> or call Cathy Wolf at (815) 539-6601.

**Youth Service Bureau of Illinois Valley** — Main office is located at 424 W. Madison, Ottawa; phone (815) 433-3953.

**Nightengale's Thrift Shop** — Located at 708 Jefferson St., Mendota. Used/new clothing, household items, books & toys. Donations gladly accepted. All proceeds benefit Trinity Health Clinic. Phone (815) 539-6100.

**Meals on Wheels** — Contact OSF Saint Paul at (815) 539-7461.

**Mendota Area Christian**

**Food Pantry** — Located at 918 Main St., Mendota; phone (815) 538-2211.

**Mendota Area Senior Services** — Located at 901 Tom Merwin Drive (inside the Mendota Civic Center); phone (815) 539-7700 or (815) 539-9673. Numerous assistance programs and activities available for senior citizens.

**Abigail Women's Center** — Located at 1610 Stroble Ave., Mendota; phone (815) 538-3044.

The clinic offers free confidential pregnancy tests, referrals, counseling and baby clothes. For more information, visit [www.abigailwomenscenter.com](http://www.abigailwomenscenter.com).

**Driver's License Facility** — Located on Rt. 34 East, Mendota; phone (815) 539-7849. Hours are Tuesday 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 7:30 a.m.-noon; closed Monday and Sunday.

**Illinois Valley Center for**

**Independent Living** — Located at 18 Gunia Drive, LaSalle; phone (815) 224-3126 or 1-800-822-3246. Assistance for people with various disabilities.

**Illinois Valley P.A.D.S.** — Located at 1320 Menards Drive in Peru; call (815) 224-3047. Visit online at <http://ivpads.com/>.

**United Way of Illinois Valley** — Located at 2220 Marquette Road, Suite 2, Peru; call (815) 223-8339. Visit online at <http://www.unitedwayiv.org/>.



## Mendota city clerk's office offers a variety of services

Anyone who needs to get a license for a dog or cat can do so at the city clerk's office located at 800 Washington St. (at the corner of Washington Street and Illinois Avenue).

Emily McConville, city clerk, and her staff take care of all business that concerns the general public. In addition to the above licenses, her office accepts water bills, registers voters, provides information relating to lot lines, zoning and other concerns,

provides copies of public records such as birth and death certificates, offers notary public service, and takes reservations for the shelters at Lake Mendota, Strouss Park and Blackstone Park.

The city clerk's office provides in-house services such as bookkeeping and accounting for major city funds and keeps records for the city council and its committees. It also handles payroll functions for city employees.

# CITY OF MENDOTA



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*Is A Way Of Life*

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**Mayor:**  
**David W. Boelk**

**City Clerk:**  
**Emily J. McConville**

**Treasurer:**  
**Heath Davis**

### Aldermen:

**First Ward:**  
John Hessenberger  
Jim Fitzpatrick

**Third Ward:**  
Kyle Kim  
Jay Miller

**Second Ward:**  
John Holland  
Leo Hochstatter

**Fourth Ward:**  
Mark Peasley  
Vicki Johnson

**Mayor, City Clerk**  
Phone: 815-539-7459

**Economic Development**  
Phone: 815-539-7459

**Police Department (non-emergency)**  
Phone: 815-539-9331

**Fire Department (non-emergency)**  
Phone: 815-539-3434

**Parks & Streets**  
Phone: 815-538-4786

**Waste Water Department**  
Phone: 815-539-6879

**Building Permits**  
Phone: 815-910-9111

**Water Department**  
Phone: 815-539-6307

**Building Code Enforcer**  
Phone: 815-993-7748

**Emergency:**  
Police, Fire, Ambulance Service: 911

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## Graves-Hume Public Library is an information resource

Graves-Hume Public Library, 1401 W. Main St., is at the corner of Main and Meriden streets in Mendota. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In the library's Adult Department, a wide variety of popular reading material as well as older fiction, including most classics and thousands of useful and interesting non-fiction titles are available. Magazines, newspapers, DVDs, videos, CDs and books on CD are also offered.

Encyclopedias, handbooks, guidebooks, periodical indexes, back files of periodicals and many print reference sources can be found in the reference/research section. In addition, The Mendota Reporter is available on microfilm. Tables and study rooms are available for quiet study and staff members will help find elusive pieces of information.

Graves-Hume Public Library is part of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System and PrairieCat Online Catalog with access to the collections of over 136 libraries along with eReadIllinois for downloadable e-books and audiobooks. The library has four computers available



to the public with free internet access (library card is not required). WiFi is also available throughout the building.

Computers with Internet connection, copier, scanner and fax machine is available for patron use, as well.

The Children's Department has books in English and Spanish, magazines, puppets, puzzles and a cozy reading corner. Children's summer reading clubs are offered and special events are scheduled throughout the year.

The library has a sizable collection of Spanish and bilingual books, videos, CDs and books on tape for adults as well as children. Useful information about the community can also be found.

To access the library website visit <https://graveshume.org/>.

### To get a library card:

The Graves-Hume Library District offers full library service to all residents of the district. A library card will be issued free to an

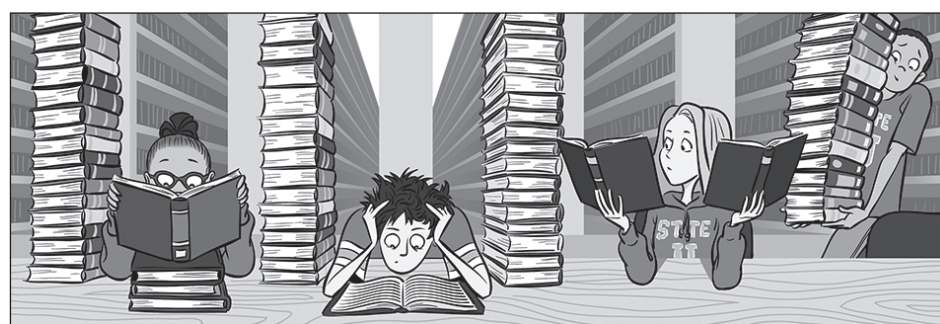
applicant who is a resident of the district (the city limits of Mendota).

To obtain your library card, please come to the Library and bring a photo ID and a piece of mail, both stating your current address. If your ID does not have your current address, please bring two forms of identification that include your name and current address along with a photo ID. Children under 18 must have the signature of a parent or legal guardian. The library card will be good for three years from the date of issuance or until termination of residence in the district, whichever period is shorter.

Library cardholders in good standing may use their library cards at any library in the state that offers reciprocal borrowing privileges.

### Non-resident cards:

A person who lives outside the library district may obtain a library card by providing the information listed above (ID and proof of address) plus an annual fee.





## LOCAL CHURCHES

### CHRIST'S CHURCH

1107 Main St.  
(815) 503-1273

### CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

1209 Sixth St.  
(815) 875-1724

### COME AS YOU ARE BAPTIST CHURCH

900 Monroe St.  
(815) 503-0307

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

1003 Fifth St.  
(815) 538-5603

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST

100 East Sixth St.  
(815) 538-5587

### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC

1010 Jefferson St.  
(815) 538-6151

### MENDOTA BIBLE CHURCH

Rt. 251 South  
(815) 538-6876

### NEW COVENANT ASSEMBLY OF GOD

1600 13th Ave.  
(815) 539-7107

### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

607 10th Ave.  
(815) 539-5626

### UNITED PENTECOSTAL

Rt. 251 North  
(815) 539-6861

### VICTORY BAPTIST

505 West Seventh Ave.  
(815) 539-9081

### ZION UNITED METHODIST

808 Jefferson St.  
(815) 538-2186

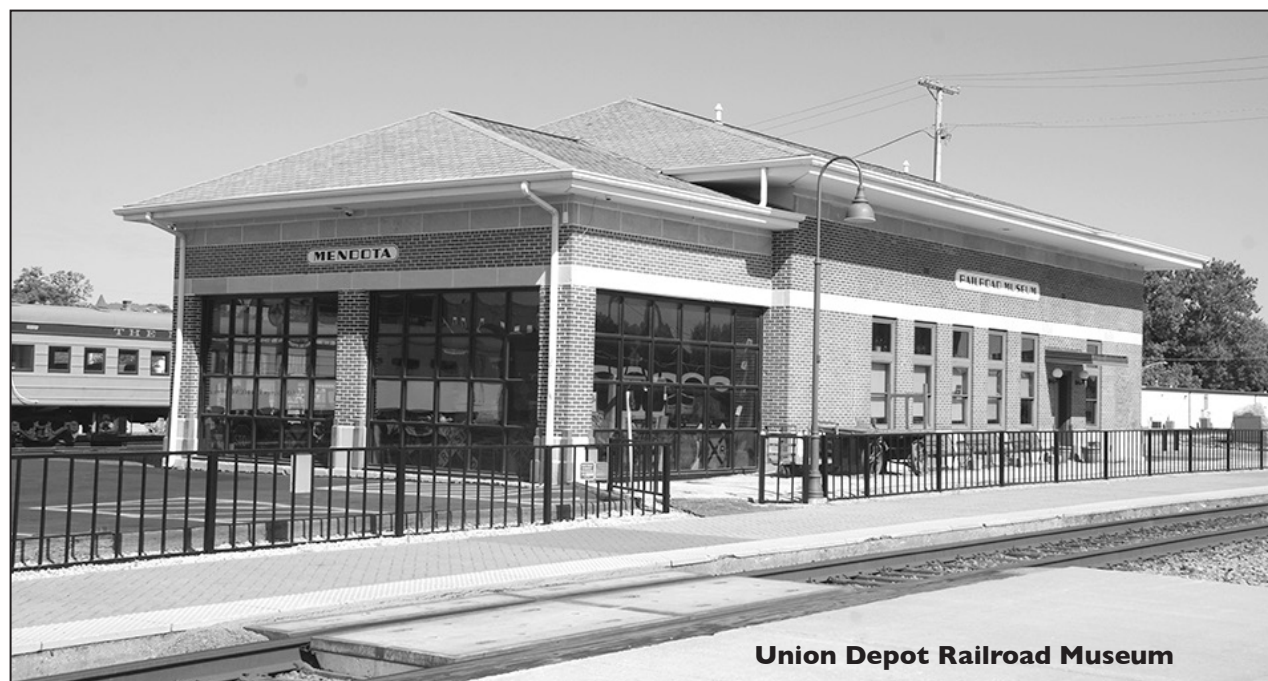
## Three local museums showcase Mendota's past

Mendota is fortunate to have three museums within the city, all within blocks of each other. The Hume-Carnegie Museum is a showcase for memorabilia of the past highlighting area businesses, industries and families as well as being a historic building itself. The Union Depot Railroad Museum is a working Amtrak station that houses railroad memorabilia and across the street, the Breaking the Prairie Museum and Chapel features agriculture and the lives of the early settlers.

**Hume-Carnegie Museum** opened in 1996 and is housed in a former library, a Carnegie building completed in 1904. The museum is a result of the vision of Horace D. Hume. Old and new were merged in the remodeling of the structure and the historic flavor of the original building was thus retained.

One of the many displays in the museum contains pictures and articles about Wild Bill Hickok, who was born in Troy Grove. In 2008, a life-size bronze statue of Wild Bill was placed in front of the Hume-Carnegie Museum. In addition to the many displays of local history, various exhibits throughout the year highlight Native American artifacts and memorabilia, pictures from the Civil War, World War I and II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War. Of special fascination to young and old alike is the collection of photographs of Mendota, its businesses, homes, streets and people from the past. The photo collection was reproduced and assembled by Norma and Leo Muhlach.

The Hume-Carnegie Museum is located in Veterans Park on Washington Street. Hours are 1-4 p.m.



Union Depot Railroad Museum

Saturdays and Sundays March through November and at other times by appointment. Guests are greeted at the library's original circular front desk under the dome. For information call (815) 539-3373.

**Union Depot Railroad Museum**, a working depot, was dedicated in August of 1997 during the Sweet Corn Festival. Located at 783 Main St., the museum is open from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday from March through the second Sunday in December. For information call (815) 539-3373.

Mendota was born from the junction of three railroads so the museum holds special meaning for the town's residents, many of whom worked on the railroad, had family members who did, or just recall railroading in earlier days.

The highlight of this museum is the HO railroad layout of what Mendota looked like in the 1930s and '40s. It highlights the railroad tracks and yards as well as Main Street in downtown Mendota. The model

fills most of one room and was lovingly constructed over several years by Ray Tutaj. James Carrow continued to keep the model in working condition and added some interactive rails to the model. There is also an interactive HO model with a station handmade by master craftsman Charlie Martin.

Photos of the past show what early Mendota looked like including the old steam engines, the buildings that were required to run the railroad and the people who tended them.

Three trains, the Illinois Zephyr, the Carl Sandburg and the Southwest Chief, each stop twice daily at the Amtrak station/museum picking up and dropping off approximately 14,000-15,000 riders per fiscal year.

The third museum, **Breaking the Prairie**, was built in 2001 and features exhibits about agriculture. Displays explain the role early cultivation tools and practices played in transforming the great prairie, which was important in the

beginning of Mendota's history. It is located across the street from the Union Depot Railroad Museum on 5.8 acres of land where the railroad and railroad yards were once located, tying together the two industries that originally brought people to the Mendota area. The Mathesius Brothers' Barn was expanded in 2013 to accommodate more exhibits.

A chapel was then added to the Breaking the Prairie Museum to honor the role that the church played in Mendota's beginnings and the importance of spirituality and socialization in

the agricultural community. Special artifacts include a leaded glass window and pulpit from Compton Immanuel Lutheran Church, a Western Cottage organ manufactured in Mendota in the 1880s and '90s, white poplar pews constructed by the International Fellowship of Christian Farmers and several hand-carved wooden items which demonstrate the abilities of Roland Zimmerman, a local craftsman and member of the Mendota Museum and Historical Society. The chapel is available to be rented for weddings, baptisms, or other activities.





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Mendota  
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Thurs. 9 - 11; Fri. 8:30 - 3  
Every third Saturday of month 8-noon

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- Money Miners Kids' Club
- Online Banking
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- Remote Deposit Capture
- Zelle® Person-to-Person Payments
- Personal Finance
- e-Statements
- Text Banking
- Personal and Auto Loans
- First-Time Home Buyer
- Mortgage Loans
- Home Equity Line of Credit
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- Safety Deposit Boxes

# Eureka Savings

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Ph. 539-5656

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Peru          Wenona

NMLS#447018

[www.eurekasavings.com](http://www.eurekasavings.com)

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### City of Mendota MAYOR

**David Boelk**  
803 Meadowview Drive  
(815) 538-3924

### CITY CLERK

**Emily McConville**  
1404 Ben Mar Ave.  
(815) 539-7459

### TREASURER

**Heath Davis**  
912 14<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
(815) 539-7459

### FIRST WARD

**James Fitzpatrick**  
807 Pennsylvania Ave.  
(815) 538-2474

**John Hessenberger**  
1406 Hillcrest Drive  
(815) 539-9934

### SECOND WARD

**Leo Hochstatter**  
1102 S. Park Ave.  
(630) 841-1315

**John Holland**  
902 West Lawn  
(815) 528-5367

### THIRD WARD

**Kyle Kim**  
504 First Ave.  
(815) 538-2414

**Jay Miller**  
702 First Ave.  
(757) 412-9374

### FOURTH WARD

**Vicki Johnson**  
206 Ninth St.  
(815) 910-0816

**Mark Peasley**  
2111 Cedar Ave.  
(815) 252-7243

### LaSalle County Board

#### District 1

**Curtis Faber (R)**  
1405 Lakeview Drive  
(815) 538-2855

#### District 2

**Joanne McNally (R)**  
905 Meadowview Drive  
(815) 538-7591



# Fun things to do in and around Mendota

In the Mendota area, many activities are available for all ages, from structured groups and family fun events to spur-of-the-moment happenings.

Cultural events offered include plays presented by Mendota Community Theatre, ranging from comedies and dramas to musicals and reviews. In addition, a summer production is sponsored by the Mendota Education Foundation (MEF), which shares resources with Mendota Community Theatre and Mendota High School. Because of this cooperative effort, the summer shows have been coined "3M productions."

Mendota High School's Fine Arts Department also presents several events each year. Drama students present a play every other year. The other years, students put on a musical. Music students perform several concerts a year, both instrumental and vocal.

Two summer events that bring fun and excitement to town every year are the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival held the second weekend in August and the Mendota Tri-County Fair held over Labor Day Weekend.

The Annual Sweet Corn Festival held in downtown Mendota has been the highlight of summer for generations with plenty of food, carnival rides, music, pageants, craft and flea market vendors, a huge parade and, of course, free Del Monte sweet corn served to the thousands of festival goers.

The Tri-County Fair, also a long-time Mendota tradition, takes place at the historic fairgrounds on First Avenue along the east edge of town. Livestock, agriculture, horticulture, cooking, arts and crafts are proudly displayed by members of LaSalle, Lee and Bureau counties and points beyond. Demolition derbies, truck/tractor pulls, a carnival, contests, and plenty of food add to the excitement of the four-day event.

Graves-Hume Public Library is not just a place for printed material but also has a wide variety of DVDs, CDs and videocassettes; an extensive collection of audiobooks; a microfilm reader and printer; eight computers with free internet access; and WiFi. Periodically, special programs are offered for children and adults. In addition, Graves-Hume Public Library is part



of the PrairieCat Online Catalog system and OMNI Libraries for downloadable e-books and audiobooks.

Mendota has three museums, due to the generosity and hard work of its citizens.

Hume-Carnegie Museum highlights the everyday and business life of the city's past. Special exhibits are presented periodically.

Union Depot Railroad Museum houses the Amtrak depot and railroad memorabilia including a model of the rail yards and downtown area as it looked in the 1940s.

The Breaking the Prairie Agriculture Museum focuses on the lives of early settlers and explains the role early cultivation tools and practices. The Breaking the Prairie Chapel honors the role played by the church in Mendota's beginning and the importance of spir-

itality in the agriculture community.

Scouts for both boys and girls and the Mendota Agri Kids 4-H Club provide structured learning and fun groups for youngsters.

For the sports-minded, organized baseball programs are available for several age groups from Little League to men's and women's leagues. The Strouss Sports Complex provides an opportunity for younger boys and girls leagues. A youth soccer league gets underway each spring.

Basketball, rollerblading, tennis and volleyball courts provide places for casual athletes to just have some fun.

The Mendota Area YMCA building on Rt. 251 South was completed in 2013. The facility is equipped with Nautilus, elliptical and cardio equipment and offers a variety

of fitness classes. Youth programs include various recreational and sport programs, an after-school program and summer day camp. As a satellite of the Illinois Valley YMCA in Peru, local membership allows patrons access to both facilities.

Mendota has several parks located throughout town. Probably the most visited is the 18-acre Lake Mendota set in a 68-acre park. Trees along the shore shade fishermen, picnic tables are available in the open and under shelters, and playground equipment keeps youngsters occupied.

Lake Mendota is also a favorite place for walkers who want to get in a little exercise in a tranquil setting. Geese and other waterfowl have made the lake their home, and park visitors often enjoy feeding the birds.

Lake Kakusha, a larger lake, was installed originally for flood control but has evolved into a great fishing hole. There is a shelter by the boat dock. Only boats with small trolling motors are allowed on the lake.

Another park that appeals to nature lovers is Snyder's Grove Nature Preserve located east of Mendota on the Triumph Blacktop. Trails lead hikers

over a bridge and through the trees where wildflowers bloom and wild animals and birds may be seen or heard. The grove has picnic tables, a shelter and restrooms.

On the east side of town is Blackstone Park, which offers picnic facilities, a shelter, and playground equipment.

Apple Orchard Park, located in the southwestern part of town, winds along Mendota Creek and has playground equipment.

Veterans Park in the downtown area is where many of the activities are held during the Sweet Corn Festival the second weekend in August each year. During the warm months, everyone looks forward to Lunch in the Park held every Friday. Local civic and school organizations take turns sponsoring the picnic lunch under the park's huge shade trees.

Mendota Swimming Pool is another favorite place for people of all ages during the hot summer months. Swimming lessons are available for young and old.

For those who concentrate on fitness, Doenier Field offers a place for the public to run, jog or just walk.

## OSF Saint Paul Medical Center provides quality healthcare for area

OSF HealthCare Saint Paul Medical Center, a 25-bed critical access hospital, has been dedicated to providing quality health care to Mendota and the communities we serve since 1951.

Relocated to its new state-of-the-art facility at 1401 E. 12th St. in Mendota in 2011, OSF Saint Paul became the 11th OSF HealthCare hospital on April 1, 2015.

OSF HealthCare is a Catholic, 15-hos-

pital health system serving Illinois and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, driven by our Mission to "serve with the greatest care and love."

In 2020, OSF Saint Paul received state and national recognition for excellence in patient safety/inpatient, patient engagement; care transitions; and outpatient measures.

OSF Saint Paul recruits and employs highly trained professionals and maintains

valuable partnerships to bring exceptional clinical care and specialty services to our rural setting. We are committed to innovation to provide care in ways that allow people the care they need, when they need it, close to home.

### Key Services

- Air transport
- Cardiac/pulmonary rehabilitation
- Emergency services 24/7
- General surgery – inpatient and out-

patient

- Medical, surgical and skilled inpatient care
- Medical imaging – CT, MRI, nuclear imaging, 3-D mammography
- Laboratory testing
- Occupational health
- Primary care
- Physical rehabilitation services
- Sleep testing
- Specialist services



## PUBLIC SERVANTS

## THE PRESIDENT

Joseph R. Biden (D), The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20500, telephone comments: (202) 456-1111, contact/e-mail: whitehouse.gov/contact, official website: joebiden.com.

## UNITED STATES SENATORS

Tammy Duckworth (D), Washington office: G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, telephone (202) 224-2854, fax (202) 228-4611; Chicago office: P.O. Box 10793, Chicago, IL 60610, telephone (847) 794-8977.

Dick Durbin (D), Washington office: 711 Hart Senate Bldg., Washington, DC 20510, telephone (202) 224-2152, fax (202) 228-0400; Chicago office: 230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3892, Chicago, IL 60604, telephone (312) 353-4952, fax (312) 353-0150; Springfield office: 525 S. Eighth St., Springfield, IL 62703, telephone (217) 492-4062, fax (217) 492-4382.

## UNITED STATES CONGRESSMEN

Adam Kinzinger (R), 16th District, Washington, DC office: 1221 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515, telephone (202) 225-3635, fax (202) 225-3521; Ottawa office: 628 Columbus St., Suite 507, Ottawa, IL 61350, telephone (815) 431-9271, fax (815) 431-9383.

## ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

JB Pritzker (D), Springfield office: Office of the Governor, 207 State House, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 782-0244; Chicago office: Office of the Governor, James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, 16-100, Chicago, IL 60601, telephone (312) 814-2121; e-mail Governor'sOffice@illinois.gov.

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Juliana Stratton (D), Springfield office: 214 State House, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 558-3085, fax (217) 558-3094; Chicago office: James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph, Suite 15-200, Chicago, IL 60601, telephone (312) 814-5240; fax (312) 814-5228; e-mail LtGovernorsOffice@illinois.gov.

## SECRETARY OF STATE

Jesse White (D), 213 State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone toll free in Illinois (800) 252-8980, outside Illinois (217) 785-3000.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

Kwame Raoul (D), Springfield main office: 500 South Second St., Springfield, IL 62701, telephone (217) 782-1090, TTY (877) 844-5461; Chicago office: 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601, telephone (312) 814-3000, TTY (800) 964-3013; Northern Illinois Regional Office, Zeke Giorgi Center, 2005 S. Wyman St., Suite 307, Rockford, IL 61101, telephone (815) 967-3883, TTY (815) 967-3891.

## COMPTROLLER

Susana A. Mendoza (D), Office of the Comptroller – Springfield Executive Office, 325 W. Adams, Springfield, IL 62704, telephone (217) 782-6000; Records Center (800) 877-8078.

## TREASURER

Michael W. Frerichs (D), Springfield Capitol Building, 219 State House, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 782-2211; fax (217) 782-2777.

## ILLINOIS SENATORS

Brian Stewart (R), 45th District, Dixon office, 629 Galena Ave., Dixon, IL 61021, telephone (815) 284-0045; Springfield office, 103B State House, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 782-0180.

Sue Rezin (R), 38th District, Local office, 350 Fifth St., Suite 254, Peru, IL 61354, telephone (815) 220-8720, fax (815) 220-8721; State Capitol office, 309J Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 782-3840, fax (217) 782-7818.

Win Stoller (R), 37th District, State Capitol office, M103C Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 782-1942, fax (217) 782-9586; Peoria office, 5415 University St., Suite 105, Peoria, IL 61614, telephone (309) 693-4921, fax (309) 693-4923.

## ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVES

Tom Demmer (R), 90th District, District office, 105 E. First St., Suite 1110, Dixon, IL 61021, telephone (815) 561-3690; Springfield office, 314 Capitol Building, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 782-0535; e-mail demmer@ilhouse.gov.

Lance Yednock (D), 76th District, District office, 628 Columbus St., Suite 204, Ottawa, IL 61350, telephone (815) 324-5055; e-mail staterepyednock@gmail.com; Springfield telephone (217) 782-0140.

Daniel M. Swanson (R), 74th District, Springfield office, 240-W Stratton Office Building, Springfield, IL 62706, telephone (217) 782-8032, fax (217) 557-0179; District office, 536 Oxford Ave., Suite D, Woodhull, IL 61490, telephone (309) 334-7474, fax (309) 334-8000.

## CIVIC GROUPS

## Alcoholics Anonymous

– More information is available at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and [www.aa-nia.org](http://www.aa-nia.org).

**American Legion 540** – Call Bill Patterson at (815) 539-5398.

**Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts** – Call the Peoria Service Center at (309) 673-6136.

**B.P.O. Elks 1212** – Located at 707 Indiana Ave.; call (815) 538-3557.

**Friends of Graves-Hume Public Library** – Call (815) 538-5142.

**Gardeners Club of Mendota** – Call Steve Lauer at (815) 343-7364.

**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois** – Call (844) 476-4463.

**Knights of Columbus** – Mailing address: Knights of Columbus, John F. Kennedy Council 2090, 1010 Jefferson St., Mendota IL 61342.

**LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency** – Located at 711 E. Etna Road in Ottawa; call (815) 433-5622.

**LaSalle County Genealogy Guild** – Located at 115 West Glover St., Ottawa; call (815) 433-5261.

**LaSalle County Historical Society** – Located at 101 E. Canal Street, Utica; call (815) 667-4861.

**LaSalle County Housing Authority** – Call (815) 434-0380.

**Lions Club** – Call David Costello at (815) 866-7286.

**Mendota Agri Kids 4-H Club** – Call Carol Ramer at (815) 539-5321.

**Mendota Area YMCA** – Located on Route 251 South; call (815) 538-2900.

**Mendota Area Youth Soccer** – Contact through their Facebook page.

**Mendota Booster Club** – Call Mendota High School at (815) 539-7446.

**Mendota Business & Professional Women** – Call



Monica Zimmerlein at (815) 343-5073.

**Mendota Community Theatre** – Contact through their Facebook page.

**Mendota Golf Club** – Located on Route 34 west of Mendota; call (815) 538-7241.

**Mendota Junior Tackle Football** – Contact through their Facebook page.

**Mendota Little League Baseball & Softball** – Contact through their Facebook page.

**Mendota Mat Masters Youth Wrestling** – Contact through their Facebook group.

**Mendota Moose Family Center & Women of the Moose** – Located on Route 34 east of Mendota; call (815) 539-5745.

**Mendota Museum & Historical Society** – Call (815) 539-3373.

**Mendota Optimist Club** – Contact through their Facebook page.

**OSF Auxiliary** – Call (815) 539-7461.

**Rotary Club of Mendota** – Call Roger Anderson at (815) 539-7743.

**Salvation Army** – Visit online at [satruck.org](http://satruck.org).

**Shine Youth Ministry** – Call Holy Cross Catholic Church at (815) 538-6151.

**Starved Rock Audubon Society** – Call Alyssa Rod at (815) 343-3545.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars & VFW Auxiliary** – Located at 610 Sixth St.; call (815) 539-6466.

**Waltham Curling Club** – Located in Triumph, call (815) 538-3420.

Chamber of Commerce  
a source for information

Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce serves as an information center for new residents in the community. A newcomer's packet is available, which lists all pertinent information on schools, business, housing and churches in Mendota.

Both local and regional phone books are available at the chamber



office, a national chamber of commerce directory, community calendar, recreational activities, organization listings, profile books, business and industry directories as well as maps of Mendota, LaSalle County and the State of Illinois.

Event and activity guides for LaSalle County and the Heritage Corridor region are available at the Chamber office, as well.

Mendota gift certificates, which can be redeemed at more than 65 stores in the community and make excellent gifts, may be purchased at the Chamber along with memorabilia from the Sweet Corn Festival.

The Chamber also posts a monthly calendar in The Mendota Reporter to list events sponsored by local not-for-profit organizations.

The Chamber is housed at 800 Washington St. in downtown Mendota, phone (815) 539-6507. For more information visit their website at [www.mendotachamber.com](http://www.mendotachamber.com), the festival website at [www.sweetcornfestival.com](http://www.sweetcornfestival.com) or e-mail Shelby Weide at [sweide@mendotachamber.com](mailto:sweide@mendotachamber.com).

**MENDOTA GOLD**  
John Statkus, Engineer Ray Paseka, Artist Westclox Studios, Inc.

*"The corn is as high as an elephant's eye. As it looks like its climber clear up to the sky."*  
Oscar Hammerstein II and Richard Rodgers

Mendota Gold may be the largest ear of corn you have ever seen. Located in the area of the intersection of Route 34 and Mendota Avenue, it is the creation of artist Ray Paseka, engineer John Statkus, and their team at Westclox Studios, Inc. The finished piece is seventy feet tall, twenty feet wide, and is composed of thirty-two hand-painted panels attached to the side of Northern Farmers Cooperative.

Paseka designed this piece for Mendota, which has hosted an annual Sweet Corn Festival for decades. All types of corn are grown, packed, stored, and shipped in and around Mendota.

Thousands of people pass this artwork each day, traveling on I-55/Route 34 that run through Mendota to and from Chicago and stations through to the west and east coasts. The art reminds travelers of the importance of corn to this town and, in fact, to this region.

From this vantage point, would you believe someone's head? In fact, the artist affectionately called this installation "The Big Ear" as they painstakingly aligned all the elements on all of the panels. And, because of its overall size, these thirty-two panels only came together when the art was installed on the side.

Paseka, the creative force behind Westclox Studios, Inc., employs and trains local artists. Joining Paseka in the painting of "Mendota Gold" were artists Rachel Hristova, Marie Thelinger, Amanda Weigand and Madeline Hibel. Phil Meyer and Steve Harris fabricated the panels.

This work of public art was commissioned and funded by the City of Mendota and supported by donations from the community. It was made possible with the ongoing cooperation and support of Northern Farmers Cooperative, which provides the location for this installation.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS**

City of Mendota  
Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce  
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ART  
Heritage Center  
illinois

TO HEAR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ARTWORK, DIAL 815-214-2123 AND ENTER STOP #202

## "Mendota Gold" explained

A sign for the "Mendota Gold" mural is located near the Breaking the Prairie Museum. The sign contains information about the creation of "Mendota Gold" and other facts.



**AMTRAK  
TIMETABLE**

**ILLINOIS ZEPHYR**  
(Daily)  
**Eastbound**  
**to Chicago (380)**  
Leaves Mendota 8:52 a.m.  
Arrives Chicago 10:33 a.m.  
**Westbound**  
**from Chicago (383)**  
Leaves Chicago 5:55 p.m.  
Arrives Mendota 7:19 p.m.

**SOUTHWEST CHIEF**  
(Daily)  
**Eastbound**  
**to Chicago (4)**  
Leaves Mendota 12:59 p.m.  
Arrives Chicago 2:50 p.m.  
**Westbound**  
**from Chicago (3)**  
Leaves Chicago 2:50 p.m.  
Arrives Mendota 4:11 p.m.  
**Westbound from**  
**Mendota to**  
**Kansas City, Mo. (3)**  
Leaves Mendota 4:12 p.m.  
Arrives Kansas City 10 p.m.  
**Eastbound from**  
**Kansas City, Mo.**  
**to Mendota (4)**  
Leaves Kansas City 7:20 a.m.  
Arrives Mendota 12:59 p.m.

**CARL SANDBURG**  
(Daily)  
**Eastbound**  
**to Chicago (382)**  
Leaves Mendota 8:10 p.m.  
Arrives Chicago 9:51 p.m.  
**Westbound**  
**from Chicago (381)**  
Leaves Chicago at 7:40 a.m.  
Arrives Mendota 9:04 a.m.

*Service on train routes, carry-on pet program, accessible travel services and other information can be found on the Amtrak website, [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).*

*All seats on Amtrak trains serving the Mendota area are reserved. Tickets cannot be purchased at Mendota's Union Depot. Tickets may be purchased from any Amtrak travel agency, online at [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) or with the Amtrak app.*



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*Working For You!*



- Business referrals and information
- Retail promotions
- Legislative information
- City/Chamber partnerships
- Local, regional and state involvement
- Marketing to the Woodhaven Area and Newcomer Program
- Partnerships with Museums/ Library and Schools

- Promoting tourism
- Hosting the Sweet Corn Festival – the midwest’s largest harvest festival
- Visitor information through city maps and brochures
- Information on activities and community events
- Promoting Mendota through media and participating in regional activities



**Mendota Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

**Shelby Weide, President/CEO**

*Do you have questions about Mendota? Call the Chamber!*

**Ph: (815) 539-6507**

P.O. Box 620 • Mendota, Illinois 61342

Email: [sweide@mendotachamber.com](mailto:sweide@mendotachamber.com)

Website: [www.mendotachamber.com](http://www.mendotachamber.com)

*“Helping BUSINESS and Mendota grow through BUSINESS INFORMATION”*