

# **THE ROAD TO** *Recovery*

## **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, February 10, 2021





## Black Bros. Co. is Mendota's oldest manufacturing firm

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 Bros. employees



**Black Bros. Co. System Representative Erik Weber, left, and Lab Manager Evan Carroll run a test panel through the Black Bros. Hot Melt Single Top Laminating System. The testing Lab is available to customers to run trials of Black Bros. machines with their materials.**

can be found volunteering for many area organizations, including the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce, Mendota Optimist Club, 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 Lab Manager.

Times and technology may change, but Black

Bros. Co. continues to adhere to the values that have separated them from the competition and allowed the company to grow into the sixth-generation of family ownership: impeccable quality, unmatched durability, and dedicated service.

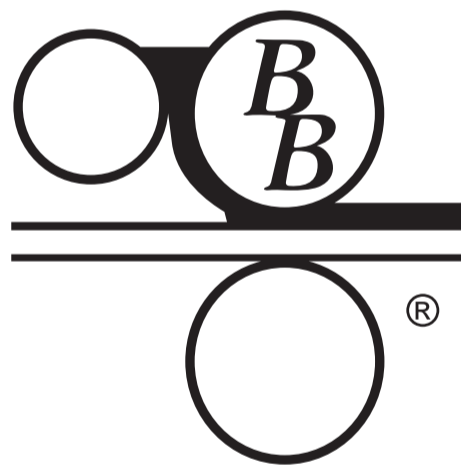
### Laminating and Coating Technology

At the forefront of Laminating and Roll Coat-

ing technology for over a century, Black Bros. has developed an international reputation for innovative engineering, quality manufacturing and dedicated support. Since 1882, the Black Bros. emblem has proudly identified equipment as the most durable and highest quality available. The primary reason for our continued success is our

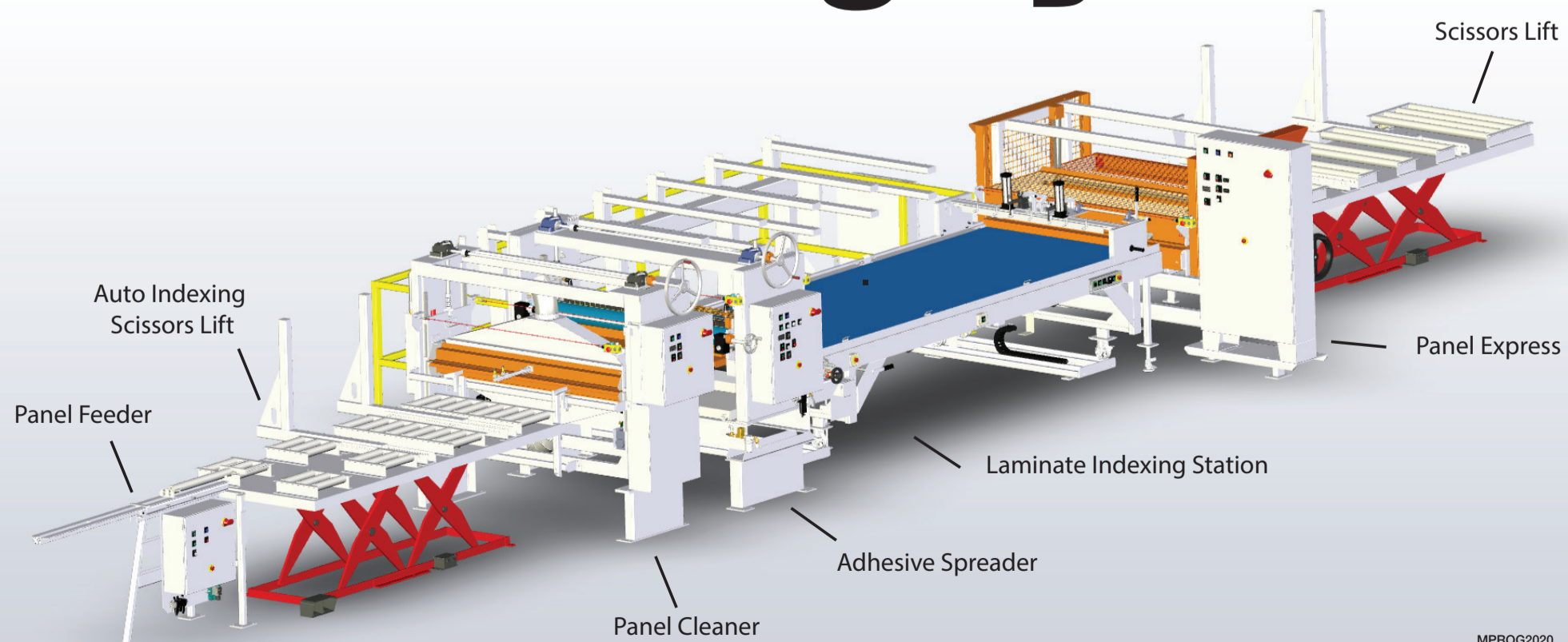
valued customers, many of whom have trusted Black Bros. machinery for generations. Times and technology may change, but Black Bros. continues to adhere to the values that have separated us from the competition and allowed us to grow into our sixth-generation of family ownership: impeccable quality, unmatched 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 conjunction 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.



# BLACK BROS. CO.

# Panel Express Laminating System



MPROG2020

[www.blackbros.com](http://www.blackbros.com) | 800-252-2568



## Mendota Chamber hoping for a full slate of activities in 2021

The Mendota Chamber of Commerce benefits its members – and the community – in many ways. The Chamber provides an up-to-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. She was named to the President/CEO position in September 2020. Responsibilities include public relations, fiscal oversight and the task of marketing Mendota. She also works to plan promotional events and carry out the directions of the chamber board.

The Chamber's website, [www.mendotachamber.com](http://www.mendotachamber.com), is a premier benefit for Chamber members and is an important tool for connecting businesses 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. Unfortunately, most of the events for the 2020 festival had to be canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the hope that this year's Mendota Sweet Corn Festival, which will mark the 74th year of the event, will be able to be held during its scheduled dates of Aug. 12-15. The Chamber's Sweet Corn Festival website, [www.sweetcornfestival.com](http://www.sweetcornfestival.com), will show the 2021 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 that year.

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



Shelby Weide was named the president and chief executive officer of the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce in September 2020.

The Chamber once again sponsored the Shop Local program this holiday season. The program ran from Nov. 14 through Dec. 31. For every \$10 spent in one of the over 40 participating businesses, customers received a sticker for their Shop Local card. Once cards were filled, they were turned into the Chamber office. The grand prize winner was Tracy Schwemlein of Mendota, who received over \$1,000 in gift certificates and merchandise donated by participating businesses. This holiday season, the chamber had 832 Shop Local cards turned in, which is a grand total of \$208,000 spent in Mendota this holiday season.

The Mendota Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner/Awards Banquet was not held because of the pandemic, but the Chamber still recognized 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 2020 was Todd Phalen, the 2020 Tom Merwin Gold Star Employee Award went to Stonecroft Village employee Nancy Vogle, and the 2020 Beautification Award was presented to El Zarape Mexican & American Restaurant. A Volunteer of the Year award was not given in 2020.

Other events sponsored by the Chamber include the Valentine Baby Contest,



Festival-goers stroll through the Midway at a recent Sweet Corn Festival in downtown Mendota. A wide variety of activities attracts large crowds to the four-day event. The 74th Annual Sweet Corn Festival is scheduled for Aug. 12-15.

Sweet Corn Festival Golf Classic, Fly In Breakfast, Mendota's 4th of July Celebration, A Mendota Christmas, Operation Elf Playday, 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. Sontag 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 250 children annually. The Chamber Ambassadors also serve as a 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 down-

town 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 telephone books, information on Chamber members' businesses and gives out maps of the city, county and state.

Tourism is also a Chamber priority and the Chamber 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!"



**800 Washington Street • [815] 539-6507 • [www.mendotachamber.com](http://www.mendotachamber.com)**

# Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce

## ...Serving Your Community And YOU!

### 2020-2021 CHAMBER MEMBERS:

1430 AM WCMY & 95.3 JACK FM - NRG Media 3-D Sound Company 4M Graphix ABC Construction Abigail Women's Clinic Adkins Towing LLC ADM Grain Co. Advanced Drainage Systems Advanced Engineering Associates, Inc. Aimee Holland Al Bonnell American Machine, Inc. Ancare Veterinary Clinic ARS Auto Repair Services Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc. August Hill Winery Barkman Concrete Construction Inc. Basil Construction Beck's BP Beck's I-39 Auto/Truck Plaza Becker Chiropractic Black Brothers Co. Boelk Truck Lines Bowers Corner Tap Buckman Iron & Metal Business Employment Skills Team Carriage House Electric Casey's General Store Central Bank Illinois Chamlin & Associates Chris Eller - The Retirement Specialist Cindy's On 34 City of Mendota Commonwealth Edison Community Health Partnership of Illinois Country Financial- Michael J. Organ, Agent Cross Body Shop Crossroads Coffee House DBP LLC (Dependable Business Products) De La O Restaurant & Bar DeLong's Auto Body Designs & Signs By Anderson Diamond Bros. Insurance Diversifoam Products E&M Consulting, Inc. Edward Jones Ekana Nursery & Landscaping El Rey 102.9FM WMKB El Rey Del Taco	El Zarape Mexican/American Restaurant Euclid Beverage LTD. Eureka Savings Bank Expressions Salon Financial Plus Credit Union First Federal Savings Bank First Presbyterian Church First State Bank First State Insurance First United Methodist Church Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse Frank Kobilsek G & M Distributors Gahan Goy CPA's, Ltd. Ganz Electric Graves-Hume Public Library Greg Vaccaro Guilfoyle Law Firm H & H Builders, Inc. H & H Custom Firearms & Gunsmithing H.D. Hume Company HCC, Inc. Head Hunter Salon & Day Spa Heritage Health Therapy and Senior Care Holland & Sons, Inc. Holy Cross School Homestead Realty Horizon House Illinois Valley Community College Illinois Valley Counseling Services, LLC Impact Networking, LLC J J & L Carpentry Janelaine Boutique John Elston Jones Home Improvement Judge Troy Holland Jurassic Bark Kaleel Law Office Karls Krusaders Ken Otterbach Excavating & Demolition Kindermusik with Laura Knights of Columbus Krenz Dental Corp. Kurt Bruno State Farm Insurance L.I.F.E. Connections Ministry La Salle NewsTribune Lakeside Liquors & Tobacco LaSalle County Veterans Assistance Commission Lee Stocking	Lijja Tiling & Excavating LLC Lucille's Helping Hands Cleaning Service M S Electric M.J.B. CPA & Assoc., Ltd. Main Street Station Manpower Martin Law Office Mauch Carpentry, Inc. McConville Realty & Auctioneering McDonald's McDonald's I-39 MCS Advertising Mendota Agri-Products Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce Mendota Area Senior Services Mendota Area Y Mendota Business & Professional Women Mendota Civic Center Mendota Community Theatre Mendota Companion Animal Centre P.C. Mendota Elementary School Dist. 289 Mendota Elks Lodge Mendota FFA Alumni Mendota Fire Department Mendota Ford, Inc. Mendota Golf Club Mendota High School Booster Club Mendota Lions Club Mendota Moose Family Center Mendota Museum and Historical Society Mendota Mutual Insurance Company Mendota Optimist Club Mendota Police Dept. Mendota Township High School Merritt Funeral Home Midland States Bank Moore Tires Nicor Gas Nightengales Thrift Shop North Central Area Transit Northern Illinois Ambulance Billing, Inc. Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing Northern Partners Cooperative Northwestern Medicine Nourish Kitchen OSF St. Paul Medical Center Painting Parties & Crafts with Lucy Phalen Steel Construction Company	Pizzas by Marchelloni Pohl's Office Supply Prairie Land Millwright, Inc. Prescott Brothers, Inc. Purpose Nutrition Quality Inn & Suites Rainbow Travel Ridley Feed Ingredients Rosati's Pizza Pub Rose Concrete Schimmer GM Schwans Home Service Setchell Studio Sew Quiltable LLC Special Olympics Illinois - Region A Specialty Body & Paint, Inc. Sports-N-Stuff, Inc. Starved Rock Country Community Foundation Starved Rock Media Starved Rock Wood Products, LLC Stephenich Do It Best Hardware Stonecroft Village Studstill Media Subway Sullivan's Ace Hardware Sullivan's Foods T2 Enterprises Taco Madre Tara N. VanDeWyngaerde, OD, PC The Mendota Reporter Town & Country Realty Travel To You, Inc. Tri County Cleaning & Repair Tri-County Fair Association Triple Service Plumbing Heating & Cooling Uncle Joe's Gaming Cafe United Way of Illinois Valley Victory Baptist Church Walter Brothers Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Waltham Curling Club Wasmer Funeral Home, Inc. West Side Family Dentistry Western Sand & Gravel Co., LLC Windy City Amusements Inc. Wipfli LLP Woodhaven Association Xpress Clinic Mendota Yeakel's Piano Service Ziggie's Family Restaurant
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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

Taylor Olsen - Past Chair  
 Jennifer Masini - Chair of the Board  
 Michelle Barkman - Vice Chair  
 Evan Wixom - Secretary  
 Tina McPheeters - Treasurer

### CHAMBER STAFF

Shelby Weide - President & CEO



## Technology in the classroom vital to MHS's instruction process

Thanks to technology, Mendota High School has been successful in providing both remote and in-person education to its students during the last 12 months despite restrictions and closures caused by COVID-19.

Looking back over the past year, MHS English teacher David Ross said many teachers and administrators were left scrambling when schools were abruptly closed in 2020 due to the pandemic. "It is hard to believe that many students have not been in a classroom since last March. No one could have seen that coming – but it happened," he said. "Overall, I am very proud of what we have done at Mendota High School, and I believe the last two semesters have been a huge success considering the circumstances."

Ross believes much of that success was dependent on the technology already in place at MHS. "First off, without being 1:1 (all students are issued a school Chromebook), I do not believe a lot of that success would have been possible," he said of the program that began at MHS almost five years ago. "Although we could have never predicted what happened last March, it certainly allowed us to handle the situation more effectively. With a heavy lean on Google Classroom, Zoom (and now Google Meet), ScreenCastify, Dochub, Turnitin, Scanning Apps, and more, I was able to keep my classes running very similarly to a typical year in terms of pacing and instruction. Many of the programs and apps that I have been using are free and provided as add-ons in our Google Education accounts."

Ross pointed out that technology has its limita-

**"Overall, I am very proud of what we have done at Mendota High School, and I believe the last two semesters have been a huge success considering the circumstances."**

—David Ross, English teacher

tions, however. He was not able to field questions and interact with students in the same way that he would in person. "However, I was still able to have class lectures, discussions, post assignments, create video tutorials, and continue to bore students with talk of Greek Mythology and Julius Caesar," he joked.

Jason Artman, Social Science teacher, has been using Checkology, a product of the News Literacy Project. "It's an online platform through which students complete lessons on how the media and social media work," he explained. "We tie it to in-person lessons and examples from pop culture and media."

His students are also compiling history portfolios through a combination of Google Docs and Google Forms. "Students also really liked the interactive lessons I did with iCivics, a free site promoting civic education that was founded with the cooperation of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor," Artman added.

Brock Zinke, Instructional Coach/Social Studies and Driver Education teacher, has relied on technology for both his driver education and psychology classes.

"During the pandemic, I have utilized Google Sites, Google Classroom, Flipgrid, and Zoom/Google Meets," Zinke said, explaining that Google Sites is an application that allows users to create

their own website. "I created one a few years ago for my driver education courses but updated and revamped it this year and also created one for my psychology course. It is a great tool that allows me to project my class information to students and their parents and all they need is the shareable link."

Zinke said Google Sites also pairs well with Google Classroom, which is something he has relied on heavily over the past few years but especially this year. He explained that Google Classroom is essentially a student's classwork/testing hub where they go to turn in assignments. "Google Sites provides the class materials to them, and Google Classroom is where they go to complete their work."

Another piece of technology Zinke utilized this year is Flipgrid. "Flipgrid allows me to create a topic or prompt and the students then create a video as their response," he said. "There are unique filters students can use to personalize their videos. Students create videos for other social apps like TikTok or Snapchat, so Flipgrid ties directly into this model."

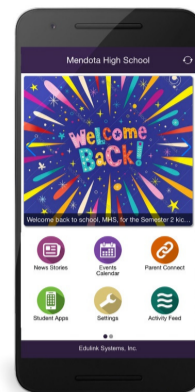
Finally, Zoom and Google Meets have allowed Zinke to connect with his students when they were not allowed to be at school for in-person instruction. These video conferencing tools allow users to see each other's faces and communicate through conversation and they



### Mendota High School Mobile App

#### MHS Custom Mobile Application

The MHS Custom Mobile App enables you to quickly access information from our website and save events to your phone from the school calendar. There are also quick links to our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channels.



#### GET THE APP

For Apple iOS Devices:



For Android Devices:



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also provide teachers the ability to share their screen so students can see exactly what information is given during a presentation.

"All of these tools have played a role in helping students learn throughout a pandemic," Zinke noted. "I am grateful for them and thankful for the willingness to use these tools from students and their families."

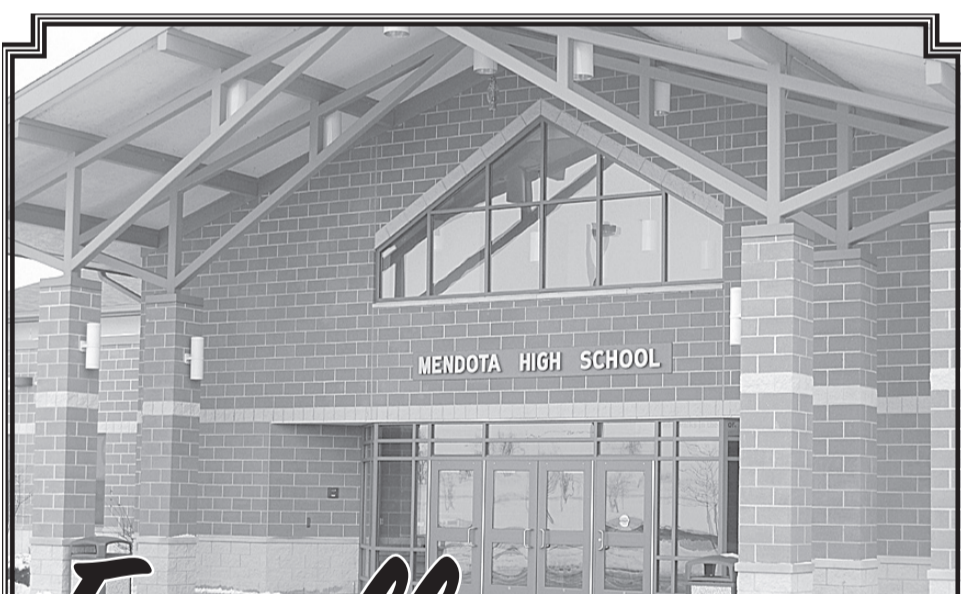
Most recently, MHS Principal Denise Aughenbaugh announced that Mendota High School now has its own custom app. Students, parents

and the community can search for the MHS app in the app store through Apple or Google Play. The MHS app links all of the high school social media and website links and information into one place.

The custom school app allows users to access information from websites, social media, broadcasts (YouTube or games), and important calendar events. Parents can receive "push" alerts for important notifications with the InTouch notification service. It has a web link library so the mobile app can be an

important hub for district information. The MHS logo identifies the high school as a custom layout.

"We hope everyone checks out the Mendota High School App for news stories, events calendar, Parent Connect, student apps, activity feed, cafeteria menu, EZ SchoolPay, MHS Facebook, MHS Twitter, MHS YouTube streamed events, departments, directory, district calendar, Guidance Office, documents, Booster Club, and daily announcements," Aughenbaugh said.



# Excellence in Education

## MISSION STATEMENT:

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.



**MENDOTA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

*"Home of the Trojans"*

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MIPROG2020

## City

Continued from Page A5

removed, and the necessary underground work took place. The new asphalt roadway and concrete sidewalks were completed later in the summer.

Decorative benches and trash receptacles were added in September, and decorative light poles were put in place in October.

#### CITY IMPROVEMENTS

The former Campbell's dry cleaning and laundry

building on Illinois Avenue in downtown Mendota was razed in March. The city of Mendota, which owns the property, will offer the lot for sale.

The city also purchased property at 704 Illinois Ave., the former Meyers Furniture building, in the amount of \$23,000. The city hopes to attract a business tenant for the building.

A series of bid openings were held in October for the South East Mendota Sanitary

Sewer Systems Improvements program. Bids were awarded for the Seventh Avenue Pump Station, the S&L Pump Station Demolition and the Front Street Gravity Sewer, the Seventh Avenue Force Main Replacement project the Cherry Street Gravity Sewer Extension project.

In an ongoing effort to improve security, three new security cameras were put up in the downtown area and two were added to Strouss Park.



Decorative benches, trash receptacles, street lights and concrete were added to beautify the 700 block of Illinois Avenue.



The Campbell's Dry Cleaning building in the 800 block of Illinois Avenue was demolished in March 2020 to make room for future development.



## Mendota Civic Center



For more than 30 years, the Mendota Civic Center has offered accommodating, professional and assistive services to become a north central Illinois leader in event planning. The Mendota Civic Center offers a landscaped patio, outdoor wedding pergola, and several indoor areas that provide a perfect venue for weddings, receptions, meetings, holiday parties 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 easier or most stress free. For more information, availability, pricing and catering options, contact the Mendota Civic Center at (815) 539-3411 or [info@mendotaciviccenter.com](mailto: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 City of Mendota's Illinois Avenue Project completed late in 2020 included planting trees, replacing sidewalks and repaving the street from Washington to Jefferson.

## Despite setbacks, city forges on with accomplishments in 2020

The year 2020 was an unusual one indeed for the City of Mendota and the entire world with the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the globe. While significant restrictions were imposed to try to curb the spread of the disease, many things were able to be accomplished in Mendota during the year.

### CITY COUNCIL

Bill Hunt, who served the Fourth Ward since 2009, resigned from his seat on the council effective Feb. 29. He was replaced on the council by Vicki Johnson in March.

### COVID-19

Mendota joined the rest of the state when Governor JB Pritzker's "Stay at Home Executive Order" went into effect on March 21 as the COVID-19 pandemic began to take hold. The order prohibited activities such as visiting the homes of friends and holding gatherings of any size, and closed all non-essential establishments, including most retail, recreation and entertainment businesses.

In April, Mayor David Boelk announced that due to the current health situation, the Mendota swimming pool would not be open this summer. In May, Mayor Boelk said that although the Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce was holding off until July to make a final decision, the 2020 Mendota Sweet Corn Festival "will not take place as we know it."

The pandemic continued to rage and in August, the City Council declared a Local State of Emergency and passed ordinances in regard to that state of emergency and the wearing of face coverings. This was in response to a five-fold increase in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Mendota within the last four weeks.

Then in November, the City Council adopted another State of Emergency Declaration in the ongoing battle with the spread of COVID-19. As of Oct. 28, the LaSalle County positivity rate was approximately 6.3 percent, whereas the Mendota rate was at more than 12.2 percent.

### GAS PLANT

Heavy machinery was moved in for the cleanup of what was an old gas plant located at the southeast corner of Ninth Avenue and Fifth Street in Mendota in February. Nicor Gas and ComEd are partnering to clean up the area under the oversight of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Cleanup of the property began in November 2019 and the targeted conclusion is the fall of 2021. A temporary fabric enclosure was installed over the area in early April to help minimize dust and potential odors during the majority of the cleanup.

At the end of October, the next phase of work began. That included preparing the

new area for excavation by driving the final phase of earth retention into the ground. After the earth retention work was completed, a crane was brought onsite to move the temporary fabric enclosure, in three sections, to its next and last position. After relocation, the next phase of work under the enclosure began and is expected to be completed in spring 2021. Then the enclosure will be removed and the project will move to the excavation of soil on city property in a section of Ninth Avenue and the creek next to the former MGP.

### ILLINOIS AVENUE PROJECT

The bid sheet for the Illinois Avenue Streetscape and miscellaneous street and alley improvements were presented at the March 16 city council meeting. Four bids were submitted and Universal Asphalt of LaSalle had the lowest bid at \$497,057, which was accepted by the council. In addition to new street and sidewalk construction, other items in the bid package included stamped colored concrete, decorative park benches, decorative trash receptacles and a gateway arched sign.

Infrastructure work began in earnest in June as the street and sidewalks were

See City, Page A4



The friendly and helpful team at Financial Plus Credit Union in Mendota includes, front row, left to right, Celina Garza, Rose Bonnell, Trisha Watkins; back row, Alejandra Hernandez, Laurie Eich, Audrey McConville, Jennifer Truckenbrod.

## Financial Plus Credit Union celebrating 70 years of service

In May of this year, Financial Plus Credit Union will celebrate 70 years of service to members. 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.

Over the past 70 years the 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 Tween 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 much more.

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](http://www.financialplus.org), call (815) 539-3444 or visit their Mendota facility at 1905 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. "We Belong to You. . .and That's the PLUS!"



Mendota Civic Center

*Here's to Always!*

**Mendota Civic Center**

1901 Tom Merwin Drive

**815-539-3411**

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



MPROG2021



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# COMMUNITY MATTERS

## ASSISTED & INDEPENDENT LIVING

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stonecroftvillage.com

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**McConville Realty & Auctioneering**  
612 Main St.  
815-539-5673

## AUTO BODY REPAIR

**Specialty Body & Paint**  
1503 W. Washington St.  
815-539-7801  
Se Habla Español

## AUTOMOBILE DEALERS

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Rt. 251 S.  
815-539-9314  
www.mendotaford.com

**Schimmer, Inc. Buick • Chevy**  
Rt. 251 S.  
815-539-9343  
www.schimmergm.com

**Vaessen Bros. Chevrolet**  
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email: tux\_dawg@frontier.com

## CARPENTRY

**Jones Home Improvement**  
Anthony J. Jones  
815-539-6175

## CARPET & FLOORING

**Meyers Furniture & Carpet**  
1901 S. 13th Ave.  
815-539-6263

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce**  
800 Washington St.  
815-539-6507

## CONCRETE CONTRACTOR

**Barkman Concrete Construction, Inc.**  
705 Illinois Ave.  
815-539-3705  
Decorative Concrete - Foundations -  
Driveways - Sidewalks

## CONTRACTORS - GENERAL

**Mauch Carpentry**  
705 Illinois Ave.  
815-539-7867  
License #104005528

## DENTISTS

**Krenz Dental, Ltd.**  
Robert Krenz, D.D.S. • Jon Krenz, D.M.D.  
704 Indiana Ave. • 815-538-5316

## ELECTRICAL

**Triple Service**  
Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Electric  
801 Monroe St.  
815-539-3828  
IL Lic. #055-041123

## ELECTRICAL/CONTRACTING

**Carriage House Electric**  
105 12th St.  
815-538-5598

## FAST TITLE & LICENSE

**Setchell Agency, Ltd.**  
618 6th St. • Mendota  
815-539-9311

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**Eureka Savings Bank**  
1300 13th Ave.  
815-539-5656  
Member FDIC

**Financial Plus Credit Union**  
1905 13th Ave.  
815-539-3444  
Member NCUA-ESI

**First Federal Savings Bank**  
1205 Washington St.  
815-539-6757  
Member FDIC

**First State Bank**  
706 Washington St. • Main  
1403 13th Ave. • Plaza  
815-538-2265  
firststatebank.biz  
Member FDIC

**Pioneer State Bank**  
Earlville • 815-246-8411  
Paw Paw • 815-627-2651  
Sublette • 815-849-5242  
Woodhaven • 815-849-5918  
Member FDIC

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

**Chris Eller, The Retirement Specialists**  
801 Jefferson St.  
815-539-3437  
chris@chris-eller.com

## FIREPLACES

**Maze Lumber**  
Water Street • Peru  
815-223-1742

## FLORISTS

**Floralcrest Florist & Greenhouse**  
1207 22nd St.  
815-539-9306

## FUNERAL HOMES

**Wasmer Funeral Home**  
2112 W. Main St.  
815-539-8500

## FURNITURE

**Meyers Furniture & Carpet**  
1901 S. 13th Ave.  
815-539-6263

## GROCERY STORES

**Sullivan's Foods**  
1102 Meriden St.  
815-539-9341

## GYM

**YMCA**  
Route 251 South • Mendota  
815-539-9343

## HARDWARE STORES

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815-539-9394

## HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS

**Campbell Plumbing & Heating**  
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815-539-5083  
In Business 38 Years • IL Lic. #058-097742

**Triple Service**  
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801 Monroe St.  
815-539-3828  
IL Lic. #055-041123

**Walter Bros.**  
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling  
909 Washington St.  
815-538-6516  
IL Lic. #058-102682

## HOSPITALS

**OSF HealthCare**  
**Saint Paul Medical Center**  
1401 E. 12th St.  
815-539-7461  
www.osfsaintpaul.org

## INSURANCE

**First State Insurance**  
715 Washington St. • 815-539-5651

**Kurt Bruno State Farm**  
1103 Main St. • 815-539-3878

**Setchell Agency, Ltd.**  
618 Sixth St. • 815-539-9311

## KITCHEN & BATH

**Maze Lumber**  
Water Street • Peru  
815-223-1742

## MATTRESSES

**Meyers Furniture & Carpet**  
1901 S. 13th Ave.  
815-539-6263

## OFFICE SUPPLY

**Pohl's Office Supply & Equipment**  
809 Washington St.  
815-538-5741

## PET GROOMING

**Dirty Dawgs**  
918 Main St., Ste 2  
815-538-2550

## PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

**Campbell Plumbing & Heating**  
Heating • Cooling • Plumbing  
1211 Chicago St.  
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**Walter Bros.**  
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909 Washington St.  
815-538-6516  
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## POST FRAME BUILDERS

**N.L. Morton Buildings, Ltd.**  
203 N. 4099th Road  
815-539-9325  
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## REALTORS

**Erbes Realty, LLC**  
1922 Tower Road • Sublette  
815-535-6295 • Lorierbes@gmail.com

**Homestead Realty**  
1316 Lakewood Plaza, #5  
815-539-3811

**McConville Realty & Auctioneering**  
612 Main St.  
815-539-5673

**Town & Country Realty**  
607 Sixth St.  
(815) 539-6635

**Woodhaven Lakes Realty**  
509 LaMoille Road • Sublette  
815-849-5476

## RECYCLING

**Buckman Iron & Metal**  
705 5th St.  
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## RESTAURANTS

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www.mainstreetstationbar-grill.com

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**Sports-N-Stuff**  
804 Washington St.  
815-539-6354

## TAX PREPARATION

**H&R Block**  
1313 Meriden St.  
815-539-7610  
Fax: 815-539-5047  
hrblock.com

**Setchell Agency, Ltd.**  
618 Sixth St.  
815-539-9311

## THRIFT STORES

**Nightengales Thrift Shop**  
708 Jefferson St. • 815-539-6100  
Supports Trinity Health Care Clinic • 815-910-0200

## TRANSPORTATION

**Mendota Area Senior Services**  
1901 Tom Merwin Drive  
815-539-7700  
mendotaseniors1978@yahoo.com

## TOWING

**Ramer Automotive & Towing**  
Paul & Matt Ramer  
4266 E. 4th Road  
815-539-5321

## VETERINARIANS

**Ancare Veterinary Clinic**  
Stephen J. Dullard, DVM, ABVP  
1205 Sixth Ave.  
815-539-3844  
www.ancarevet.com

**Mendota Companion Animal Centre**  
Cathy J. Wolf, DVM  
Rt. 251 N.  
815-539-6601  
www.mendotavet.com

## WINDOWS & DECKING

**Maze Lumber**  
Water Street • Peru  
815-223-1742



City of  
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800 Washington Street  
815-539-7459  
www.mendota.il.us

*Eureka Savings*  
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# MENDOTA



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