

Mendota Villager – June 2022

When I lived away from Mendota, my sister, Pat, sent me copies of the Villager. I loved staying somewhat connected with my hometown. Later when I moved back, I—along with many others—composed the Villager for a bit. At that time, we printed over 150 copies and mailed a few.

Today, , we are not printing any copies. We don't have the printing resources or the funding to do so. However, we do have email and that's free! There are two ways a person can read the Villager. They can make sure I have their email or they can log onto www.mendotava.com. I cross referenced that domain name with my personal blog where I'll also place the Mendota Villager.

There are lots of things missing from this Villager. I don't yet have the birthday list, so if you want to see birthdays posted, please email those names and dates to rivercliffcottage@gmail.com with the subject line "Birthday". Likewise, I may have missed something important – be a gentle reader and simply remind me so that the next one will be better. I'm going to try and put this together every other month—depending on what we have to share.

Thanks for joining me! Eva Barker Beale

Mendota Cemetery Quilt Fundraiser "Merry & Bright"

The Mendota Cemetery Association represents the community's historic cemetery located behind the post office. This cemetery is operated by donations and by fundraising, and many years in the recent past, we've held a quilt raffle. We've had some beautiful quilts.



This year, I volunteered to purchase the fabric and make the quilt. I do not have the quilt making skills of the past ladies who have made the quilts, but I bought really good fabric and worked very carefully assembling the quilt top. It was when it was 90 percent complete, I realized that the green and white triangles with snowmen were turned so that the snowmen were sideways and upside down. A few were upright but not many. Truthfully, they looked like drunken snowman. I cried when I noticed this—so much work and they were drunken little sots. However, I got them all sobered up and turned around and took the quilt to the wonderful Kim at Virginia Highlands Quilt Shop. She did the long-arm quilting on the quilt and it's got snowmen all on the reverse side, and they are lined up perfectly. Kim is a master quilter. I'm so grateful to her for helping me. Tickets are \$1.00 each, and I hope you'll buy a bunch of them! I don't want to be responsible for the quilt that no one wanted. Please get in touch with Eva Beale for tickets or visit The Store in Mendota to see the quilt and buy tickets! Many thanks!

Friends of the Library Book Sale During the Highlands Festival

Our Friends of the Library will be having a book sale from **July 21 to July 31** at the Abingdon Library location. **July 21 is the preview night starting at 5 pm.** Pop in to your library to pick up *The Highlander*, Virginia Highlands Festival's catalogue of events for a list of book sale dates and times.

Submitted by Marjorie Dean
Mendota Branch Manager



Mendota Community Association

New Officers on the MCA Board

Dottie Dye will remain president of the MCA with Ron Edwards serving as Vice President. The Treasurer is Mary Regan and the Secretary is Isha Youhas. Helene Holbrook will rotate off as Vice President but will serve as a board member. There are 2 more slots open for board members if anyone is interested in volunteering and serving your community.

Cobenna Barker will still head up the Alive 55 programs and Maxwell Thomas will continue to volunteer at the Food Pantry.

The MCA wishes to thank Gina Moore. She has done a terrific job at fundraising and implementing wonderful programs here in Mendota.

Thank you to all of the MCA volunteers for your support of the Mendota Community. They have generously given their time and energy to help with fund raisers, keeping the building maintained and doing fun activities for the people in Mendota.

The MCA meets every month on the first Tuesday at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend and take part.

Alive 55

Alive 55 is a group of people 55 and up who get together for fun, food, and friendship. If you are 55 or older (or somewhat close) you are invited and encouraged to come to their fun meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm.

Food Pantry

The Mendota Food Pantry provides food for families in need on the 4th Thursday of the month from 1 to 3 pm.

Upcoming Events

Brian Hilderbrand's father passed away and the community will miss him. Brian will hold a memorial service for him in mid-July on the 16th. Please watch the sign out front for more information.

- 7/23 Block Party Open to All 4 pm – 7 pm
- 7/30 Motorcycle Rally with registration starting at 9 am.
- 9/17 Saturday, September 17

Other!

We are preparing for a Chili Cook-Off and hopefully a Book Sale, along with many other fun things to do.

In Sympathy

Our small community suffers the loss of our friends greatly. We mourn the loss of the following in recent weeks:

Hal Gardner
Pat Hilderbrand
Michael Johnson

Mendota Branch Library

There's still Summer Reading Program dates left to enjoy!

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Wednesday, July 6

Candy Sushi – Make Sweet Summer Treats!

Wednesday, July 13 - Watercolor Class

Call Margie Dean at 276.645.2374 for more information.



Special Event @ The Store in Mendota!
Mendota's own Ricky Barker will be playing with North Fork on the patio of The Store on Friday, July 8 at 6 pm. **FREE!**

Food will be available by The Store.

The Store @ Mendota is normally open Wednesday thru Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.



Cool off this summer by tubing with Mendota Expeditions. Call Janet at 276.696.2742 and get on the river!

Reminder: This is our first attempt at re-starting The Villager. If you have information on your church, please send to me at rivercliffcottage@gmail.com. I'll try and include it in the next edition.



Pine Grove Church

Pine Grove welcomes everyone to attend their Homecoming which will be Sunday, August 7.

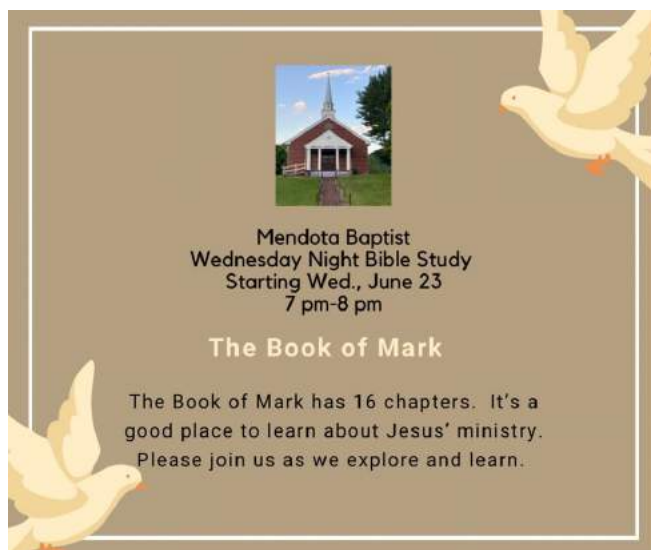
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| Sundays | 10:00 am 11:00 am | Sunday School Worship | Pastor: Thomas Chaffin |
| Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Evening Service | |

Mendota Methodist Church

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| Sundays | 3:00 pm | Worship | Pastor: Bill Porter |
| Wednesday | 10:00 am | Bible Study | |

Mendota Baptist Church

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| Sundays | 11:00 am 7:00 pm | Worship Evening Service | Pastor: Sammy Vickers |
| Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Bible Study | |



Mendota Community Association

New Officers on the MCA Board

The Mendota Clinic

The Mendota Clinic has closed and the MCA will continue their efforts to get a medical affiliated group or doctor in to use the space.

Richard C. Gardner Scholarship

Two students were awarded the Richard C. Gardner Scholarship this year: Harrison Snedeker and Nathaniel Youhas. Both had exemplary grades and both are going to good colleges.

Harrison and Nathaniel have been a big help to the Mendota Community.

Harrison made the picnic tables and redid the playground, helped with several of the MCA's fundraisers and help serve the annual Christmas Dinners.

Nathaniel also helped with the Christmas programs by playing the piano for the concert, that included the many hours of practice.

The MCA wishes the best for the two winners and all of the applicants in their future studies and careers.



Neighborhood Watch/Washington County Sheriff's Office

The next Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 6 at 7 pm.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office is currently working on establishing dates for upcoming Concealed Weapons Classes.



Labor of Love

In March, Sammy Vickers reopened the Mendota Baptist Church. Members met in the Community Center until the church was officially opened on Easter Sunday.

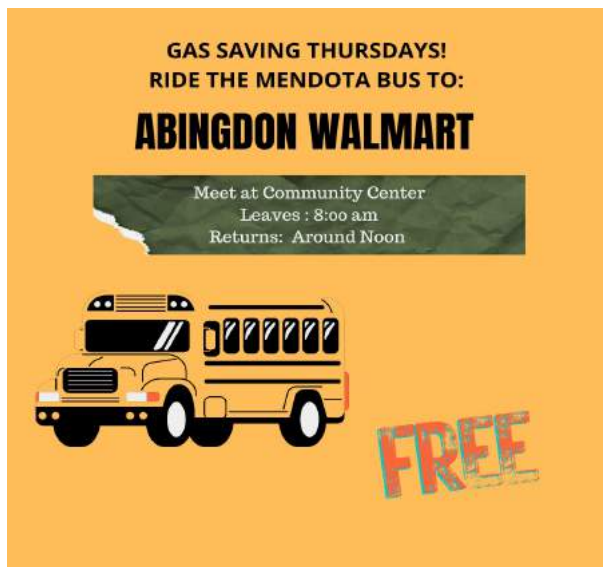
Mendota Baptist had been closed a few years due to the declining health of the former pastor, Joe Durant. Pastor Durant is now rejoicing in Heaven, and he is dearly missed by all.



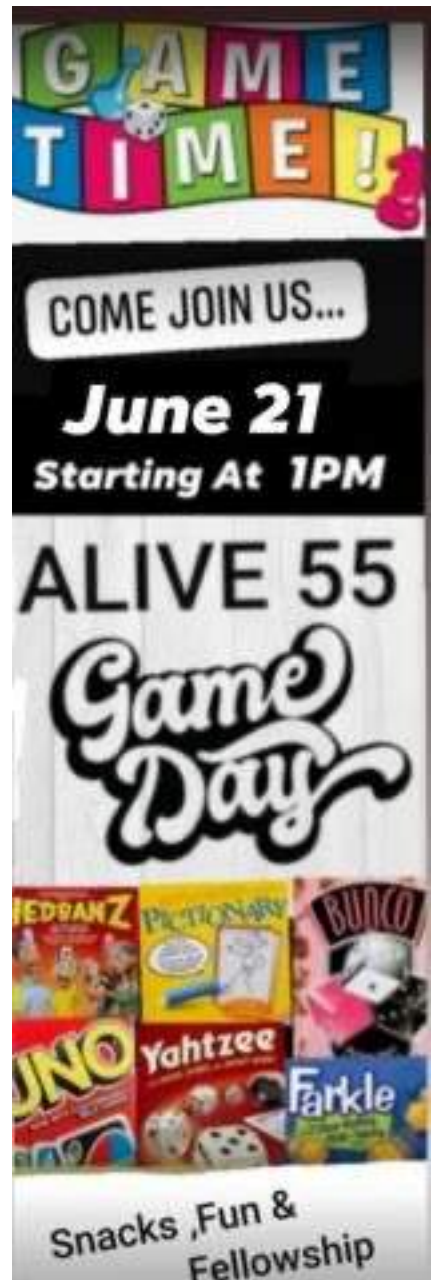
While the church was not in use, it developed a bad roof leak and the damage became extensive.

With the unwavering faith and support of the members of the church and the community, the repairs are one by one being completed. A new roof was the most important and it is now complete. The church also has a brand new heat pump and duct work with all the labor done for free. The community is so grateful to God for pouring out his love on this difficult task.

Where the grace of God meets with the heart of a servant, nothing is impossible. *Submitted by Shannon Eldreth*



We love riding the Mendota bus to Walmart on Thursday. It saves such much money! Many thanks to Elizabeth Stanley for setting this up.



Mendota History

By Peter Livingston Barker

Mendota is situated on the North Fork of Holston River, in the west end of Washington County, Virginia, about half way between Bristol and Gate City, opposite the noted Kinderhook Farm and immediately on the Southern Railway.

The excellent river-bottom lands at Mendota were patented by the Commonwealth to Thomas Kendrick, William Todd Livingston and others, and the home of Peter Livingston was but a short distance below Mendota at the time the noted half-breed Benge made his raid thereon in the year 1794, burning the homestead and carrying off the wife of Peter Livingston. After several days hot pursuit the Indians were overtaken, the savage Benge was killed at long range by Lieutenant Vincent Hobbs. Mrs. Livingston was struck with a tomahawk by an Indian and left for dead-the remaining Indians fleeing-but after being senseless about an hour was revived by the rescue party.

The river-bottom land opposite Mendota, some time previous to 1860, became the property of Adam Hickman, a native of Kinderhook, N. Y. Upon his acquisition of this property, he gave it the name of Kinderhook, and from this farm Kinderhook magisterial district derived its name.

The post office at this point was for many years Kinderhook, but the name was changed to Mendota by Henry C. Holley, who for many years was a merchant at the place.

Hamilton Institute was established at Mendota in the year, 1874. It drew a large, earnest and determined patronage from the Cumberlands on the north to the Blue Ridge Mountains on the south, and is said to have sent more Christian young men and women into the professional and common walks of life than any other institution of learning of its class in its wide territory.

As to the old settlers, it may be remarked that it was no ordinary people who pushed the frontiers back and settled this section. They were of the best stock that Virginia had to offer, and were as high-minded and far-seeing as they were brave and adventurous.

Mendota is the center of the glass sand industry in Virginia. It has one of the finest deposits of silica, used in the manufacture of glassware, pottery, etc., in the United States, said to be inexhaustible in quantity. While industrial development at present is in its infancy, the great number and variety of natural resources, the place being touched by a river and great trunk line railway, it is destined to increase greatly. At present there is considerable prospecting for oil and gas in this vicinity. The town has two flour mills, planing and lumber mills, five stores, and is served by a high-powered electric line, the East Tennessee Light and Power Company, a subsidiary of Cities Service.

The Blue Grass Trail, State Highway No.42, has lately been constructed into the town.

By P. L. Barker,

Found in: A Social & Economic Survey of Washington County, New River Notes.