

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**City of Mendota Announces Public Pool Will Not Open for the 2026 Season Due to Needed Repairs**

**Mendota, IL** — The City of Mendota has announced that the Mendota Public Pool will not open for the 2026 summer season due to major construction and repairs that must be completed to keep the pool safe and operational.

After an evaluation by City staff and engineers, it was determined that the pool can be repaired at an estimated cost of \$1 million—a significant investment, yet substantially less than the estimated \$6.7 million to construct a new pool facility. With these repairs, the City anticipates extending the life of the existing pool by at least another 10 years.

The City understands how important the public pool is to Mendota families, both as a summer tradition and a key activity for children. However, due to the costs involved, the City has determined that repairing the pool is the most responsible and attainable option at this time.

City staff have been working with engineers to complete the plans, and permits have been submitted. However, due to the lengthy permit turnaround and the amount of construction time required, the pool will not open this season. The City hopes to have the pool available again in 2027.

“We know this is a major disappointment,” City officials shared. “The pool is an integral part of summer for so many families, and we understand how difficult it is to lose this option for an entire season,” said Mayor Dave Boelk.

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**Alternative Summer Opportunities for Families**

In response, the City of Mendota has been actively working with local partners such as the Mendota YMCA and the Mendota Library to help provide alternative classes and activities for youth and families this summer.

Additionally, through the City’s Live Well Mendota coalition and grant funding, City staff have been reaching out to individuals, groups, and organizations to create a wide variety of activities. These opportunities will range from one hour, one day, or one week - giving youth of all ages the chance to learn new skills and explore new interests.

Activities include:

- Cooking
- Sewing
- Gardening
- Arts and crafts
- Fitness and wellness

- And many other community-led programs

Many activities will be free, and others will be offered at minimal cost to ensure accessibility for families.

The City is also continuing to seek individuals and groups who are willing to share their talents and skills with Mendota youth this summer and currently taking applications. There will also be summer job opportunities for our high school and college students that are currently being developed to replace lifeguard positions.

### **A Summer of Opportunity and Community Resiliency**

While the temporary closure of the pool represents a loss to traditional summer programming, the City believes this season can also become an opportunity something equally meaningful.

This summer offers children and families a chance to discover new hobbies, develop new skills, and try experiences they may not have otherwise considered,” explained Maria Arteaga, Program Coordinator. “From hands-on learning opportunities to creative workshops and wellness activities, Mendota is committed to ensuring that this summer remains active, engaging, and meaningful.”

Annie Short, Project Director shared, “This is what makes Mendota special, our people. When there is a need, our community steps forward. The willingness of individuals and groups to come together to share their talents and invest in our youth reflects the spirit that continues to move Mendota forward.”

This is another project that shows that the City remains committed to thoughtful investment, long-term sustainability, and responsive solutions that serve Mendota families today and into the future.

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For an updated list of activities (which continues to grow), or to sign up to host an activity, residents can visit:

[www.mendota.il.us/livewell](http://www.mendota.il.us/livewell)

A full calendar of summer events and activities can also be found through the Mendota Chamber of Commerce at:

<https://www.mendotachamber.com/events/>

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