



TREMONT ILLINOIS

Weekly News

Tremont Lion Seeking New Members

The Tremont Lions Club is set to begin its 55th year on Tuesday, August 1 with a meeting at 6:00 in the Community Center. As with many service organizations across the country, membership is waning and needs an infusion of new individuals to assist with the continuation of local programs like the Halloween Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, and Student Recognition Dinner. Club members hang the community Christmas lights and strive to serve the Tremont area in any manner necessary.

One project club members are particularly proud of is the sponsorship of our local Scout Troop #84 and land along Leslie Farm Road that they are now using as an outdoor space for camping, meetings, picnics, and other activities associated with scouting. The kids and their leaders have done a great job stewarding this ground and have really spruced it up to create a high-quality area for their programs.

Lions Club International has one mission, "we serve." Their legacy remains as one of the highest rated charities and service organizations in the world focusing efforts in the areas of vision, youth, disaster relief, and diabetes. It doesn't stop there. Childhood cancer, hunger, and other humanitarian issues are also at the forefront and scope of Lions Club International.

You can be a part of this great organization by agreeing to serve with the men and women of our club. Dues are \$70 per year with most of the funds going to the International Organization. In Tremont, the club raises money through various projects to fund the programs and initiatives we sponsor here in town.

Pictured: Tremont Lions enjoying a delicious campfire cookout prepared by Scout Troop #84 before the June meeting.



Membership is what you make of it. While we certainly covet active members, there's no penalty for missing meetings and all volunteer opportunities are optional. Meetings are the

first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 and include dinner along with a brief business meeting and occasional informative speaker.

The membership needs of our club are critical and we are hopeful you'll consider joining our group. Please visit us on August 1 or September 5 at 6:00 in the Community Center.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate reaching out to any club member or contact Mike Fuoss (mike.fuoss1406@gmail.com) or Jeff Hinman (jeffhin64@gmail.com).

Did you know...?

Sugar Beet Crops in Tremont

In the early 1900s, sugar beets were raised in the Tremont area. It was said that when processed, it looked like any other granulated sugar, and no one could tell it from sugar raised anywhere else.

I came across a few interesting articles on the subject in *The Bloomington Pantagraph*.

Feb. 12, 1900:

L.E. Rolofson of Tremont reported, "There were 700 acres of land in sugar beets last season in this immediate neighborhood. Of these the Pekin Sugar Company had 500 and various farmers had 200. The average yield was about ten tons to the acre. Some went as high as fourteen and some as low as five. Raising sugar beets is pretty expensive business as so much work must be put in to keep the ground free from weeds. The company paid \$21.00 per acre to the Russians whom they employed to weed and gather the beets...The factory has worked up all the beets and has now shut down for the season. The sugar made is for sale in Tremont and all towns in the state, I guess."

November 29, 1900:

The Russian families who were employed in the beet cultivation here left for their homes in Nebraska last Friday. This is the second season these people have been employed here by the Sugar Beet Company of Pekin.

~ "From the History Room" column, August 22, 2015, quoting Roy Preston's column of August 1971: "At the start they (farmers) employed Russians on the beet plantations which were located around...Pekin and as far south as Green Valley. They lived in tents. The language was a problem. Germans were brought over from Germany. They were people who lived on the Russian border and this solved the language problem,' since most people in Pekin at the time spoke German as a first or second language."



Sugar Beet Workers

July 26, 1901, Bloomington Pantagraph

The sugar beets...are standing the drouth and hot weather well. All the early beets are growing, and the late beets are holding their own. If the top leaves should be killed, the plant would sprout up again and grow. The work of cultivation has proceeded this week.

Interestingly, the emperor Napoleon had something to do with sugar beets. During the Napoleonic Wars, the English blockaded sugar from the West Indies, so Napoleon sought new research on sugar beet. Over 79,000 acres were planted in sugar beets. After Napoleon's fall, sugar was again available from the tropics and sugar beet production fell off.

Apparently, sugar beet farming was attempted in Utah by Mormon pioneers unsuccessfully, though it did lead to future development of the crop. The first successful commercial production of beet sugar was in central California. Many other areas tried, but only for a short time. One major issue was the thinking that the sugar beet seeds from Europe were best, and though early on the Department of Agriculture research found that to be wrong, the industry continued to insist importing was the way to go.

It is difficult to find just when and why the sugar beet industry left Illinois. Likely it was several reasons combined. Today, successful crops are grown in the upper Midwest in Minnesota and North Dakota and in nearby Michigan, as well as states out west. The U.S. is the third highest producer in the world. Maybe one day, with new innovations, we will see sugar beet fields once again in our area.

*Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, 2023*

Tremont Museum

The Tremont Museum is now CLOSED.

Tremont District Library News

Learn about Animals with Wildlife Prairie Park (all ages)

Today! Monday, July 17th, 10:30am & 11:30am

Location: Tremont Grade School Gym, 200 S. Sampson St.

The Outreach Education Team at Wildlife Prairie Park will be visiting Tremont in July to showcase a few of their animals! All ages are invited to come learn about and meet them. Attendance is limited to 75 people per session (Choose 10:30am or 11:30am). First come, first serve.

Crafternoons (ages 6+)

Mondays: July 31, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

This week we're making Sand Art! Perfect for ages 6+! Please plan on staying in the room if your child needs help with materials. No registration required.

Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30 -11:30 am

A support group for new and experienced parents.

Minecraft in the Meeting Room

****Thursdays, July 20th - Aug. 3rd

IMPORTANT UPDATE: To better fit the needs of our group we are making time and age updates to our Minecraft days. Starting at 1pm, ages 10+ can join Miss Lizzi in the Meeting Room for Minecraft. Then, at 2:30pm ages 7+ can join in until the end of the program at 4pm.

Minecraft participation requires: *a signed Code of Conduct* and your own personal device with Minecraft on it. Please speak to Lizzi ahead of time if you have any questions about our weekly Minecraft days.

Tremont Community Senior Meals



For those who are wanting to donate items to the Tremont Community Senior Meals, you can now see the current needs on our new [Amazon List!](#)

This list will be updated regularly. If you have any questions about donations, you can reach out to Braden at scsoulmanager@gmail.com.

Community Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Saturday

Around Town



Please send us your news stories and they will be included in upcoming emails. Deadline to include information is Friday, 6:00PM for the following Monday.

We accept information from official Tremont, IL businesses, organizations, and advertisers. We will also post Public Auctions and Open Houses.

Tremont Winning Communities | info@tremontil.com | <http://tremontil.com>

Tremont Winning Communities | P.O. Box 76, Tremont, IL 61568

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