



## Weekly News

### Little Dribblers Registration (Kindergarten - 3rd Grade)

Little Dribblers is our recreation basketball program for boys and girls between the ages of Kindergarten – 3rd grade. The program focuses on the basic skills including dribbling, passing, shooting, & scrimmages at the end of the season.

Classes are on Saturday afternoons in the South Gym.

**Dates:** March 2nd – March 23rd (Saturdays)

**Where:** South Gym at the Tremont High School

**When:**

- **Kindergarten & 1st Grade:** 12:30-1:20 (boys & girls together)
- **2nd & 3rd Grade:** 1:30-2:30 (boys & girls together)

**Program Instructors:** Justin Wahls and High School Players

**Cost:**

**\$45.00 Participation Fee**

**Includes a participant t-shirt**

**Registration Ends:** February 19th

**Registration is now open online and at the Park District Office.**

[www.tremontpark.org](http://www.tremontpark.org)

### School Referendum Update

**\*\*The referendum meeting that was postponed Monday January 15th has been rescheduled for Tuesday January 30th at 7:00 pm at Tremont High School.\*\***

In a previous article, I mentioned that the referendum ballot language could be confusing to voters. This update will explain why that is the case. If you are already familiar with the background of the referendum, feel free to skip ahead to the ballot language explanation below.

#### Background

If you recall from previous updates, the school district referendum coincides with the payoff of existing building bonds from the 2006 referendum that paid for the addition to the high school and athletic complex. Taxes are collected each year specifically for paying off those

bonds. Once they are paid off, that portion of the tax rate goes away and those taxes are no longer collected. The referendum is designed to recapture a portion of that tax rate so it can be used by the district for programs, facility upgrades, and other educational purposes. The Board has waited for this time to pursue the referendum to avoid raising the tax rate on residents of the district. A successful referendum at this time will not lead to a tax increase because of the corresponding decrease to the bond rate.

Based on projections, the bond tax rate will decrease from 0.84% in 2024-25 to 0.24% in 2025-26 and then to 0.12% in 2026-27 as those building bonds are finally paid off over a two-year period.

The chart below shows the impact on the tax rate if the referendum passes as those building bonds are paid off. The type of referendum the district is seeking is called a "limiting rate" referendum as it would tack on 0.4% to the current limiting rate shown below (4.22% currently to 4.62% in 2025-26). It would go into effect for the 2025-26 school year (taxes paid in 2025).

The limiting rate would then fluctuate slightly (up or down) each year, which is typical based on the dynamics of assessed values and inflation (CPI). This projection includes a slight increase to the limiting rate for 2026-27, but another decrease to the bond rate and therefore, the overall rate as well.

0.4% referendum	Current Year	2024-25 (projection)	2025-26 (projection)	2026-27 (projection)
Limiting Rate	4.22%	4.09%	4.62%	4.66%
Bond Rate	0.91%	0.84%	0.24%	0.12%
<b>Total Rate</b>	<b>5.13%</b>	<b>4.93%</b>	<b>4.86%</b>	<b>4.78%</b>

### **Ballot Language**

The language that will be on the ballot will make it appear that the referendum will result in a tax increase. While the limiting rate will see an increase, the overall tax rate will drop due to the expiring building bonds. Based on the statutory requirements for ballot language, there is no mechanism to refer to the decreasing bond rate on the ballot. All of the figures presented are also based on the current year because it can only include the most recent official tax figures. There will actually be a year in between the current year and the first year any referendum-related taxes would be collected, but because those new figures are not official, they cannot be used in the ballot language.

The ballot language will appear as follows. I have added comments in red to add some explanation and clarification.

### **QUESTION TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED ANNUAL TAX RATE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES**

(INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Place a cross (X) in the space opposite the word indicating the way you desire to vote.)

Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for Tremont Community Unit School District No. 702, Tazewell County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to 9.5% (\$0.40) above the limiting rate for levy year 2022 and be equal to 4.624% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2024 for the purpose of generating additional revenue for the School District?	YES	EXAMPLE
	NO	EXAMPLE

The 9.5% increase refers to the increase of the limiting rate only (4.22 to 4.62, which is a 9.5% increase).

The overall tax rate will actually DECREASE by 5.2% due to the significant decrease to

the bond rate, but there is no way to mention this in the ballot language.

(1) The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is \$5,896,607, and the approximate amount of taxes extendable if the proposition is approved is \$6,454,957.

This figure shows an increase of about \$558,350, but it's based on current year property values because those are the most recent official numbers. Taking increased property values into consideration, it's projected that the referendum would generate \$700,000 or more in 2025-26 compared to 2024-25.

(2) For the 2024 levy year, the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$133.33.

Again, this language cannot take into account the decreasing bond rate and lower overall tax rate. It's projected that a residence valued at \$100,000 would actually see a DECREASE in taxes of \$23 between 2024 and 2025 if property values remain relatively steady and the referendum passes. There would be an additional decrease the following year as well because the bond rate will decrease once again.

(3) If the proposition is approved, the aggregate extension for 2024 will be determined by the limiting rate set forth in the proposition, rather than the otherwise applicable limiting rate calculated under the provisions of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (commonly known as the Property Tax Cap Law).

Hopefully, this helps clarify the issue of the challenging ballot language. I know it can be confusing, but we're trying to be as transparent as possible, so please feel free to reach out with any questions.

More information about the referendum will continue to be made available on the school district website as well -- [www.tremont702.net](http://www.tremont702.net)

You can also email questions to [d702referendum@d702.org](mailto:d702referendum@d702.org)

## Did You Know...?

### Tremont P.O. in 1917

We all know that the Post Office has changed in many ways over the years. But we might not recognize the way it was run back in 1917. The following Tremont News article is an illustration.

*"William Morrissey and wife both quit the mail route Wednesday evening. Mr. Morrissey had quit about ten days ago, but his wife acted a substitute since that time until Wednesday. As it falls upon the postmaster to keep the rural routes going, postmaster Greeley fitted his son George out with a rig and started him out on the route until the government fills his place with a regular carrier. Miss Margaret Dean will fill the position of clerk in the post office until a change is made in the route. The place is filled by a civil service examination and at the last examination held in July there was no one from here took it so there will probably be a stranger come here to take the position."*

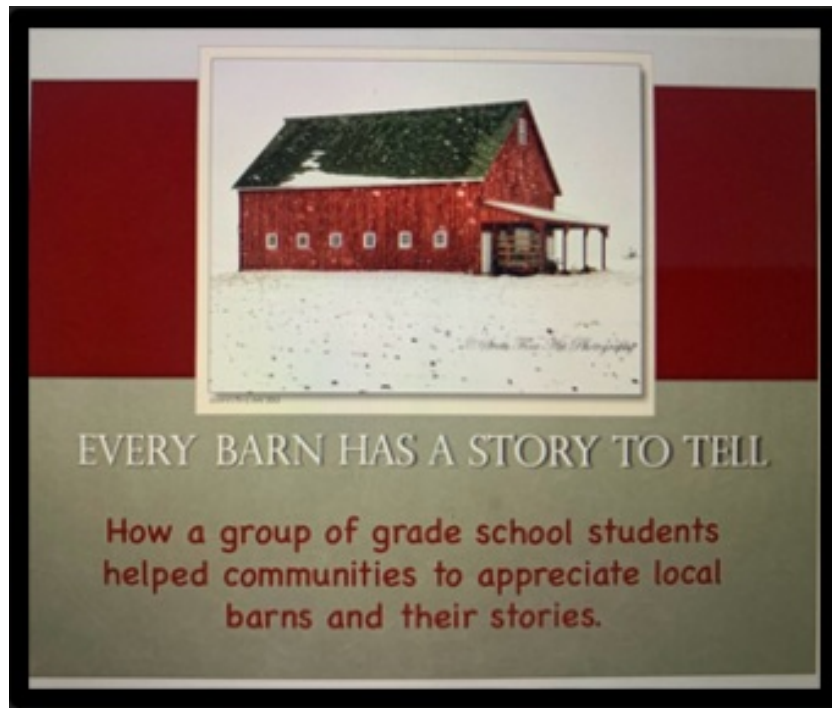
(The article above is copied word for word, grammar errors and all.)

*Tremont Museum and Historical Society  
Lori Fuoss, 2024*

## Tremont Museum

### SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Tremont Historical Society's next program by Lori Fuoss: Every Barn has a Story to Tell. It will be hosted at the Tremont Community Center, Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00pm.



### **Set Up a Guided or Self-Guided Museum Tour Now!**

Tremont Museum is open for tours by appointment through the end of February. In March, the museum will be closed, as volunteers will be setting up for our next special exhibit, opening in April...Tremont Sports All-Stars! Please call Rich Sauder 309-231-1123 for an appointment in February.

## **Tremont District Library News**

### **STEAM Lab Plus (ages 7+)**

Monday, Feb 5, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Kids ages 7 and up can join Tremont Library's very own S.T.E.A.M. Queen, Miss Nicole, each month after school to learn a little bit more about the building blocks of life: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Some months will be a craft that can be taken home, others will be activities (and messes) that will stay at the library. Come see what we're up to! No registration required.

February 5th - Architecture: Come build with popsicle sticks, hot glue guns, and other craft supplies to create something neat!

March 4th - DIY Slime: It's all in the name...come to make your own slime!

April 8th - Terrariums: We'll use recycled bottles, soil, and seeds to create our own Terrariums. Watch them grow over the next few weeks at home.

May 6th - DIY Boat Challenge: Use various craft supplies to make your own boat! We'll announce our race date at the Tiber Creek when we get closer and can predict the weather a little easier.

### **Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)**

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am

New and experienced parents are invited to join Miss Nicole on Wednesday mornings for a parent/baby support group. Meet other parents in the area, make friends, enjoy new toys, lots of books, and a must: free coffee.

The focus of this group is parents and young children ages 0-3, but other siblings are always welcome! No registration required, drop in whenever works best for you.

### **Story Hour (ages 3-6)**

Thursday, Feb 8, 10:30 - 11:15 am

Story Hour is perfect for ages 3-6. Miss Maddie reads stories, sings songs and rhymes, and does activities that all encourage early literacy and improves socialization skills in the youngest library patrons. We know a group setting is new for lots of kiddos this age, so wiggles are welcome!

### **Teen Night: DIY Screen Printing (ages 12-19)**

Friday, Feb 9, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Teens ages 12-19 are invited to the library to try their hand at Screen Printing! We'll be using embroidery hoops, Modge Podge, and acrylic paint to make designs and transfer them onto fabric! We'll be providing a canvas pencil bag for teens to print on and participants can bring up to two more items (a total of 3 prints, 1 design per person). Tshirts, tote bags, or other fabric things are great for this project.

Supplies are limited and registration IS required. Call or message the library to join the list!

### **Chess & Checker's Day (ages 7+)**

Saturday, Feb 10, 10:30 - 12:30 am

Do you love checkers or chess? Join us for a special tournament at the library! Ages 7+. No experience? Learn from Miss Nicole and Miss Lizzi as well as other young chess and checkers enthusiasts.

No registration required, just drop in!

Win 1 game, get a candy. Win 2 games, get a medal. Win 3 games, get a trophy with your name on it!

## **Tremont Area Park District**

### ***Turk Gear available at TAPD***

*Various sizes in t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, and hoodies  
Prices range from \$10 - \$25*

### **JOIN TREMONT FITNESS**

Cardio, weights, and classes offered. Workout hours 5 AM - 10 PM.

Rates: \$25.00 per month  
-Additional member living in household: \$5.00

*\*\*All minors must have parents signature to obtain a membership. Must be 16 to work out without a parent. Ages 14/15 must work out with an adult.*

Fitness Class 10 Punch Pass: \$40.00

## **Tremont Community Senior Meals**



Meals are served every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11am at the Tremont Community Center. These are for anyone 60 and up, there is no cost! If you want to join us you can stop in and sign up or call 309-674-1131 ext 231 for more information or to sign up.

If you would like to help support these meals, there are a few ways to get involved!

1. You can volunteer. Help us serve food and clean up from 10:45-12:15 in a relaxed and fun environment.
2. You can donate. Donations of disposable dinnerware (plates, cups, silverware, dessert plates, large and small take-home containers, rectangular tablecloths and napkins) can be dropped off at the [Tremont Share Closet](#) during their open hours. If you want a more detailed list of our current needs, you can see our Amazon wish list [here](#).
3. You can entertain. We like to host fun activities from 11:45-12:15 on Fridays and are always looking for creative and fun ideas to fill that time.

If you have any questions about donations or want to get involved, you can reach out to Braden at [scsoulmanager@gmail.com](mailto:scsoulmanager@gmail.com).

## Community Calendar

### Monday

MS Volleyball @ Beverly Manor Elementary School - 4:15 PM

HS Girls Basketball HOME vs Fisher - 5:30 PM

## **Tuesday**

MS Wrestling HOME vs Washington - 5:30 PM

HS Boys Basketball HOME vs Fisher - 5:30 PM

## **Wednesday**

HS Boys Basketball Freshman Game @ Tri-Valley - 6:00 PM

## **Thursday**

MS Wrestling @ Chiddix vs Chiddix, Dee-Mack - 5:30 PM

HS Girls Basketball HOME vs Fieldcrest - 5:30 PM

## **Friday**

HS Wrestling Sectional HOME - TBA

HS Boys Basketball HOME vs Fieldcrest - RED OUT Game - 5:30 PM

## **Saturday**

HS Wrestling Sectional HOME - TBA

MS Wrestling @ Chatham Invitational - 9:00 AM

## **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 | P.O. Box 76, Tremont, IL 61568

[Unsubscribe web@mavidea.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data  
Notice](#)

Sent by [info@tremontil.com](mailto:info@tremontil.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!