



## Weekly News

### Tremont FFA Strawberries Announcement

Tremont FFA strawberry deliveries are delayed, but expected to arrive the week of March 18th!

### TBA Disbursement Meeting - March 20, 6:00 pm

#### The Tremont Betterment Association Disbursement Meeting

Tremont Betterment Association is the managing body of the Tremont Turkey Festival. The members of the TBA board are past Turkey Festival General Chairmen. All of the profits of the Tremont Turkey Festival are funneled directly back into our community. One way this happens is at the TBA Disbursement Meeting, which is normally held the third Wednesday in March each year. Any group or individual in the Village of Tremont may submit a request for disbursement of funds. All requests will be subject to vote at the meeting.

**To Submit a Request:** If you would like to submit a request for disbursement, [download this form](#), fill it out, and submit either through mail or email (addresses listed on the form).

- The 2024 request forms must be submitted by March 15, 2024.
- The meeting will be held at 6:00 on March 20, 2024 at the Community Center.

**At the Meeting:** A representative must be present at the meeting and be prepared with the following:

- Present a 2-3 minute presentation about your request. Items to highlight would be a bit about your organization, how it helps our community, and how many Tremont residents would benefit by your request.
- Answer questions (if any) from Betterment members.
- Representative will leave the meeting after his/her presentation.

After the presentations, the Tremont Betterment Association board members will vote on how the 2023 Tremont Turkey Festival funds will be disbursed.

Disbursements will be mailed out within a week of the meeting, and a notice of all disbursements will be in a Weekly Newsletter soon after the meeting.

### FFA Press Releases

#### January: Small Town ShowDown

*Respectfully Submitted by Riley Poisal, Chapter Reporter*

On January 5, 2024, Tremont High school FFA attended the Tremont V.S. DeeMack

Route 9, rivalry basketball game. They hosted the Small Town ShowDown, there was a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and face painting. The goals of the event were to bring the community together, communicate that Tremont FFA is rooted, grounded, and thriving. Donations far exceed expectations.

There were multiple baskets full of donations from different businesses. The donors were Wagenbach Builders, Pine Grove Landscaping, Bottomline Solutions, LLC, Country Insurance - Lori Venovich & Jade Wagenbach, First National Bank of Tremont, Little Blue's Farm, L&F Electric, State Farm - Jason Garey Agency, Schweigert Family, Mike Endress Family, Sun Ag, Syngenta-Kelsey Neville, Simply Sweet Cakes & Tremont Park District Collab, Abby Deppert - Compeer, Eli's, Koch Holstein's, JR's Landscape Services, Stuber's Landscaping, Tazewell County Farm Bureau, Silver Spoon Boutique, Michel Family. Some of the items that were donated were gardening supplies, snacks, different clothes from the businesses, gift cards, a chain saw, a flag pole, air polds, lawn chairs, etc.

We are beyond thankful for everyone who donated these times and money, and we are thankful for everyone who participated and bought tickets. We went beyond our goal and we had an awesome turn out!

### **February: FFA Week**

*Respectfully Submitted by Riley Poisal, Chapter Reporter*

Tremont FFA celebrated FFA Week February 19th-23rd. There were dress up days everyday and different activities that were done. If you dressed up on the dress up days you would get a ticket and there was a drawing at the end of the week for a gift card.

On Monday Tremont didn't have school because of Presidents Day, so some kids went out and did community service at The Food Pantry and Serving Senior Meals. Tuesday the dress up theme was FFA colors, the students were supposed to dress up in blue and gold. The activity for that day was the FFA members passed out yellow and blue laffy taffy to students walking into school. Wednesday's dress up theme was camouflage and all the FFA members got donuts in the Ag room that morning. On Thursday the dress up theme was Country vs Country Club, and they held a hay bale toss in the gym during study hall. On Friday the theme was red, white, and blue day, and drive your tractor to school day. We had 5 kids drive their tractors that day ,and they ate breakfast together at Jack's Cafe before driving to the school.

The first ever National FFA Week was celebrated in 1948 which was 76 years ago! The National FFA board of directors designated this week-long celebration around President George Washington's birthday February 22nd. Driving our tractors to school in Tremont became a tradition when one of our alumni Kelsey Vance Nevill was a senior, and her and a bunch of students got together to drive their tractors to school. That following week one of the students, Philip E. Baer was tragically killed in a farm accident. Our chapter feels honored to carry on this tradition of FFA week and especially to be able to drive our tractors to school on the last day.

## **TAPD SUMMER REC BALL REGISTRATION: OPEN 2/14 - 3/31/24**

### **Summer Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration**

- Little Turks T-Ball (age 4-6 / Co-ed): \$57.00 Resident -open later date in April
- 6U Modified Coach Pitch (Co-ed): \$60.00 Resident
- Boys 8 & under / Girls 8 & under: \$85.00 Resident
- Boys 10 & under / Girls 10 & under: \$100.00 Resident
- Boys 12 & under / Girls 12 & under: \$100.00 Resident

*\*\*Please note: additional \$25.00 fee charged for non-resident\*\**

**\*LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CHARGED AN EXTRA FEE OF HALF THE REGISTRATION FEE**

- Example: program fee \$60.00 will be charged \$90.00 registration fee

\* Register online at [www.tremontpark.org](http://www.tremontpark.org) (please note there is a 3% processing fee)

\* forms available at the TAPD office and in the vestibule for registration and payment drop

off in the drop box.

\*Watch website and Facebook for T-ball registrations –sometime in April

\*Registration ends: 3/31/2024 Sign up promptly and avoid late registration fees!

## School Referendum Update

March 19th is drawing closer and early voting has already begun, so it's important to have accurate information about the Tremont School District referendum. Here are some key points:

- The school district is seeking a referendum that would add 0.40% to the current limiting tax rate for the school district. This would increase the district's limiting tax rate from 4.22% to 4.62% for taxes payable in 2025.
- The limiting rate increase would coincide with a projected 0.79% decrease in the bond tax rate (compared to the current year) as the district's building bonds are paid off over a twoyear period. The current year's 0.91% bond rate is projected to be only 0.12% by 2026.
- The projected figures in the chart below illustrate the significant decrease to the bond tax rate over the next three years and the corresponding decrease to the overall tax rate.

0.40% referendum	Current Year	Taxes payable 2024*	Taxes Payable 2025*	Taxes Payable 2026*
Limiting Rate	4.22%	4.09%	4.62%	4.66%
Bond Rate	0.91%	0.84%	0.24%	0.12%
<b>Overall Rate</b>	<b>5.13%</b>	<b>4.93%</b>	<b>4.86%</b>	<b>4.78%</b>

- ***The overall tax rate will decrease even if the referendum passes because the bond rate is decreasing by more than the limiting rate would be increasing.***
- **IMPORTANT NOTE** -- Language on the ballot will only address the increase to the limiting rate and not the decrease to the bond rate or the overall tax rate. Therefore, the ballot language will make it appear that there will be a tax increase. As explained above, however, ***while the limiting rate will increase, the overall tax rate will decrease.***
- Despite cuts to staff and programs, years of state funding shortfalls created financial issues for the district over time, but the Board of Education was determined to reach this point before seeking a referendum to avoid increasing taxes on residents.
- Passage of the referendum would generate \$700,000 or more new dollars for the district annually and be used for maintaining and enhancing current programs, adding new programs for students, attracting and retaining staff, and upgrades to facilities, safety and security, and technology.

The school district will be hosting an in-person meeting on Tuesday March 12th at 7:00 pm at Tremont High School for anyone with any last minute questions about the referendum.

For more information about the referendum, please visit the link below.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Referendum Web Page](#)

If you are interested in early voting, the link below provides information about locations and hours: [Early Voting Information](#)

## Did you Know....?

### Tremont Community High School and the War Effort Part 3

In 1942 and 1943, students at T.C.H.S. passing between classes would have seen the "Victory" stamp booth in the main floor corridor, which had been patriotically decorated by

Student Council members Dan Koch, Phyllis Bolliger, and Ernie Aberle. The nation was in the midst of WWII and all Americans were encouraged to buy stamps and bonds as a part of their civilian duties on the Homefront.

The U.S. postal service sold savings stamps that, once collected, could be used to purchase a war bond. This money was then used to finance our military. At T.C.H.S, sales were brisk, with stamps sold on Tuesday and Friday mornings and over the noon hour. According to the 1943 Echo yearbook, the average sales were about \$100.00 a week. In 2024 dollars, that amount would equal an impressive \$1,815.07!

#### *1942 - 1943 Student Council*



*1<sup>st</sup> Row L-R: Miss Koch, advisor, Mary Alice Hinman, Lorraine Unsicker (treasurer), Shirley Bolliger (President), Louise Bauman, Joanne Koch (secretary)*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Mr. Stone, advisor, Franklin Hellemann, Robert Heutte, Richard Van Horn (vice -president) Jerry Parks, Ernie Aberle, Bob Hendershott*

Additionally, Tremont's high school students made cribbage boards and felt bookmarks and collected books and magazines. These items were part of their membership in the Jr. Red Cross; donated as part of an effort to boost morale of the patients at Chanute Field Hospital in Rantoul, Illinois.

Thoughts of the war were never far from the students' hearts. Many had brothers or other relatives, as well as older friends who were stationed all around the world, many in dangerous situations. Tremont's high school students were enthusiastically doing their part in the "war effort," as part of the United States Homefront efforts.

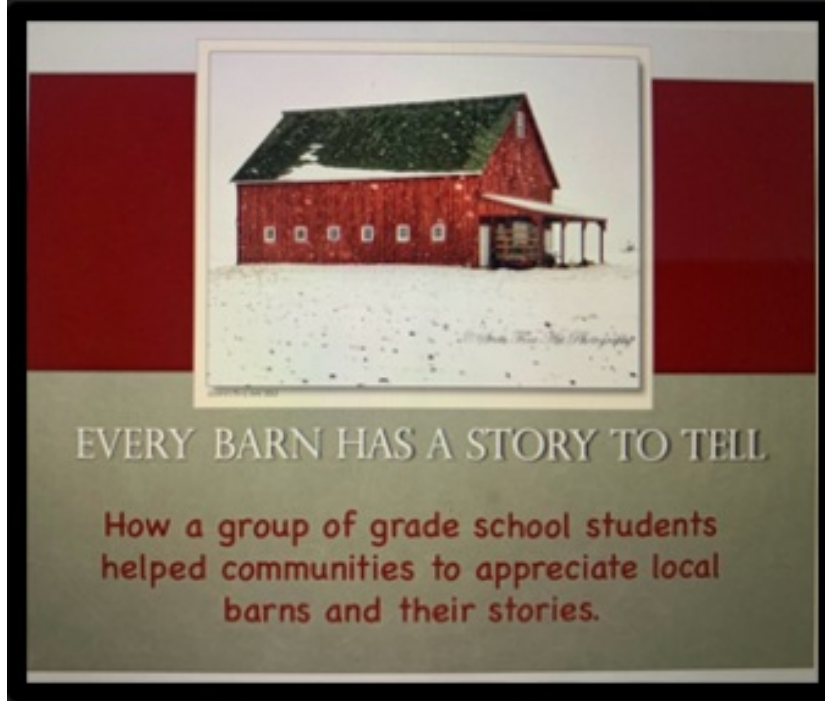
Source: 1943 Echo Yearbook

*Tremont Museum and Historical Society  
Lori Fuoss, 2024*

## **Tremont Museum**

### **Do you love old barns? Do you love local history?**

Don't Miss Tremont Historical Society's next program, *"Every Barn has a Story to Tell,"* given by Lori Fuoss of the Tremont Museum. Several Tremont and Morton area barns are featured. The program will be held tomorrow - Tuesday, March 12, at 7:00 PM at the Tremont Community Center. Note: The date is one week earlier than our usual program date. Everyone is welcome – refreshments served.



### GRAND OPENING NEWS

**Mark your calendars!** The Grand Opening for the “Tremont Sports All-Stars,” exhibit will be Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14 from 1-4:00. After that weekend, the exhibit will be 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) from 2-4 PM through the end of June. Let out-of-town family and friends know!

Museum volunteers are hard at work organizing for the special fundraising exhibit, which promises to be fantastic!

Sponsored by The First National Bank of Tremont and Tremont Community Bank.

**Tremont District Library News**

## THE RSACAT MOBILE APP IS BACK!

The RSA mobile app has been restored and can be used again. If you deleted the app, please download it again using your device's app store.

We would be happy to help you if you need any help restoring the app.



**Tremont**  
District Library



### **Paint a Flowerpot at Tremont District Library! (all ages)**

Help us welcome spring!

Pick up a flowerpot March 11th-23rd and paint or decorate it using your own supplies and imagination at home-- then bring it in on or before April 13th to display at the library! Adults, teens, kids, & family groups are all encouraged. Voting will take place on People's Choice Awards for each age group.

#### ***Dates:***

- March 11th-23rd: Pick up your flowerpot
- Bring your flowerpot back for display; deadline is April 13th.
- April 15th-April 30th: Flowerpots displayed, voting open for "People's Choice"
- May 1st: Winners announced. Pick up your flowerpot to take home anytime after May 1st. Everyone who picks up their pot at the end will get their name in a drawing to win Eli's or Pinky's gift cards.

#### ***Rules***

- Limit of 3 flowerpots total per household.
- NO DIRT, NO LIVE PLANTS (We don't mind if you put something inside the pot, but nothing messy, nothing living, and nothing that will fall apart if it is moved around.)
- Please write your full name on the bottom of the pot

### **LEGO Afternoons**

Monday, Mar 11 at 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Do you like to build with LEGOs? Of course! Who doesn't?

LEGO afternoons are perfect for kids who are 6 years and older and want to show off their building skills, try out new LEGO sets, and attempted challenges (like creating a LEGO stop motion video). LEGO Days are pretty popular here, be prepared to work in groups on LEGO kits!

No registration required.

### **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, Mar 14, 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 of library patrons. We know a group setting is new for lots of kiddos this age, so wiggles are welcome!

### **DIY Skincare (adults, no registration)**

Thursday, Mar 14, 6:00 pm

Drop-in Craft Night (adults) - Stop in, no registration required!

### **Minecraft in the Meeting Room (ages 7+)**

Saturday, Mar 16, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Starting at 9:30am: ages 10+

Starting at 11am: ages 7+

Program end: 12:30pm

Starting at 9:30am, ages 10+ can join Miss Lizzi in the Meeting Room for Minecraft. Then, at 11am ages 7+ can join in until the end of the program at 12:30pm. Ask Lizzi ahead of time if you have any questions about our weekly Minecraft days. Continue reading to learn more about this program!

We started our library Minecraft Realm back in November 2021 and it was a huge hit! Kids ages 7+ are invited to come help it grow! Bring your own device and connect to our library Realm. First-time participants and their parents will need to sign a Code of Conduct before joining.

## **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

No Event

### Tuesday

HS F-SO Baseball @ Tri-Valley - 4:30 PM

### Wednesday

No Events

### Thursday

No Events

### Friday

HS Track HOI Indoor Meet @ El Paso-Gridley - 4:00 PM

### 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](mailto:info@tremontil.com) | <http://tremontil.com>

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

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