



Weekly News

Tremont COVID-19 Testing Site

TREMONT POP-UP COVID-19 TESTING SITE

The State of Illinois is sponsoring a *temporary*, pop-up COVID-19 Testing Site at the **Tazewell County Health Department parking lot on December 7, 2020.**

**December 7
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Tazewell County Health
Department
21306 IL Rt 9
Tremont, IL 61568**

- Simple nasal swabs will be used
- No cost for testing
- Bring insurance card if you have one (not required to be tested)
- You will be called with results within 4-7 days
- Available to all residents - no visible sickness or symptoms required to be tested



Did you know...?

Josiah Sawyer, Early Tremont Merchant

Josiah Sawyer was one of the earliest residents of Tremont, settling here in 1836, just one year after the village was founded. He was born and raised in Waterford, New York and learned the machinist trade there. He had a large and successful machine shop there until a fire destroyed it. Shortly thereafter, he

came to Tremont.

One of his first actions was to set about building a grist mill (where wheat is ground into flour) powered by wind. Grist mills were much needed by the early settlers, and people would travel great distances to get to one, so it probably seemed like a sure thing. However, the winds did not always cooperate, and the venture was unsuccessful.

He then joined with Nathaniel Pratt, a wheelwright, and they manufactured furniture legs, bed posts, and so on. Josiah then converted his turning lathe so that it could produce wagon material. He became very successful and was soon sole owner in the wagon production business. His shop was located near the corner of Tazewell and Harris Streets, across from the Public Square (City Park). For a while he also partnered with a cabinetmaker, C.C. Peak.

It is unclear exactly when Josiah and his wife Harriet built the handsome home on the corner of Tazewell and Harris which is still standing today. It likely was built around 1845 or so. (Maybe in front of the wagon business?)

In 1857, the fates turned on Sawyer and Peak, when the country entered a financial depression. The business was failing. When they closed their business, it is said they had material on hand to make about fifty wagons.

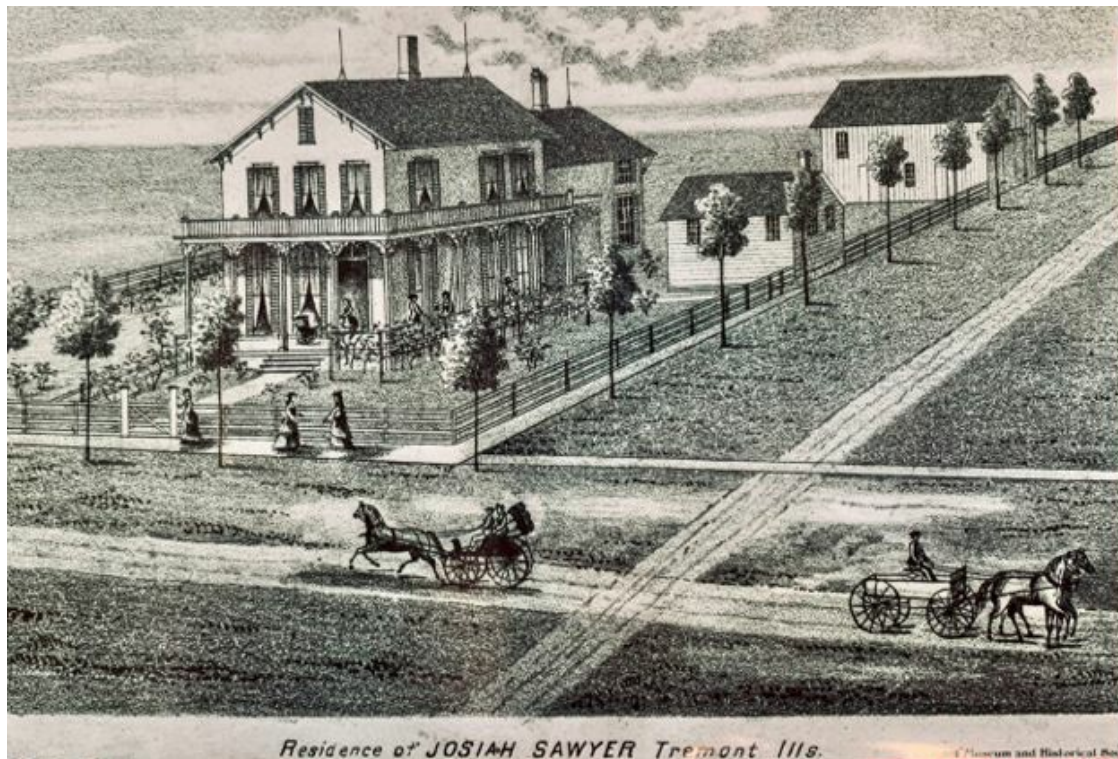
Around 1860, Tremont held an agricultural fair every year for about ten years. Josiah Sawyer was president of the agricultural society. He donated a ten-acre tract of land northeast of town for the fair. The fairgrounds had a one-third mile horse racing track, and according to the 1985 Tremont Sesquicentennial book, "a large frame structure covered with canvas was used to display textile works as well as agricultural products." Apparently, Pekin wanted to host the fair, so it was moved there, where it lasted just three years.

According to the Tazewell County Genealogical Association, "Josiah lived virtually retired from active business until his death in 1883, and his sterling character gave him secure place in the confidence and esteem of the community in which he gained much of pioneer precedence. His wife survived him by several years...and was loved for her abiding human sympathy and helpfulness, she having been unstinting in her efficient service as a nurse in the homes where sickness was present in the community."

Next week, we will share the story of Josiah and Harriet's son, Josiah M. Sawyer.

(Much of the information above is from the Tazewell County Genealogical Association's GenealogyTrails.com)

~ Tremont Museum and Historical Society



This home is still standing today on the corner of Tazewell and Harris Streets near the City Park

Tremont Jr./Sr. High Choirs

By Nathan Edwards

These days, vocal music at Tremont Jr./Sr. High looks and sounds a little different. Instead of singing in close proximity on 4-step risers, our singers are spread apart as far as possible in the chorus room. While this has helped us keep everyone healthy, young people sing most confidently when they can hear each other. When inside in the classroom we also wear masks, which do absorb some of the sounds they make, adding to the difficulty of hearing one another.

In August, September, and October we were able to sing outside under the canopy without masks, which gave the students a "mask-break." However, we still had to maintain social distancing and were often interrupted by traffic noise on Route 9.

As they age and choir becomes an individual choice they make, their confidence grows significantly. This enabled high school choir and band to participate in a meaningful Veteran's day program on the front lawn at the school in November. We were so pleased to be able to sing for our community, especially for our local heroes who have served their country.

As we move into the final weeks of classes before the break for the holidays, we continue to look for ways to serve our community--loosely holding the plans we make as we never know when in-school learning may need to pause for a few days as our positivity rate inside the student body fluctuates.

Throughout the entire fall semester this year, I have been so proud of both our students and our staff here at Tremont. At a time when it is hard to get excited about anything because it may need to be cancelled, our students come to school ready to learn (and sing) and help the staff really appreciate our time in-person. We remind the students and ourselves that there will be an end to the COVID season, and we will exit the other side with a new appreciation of activities and traditions we previously took for granted.

Tremont Jr./Sr. High Choirs wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!



Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of public hearing on annexation agreement and Meeting of Village Zoning Board to consider annexation petition

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., a public hearing will be held by the Village of Tremont Zoning Board at the Village of Tremont Village Hall, located at 211 S. Sampson St., Tremont, IL 61568, for the purpose of considering and hearing testimony regarding a proposed Annexation Agreement between the Village of Tremont, Illinois and K2H, L.L.C. The proposed agreement calls for the annexation of the property commonly known as 22250 Illinois Route 9 (PIN: 11-11-13-301-006), the rezoning of the property, once annexed, to the B-2 General Business District and matters relating to sanitary sewer service to the property. The Annexation Agreement, the annexation of the property and the rezoning of the property will be considered by the Tremont Village Board at its regular meeting on December 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village of Tremont Village Hall.

Village of Tremont
Village Zoning Board
Tremont, Illinois

Tremont School District

Tremont FFA

While this year may look different for us in many ways, Tremont FFA is taking the opportunity to brainstorm new initiatives to add to our annual activities. The Chapter Officers: Sanita Baer, Adam Burgess, Alex Chambers, and Brady Poisal are working hard to plan events that are safe and beneficial for our chapter, our community, and our members. Chapter Officer, Brady, has started a new monthly agricultural literacy initiative to promote agriculture in a fun way for grade school aged students. Each month, he will be organizing and creating a video of a book (read by current FFA members), a craft or activity (demonstrated by current FFA members), and fun facts about the ag-related topic of the month. These videos and activities can be found on the Tremont FFA Facebook page, so be sure to check them out! We are looking forward to hosting a school supply drive, making cards for nursing home residents, adopting a family for the holidays, and supporting the Tremont Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank. We plan to look for new ways to serve and be present in the community.

The chapter has continued to be involved in FFA events as much as possible either virtually or with modifications. Over the summer, we participated in the virtual State Convention where three of our chapter members were recognized for earning their State FFA Degrees: Sanita Baer, Alicion Connor, and Sarah Finnegan! Our chapter was also recognized for earning Gold with our National Chapter Award Application which is based on all of the activities we do throughout the year! For the very first time since our program restarted in 2012, we had three chapter members participate in the Section 9 FFA Fair, which happened virtually this year: John Love exhibited Cayenne Peppers, Super Chili Peppers, and Chocolate Mint Tea that he grew in his garden. Lane Sauder exhibited his pygmy goats and two different engine rebuild/restoration projects. And, Luke Sauder exhibited his pygmy goats and ducks. Once school started this fall, we have also participated in two Trap Shooting Competitions and competed in virtual Horse Judging! Right now, we are beginning preparations and practices for the upcoming virtual Agronomy Competition, virtual Job Interview Competition, and virtual Public Speaking Competition. For the last 8 years, one of our chapter goals has focused on patriotism and citizenship within our community, so in an effort to help meet that goal, FFA members are responsible for placing the flags along Sampson Street for National Days of Recognition. This fall, we were also able to join with many others in the area to help place over 13 miles of flags in Washington in honor of Sgt. Reeser to help carry on the traditions and honor of Larry "the flagman."

Although many of our "regular" activities have been cancelled or postponed indefinitely, we will continue to adapt and do as much as we can for our community, our chapter, and our members. We hope you stay healthy and have a wonderful holiday season!



Tremont District Library

Temporary Hours Reduction

Tremont District Library is temporarily reducing hours. We did have a positive case on staff, but that person did not have close prolonged contact with the public, and any staff members that may have been exposed are currently quarantining at home. Staff are taking the necessary steps to ensure safety and wellness, and cleaning procedures have been followed to ensure the building is safe.

Beginning this week, Monday December 7th, Tremont District Library will be open the following hours, until further notice:

Monday 11-6pm
Tuesdays 11-6pm
Closed Wednesdays
Fridays 11-6pm
Saturdays 9-1pm

These reduced hours will help us continue to offer full services while working with a temporarily smaller staff. We'll keep you updated! Thank you for your patience and understanding.

You can help us stay open and healthy with three simple steps:

- Wear a mask over your mouth and nose
- Keep visits to 30 minutes or less
- Limit the number of visitors from your household entering the library (one person at a time, when possible)

Make It Mondays (Kids)

December 7

Use materials from home or register for a Maker Kit and follow a video tutorial to create a S.T.E.A.M. inspired project! Registration required. Supplies are limited, register in advance to pick up a Maker-Kit.

December- Ages 5-7: Flashlights, Ages 8+: Copper Lighting

Register for Maker Kits in advance by calling the library at 925-5432 or register up to a week after each video is posted.

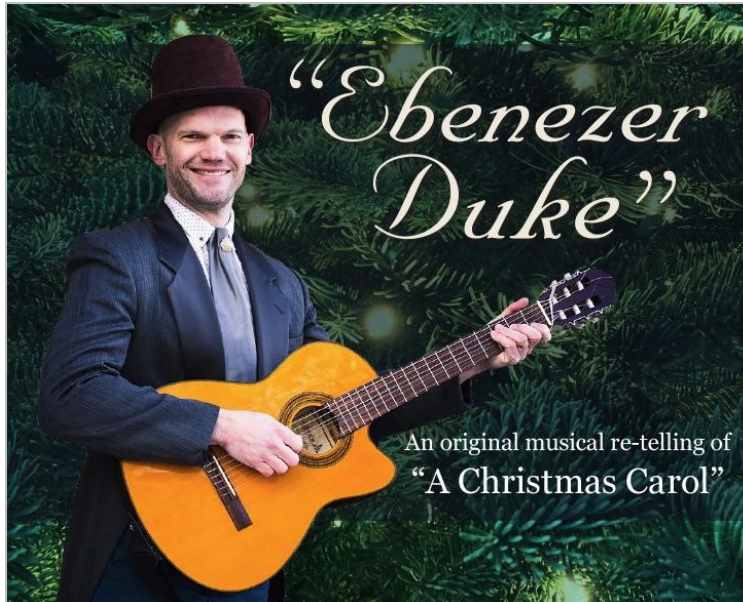
Find all of our children's programming, including Early Literacy Tips for kids from Miss Lizzi at:

<http://tremontlibrary.com/virtualprogrammingkids/>

Ebenezer Duke

December is here and more holidays are on their way! In celebration, we are excited to be "virtually hosting" Duke Otherwise!

Some of you may remember Duke from his performance at our end of Summer Reading Party in 2019. This year, he created a video performance filled with original and interactive songs, based on the classic A Christmas Carol story, to get your whole family in the holiday spirit. His video, "Ebenezer Duke" will be available to view on Youtube December 1st - December 15th. Visit TremontLibrary.com to get the link to the video!



No Calendar Items

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.

Thank you,

Haas IT Solutions, Inc. on behalf of Tremont Winning Communities

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