



Weekly News

Did you know...?

Tremont and Prohibition 1920-1933

Nearby Peoria was a boom city from 1850 to the early 1900s, known as "The Whiskey Capital of the World." It was blessed with a great supply of grains, cool underground water, rail and river transportation, investors and, unlike many areas of the country, supportive politicians. All taken together, they made Peoria a natural for the massive production of good whiskey and beer, more than any other place in the country. But by 1920, that all came to a halt when the 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution went into effect. As of January 1 of that year, the 73 distilleries and 24 breweries in the city ceased production. Their huge charitable contributions to the City of Peoria also stopped, hurting the city and leaving thousands unemployed.

Though not in such a dramatic way, Tremont was also affected. Since its beginning, taverns had always been popular; in fact taverns were some of the first businesses in the new village. In the two decades leading up to the passing of the 18th amendment, Tremont had approximately seven taverns and restaurants that served beer and/or whiskey. But when prohibition began, the taverns closed. One saloon owner, Ed Cooney, sold his tavern in 1919 to Guy Kinsey. Kinsey turned the place into a "soda pop store."

This same transition was seen in many towns in America. Saloons became soda parlors. People turned to creative soda drinks and, because of improvements in refrigeration, ice cream as well. Soda fountains were also installed in drug stores. Drug stores were the only legal places to purchase alcohol, and only for medicinal purposes. At these drug store soda fountains, "soft" drinks were served and gained popularity. In some stores, however, some drinks were not exactly "soft." (There is no indication that happened here, though.)

According to a 1985 Pekin Times article by Tremont resident Susan Sommer, some of the then old-timers remembered the so-called "dry" years. The article quotes Clark "Shorty" Barton, William Koch, and another anonymous Tremont source on the clandestine activities at one Tremont location during prohibition. At 310 (some sources say 308) South Sampson, there once stood a general store, built in 1897. Then, in about 1916, the building was converted to a busy noodle factory owned by Benjamin Koch. In 1925, the building became a private residence.

Even in the midst of prohibition, home brew could still be purchased at that residence. The men who were interviewed in the 1985 article reported that a still was located in that house and the brew could be smelled some three blocks away, likely giving their secret away! The men said the government found out and demolished the still, thereby ending that particular source of home brew.

Prohibition ended in 1933. Many restaurants immediately began serving alcohol and highlighting that fact in their ads. Taverns began to open once more. Tremont continued on its way. However, because of the 13-year interruption in production, our neighbor, Peoria, never could regain its former growth boom or their "Whiskey Capital of the World" status.

~ Tremont Museum and Historical Society

Tremont Museum

Tremont Museum is hosting an "Artistry in the Wood" event on September 19th to showcase wood carving and turning by local artists. Please [click here](#) to view a flyer with more information.

Tremont Library

Tween Book Club

Kids ages 8-12 are invited to book club on the fourth Tuesdays of each month from 3:30-4:30PM. At each meeting we'll discuss the book we read, and then read the first chapter of the next month's book. If you like it, take home a copy and read the rest on your own. We'll have lots of copies available. Since we're just getting started, check out the detailed schedule below to see when you'd like to attend!

- **September 28th** - Discuss "The One and Only Ivan" and read the first chapter of "Because of Winn-Dixie" by Kate DiCamillo
- **October 26th** - Discuss "Because of Winn-Dixie" and read the first chapter of "Real Friends" by Shannon Hale
- **November 23rd** - Discuss "Real Friends," pick out books for Spring 2022, and read the first chapter of "How to Train Your Dragon"
- **December 14th** - This is a special one on the second Tuesday! Discuss "How to Train Your Dragon" and then enjoy a pizza party while watching the movie "How to Train Your Dragon"

Hogwarts' Half-Bloods

Teens ages 12-19 are invited to join us at the library on the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM to discuss a monthly book pick and enjoy a drink from Eli's. Copies of each month's book are available at the library for anyone interested!

If you'd like to keep up to date with Hogwarts' Half-Bloods, email Lizzi at lizzi@tremontlibrary.com to be added to our Remind group.

Baby & Me Group

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

Thursdays: September 9th, September 23rd, October 14th, October 28th, November 11th, December 9th, December 23rd

This fall, we'll be hosting Story Hour in the meeting room on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. No registration is required, so join us whichever days you'd like!

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! Make Story Hour a step you take in preparing your child for life-long learning.

Any questions? Call 925-5432, or email Miss Lizzi at tremontlibrary.childrens@gmail.com

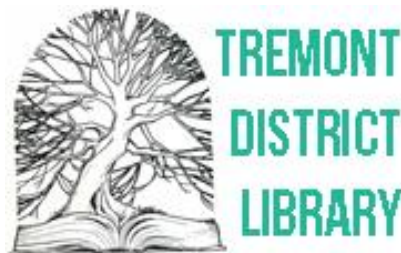
Sensory Play Day

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2021 - 10:30 AM

Come explore your five senses at our Sensory Play Day for littles 12mo. to 6yrs! We'll have the Bean Bin out, musical instruments, sweet and sour foods to try, and much more to interact and engage your senses. No registration required.

World Book Encyclopedia -- Free with your Library Card

Looking for lesson plans for homeschooling, to prevent summer slide, or both? Check out World Book's lesson plans! To access World Book, use your Tremont library card to login from home. <http://tremontlibrary.com/children-2/>



Monday

MS CC at Morton - 4:00PM

FB (JV) at Sangamon Valley - 6:00PM

Tuesday

Golf home vs Fieldcrest, Tri-Valley - 4:00PM

MS CC home vs Delavan, Dee-Mack - 4:15PM

MS SB at Washington Central - 4:15PM

MS BB at Delavan - 4:30PM

VB at Peoria Christian - 5:30PM

Wednesday

Golf at EPG - 4:00PM

MS SB at Germantown Hills - 4:15PM

MS BB at Germantown Hills - 4:15PM

Thursday

Golf home vs Midwest Central, Havana, Brimfield - 4:00PM

MS BB home vs Broadmoor - 4:15PM

MS SB at District 50 - 4:30PM

Girls Swimming at Olympia - 4:30PM

VB at Bloomington Cornerstone - 6:00PM

Friday

MS SB at Hartem - 4:15PM

FB at Eureka - 7:00PM

Saturday

VB at Lewistown - 9:00AM

Farmers Market - 9:00AM-12:00PM
City Park

CC at Rochester - 10:00AM

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>
