



Weekly News

Holiday Lights Contest Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Holiday Lights Contest put on by Tremont Winning Communities! It was so great to see all the beautiful lights and decorations around town! After a long, long discussion, the board finally came to a decision...the winner of this year's grand prize in the light contest is the home at 11550 Ropp Road! We really liked the use of lights and the layers up the hill. Congratulations Kimba family! You have won \$50 in Commerce Bucks, which can be used at any local Tremont business. We also decided to make an honorable mention to 1200 E South Street! The Ropps will receive \$25 in Commerce Bucks!

Again, we want to emphasize how difficult it was to choose a winner. Each home is a winner...there are homes that are whimsical, homes with clean, classic décor, nostalgic feeling homes and best use of technology homes. The board has learned that next year we'll have to institute a few categories! Be on the watch! And don't forget to check out all the participants this year! Thank you, Tremont!

Tremont School District

Area School District Tax Rates

Sean Berry, Superintendent

At the Tremont CUSD 702 Board of Education meeting on Thursday December 8th, the Board approved the tax levy for property taxes payable in 2023. This tax levy applies to the district's budget for the 2023-24 school year. To continue reading, please click the button below for the full article:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Did you know...?

Peoria's "Stupendous Winter Festival" or The Mystery of the Missing Festival

A huge celebration, called the Kris Kringle Karnival, was planned for Peoria for December 13-25, 1897. In last week's article, some of the exciting plans were related:

Sponsored by the department store Harned, Bergner & Von Maur, the event was planned with the expectation of some 40,000 visitors. The main blocks of Main and Adams would be lined with thousands of Wisconsin firs and evergreens. Kris Kringle would reign and there would be a parade everyday...

Plans were nearing completion for a massive thirteen-day “Mardi Gras” style celebration, one that was sure to become an annual event, drawing people from as far away as Chicago and St. Louis.

Among the planned events were jugglers, hypnotists, war whoopers, Turks, Indians, contortionists, dancers and much more. The Peoria Journal newspaper was dotted with ads for the event sales for various stores and with lists of the wondrous events.

It was noted in one article that “No expense would be spared to transform (Rouse’s) Hall into a real fairy land.” It all sounded over-the-top-stupendously exciting!

But what actually happened that December of 1897?

A promotional article and a few ads from the Peoria Star newspaper and a mention in the Tremont News in December of 1897 seem to be all that is left of what was advertised as a spectacular, extraordinary, stupendous Kris Kringle Karnival, sponsored by the department store Harned, Berger & Von Maur. The “Karnival” promised to be an event like no other in Peoria’s history; one that would bring thousands of people from as far as St. Louis and Chicago to Peoria year after year. The pre-event publicity raved about a huge, no-expense-spared-extravaganza. (Detailed in the last article here.)

And yet, there seems to be no post-event mention of the 13-day “Karnival.” What happened? Did the carnival take place? Did no one come? The large department store Harned, Bergner and Von Maurer has a timeline of their company’s history online, and there are online articles about the city’s Christmas parade history. But, again, no mention of the huge Kris Kringle Karnival, which was to include several days with Kris Kringle on parade.

In fact, most accounts of Santa parade history point to Peoria’s rightful claim as “the longest running Santa Claus Parade in the United States.” That parade, too, was held in 1887, when the parade, sponsored by the Schipper and Block department store, was held on the Illinois River to celebrate the opening (or some say the future site) of the new Upper Free Bridge, near today’s McCluggage Bridge. There were boats and water floats, and Santa made his grand appearance on one of the barges. The parade ended at the new bridge or bridge site.

The following year Schipper & Block held their Santa parade on land and Santa rode through town on a horse-drawn carriage. Some sources disagree, saying the true “Santa Claus Parade” actually began in 1893.

But it is still a mystery as to why there is no mention in history of the huge Kris Kringle Karnival in Peoria, also in December of 1897.

Apparently, two large Peoria department stores entered into a Christmas war of sorts. It was Schipper & Block vs. Harned, Bergner & Von Maur. A rivalry commenced as to who could out-do who. Could it be that, in 1897, Harned, Bergner & Von Maur’s huge gamble on the Kris Kringle Karnival failed and there was more fanfare for the ultimately successful Schipper & Block’s river parade?

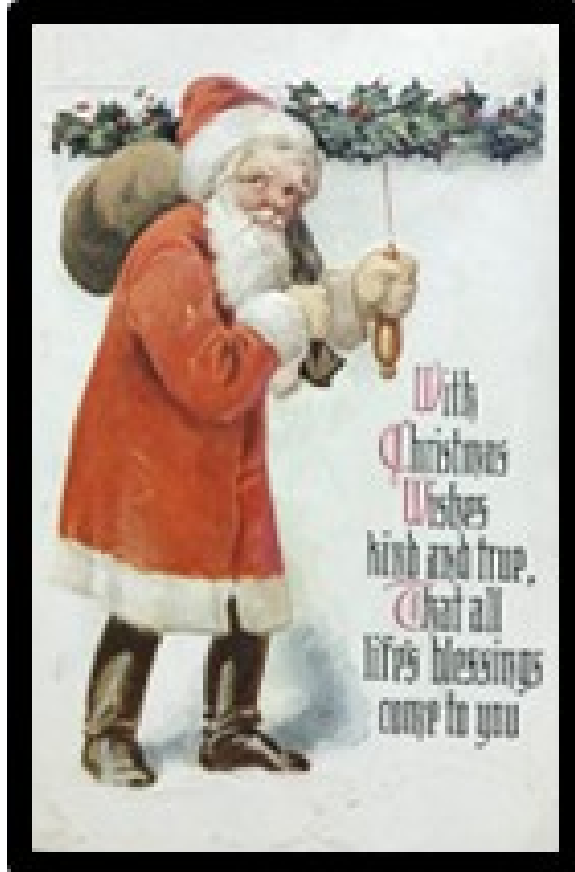
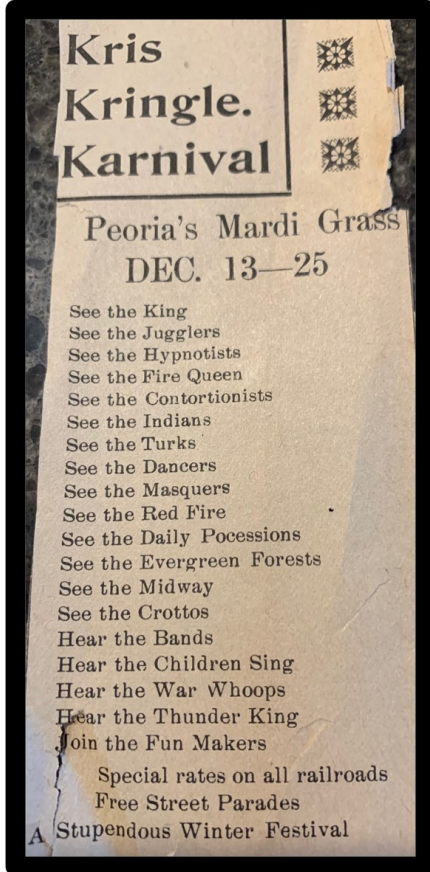
Whatever the reason, it seems that “Kris Kringle” lost out to “Santa Claus” in Peoria, Illinois.

~ Lori Fuoss

*Sources: Local History Collection: Peoria Public Library, Nov. 20, 2018
Santaswhiskers.com, Peoriamagazines.com Nov.-Dec. 2016*

We will continue to search for more information on the Kris Kringle Karnival

~ Merry Christmas from the Tremont Museum and Historical Society



Tremont Museum

TOURS STILL AVAILABLE

The Tremont Museum is closed for the season and will re-open in March. Please contact Rich Sauder at 309-231-1123 or Rick Otey at 309-840-1492 to arrange a special tour.

Village Hall

Notes from the Village Hall

As winter closes in, the Village Trustees wanted to provide some clarification on recent policy changes regarding Village responsibilities in regard to mailboxes during snow removal operations. *In short, the Village assumes no responsibility for damages that occur to mailboxes because of the force behind snow being pushed off community streets.* Some mailbox types just don't hold up very well when the force of moved snow slams into these structures. Surprisingly, metal mailboxes tend to be impacted more greatly in these situations.

Mailboxes are allowed on Village right-of-way but it's still rare for employees to jump the curb and physically hit one with the plow. It can happen on occasion. There are a lot of miles to plow, storm timing can be an issue, and visibility can be limited at times. In those situations, the Village will pay a standard rate of \$100 to replace.

Fiscal responsibility on limited public funds coincided with numerous requests for replacements in recent years. After researching the issue and reviewing other local municipalities, this policy was developed. Village officials hope residents understand the boundaries established to address community liability in these instances.

As you may be aware, there is no waste disposal/pick-up franchise agreement for the entire community of Tremont. Grimm Brothers out of Morton served this role for residents who individually paid for garbage pick-up. Over the years, that company evolved and expanded but the concept of residents subscribing on their own to the service remained

the same. Most recently, GFL purchased the company and assumed the reigns for a majority of community members. After a few initial challenges, the service seems to be improving.

The Village is researching the benefits of franchising waste disposal for the city limits of Tremont. This would entail Trustees passing an Ordinance requiring all residents to utilize the company selected. After a preliminary review of proposals from several businesses, a few general highlights have been noted:

- Cheaper monthly prices for our community members than are currently being paid.
- All residents would receive a 95-gallon rollable garbage cart. There are allowances for some limited additional collection at no charge. If two carts are needed, residents can pay for additional service. Typically, there would be no limits on trash pick-up the two weeks following Christmas.
- Allowances would be made for a free annual centralized “bulky-item” community clean up during a designated time period. Weekly bulky items can be picked up for an additional cost.
- Free service would be provided for the Turkey Festival.
- A recycling program would be available every other week.
- In some of the proposals, electronic waste options would be available at no cost to residents.

The Village Trustees will continue to discuss and review options in the next few months with a decision targeted before spring. Because of the nature of mandatory participation for residents, look for a public meeting to be convened prior to any decision made and an Ordinance adopted.

Tremont Library

Baby & Me

Wednesdays, 10:30 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.

Lego Afternoons

Monday, December 19th
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Work together to build amazing creations! Try out new sets, stop motion videos, and other challenges. Ages 6+, no registration required.

Community Calendar

Tuesday

MS Wrestling HOME vs Beardstown, Farmington - 5:30PM

Sunday

Merry Christmas!



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

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