



Weekly News

WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Water main flushing will be done the week of October 16th - 20th

Area School District Tax Rates

Area School District Tax Rates Sean Berry, Superintendent

Last year, I shared some information about area school district tax rates and how Tremont's is actually one of the lowest around. Last year, out of 30 area communities, Tremont ranked 27th in school district tax rate. This year, Tremont dropped one spot lower to 28th out of 30. Only Midwest Central and Eureka are lower among the 30 communities used for comparison.

With that being said, the purpose of this article is not to suggest that property taxes aren't high. I pay property taxes here as well, so I'm very much aware. It's important to remember, however, that the system of funding schools in Illinois is based primarily on those property taxes. It's not an ideal system, but it's the system we exist within.

A lot goes into the calculation of the tax rate and it can be complicated to explain. Under PTELL (tax caps), the relationship between equalized assessed value (EAV) and inflation (CPI) is instrumental in determining the tax rate each year. The high inflation we've experienced in recent years and the larger than normal increases in property values are both part of a larger formula that determines the tax rate. While CPI exceeded 5% for the second consecutive year (and only the second time since tax caps were enacted in 1998), the district's estimated EAV increased 9.9%, which is much higher than normal.

The relationship between the two means that the tax rate next year will decrease further. This year's school tax rate is 5.13% of assessed value, but next year it's projected to drop to 4.93%. Obviously, everyone is aware by now that assessments skyrocketed recently for most of us. As a result, our tax bills will still increase even with the lower rate, but the tax cap formula helps to limit that increase. It's more like a "loose lid" than a cap, but it does help control tax bills.

School funding in Illinois is heavily dependent on local property taxes. Over the last 20 years, the proportion of school district revenue from local sources has increased significantly due to years of shortages in state funding. For the current year, local sources of revenue will account for about 66% of the district's revenue. Most of this comes from the annual property tax levy. State funding accounts for about 29% of revenue while federal sources make up about 5%. 20 years ago, local funding accounted for 53% and state

funding was 43%, so you can see how the burden has shifted over time.

I mentioned earlier that Tremont ranks 28th out of 30 area communities when it comes to school district tax rate. For context, if you had a \$200,000 property in Morton, you'd be paying \$235 more in school property taxes this year than you would on a \$200,000 property in Tremont. A \$200,000 property in Pekin would cost you \$615 more. In Delavan, that number jumps to \$624 more. That amount increases to \$932 more if you had that property value in Washington District 51/308. Again, I'm not making an argument that property taxes aren't high. But hopefully this information helps you see how we stack up relative to other communities in the area.

Property tax revenue is used to provide quality educational programs, maintain facilities, and provide student transportation. We are proud of what we offer our students and families and will continue to do our best to be responsible stewards of district finances. Thank you for taking the time to read this article. I know it's a sensitive subject for many right now with the recent assessment increases, but hopefully this information provided some context and perspective.

Did You Know...?

Logging in Tremont

In this land of plenty, it must have been hard to imagine that resources could be limited.

After much of the German population left Tremont, Utah, in the early 20s, the cemetery fell into neglect. As a retired church sexton recalled, "Everybody used to maintain the cemetery, but then everybody moved away."

Called Salt Creek Cemetery, it is on the banks of Salt Creek a few miles outside of Tremont. Locals call it "the Old German Cemetery." It is described as "a lonely wind-swept burial ground."

Over the years, following the German settlers' departure, fewer and fewer burials were held there. The fence around the cemetery gave way to grazing horses, and soon trash and discarded cars littered the western banks of Salt Creek. Due to unpaid taxes (\$.60) from 1922 to 1927, the cemetery was given up to the county. In the 1940s, people of the area erected a new fence and used dirt fill to cover the trash as they tried to restore the cemetery. A few more burials took place there, though there was no cemetery board to supervise, and no grave diggers.

From the July 23, 1888 Pantagraph (Bloomington, IL):

"A firm from Crawfordsville, Ind., is buying thirty (train) car loads of black walnut logs at Tremont. They buy the logs on the stump and pay from \$5 - \$20 per 1,000 feet for them, according to size, very small logs being worth only the lesser amount. From 10,000 to 12,000 feet of these logs make a car load. The company pays all the expense of cutting, hauling and loading. Besides these thirty car loads of logs, this same company is having 100,000 feet of black walnut lumber sawed at a mill south of Tremont and then shipped to Crawfordsville.



1880s Lumber Mill

Two years ago large quantities of black walnut were shipped to Leslie, a small station about two and a half miles west of Tremont, and every two or three years for the past fifteen years quantities of walnut have been shipped from that vicinity until now but very little is left, and that is small or crooked. It has been a source of considerable revenue to the land owners there.”

Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss

Tremont Museum

Tremont Museum will be open this Sunday, October 22, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM

We are fortunate to have a gem of a museum in Tremont. Few small towns are as lucky.

The public is invited to see the informative displays depicting Tremont’s fascinating history.

There is no charge!

Let's take a break and check
out the Tremont Museum!



Tremont District Library News

Lego Afternoons (Ages 6+)

Monday, October 16th, 3:00 - 4:30pm

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 attempt 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.

Hogwarts' Half-Bloods (Ages 12-19)

Tuesday October 17th, 6:30pm

Hogwarts' Half-Bloods is Tremont Library's Young Adult/Teen Book Club. We meet monthly to discuss a book, enjoy a treat from Eli's, and hang out for a bit.

Here's how to participate:

1. Be between 12 and 19 years of age.
2. Get a copy of the month's book. We'll have lots of extra copies behind the desk at Tremont District Library that you can checkout, just ask us for one!
3. Read it! (or at least read a summary, there will be spoilers at our meetings!)
4. On the day of book club, meet Lizzi at the library in the YA section. Around 6:45 when everyone is ready, we'll head down to Eli's, pick out drinks and treats (on us!), and then head back to the library to book talk it up.

...and that's it! We hope you'll join us.

Here's the books we'll be discussing:

October 17th - "The Trials of Morrigan Crow" by Jessica Townsend

November 21st - "The Rat Queen" by Pete Haufman

December 19th - "Keeper of the Lost Cities: The Graphic Novel Part 1" by Celina Frenn

Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am

A support group for new and experienced parents.

Third Thursday Bookclub (adults)

Thursday, Oct 19, 1:30pm

Pick up a copy of this month's book at the library's front desk, and then join us for a discussion! This month's book is "Dog On It" by Peter Abrahams.

Meetings are held in Library's Meeting room on the third Thursday of every month. E-mail Maria, maria@tremontlibrary.com, to get on the mailing list for updates about bookclub.

Move & Do (Ages 2-6)

Friday, October 20th 10:30am - 12:00pm

Move & Do is an educational-based free play day for toddlers and preschoolers ages 2-6. There will be different themes to explore each month, new friends to meet, and time to work on those early social and motor skills!

October: Shredded Paper Play Day

November: Community Helpers

December: "Space"

No registration required. Drop in and stay for as little or long as you'd like!

Minecraft Day

****Saturday October 21st

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 Community Senior Meals



Meals are served every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11pm 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.

Community Calendar

Monday

HS Volleyball @ F - SO HOI Tourney - TBA

MS Girls Basketball @ St. Pats - 5:30 PM

HS F-SO Football @ Tri-Valley - 5:30 PM

Tuesday

MS Girls Basketball HOME vs Germantown Hills - 5:00 PM

HS Volleyball @ McLean County Tournament - TBA

Wednesday

HS Volleyball @ F-SO HOI Tourney - TBA

Thursday

MS Girls Basketball HOME vs Washington Central - 5:30 PM

Friday

HS Football HOME vs El-Paso-Gridley - 7:00 PM

Saturday

HS Cross Country @ Regional - TBA

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 | <http://tremontil.com>

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

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