



## 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.

## TREMONT 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 Parks & Recreation Center**

22522 IL Rt. 9  
Tremont, IL 61568  
(309) 925-3811

#### *Office Hours:*

- Mon-Tues-Thurs 8:00 am - 12:00 pm & 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Fri 8:00 am - 12:00 pm & 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Saturday 8:30 am - 11:00 am
- Sunday Closed

## Did You Know...?

### **The "Old German Cemetery"** *Tremonton, Utah*

*In the early 1900s, a group of German families left Tremont with the goal of forming a new farming community in the West. Their destination was Utah, and the name they gave their community in tribute to the one they left, was Tremont. After just four years however, the town had to be renamed Tremonton due to post-office issues confusing Tremont, Utah with the town of Fremont, Utah. After years of intense work of farming in a very different setting from the Midwest, and because their church, the Apostolic Christian church, suffered a world-wide split, and their own church building burned down, many settlers left Tremonton and returned to Tremont, Illinois.*

After much of the German population left Tremonton, 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 Tremonton. 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.



Later, an older brother and sister team took it upon themselves to take care of the cemetery. They cleaned up graves that had been neglected for thirty years, hoed weeds, and planted bushes. When the hard work became too difficult for them, another older German couple took over, mowing and maintaining the graveyard.

Once the Apostolic Church elders in California became aware that the cemetery was struggling, they applied for the deed, since most of those buried there were of the Apostolic faith. The cemetery had unofficially been established in 1905, when John Sommer lost their year-old son, and he was buried on the southwest corner of their farm. After two more graves were dug there, it officially became a burial ground for the settler group. Sommer donated 1.35 acres, room for 200 graves. An article titled, "One Community, Two Cemeteries" states, "Today, approximately 90 people have been laid to rest there, one-third of them children under the age of ten." This is a sad testament to the hard-scrabble living the settlers dug out of the dry alkaline soil at that time.

Because the California Apostolic Church continues to pay maintenance, the burial ground will be preserved. The unadorned, simple headstones bare only the names and birth and death dates of those who rest there, a reminder of the faithful, hard-working Germans who came West with a dream and left in disillusionment. Today, there are no Apostolic

Christians in Tremonton, Utah.

Information taken from "One Community, Two Cemeteries" <https://studylib.net/doc/>

Tremont Museum and Historical Society  
Lori Fuoss

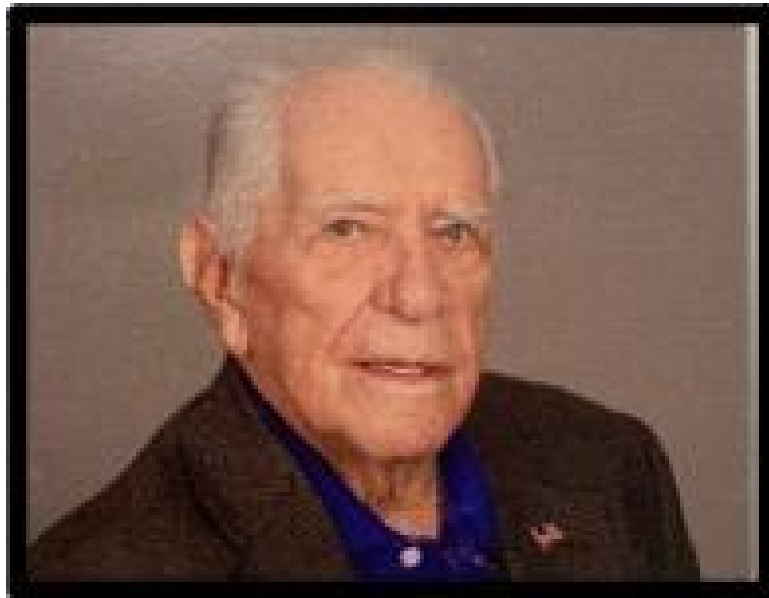
## **BILL ELLIOTT CELEBRATION!**

### **BILL ELLIOTT DAY! Saturday, October 14, 2023**

Tremont resident Bill Elliott will turn 102 on October 14<sup>th</sup> and is Tremont's last surviving WWII veteran. Please consider honoring Bill by placing signs or other displays in your windows or electronic signs on your businesses.

An official Proclamation was read at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Tremont Village Board meeting by Village President Todd Bong.

**Happy Birthday, Bill!**



*Bill Elliott*

## **Tremont Museum**

The Tremont Museum is open 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month, March through mid-December, with the exception for holidays. Individual or group tours are available by calling Kay at 419.296.2323.

Admission is free. Come and see the story of our community!

## **Tremont District Library News**

### **S.T.E.A.M. Lab Plus (ages 7+)**

Monday, October 9, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Kids ages 7 and up can join Tremont Library's very own S.T.E.A.M. Queen, Miss Nicole, each month after school to learn a little bit more about the building blocks of life: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Some months will be a craft that can be taken home, others will be activities (and messes) that will stay at the library. Come see what we're up to! No registration required.

**Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)**  
Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am

A support group for new and experienced parents.

**Story Hour (ages 3-6)**

Thursday, October 12, 10:30 - 11:00 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!

**Teen Night: Make & Trade Bracelets (ages 12-19)**

Friday, October 13, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us to make floss, pony bead, or clay bead bracelets for you and your friends! Ages 12-19, no registration required.

Note: This program is scheduled from 6-8pm, but can be treated as a drop in program. Come when you can and stay as long as you like!

## 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.



## Community Calendar

### Monday

HS F-SO Football @ Dee-Mack - 5:30 PM

### Tuesday

MS Girls Basketball @ Washington Middle - 5:30 PM

HS Volleyball HOME vs Eureka (Fresh/JV/Var) - 5:00 PM

### Wednesday

No Events

### Thursday

HS Volleyball @ El Paso-Gridley (Fresh/JV/Var) - 5:00 PM

MS Girls Basketball HOME vs Dee-Mack - 5:30 PM

### Friday

HS Football @ Tri-Valley - 7:00 PM

### Saturday

MS Cross Country @ State - TBA

HS Cross Country @ HOI Conference - TBA

HS Volleyball @ Delevan (JV/Varsity) - 10:00 AM

## 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

[Unsubscribe web@mavidea.com](mailto:web@mavidea.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [info@tremontil.com](mailto:info@tremontil.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!