



Weekly News

Tremont Board of Education - Meet the Candidates

Meet the Candidates Night

Election day is April 4th and five candidates are running for four seats on the Tremont CUSD 702 Board of Education. The Tremont PTO is sponsoring a Meet the Candidates forum on Tuesday March 7th from 6:30-8:00 pm at the High School Cafetorium. This event will provide voters an opportunity to learn more about the school board candidates and ask questions.

Tremont Prairie Lake

2 acres of native prairie plant seed were installed on October 28, 2022 at the Northeast Lake in Tremont, IL. The lake has now been renamed Prairie Lake. Tremont resident Sam Stuber led the planning and implementation of the project, with help from volunteer Mark Juchems, the support of the Tremont Park District, and donations from Stuber Land Design, Inc. The site was previously mowed turf that surrounded the north side of the lake, which was sprayed in preparation for the seed. A specialized seed drill provided by Pheasants Forever of Illinois was used to install the seed. 56 species of native prairie plants were included in the seed mix, including grasses like Little Bluestem and Prairie Cordgrass, and forbs such as Rattlesnake Master, Rosinweed, and Blue Lobelia. The seed has sat dormant over the winter and will emerge in Spring and Summer. Prairie management practices will begin with occasional mowing and troublesome weed eradication over a 1-2 year establishment period, followed by ongoing assessment and annual controlled burning as the prairie becomes established. It will take some time for the beauty of a full-grown prairie to be realized, but look out for colorful wildflowers beginning to show up in the next couple of years.

This prairie reconstruction will benefit numerous forms of wildlife by establishing cover and food sources for insects and animals that depend on native plants to survive. It will also serve as an educational example to local residents of what the Illinois prairie once looked like, and how reintroducing native plants can benefit the community. Prairie Lake is open to visitors daily from 6:30am until sunset. There is a parking lot on the corner of Baer Rd. and Route 9 across from AG-Land FS.



Tremont Community Share Closet

Click the button below to view the Share Closet 2022 year-end update. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in making the past year a success!

If you desire to learn more about The Share Closet and the work they do, please check out their Facebook page ([@TremontCommunityShareCloset](#)) or email any questions to scsoulmanager@gmail.com.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Historical Society Program - Mark your calendar!

"We Are FFA!"

Tremont High School Agriculture Teacher, Caitlin Hays, is also the school's FFA advisor. She and some of her FFA students will do a program on Tremont's phenomenal FFA program.

Please support Ms. Hays and the FFA students and program! The program, as always, is open to the public. It will be at the Tremont Community Center on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 PM. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served.

Tremont Museum Exhibit

SO.MUCH.FUN

Plan to visit the Tremont Museum for the Fab 50s exhibit! It promises to be one of our best ever exhibits, and so much fun!

Mark your calendars for the opening on Sunday, March 12, from 2-4 PM. We'll be open 2nd and 4th Sundays from 2-4 PM through the start of June.

This is a fundraising exhibit. Admission is \$8.00. Seniors \$5.00, and children \$3.00.

We can only accept cash or checks. See you there!



Did You Know...

The Tremont Burial Ground

Mount Hope Cemetery was once simply known as “The Tremont Burial Ground.” In 1836, Thomas P. Wilson, surveyor, laid off a plat of land on the west side of Tremont for a cemetery of 136 lots. The cemetery is located on one of the three mounds that were visible on the nearly flat and treeless area of Tremont at that time. It is said that the earliest grave is one that belonged to a child named James R. Wright, who died in 1838.

In 1889, possibly because of a recent fire that burned all of the records of the cemetery up to that point, a group of women met at the home of Mrs. Kellogg. The purpose of the meeting was to organize a women’s society to assist in caring for the burial grounds. The names of the participants read like a Who’s Who of 1889 Tremont, including Mrs. Washburn, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Hayward, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. A.J. Davis, and others.

These civic-minded women created a constitution and by-laws, set dues, and formed various committees. Interestingly, the constitution states, among other things, that no cows were allowed to eat the grass. The women were obviously determined to keep the burial ground neat and orderly, which makes one wonder how badly it had been let go up to that point. The women commenced to build fences, tile the ground, plant trees and shrubs, build an arch over the cemetery entrance, and design a new tool house. They worked untiringly to finance their projects by serving dinners and teas, putting on entertainments, and soliciting donations. On election day each year, a dinner was held in the Masonic Hall. One event there was so successful and there was so much food left over, they held another dinner the next day.

On August 15, 1918, the Ladies’ Mount Hope Cemetery Association became an organized corporation under Illinois state law. On November 20, 1918, the cemetery’s name was officially changed to The Mount Hope Cemetery. It has been known by that name ever since. New areas have been added to the cemetery over the years, which is approximately five acres.

In 1922, notes say an annual meeting was held in the rest room of the First National Bank. Did that really mean the rest room, or a lounge for resting? In 1933, Mrs. Morse moved, and it was seconded, that “the strip of ground north and south of the tool house be plotted for single graves as “strangers’ ground.” The tool house burned in 1937, and all the contents were destroyed. That year, it is noted, a new ready-built tool house was erected, complete with a window flower box. The notes contain much, much more of the cemetery’s interesting history.

Visitors today can easily see where the original part of the cemetery is. Over the decades, lichen has crept its way over those early gravestones, leaving many nearly smooth and virtually illegible. If only we could know what these stones say, and the fascinating stories those souls could tell us about the early history of our town.

Lori Fuoss
Tremont Museum and Historical Society
2023

Roboteers Open House

Team 2481 Roboteers is excited to announce they are hosting an Open House on Saturday, March 11 from 9:00-11:00am. Come for breakfast, to get first hand information about their new building, to see robot demonstrations, and to learn about the different sub-teams offered on the Roboteers. Their building is located by the Tremont Middle School entrance.



Tremont Turkey Festival

Tremont Turkey Festival | Gobble Til You Wobble

Soon the turkeys will be smoked, strawberries sliced, and the lemonade shake-ups shaken, and our village will be filled with festival go-ers near and far looking to fill their weekend with delicious food, fun, and free entertainment!

Long before the park is filled with those festival go-ers, the Tremont Turkey Festival Committee is hard at work planning! Planning actually starts not long after the previous year's festival ends. The Committee is responsible for planning every little detail of the festival and is one of the few 100% volunteer run festivals in the country. They do everything from planning how many turkeys to cook, how many napkins need ordered, to the huge task of finding and scheduling over 1,100 volunteers to fill spots to run a three-day event of its size - every detail big and small is overseen by the committee.

The Tremont Turkey Festival not only offers such an amazing event for those attending it brings so much "BETTERMENT" to this community and place we are so lucky to call HOME. The festival has put over 1.5 million dollars back into our community over its 57 year span. Speaking of "Betterment" - Another part of the Turkey Festival committee that plays a huge part in the festival's continued success is TBA - Tremont Betterment Association. To retain the valuable volunteers following their terms as General Chairman and to utilize their talent, dedication, and experience, the Tremont Betterment Association was formed in 1976. Past and present Turkey Festival General Chairman who wish to continue their interest and involvement with the festival comprise the TBA, which acts as the sponsoring and steering organization for this and future festivals. TBA is responsible for setting budgets and policies for the festival and notably, for distributing festival proceeds to the Tremont Community for special projects and assistance to organizations that make Tremont a better place to live and visit. TBA will be having its annual Distribution Meeting on Wednesday, March 15th - 6:30PM at the Community Center.

If you are a local organization wishing to request money from the TBA, please click the button below to submit a Disbursement Form.

The distribution of profits from the 2021 Tremont Turkey Festival was as follows:

Tremont In Touch (After Prom) \$7,000, Boys Scouts of America Tremont Troop #84 \$2,000, Tremont District Library \$1,400, Tremont Lions Club (Village Street Light Christmas Decorations) \$8,000 Tremont Roboteers \$4,000, Tremont School Nurse (AED'S) \$5,000 And, amounts that are earmarked from previous years: Tremont Pool Liner Reserve to be used in 2019 \$75,000, Tremont Pool Reserve for other repairs to be used in 2019 \$57,500, TBA Scholarships for HS Seniors \$2,000, Flags for the Tiber Project \$500, Park Playground Equipment \$12,000.

There isn't much of Tremont that hasn't benefited from the Festival's success over the last 57 years and it wouldn't be possible without everyone working together to keep the traditions alive and continue to bring new life to our growing festival. Be sure to come check out all that's NEW for 2023. For example, take a trip back over 57 years and check out the "History of The Turkey Festival" display that will be located in the Merchants area.

Remember "Summer Starts With Us" So plan to "GOBBLE TIL YOU WOBBLE" at the 2023 Tremont Turkey Festival June 9,10,and 11th 2023.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Tremont District Library News

Baby & Me (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am

A support group for new & experienced parents.

Tiny Art Show

In February we handed out mini canvases to artists of all ages in Tremont. (It was so popular we doubled the initial amount of canvases from 64 to 128...and all 128 have been taken!) We've been so excited to receive them and see Tremont's creativity. Starting March 1st, we'll put them on display. Stop by the library to check out our tiny art show!

If you received a canvas and haven't turned it in yet, please bring it to the library this week to be included in the show.

Lego Afternoons (ages 6+)

Mondays, Mar. 20th, Apr. 17th, & May 15th, 3-4:30pm

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

Move & Do (ages 0-5)

Third Fridays, Mar. 17th, Apr. 21st, & May 19th, 10am-12pm

Join us in the meeting room for educational based free-play, designed specifically for littles.

Minecraft in the Meeting Room (ages 7+)

Saturdays, Mar. 25th, Apr. 15th, & May 20th, 10am-12:30pm

Hop on our library realm to create with friends!

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

Monday, Mar. 13th

3:30-4:30pm

S.T.E.A.M. Lab Plus is perfect for ages 7+ that want to learn about the world around them. Participate in group activities to learn about the Scientific Method, learn about Cause and

Effect, make something to take home, and so much more! No registration required.

Mark your calendars! STEAM Lab (ages 7+) will be held: Mar. 13th, Apr. 10th, & May 8th

STEAM Lab (ages 4-6)

Mondays Mar. 27, Apr. 24, & May 22,
3:30-4:30pm

STEAM toys & activities for younger children.

Community Calendar

Tuesday

Meet the Candidates Night - 6:30-8:00PM
High School Cafetorium

Saturday

Roboteers Open House - 9:00-11:00AM

Sunday

Fab 50's Tremont Museum Exhibit - 2:00-4:00PM

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

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