



Weekly News

TBA Disbursement Meeting - March 20, 6:00 pm

The Tremont Betterment Association Disbursement Meeting

Tremont Betterment Association is the managing body of the Tremont Turkey Festival. The members of the TBA board are past Turkey Festival General Chairmen. All of the profits of the Tremont Turkey Festival are funneled directly back into our community. One way this happens is at the TBA Disbursement Meeting, which is normally held the third Wednesday in March each year. Any group or individual in the Village of Tremont may submit a request for disbursement of funds. All requests will be subject to vote at the meeting.

To Submit a Request: If you would like to submit a request for disbursement, [download this form](#), fill it out, and submit either through mail or email (addresses listed on the form).

- The 2024 request forms must be submitted by March 15, 2024.
- The meeting will be held at 6:00 on March 20, 2024 at the Community Center.

At the Meeting: A representative must be present at the meeting and be prepared with the following:

- Present a 2-3 minute presentation about your request. Items to highlight would be a bit about your organization, how it helps our community, and how many Tremont residents would benefit by your request.
- Answer questions (if any) from Betterment members.
- Representative will leave the meeting after his/her presentation.

After the presentations, the Tremont Betterment Association board members will vote on how the 2023 Tremont Turkey Festival funds will be disbursed.

Disbursements will be mailed out within a week of the meeting, and a notice of all disbursements will be in a Weekly Newsletter soon after the meeting.

Tremont FFA Strawberry Sales ENDS Tues. Feb 20th!

Order Online: <https://TremontFFAstrawberries.cheddarup.com>

Cost: \$28/flat or \$17/half flat (a flat = 8 quarts)

Contact: Jenny Schweigert at jenny.schweigert@d702.org or Joy Schwarting at joy.schwarting@d702.org for additional information.

TAPD SUMMER REC BALL REGISTRATION: OPEN 2/14 - 3/31/24

Summer Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration

- Little Turks T-Ball (age 4-6 / Co-ed): \$57.00 Resident -open later date in April
- 6U Modified Coach Pitch (Co-ed): \$60.00 Resident
- Boys 8 & under / Girls 8 & under: \$85.00 Resident
- Boys 10 & under / Girls 10 & under: \$100.00 Resident
- Boys 12 & under / Girls 12 & under: \$100.00 Resident

****Please note: additional \$25.00 fee charged for non-resident****

***LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CHARGED AN EXTRA FEE OF HALF THE REGISTRATION FEE**

- Example: program fee \$60.00 will be charged \$90.00 registration fee

* Register online at www.tremontpark.org (please note there is a 3% processing fee)

* forms available at the TAPD office and in the vestibule for registration and payment drop off in the drop box.

*Watch website and Facebook for T-ball registrations –sometime in April

*Registration ends: 3/31/2024 Sign up promptly and avoid late registration fees!

School Referendum Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming Referendum Meetings

Tuesday February 20th at 7:00 at Tremont High School

- Presentations by students and staff
- Referendum information and Q&A
- MS/HS building open for viewing

Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 pm at Tremont High School

- Referendum Information and Q&A

Election Day - March 19th

School Referendum Frequently Asked Questions

Download a PDF version of the following content [HERE](#)

What is this referendum for?

The referendum allows residents of the school district, through a ballot process, to vote to approve or reject increasing the limiting tax rate. Approval of the referendum would help fund operations, including maintaining and enhancing existing programs for students, adding new programming for students, and attracting and retaining quality staff. Funds would also be used for facility upgrades, including an HVAC project at the MS/HS, replacing the grade school roof, adding parking at the middle school, restroom upgrades, etc.

Why is the district proposing this now?

The district has faced significant financial issues over the last 10-15 years, but has patiently waited for the present time to pursue a referendum. The Education fund, which is the largest fund in the budget, has experienced deficits in 14 of the last 20 years. State funding proration in previous years took a significant toll on the district's finances over an extended period of time.

The district waited until the current time to ask for a referendum because the timing coincides with the expiration of existing building bonds from the 2007 high school addition. As the building bonds are paid off over the next two years, the bond tax rate will drop significantly. Passage of the referendum would increase the limiting tax rate at the same time the bond tax rate decreases. Passage of the referendum could generate over

\$700,000 of new revenue going forward for the district while still lowering the overall tax rate for residents.

Isn't our tax rate already high?

Whether one considers the tax rate high or low is subjective. In relation to other communities in the area, Tremont's school tax rate is one of the lowest. Out of a selection of 30 area communities, only two have lower school tax rates than Tremont. If the referendum doesn't pass and the tax rate plummets due to the bond rate decrease, Tremont will have the lowest school tax rate in the area by a wide margin. Trying to continue to operate at that level will make it difficult to compete with other districts in terms of staffing and programs offered to students. Even if the referendum passes, the district's tax rate would still rank near the bottom of the list. Click the link below to see those rankings and a comparison of tax bills for each of those communities.

Area Tax Rate Rankings

When would this take effect? The limiting rate increase would impact taxes paid in 2025 and be based on assessments from tax year 2024. The school district would receive the additional funds for the 2025-26 school year.

How would passage of the referendum impact the tax rate?

This referendum is called a "limiting rate" referendum and is unique to districts subject to tax caps. Tazewell County has had tax caps in place since 1998. The only way for a district to increase its limiting rate, outside of the natural minor fluctuations that occur each year, is to pass a referendum. This particular referendum seeks to add 0.4% to the current year's limiting tax rate (4.22% to 4.62%).

The chart below illustrates the projected impact on the tax rate if the referendum passes.

\$0.40 Referendum	2023-24	2024-25 (proj)	2025-26 (proj)	2026-27 (proj)
Limiting Rate	\$4.22 (4.22%)	\$4.09	\$4.62	\$4.66
Bond Rate	\$0.91 (0.91%)	\$0.84	\$0.24	\$0.12
Total Rate	\$5.13 (5.13%)	\$4.93	\$4.86	\$4.78

The chart below illustrates the projected tax rate if the referendum does not pass.

No Referendum	2023-24	2024-25 (proj)	2025-26 (proj)	2026-27 (proj)
Limiting Rate	\$4.22 (4.22%)	\$4.09	\$4.14	\$4.18
Bond Rate	\$0.91 (0.91%)	\$0.84	\$0.24	\$0.12
Total Rate	\$5.13 (5.13%)	\$4.93	\$4.38	\$4.30

How will this impact my tax bill?

A home valued at \$200,000 would have a tax bill (school portion) of approximately \$3,287 in 2024. If the referendum passes, that amount would decrease to approximately \$3,240 in 2025 and \$3,193 in 2026. If the referendum does not pass, that 2024 amount is projected to decrease to \$2,920 in 2025 and \$2,873 in 2026. Click the link below to see a chart of the referendum's impact on tax bills.

Impact on Tax Bills

What would this referendum mean for our students?

The district would have the ability to retain and attract high quality staff to enhance and add more programming for students. More elective courses and programs at all three schools would provide more opportunities for students.

What happens if the referendum does not pass?

If the referendum does not pass, the district will have to identify other methods to address the financial issues. This could include cuts to existing programming and staff.

Beyond the schools, how will this affect the community?

The schools play a major role in the community. Maintaining quality schools is the best way to ensure the community will continue to grow and prosper. Schools are often a primary factor in a family's decision to move to a new community. Having a strong school district can be instrumental in protecting the investments residents have made in their homes.

What happens if the district needs money in the future for a building project?

Securing bond financing for a building project would require another referendum and approval from voters. There are no projects of that magnitude being planned any time in the near future. Funds from this referendum would help pay for smaller projects, upgrades, and other maintenance items that have been put off due to finances.

What has the district done to address expenses during its difficult financial times?

Program cuts were made about 15 years ago. While some of those programs have returned, some have not due to financial constraints. The district has also adjusted its strategies regarding bus leases and technology purchases in recent years and has utilized federal pandemic funds in a strategic manner to maximize value. Unfortunately, those federal funds will not be available any longer.

The district has also secured savings on energy through a solar project that was built at no cost to the district. The solar company owns the system and sells the energy to the district at a discounted rate. After six years, the district can purchase the system and receive the full savings. The solar system saved the district between \$12,000-\$15,000 in its first year of operations.

The most recent report on Operating Expense Per Pupil had Tremont CUSD 702 ranked 707th out of 849 Illinois school districts. That statistic suggests that the district is not overspending.

What is the bottom line...will taxes go up if the referendum passes?

The tax rate will decrease whether the referendum passes or not. Obviously, it will decrease more if the referendum does not pass. While property values can fluctuate, if they remain relatively steady, tax bills will decrease even if the referendum passes.

When is Election Day?

Election day is March 19, 2024.

Important Final Note: Ballot Language

The language that will appear on the ballot will make it seem as if taxes will increase. While it's true that the limiting rate will increase if the referendum passes, the overall tax rate will decrease because of the expiration of the bonds and the resulting decrease to the bond portion of the tax rate. There is no mechanism available to explain the expiration of the bonds on the ballot itself. The ballot language must focus solely on the limiting rate increase.

Tremont Fishing Show & Tackle Swap Fundraiser for St. Jude

Tremont High School Fishing Show & Tackle Swap Fundraiser for St. Jude



**March 2, 2024 10am-3pm
Tremont High School**

400 W Pearl St, Tremont, IL 61568

Free to the Public!

Event Features:

Seminars

(including Jim Crowley from Jim Crowley Outdoors and Slick Fish Radio)

Local bait companies

Tables of pre-owned tackle

Nate Dawgs Food Truck

Raffles & Silent Auction

(All proceeds benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital)

Table Information

\$20 table fee

Contact Lee Kerr (309-256-3177) to reserve

Fishing Show, Tackle Swap and St. Jude Fundraiser
brought to you by Tremont High School Fishing Team & Big City Fishing Gear

Seminar Presenters

for the
Tremont High School
Tackle Swap and
St. Jude Fundraiser



Dave Blume - Illinois Division Tournament Director for American Bass Anglers

Dave is a long-time tournament fisherman and paints custom crank baits.

Dave will be presenting on crank baits.

Kaiya Ziga - Southwestern Michigan College

Kaiya is a great role model for young people and had great success as a high school angler.

Kaiya will be presenting on spawn fishing.



Jim Crowley - Jim Crowley Outdoors/Slick Fish Radio

Jim has a passion for helping people learn to catch more fish and speaks at a lot of events.

Jim will be presenting on jerk baits.

Did You Know...?

Tremont Community High School and the War Effort Part 1

"By way of keeping in step with the wartime Physical Fitness Program an "obstacle course" has been constructed on the Tremont athletic field...T.C.H.S. was the first high school in this part of the state to construct and make use of an obstacle course." ~ 1945 Echo yearbook

In the uncertain days of World War II, the Office of Civilian Defense in Minnesota created an obstacle course for Minnesota Schools, which was endorsed by the National Federation. Tremont Schools were on the cutting edge in adopting this program. The TCHS Physical Education program was revised, "to fit in with wartime needs...putting an emphasis on real physical fitness," according to the *Echo* article."

The course was laid out by Industrial Arts teacher, C.J. Foli, and Coach Wally Schoenfeld. A four-foot high fence vault, a seven-foot wall scale, a tunnel, a maze run and eight other obstacles were created.

Photos from a Bloomington *Pantagraph* article on Tremont's obstacle course:



Bill Hellemann and Emmanuel Baer on the balance beam.



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for (audience)? Why should they care (benefit)? What do I want them to do (call-to-action)?

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"



Billy Carius and Eddie Naffziger at the fence vault.

The *Echo* article continues." The course accommodates any number of students (boys)... and can be used in a regular track meet...under Mr. Schoenfeld's direction the boys are attaining a new high level of physical accomplishment and endurance."

Since most of these boys would join or be drafted into the military, these physical skills would be extremely useful. Remember, no one knew how long we would be at war, and Tremont Community High School wanted its students to be prepared in the case of eventual service.

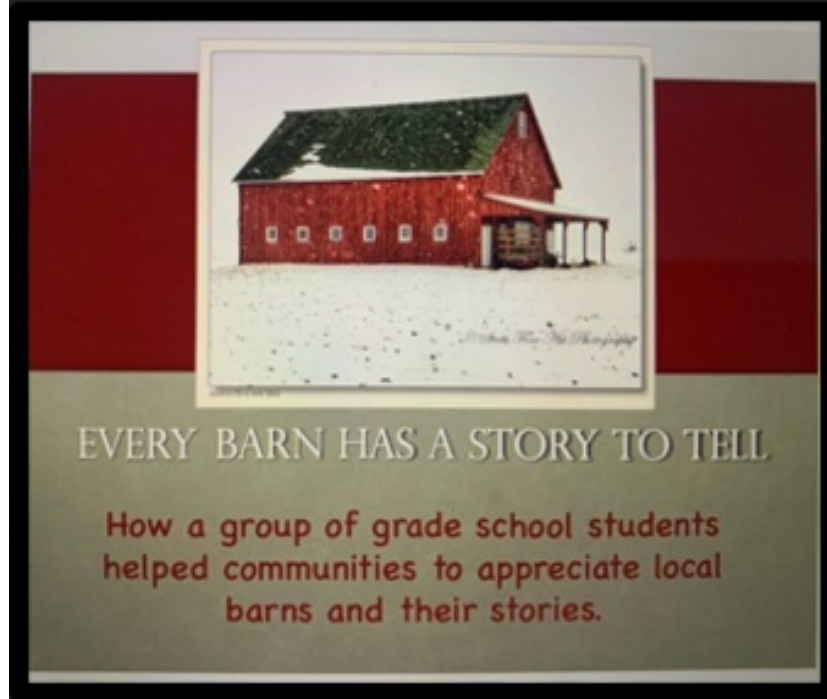
Next week: Part 2 of "TCHS and the War Effort"

Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, reprint, 2021

Tremont Museum

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Tremont Historical Society's next program by Lori Fuoss: Every Barn has a Story to Tell. It will be hosted at the Tremont Community Center, Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00pm.



GRAND OPENING NEWS

Mark your calendars! The Grand Opening for the “Tremont Sports All-Stars,” exhibit will be Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14 from 1-4:00. After that weekend, the exhibit will be 2nd and 4th weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) from 2-4 PM through the end of June. Let out-of-town family and friends know!

Museum volunteers are hard at work organizing for the special fundraising exhibit, which promises to be fantastic!

Sponsored by The First National Bank of Tremont and Tremont Community Bank.

If you have been contacted as an all-star athlete, please be sure to bring your items to the museum before March 1. Contact Marty at 309-620-1130 to set up a time.

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Tremont District Library News

Hogwarts' Half-Bloods (ages 12 - 19)

Tuesday, Feb 20, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

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 is the book we'll be discussing:

- February 20th: "The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea" by Axie Oh

Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 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.

Story Hour (ages 3-6)

Thursday, Feb 22, 10:30 - 11:15 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!

Tween Time: DIY Dreamcatchers

Thursday, Feb 22, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Tweens ages 8-12 can come to the library after school on February 22nd to make their own dreamcatcher. We'll have hoops, string, and fun decorations to add to your dreamcatcher, the rest is up to you!

No registration required.

Tremont Area 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 Community Senior Meals



Meals are served every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11am 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

No Events

Tuesday

MS Volleyball HOME vs Metamora - 4:15 PM

Wednesday

No Events

Thursday

MS Volleyball @ Germantown Hills - 4:15 PM

Friday

No Events

Saturday

MS Volleyball @ 7th Grade Regional - TBA

MS Wrestling Regional @ Canton - 9:00 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 | <http://tremontil.com>

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

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