



## Weekly News

### Community Shred Day

#### Free Community Shred Day

Saturday, May 6th  
9:00 a.m. - Noon  
The First National Bank in Tremont



For More Information

### Tremont Townwide Spring Garage Sales

Friday and Saturday, April 28th and 29th from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Maps available at local businesses and online at [www.tremontil.com](http://www.tremontil.com) (after Tuesday, April 25).

If you have further questions, you can contact Linda Drake at:

**Email:** [tremontgaragesales@gmail.com](mailto:tremontgaragesales@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (309) 202-0805

### Boys & Girls Summer Basketball Camps

The **2023 Lady Turk Basketball Camp** is for girls entering 3rd-8th grade. The camp will run May 30th - Jun 2nd from 3:30 - 5:00 pm in the High School North Gym. [Click here](#) for more information and the registration form.

The **2023 Boys Basketball Camp** is for boys entering 3rd-8th grade. The camp will run May 30th - Jun 2nd in the High School North Gym. 3rd - 5th graders will meet from 9:00 - 10:30 am. 6th-8th graders will meet from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. [Click here](#) for more information and the registration form.

### Summer Volleyball Camps

The **2023 Volleyball Camp** will run June 5th - 8th for incoming kindergartners through 8th

grader In the High School North Gym. Incoming K - 2nd will meet from 9:30 - 10:30 am. Incoming 3rd - 5th grade will meet from 10:45 am - 12:15 pm. Incoming 6th - 8th grade will meet from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. [Click here](#) for more information and the registration form.

Registration form and fee due by May 24th to the GS/MS Office or by mail to Coach Klaus (address provided on form).

## Did you know...?

### The Civil War in Tremont - A Memoir

Last week's article, "A Young Soldier's Thoughts," dealt with Cpl. Thomas McClure, a young Civil War Soldier from Tremont. It included excerpts from letters he wrote from a Memphis, Tennessee Smallpox hospital, far from home and family.

Recently, Ina Eckhoff donated a copy of "Memories of My Life 1831-1915," by Christian Hellemann, Sr., to the Tremont Museum. Christian was Ina's great grandfather. His memories make for fascinating reading, as he relates his story from the time he was a young man in Germany who lived a very rough life with little prospect of making a success of himself. His dream of coming to America to live and seek opportunity came true in 1854.

After many adventures, struggles, and some successes, Christian decided to move from the Saint Louis area to Tremont. Along the way, he met Peter Menard (of the now historic "Red Brick" Jones-Menard House), who became his very generous and loyal benefactor. As he states in his memoir:

"Now I was a farmer. I had two horses and a freshened cow. The year 1860 was a good one; everything grew fabulously..."

But Christian continues:

"The terrible Civil War broke out during the spring of 1861; money became more rare, and silver money (coins) were not to be seen until 1879. Nearly every business printed their own script.

"The government was compelled to issue paper money in small denominations of 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents. Everything increased in price...Corn and oats were very cheap during the summer of 1861. We had debts. We could not borrow enough money as everyone wanted his part. Corn cost in Pekin 12 cents, and oats 10 cents per bushel; we had nearly 800 bushels of corn to sell."



1862 Fractional Currency 5 cents. The first series was called Postal Currency because the designs were based on postage stamps.

During that hard time, Christian earned some side income by hauling corn to the distillery in Wesley City (Creve Coeur), and by hauling nails that were shipped into Peoria to a merchant in Wesley City who had ordered them. He made five round trips in a week.

“My dear wife, as well as I, slept little during that time; however, we did not lack anything in our household then because we had 10 dollars on account for us in the merchant’s shop; also we were able to pay our debts.”

In 1862, Christian and his friend, Michael Ritthaler, became partners and rented 20 additional acres from Dr. Saltonstahl. They signed a contract to deliver 400 bushels of corn as rent. However, as Christian wrote:

“This piece of land was very flat and was not drained; additionally, it was badly trampled by a herd of horses and cows. (Note – at that time, many animals roamed freely). Also, it rained. After the corn was up, we were unable to cultivate with a horse to clean out weeds; days on end we worked with hoes, weeding without much success. Our other work suffered very much by this.

“So we had poor prospects for harvest...Once again, during August, President Lincoln called for 500,000 soldiers; Illinois had to do its part to this.”

Christian bought Michael’s part of the prospective harvest, and his partner joined the 82<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment and served three years until the end of the war.

In 1865 the long war finally ended, and some things started to look up:

“(Farming) started out well; then during the month of June the dreaded grain weevil came in billions and destroyed in an unbelievable short time wheat, barley, and oats. From there it went to corn; row after row was destroyed until we got rid of this pest during a strong thunderstorm with heavy rain.”

Though there were some setbacks, through the years Christian became very successful, buying a great deal of land. Christian always felt he had made the correct decision to come to America. His memoir ends with a poem:

Hail Columbus! Be praised.  
Honored forever,  
You have shown us a path,  
He who dares can become free  
From hard servitude.

Tremont Museum and Historical Society  
Lori Fuoss, 2023

## Tremont Museum

### SAVE THE DATE:

#### *The Tremont Historical Society Program*

- Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm at the Tremont Community Center
- Tom Siedleck will be presenting "**Owl 08 - The Story of Captain Robert Beutel and Captain James Steadman.**"

*The Tremont Museum is Calling YOU!*



The museum is open the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 2:00 - 4:00 pm\*. We've had a great response to this exhibit, so we are extending it to July!

\*We will be closed Mother's Day.

## Tremont District Library News

### National Library Week (April 23 - 29, 2023)

Happy National Library Week! National Library Week is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions, and promote library use and support.

The Theme for National Library Week 2023 is "There's More to the Story," illustrating the fact that in addition to the books in library collections, available in a variety of formats, libraries offer so much more!

For example, Tremont Library offers museum passes, games, literacy kits, memory kits, puzzles, and more! Our library programming brings our community together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, story times, classes, and more! And Tremont Library's infrastructure advances communities, providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.

### STEAM Lab (ages 4-6)

Mondays, April 24 & May 22, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

STEAM toys & activities for younger children.

### Graphic Novel Book Club (ages 8-12)

Tuesday, April 25, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Ages 8-12 are invited to try out new Graphic Novels and share their love of old ones at our Graphic Novel Book Club! Here's how to participate:

1. Get a copy of the month's book. We'll have lots extra copies behind the desk at Tremont District Library that you can check out. Just ask us for one!
2. Read it!
3. On the day of book club, join Miss Lizzi in the Meeting Room to talk about your favorite and least favorite parts of the book, and hear what other kids have to say about it. We'll also do an activity or craft related to each month's book. Did I mention there will be snacks? There will! Miss Lizzi tries to be allergen free on snack days. Let her know if you have any allergies she should watch out for.

...and that's it! Pretty simple, right? We hope you'll join us! Each month we vote on next month's read.

### Baby & Me (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 am

A support group for new & experienced parents.

### Story Hour (ages 3-6)

Thursday, April 27th, 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! Make Story Hour a step you take in preparing your child for life-long learning.

### Super Hero Academy (ages 3+)

Saturday, April 29th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Come test out your Super Hero abilities at the Tremont Community Center! Get a cape and a mask to start your training journey and then try out other super skills! There will be lots of different activities, a snack, and crafts, so come when you can and stay as long as you'd like!

## Tremont Community Senior Meals

# Tremont Community Senior Meals are restarting soon!

Mark your calendars for Monday, May  
8th. More details to follow soon!

Brought to you by Neighborhood House Peoria  
and Tremont Community Share Closet



The Share Closet is now starting to accept donations of new/unopened paper plates, plasticware, cups, and napkins to serve the food on. Donations may be brought to the back door of the Share Closet during their open hours.

## Little Turk T-Ball Registration

**Little Turks T-Ball (age 4-6 / Co-ed): \$55.00 Resident**

*T-Ball registrations opens 4/3/2023 and ends 5/5/23*

HURRY AND GET REGISTERED TO AVOID LATE FEES. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR COACHES FOR T-BALL.

## Community Calendar

### Monday

MS Track and Field @ Dee-Mack - 4:15 PM

HS Track and Field @ Elmwood Invitational - 4:15 PM

HS Softball HOME vs Princeville - 4:30 PM

\*HS Baseball HOME vs Ridgeview High School - 4:30 PM

### Tuesday

HS Track and Field - Girls Only - HOME vs Dee-Mack, MWC - 4:30 PM

\*HS Softball @ GCMS - 4:30 PM

\*HS Baseball @ GCMS - 4:30 PM

\*HS Baseball F-So HOME vs Dee-Mack - 4:30 PM

### Wednesday

\*HS Softball HOME vs Eureka High School - 4:30 PM

\*HS Baseball HOME vs Eureka High School - 4:30 PM

### Thursday

MS Track and Field HOME vs Broadmoor, Chester, Lincoln, MWC - 4:30 PM

HS Softball HOME vs Midwest Central High School - 4:30 PM

### Friday

\*HS Softball @ Heyworth High School - 4:30 PM

\*HS Baseball @ Heyworth High School - 4:30 PM

HS Track and Field @ Eureka Invitational - 4:00 PM

### Saturday

HS Baseball F-So Invite HOME vs Eureka, Dunlap, Tri-Valley - 9:00 AM

HS Baseball @ Morton High School - 11:00 AM

\* - Denotes conference game.



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

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