



Weekly News

Village Minutes

To view the most recent village board meeting minutes, please go to <http://www.tremontil.com/tremont-board-of-trustees.php>

Did you know...?

Sgt. Josiah Milliken Sawyer, (Josiah M.) Son of Early Settler, Josiah Sawyer

April 28, 1846 – April 30, 1930

According to an article in the Tazewell County Genealogical Association's newsletter, Genealogy Trails.com, "Josiah M. Sawyer received his youthful education in the village schools of Tremont. He was 15 years old at the inception of the Civil War, and his youthful patriotism led him to running away from home and making his way to Peoria, where he enlisted in the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, commanded by Col. Robert G. Ingersoll. About three hours after his enlistment, his father appeared on the scene and brought about his release from service, owing to his extreme youth. His parents kept watch to see that he did not make a second attempt to enter military service."

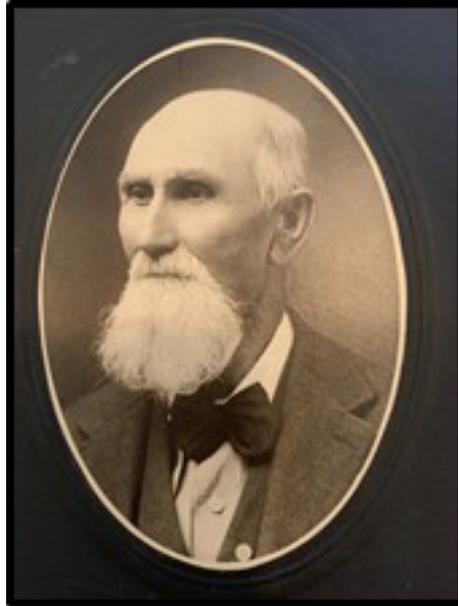
But Josiah M. was determined. When Mr. Sawyer took a business trip out to New Hampshire, young Sawyer went along and pleaded to stay there. Mr. Sawyer found him a job in a sewing machine factory in Massachusetts. Later, young Sawyer and an assistant found a job at a bucket factory. But rather than start work, the two boys enlisted in the Fourth Massachusetts Cavalry. They served as couriers, messengers, and bodyguards and were involved in several skirmishes before being captured by the enemy. But just a couple of days later, General Lee surrendered. They were released and received honorable discharges. He had entered service as a Private and left as a Sergeant.

Sawyer returned to Tremont and his parents' home. He soon enrolled in business college, taking courses in bookkeeping and telegraphy. He worked for the Chicago & Alton Railroad at Petersburg, Illinois as a station agent and telegraph operator. His career bounced around from there and included the same positions in other locations, then managing a lumber yard in Tennessee, surveying for a railroad and then finally, surveying for the government.

When his parents fell ill, he returned home again for good. He and his beloved wife Elizabeth settled in the Sawyer home and raised their family there. He started a real estate and fire insurance business in the small building just south of the Sawyer home. The home and building are still standing on the property at the corner of Tazewell and Harris Streets.

Josiah M. served as township clerk for 16 years and was a notary public. He was heavily involved with organizations too numerous to list here, such as masonic lodges and Shriners, where he held high positions. This man, who was such a determined, rebellious youth, grew to become a leader in Tremont and the surrounding community.

Note: The research on Josiah M. Sawyer was difficult to sort out, as he had a half-brother named Josiah M. Sawyer! (Josiah Joseph Milliken Sawyer) Next week: Josiah M.'s son, Herbert Norton Sawyer.



Tremont Winning Communities Donation Request

Due to the COVID pandemic, we at Tremont Winning Communities (TWC) have experienced many of the same delays and disruptions all of you have. We have been able to continue producing the weekly electronic community newsletter and plan for continued progress on the Sampson Street Revitalization project. Our need is this:

Weekly Community Newsletter- we presently have over 700 residents receiving the newsletter every Monday morning. Since it's inception, the newsletter has kept the community informed on a variety of newsworthy events and general information about Tremont. This service does come with a cost to TWC. Annually, our cost is about \$2,000. In order to continue this service, we need funding assistance. We would simply ask that if you can and are willing, please consider a tax-deductible donation to TWC.

Sampson Street Revitalization Project- we have continued to work with the Village in planning for the renovation of Sampson Street. It appears that this coming spring and summer the village will be able to begin construction on major infrastructure repairs, which will allow for TWC to complete the "corners" at Sampson and Walnut. While the village will be spending more than \$1,000,000, we will need about \$35,000 to landscape the "corners" and green space areas. When this project is complete, it will transform the downtown area. Again, we would ask for your help in completing this project. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to TWC.

All donations can be sent to Tremont Winning Communities at P.O. Box 76, Tremont, IL 61568. If you prefer, donations can be sent electronically at <https://tremontil.com/donate>. If you have any questions please contact Brock Butts, President of TWC at 309-241-4462 or email hdbrook@frontier.com.

Tremont School District

Tremont CUSD #702 District Technology

by Jamason Isenburg

As you can well imagine, technology has been a critical piece for assisting in the instruction of the students, especially this year. Over the past 14 years and more, the need for technology has increased exponentially. With the demand for remote learning increasing with the pandemic, we wanted to provide you with some information about how the school district manages its technology resources.

Here are a few statistics about technology in the District as a whole. We feel every grade level and building has its own set of needs and requirements. We provide each building with a different "default" device that suits each age group. iPads reside in the Grade School, Chromebooks at the Middle School and Laptops in the High School. Each device, especially the laptops in the High School, provide the tools needed to prepare the students for the next step in their education. We also provide nearly every full time staff and faculty member with a laptop. These devices are typically obtained through lease-to-own programs to keep costs manageable. There are moments when a full count of our inventory seems impossible to keep track of, however, here is an estimate on how many of each of these devices we have.

- Laptops: 615+
- Chromebooks: 320+
- iPads: 290+
- Desktop Computers: 60+

Total Computing Devices are roughly estimated at 1,285. It is hard to keep a completely accurate track of this due to damages that occur frequently from the constant use of these devices and the need to provide a quick response to repairs or replacements.

Along with managing and supporting the staff and student's personal computing devices provided by the District, we also maintain the network systems, Door Security/Environmental Controls (along with the maintenance department), Printers, Projection devices (TVs/projectors), Security Cameras, cabling, Wireless systems, Phone Systems, Firewall, Filtering solutions, Servers, and a plethora of other peripheral devices and software.

We maintain a helpdesk system that has gradually seen increases every year. The trend of utilizing technology for many of the daily tasks has become evident in the numbers presented here. Obviously this year is not even half over and the landscape is a bit different considering the Pandemic. However, I am confident that even given a normal year this number would be relatively the same if not more. A helpdesk ticket can range from replacing a toner cartridge in a printer to taking on a task that requires weeks if not months of planning and executing. Our goal is completion of helpdesk tickets as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Helpdesk tickets completed each year:

2018-2019 School year – 1,236 Helpdesk Tickets Completed

2019-2020 School year – 1,071 Helpdesk Tickets Completed

2020-2021 School year (as of November 30th) – 1,044 Tickets Completed

As you can see, the technology needs of the district have grown considerably over the last decade. Our staff will continue to work diligently to provide as much support as possible to our staff and students. We will also continue to keep our systems functioning at an optimal level to ensure the best possible educational experience for our students and families.



Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of public hearing on annexation agreement and Meeting of Village Zoning Board to consider annexation petition

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m., a public hearing will be held by the Village of Tremont Zoning Board at the Village of Tremont Village Hall, located at 211 S. Sampson St., Tremont, IL 61568, for the purpose of considering and hearing testimony regarding a proposed Annexation Agreement between the Village of Tremont, Illinois and K2H, L.L.C. The proposed agreement calls for the annexation of the property commonly known as 22250 Illinois Route 9 (PIN: 11-11-13-301-006), the rezoning of the property, once annexed, to the B-2 General Business District and matters relating to sanitary sewer service to the property. The Annexation Agreement, the annexation of the property and the rezoning of the property will be considered by the Tremont Village Board at its regular meeting on December 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village of Tremont Village Hall.

Village of Tremont
Village Zoning Board
Tremont, Illinois

Tremont District Library

Temporary Hours Change

Tremont Library will be shifting to contact-free services temporarily. Please note the hours change as well. Our situation is in flux and this is temporary-- we appreciate your patience, stay tuned for more information.

Curbside/Lobby Pick-up Hours Extended

Next week, library curbside/pick-up service is available for our FULL regular hours. We are only offering curbside/lobby pick-up for now. Watch our website and Facebook for updates!

Curbside/Lobby Hours:
Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm
Fridays 10am-5pm
Saturday 9-1pm

Please remember to wear a mask when visiting the library and/or lobby, and keep distance from others. Thank you!

If you'd like to place items on hold for pick-up, give us a call at 925-5432 or e-mail tremontlibrary.circulation@gmail.com. For best service please make your hold request a full business day in advance.

Next week's schedule:

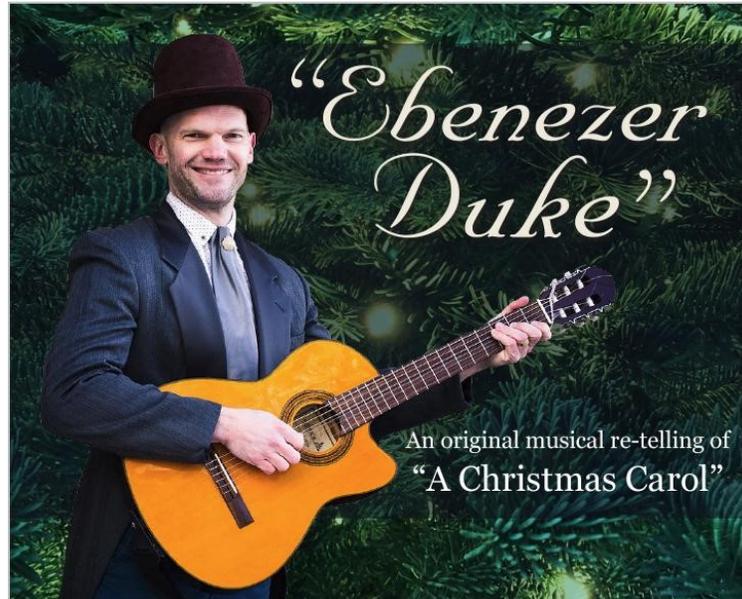
Monday & Tuesday -- Curbside lobby pick-up 10am-8pm
Wednesday-- Open late at 11am, then back to regular hours and library services.

Ebenezer Duke

December is here and more holidays are on their way! In celebration, we are excited to be "virtually hosting" Duke Otherwise!

Some of you may remember Duke from his performance at our end of Summer Reading Party in 2019. This year, he created a video performance filled with original and interactive songs, based on the classic A Christmas Carol story, to get your whole family in the holiday spirit. His video, "Ebenezer Duke" will be available to view on Youtube December 1st - December 15th. Visit TremontLibrary.com to get the link to the video!

Find all of our children's programming, including Early Literacy Tips for kids from Miss Lizzi at: <http://tremontlibrary.com/virtualprogrammingkids/>



Friday

Christmas Break Starts - School Resumes Monday, January 4th

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.

Thank you,

Haas IT Solutions, Inc. on behalf of Tremont Winning Communities

Tremont Winning Communities | info@tremontil.com | <http://tremontil.com>