



## Weekly News

### Did you know...?

#### The History of Beecham's Market

Tremont has been home to many, many grocery stores, meat markets, and produce stores over the years. The earliest on record were in 1844; Leonard & Son and also Alexander Wynd's store. There were times several were in business at once -in the early 1900s, Tremont had six! But one store has outlasted all of them...Beecham's Market today is run by Dave and Keri (Beecham) Hughs. Keri is the third generation of Beechams to run Beecham's Market in Tremont.

The market has a long and interesting history.

In 1922, William and Clearance Beecham purchased a grocery store in Glasford, Illinois to start the Beecham Brothers journey. During this time, Jerry helped his father and uncle at the store until he married in 1939 and moved to Tremont, Illinois.

In Tremont, the newlyweds rented the building that had housed Giltner's General Store. (Prior to Giltner's Store, the building had housed Colter and McGinnis General Store) The building was located where the small white home is right next to the Tremont United Methodist Church parking lot, where the 1904 Tremont United Methodist Church stood until very recently.

The Beechams lived above the store until disaster hit on March 19, 1940. On that morning they woke to a roaring fire which blocked both stairways. The director of the funeral home across the street, Mr. Wilkey, heard screams for help and rescued them with his ladder. The fire damaged the buildings around the store, so much so that the church had to close for repairs for several weeks and services were held in the high school. The wooden structure that had been their business and home and the warehouse behind it was completely destroyed. The Beecham's lost all of their belongings, their store and inventory, and their delivery truck and car.

They were able to purchase a building down the street owned by George Hellman and reopened their grocery store. However, in July, 1943 Jerry left for service in WWII to serve in the infantry in France, and had to close the store. Later that year, the business reopened. But again, a terrible fire destroyed their store, again a wooden structure. The Beechams rebuilt in the same location – a brick building this time! That building still houses Beecham's Market today.

Their son Lanny and his wife Mary took over the business in the late 1960s. The store became especially known for its quality meats. When their daughter Keri grew up, she assisted in the store and learned the business from her parents. Keri and her husband Dave are now owners. Beechams is well known in surrounding areas for their quality meats, also providing meats to many area restaurants. Keri and Dave have evolved the business into a small town's only full grocery with a niche of local specialty foods and natural products.

Tremont residents and local communities value this little market with its nearly 100 year history.

Next week: "The Historic Warehouse Behind the Original Beecham's Grocery."

~Tremont Museum and Historical Society



## 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](mailto:hdbrook@frontier.com).

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## No calendar events

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Around Town



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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.

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Thank you,

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

Tremont Winning Communities | [info@tremontil.com](mailto:info@tremontil.com) | <http://tremontil.com>