



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...?

The Demise of the Tazewell County Courthouse in Tremont

According to the August 9, 1889 Pantagraph, the old courthouse at that time, stood, "...vacant and alone, a mute monument to departed hopes and a silent memento of past prosperity."

It had once been a majestic building, and the center of Tazewell County legal activity with the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Adali Stephens, and David Davis frequenting the court. What had happened? History tells us.

Obtaining the county seat for Tremont was quite an accomplishment back in 1835, just as the new village of Tremont was being settled. Losing it in 1889 was a blow that could have meant the town's death knell. An old history states that the loss came about starting as far back as 1839, "...when a complaint was raised by the people of Pekin against the county seat being in Tremont, and there upon began a bitter warfare between the two places."

Court continued in Tremont, and the town continually grew with businesses largely due to the influx of people coming to court. But trouble was brewing, and finally a petition to move the courthouse to Pekin was circulated. There were so many signatures that a vote was finally taken. The majority of the county approved. The decision was made that the town of Pekin and the area around it would erect a courthouse without cost to the county, within two years. Pekin claimed victory and was recognized as the county seat in 1850. Foreseeing the possibility of a similar disagreement in the future, Pekin succeeded in having a law passed to allow them to keep the county seat permanently.

Bitter and disillusioned, many people, including Josiah James, one of Tremont's founders, left Tremont.

John Harris, another founder, had originally donated the land for the courthouse. He appeared in court to try to recover the property, as it had been given specifically for the purpose of the courthouse. The court ruled against him, and Abraham Lincoln appealed the case to the Illinois Supreme Court. But the judge there ruled that the deed was not absolute; the county seat would remain in Pekin, and Harris could not recover the property.

The courthouse in Tremont was to be used exclusively for the purpose of education. In a letter from a Mr. Shaw, dated 1850, he writes, "In a few days the courts will be removed and the courthouse vacated... there was some talk of using the building for a Normal School house (to train teachers), but the establishment of such an institution would require the contribution of a fund by the state, and the state is too poor and indebted to make grants of the kind..."

For several years, a Professor Snow taught there, until the school was unable to support itself.

Many organizations used the large upper rooms for years, for club dances, amateur plays, and the yearly Catholic fair, among other activities. Later, the lower rooms were used as tenements.

An article entitled, "Historic Tremont" from the Peoria Herald Transcript of January 1905, described the

demise of the building in this way, "...little by little, as the years glided by and the proper and timely repairs were not made, it began to decay and crumble. The swallows that flitted by took possession of it. The woodpecker...defaced the columns that so majestically supported its roof...now, with its cupola gone, and its rooms uninhabited, it seemed to look at the observer in abject humility.

Finally, the building reverted to the heirs of John Harris. His daughter, Mrs. E.C. Saltenstall became the owner. But by then it was so run down it would have been dangerous to occupy. In 1895, the old building was sold and razed. Tremont contractor William Brown built a house there. He was able to use the old building's wood and other items in its construction. Today, some of those pieces, including the door key, a boot scraper, and a stained glass window, are now on display at the Tremont Museum.

In 1956, the Illinois State Historical Society placed a marker at the end of what had once been the 140 foot wide Broadway Street. The marker is all that is left to remind our residents of the courthouse that had stood there so proudly, and the long ago lawyers, judges and clients that occupied it.

~Tremont Museum and Historical Society



Community Shred Day

The 2021 Community Shred Day will be held at the Tremont First National Bank on Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 9:00AM-Noon. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year is underway. If you have an incoming Kindergartener, please register your new student at <https://www.tremont702.net/o/grade-school/page/registration>.

The purpose of kindergarten screening is to do the best job we possibly can balancing our kindergarten classes by ability. Research shows that young children learn best when classrooms consist of children of varied learning levels. A balanced or heterogeneously-grouped classroom allows all children to learn from the teacher and each other.

Another reason for kindergarten screening is to give parents more information about their child's readiness skills, especially if they are considering waiting another year for their child to begin school. The results of these tests will show the range of the child's skills. Any child who is 5 years old by September 1 can enter Kindergarten regardless of scores. Sometimes parents decide to wait a year; that is their choice, not a district requirement.

Kindergarten screening for registered students begins Tuesday, April 27, from 8:00-3:30, and continues on Wednesday, April 28, from 8:00-2:00. Please sign up for an appointment through this link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EA5A628A7FFC52-20212022> **Kindergarten screening is being held at Tremont Community Center**, not Tremont Grade School. All Covid policies are in effect; children must wear masks, and teachers will sanitize between students.

If you wish not to have your incoming Kindergartener screened or have any questions, please email Becky Hansen at rebecca.hansen@d702.org.



Tremont Library

Temple Grandin -- The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism & Asperger's

Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 6PM

Register now for this special online event at <http://bit.ly/39neep2>.

Temple Grandin, PhD, one of the most accomplished and well-known adults with autism in the world, addresses the real issues of autism that parents, teachers, and individuals on the spectrum face every day. She offers helpful dos and don'ts, practical strategies, and try-it-now tips, all based on her insider perspective and a great deal of research.

Twelve area libraries, including your own Tremont District Library, have partnered together in order to present this big, special online event. Register today!

Book Quarantining Has Ended!

Tremont District Library is no longer required to quarantine books, and so your online account will now be completely accurate! Yay! No more wondering if you really returned a book while it's sitting at the library in quarantine-- books are returned when we receive them. If you're curious about the book quarantine guidelines and why they've changed over time, libraries in Illinois use data from the REALM Study (REopening Archives, Libraries and Museums). REALM studies COVID droplets on real-world library materials. Any science and/or library-lovers out there can learn more about the study here:

<https://www.oclc.org/realm/home.html>

Crochet Group: All Ages!

Please note this is a VIRTUAL PROGRAM.

Do you love to crochet or would you like to start learning how to crochet? This all-ages group is for you! Once a week on Thursday afternoons, Jan. 21 - May 20 from 3-4pm, Miss Lizzi will host a virtual meeting over Zoom. Beginners and seasoned crocheters alike are welcome to join and create in the company of others. If you're just beginning, Lizzi will teach you the basics and we can begin a small project together. Participants can also show off projects they are proud of! There is no registration required-- e-mail lizzi@tremontlibrary.com for the link to get in!

Make-it Mondays

Join Miss Nicole for S.T.E.A.M. inspired videos and projects! In May we will be studying DENSITY! There is a video and project geared towards 5-7-year-olds, and one for kids 8+. Call 925-5432 to register or e-mail us at tremontlibrary.childrens@gmail.com

Virtual Read-Aloud Group

Have you checked out our Virtual Read-Aloud group lately? It's full of fun, perfect for you and your preschooler!

Every other Thursday, we post a Story Hour Room, an interactive web page with links to read-alouds, rhymes, and songs. We even have kits at the library to go along with craft tutorials! Our past themes have included Sloths, Underwear, The Alphabet, and many more and this week we'll be featuring Earth Day!

Hop on over to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3351260734902359> to get in on the fun!

Young Adult Book Club

Teens ages 13-19 are invited to join Tremont Library's Young Adult Book Club. We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm on Zoom. Email tremontlibrary.childrens@gmail.com to register your phone number or email for our Remind group and receive zoom links.

- May: *Dancing at the Pity Party* by Tyler Feder

Copies of each book are available at the library!

Monday

HS V Baseball home vs Lexington – 4:30PM

MS Track home vs Morton, Eureka – 4:30PM

Tuesday

HS JV Baseball @ Heyworth – 4:30PM

HS V/JV Softball @ Lexington – 4:30PM

MS Wrestling @ Kingsley – 5:00PM

Thursday

HS Track @ Heyworth – 4:00PM

HS V Baseball @ Eureka – 4:30PM

HS V/JV Softball home vs Eureka – 4:30PM

MS Track home vs Broadmoor, East Peoria – 4:30PM

Friday

HS V Baseball home vs Cornerstone Christian – 4:30PM

Saturday

HS JV Baseball DH home vs U High – 10:00AM

HS Wrestling @ Princeton – 10:00AM

HS V/JV Softball @ Limestone (with East Peoria) – 12:00PM

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.

Thank you,

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

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