



Weekly News

Underground Railroad Conductors Recognition Event

Honoring and Celebrating Tremont's Forgotten Conductors

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 12 at 3:45PM as part of the Turkey Festival. Peoria's Heritage Ensemble will be singing slaves' freedom songs prior to and after the 4:00PM program, which will be held on the lawn of the Jones-Menard "Red Brick" residence at 412 E. South Street. Parking is limited; a shuttle will leave at 3:15PM from the middle school parking lot (behind the school). A few seats will be provided for the hour long program; feel free to bring your own chair.

In case of inclement weather, the program will be in the new family life center in the Tremont Methodist Church. A shuttle will leave at 3:15 to the church because parking will be limited there, too.

This event is sponsored by the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society, NAACP Peoria Branch, Village of Tremont, Tremont Museum & Historical Society, Tremont Turkey Festival Committee, and the Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman. Conductors who will be recognized are Josiah and Levi Matthews, John Albert Jones, Freeman Kingman, and Absalom Dillon.

Volunteers Needed For Booksale

Tremont District Library will be holding their annual book sale this year during the Turkey Festival provided we get enough volunteers. Volunteers work 2-hour shifts during the festival or can help set up/tear down. Much of the Turkey Festival is planned to be drive-through, but the County Fair tent where the Booksale is held will be open for folks to walk up. Please note that the health department is requiring facial coverings for everyone during the festival.

Working the book sale is a fun and easy way to volunteer. Sign-ups are at the Library front desk!

Did you know...?

Memorial Day in the Early 1900s

Today, Memorial Day is all about family gatherings, picnics, celebrating the unofficial arrival of summer, and remembering fallen veterans. Some also use the day to honor those family members who have died. Originally though, it was called Decoration Day, as on that day grave sites were cleaned after the winter and decorated with flowers and flags for the fallen soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Civil War. There were patriotic memorial services, and as years passed, parades and picnics were held. Even by the early 1900s, the day's priority was still remembering the fallen soldiers who had served their country.

In an interview for the 100th anniversary of the old Tremont Methodist Church in 2004, Tremont resident Eloise Schneider recalled, *"I remember the fresh smell of flowers in our church basement. It happened on Decoration Day when I was a youngster...the ladies of the church would cut flowers from their gardens the day before, tie them in bunches, and place them in big metal washtubs filled with water in the church basement. The next morning when we children gathered in the basement, that nice fragrance was in the air. With a bouquet from the tubs in each hand, we joined others to form a parade as we walked to Mt. Hope Cemetery...Mr. Frank Blue, the local druggist and church member, led the parade. At the cemetery, he would point out the graves of military veterans and we placed flowers on each one. I have been told that in earlier years, Josiah Sawyer, a Civil War veteran and longtime Tremont resident, led the parade."*

Recently, I was delighted to come across a few articles about the same event that she had described. One, from *The Tremont News* of May 1911:

“The Women’s Improvement Association of Tremont desire herewith to extend a cordial invitation ...to meet at the basement of the M.E. Church (the Methodist Church was called the Methodist-Episcopal Church at that time) at 9:30 a.m. on Memorial Day...and walk to the cemetery, there to decorate the graves of the soldiers who sleep in yonder city of the dead.”

What a special, meaningful tradition that was. Maybe it is time to revive it to honor all of our veterans!?

~ Tremont Museum & Historical Society



Tremont Winning Communities

Last week, we provided a general overview of the Winning Communities Organization and included a brief history of the group. While the organizational structure is important, the most critical components are residents willing to share a collective vision for the Tremont area.

So many incredible projects have been accomplished through cooperation with community members, local organizations and governmental bodies. All were centered on the identified goals from the 2006 inception of Winning Communities. A sample list includes:

- The welcome signs on both ends of Route 9
- A Tiber Creek Project that extended City Park and greatly enhanced the aesthetic view on the main corridor through the Village
- Clean up along the South Street Lake
- A new Community Center
- The development of a community newsletter
- Yearly Christmas Trees along the Tiber Creek path
- The Sampson St. project – the most recent initiative. Please see future newsletters for more information...

In addition to the tangible projects coordinated by Winning Communities, several behind the scenes activities are promoted as well. The WC Board continues to act as a conduit between the various organizations and elected bodies in the District #702 area promoting our mission **to improve the quality of life in Tremont, to increase the pride of current residents and to entice new people and businesses to live and work here.**

A couple of years back, the Winning Communities Board met with a prominent realtor in the greater Peoria area to seek input on how the Village is seen in the region. How can we become more of a destination for those seeking to relocate or businesses looking for a home base? Board members, representing several Tremont organizations, all heard the same message that centered around the need to market ourselves and promote the great things going on in the Community. As a result, we did proceed with a marketing campaign utilizing a local production company hoping to spread the word about the great things happening in Tremont. At the same time, we probably got better traction from numerous community organizations that began touting their activities and accomplishments through news outlets, websites, and the local newsletter.

It's an exciting time to live in Tremont. As always, it's really the people that make a community special and allow these great ideas to go from a dream to reality. While some very preliminary and necessary infrastructure work is already getting started on Sampson St., you'll be hearing more about this project in the coming weeks. The timing is right to capitalize on this much needed work underground, to make a dynamic and aesthetically pleasing entryway through the heart of our little Village.



Tremont Library

Summer Reading: Reading colors your world!

Get excited for Summer Reading! For all ages, birth-adult! Registration starts June 1.

100 Books this Summer (Ages 1-5)

Read 100 books w/ your child, June 1-August 7.

Summer Reading Game (Ages 5-12)

Complete a reading goal & earn prizes, June 1-July 17

Adult & Teen Summer Reading

Adults & teens, read 3 hours/week for a chance to win prizes! June 1-July 17

Story Walks

Dates/Times: New story up each week, June 1st - July 12th

Location: South East Pond

Description: Enjoy the weather and a story with our Summer Story Walks! Walk or ride around the South East Pond and follow signs displaying fun picture books.

Life-size Candyland

Dates/Times: Wednesday, June 9th, 10AM-8PM

Location: Tremont District Library

Description: Enter the world of Candyland with this life-size game! Follow the trail around the library and earn prizes! Groups limited to either immediate families or four players. All ages welcome.

Story Hour

Dates/Times: Thursdays, June 10th - July 22nd

Location: Virtual

Description: Check out our Virtual Read-Aloud Facebook group for interactive Story Hour Rooms! Rooms include video read-alouds, rhymes, activities, and craft tutorials. Craft kits available at the library. Perfect for ages 3-6.

Merchant's Day

Merchant's Day is happening once again! Join your favorite local merchants and friends on Sampson Street and Rt 9 on Thursday evening, June 10th from 4-8PM. Join us for live music, food vendors and local restaurant specials, plus lots of shopping, in addition to the first night of carnival rides at the Tremont Turkey Festival! See our Facebook event page (<https://fb.me/e/Uk8CPnf3>) for an up-to-date list of activities and vendors!

[Click here](#) to view a flyer with more information about events and participating businesses.



Monday

HS V Baseball @ Fieldcrest - 10:00AM

HS Softball V/JV home vs Fieldcrest - 10:00AM

Tuesday

HS Boys Track home vs Tri-Valley, LeRoy, EPG - 4:00PM

HS V Baseball @ Downs - 4:30PM

HS V Softball home vs Tri-Valley - 4:30PM

HS WR @ LeRoy - 6:00PM

Wednesday

HS Baseball Regional game home vs Kewanee - 4:30PM

Thursday

HS Girls Track Sectional home - 10:00AM

HS Softball Regional game home vs TBD - 4:30PM

HS WR home vs Eureka, Heyworth - 6:00PM

Friday

HS Regional Baseball game @ Eureka (when win on June 2) - 4:30PM

HS Regional Softball game home vs TBD (when win on June 3) - 4:30PM

Saturday

HS WR home vs Farmington, UHigh - 10:00AM

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>