



## Weekly News

### Turkey Festival

The 2021 Turkey Festival is June 11-13. For the schedule of events and more information, [click here](#).

### 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!

### Tremont Museum

#### Make it a Special Event!

Come watch the parade from the Tremont Museum lawn on Sunday! Plan to stay after and go through the museum buildings. Make the day all about hometown pride!

Museum: Corner of S. Sampson and Madison Streets. Open 2:00-4:00.



### Underground Railroad Coordinator Recognition Event

**June 12 @ 4:00PM - During the Turkey Festival**  
At the historic Jones-Menard "Red Brick" Residence  
412 E. South Street

The renowned Heritage Ensemble will give a FREE public performance before and after this event. The public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs for their use and to arrive early (3:45PM) to enjoy their performances.

The second in a planned series of Public Recognition Events will take place for individuals who had

served as Coordinators of the Underground Railroad through Tazewell County. This event will take place at the historic Jones-Menard Residence, the only documented remaining structure in Tazewell County that was part of the Underground Railroad. This service will honor and celebrate Josiah and Levi Matthews of Elm Grove, John Albert Jones of Tremont, Freeman Kingman of Tremont, and Absalom Dillon of Dillon.

"At the time of these individual's death, participation in the Underground Railroad was still controversial. Their efforts to assist enslaved individuals was not as celebrated as it is today," stated Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman. "This history has been documented, but even today you need to know about it to look it up. No marker or public indicator is available hinting to this courageous history within Tazewell County."

Beginning sometime in the late 1820s and continuing throughout the Civil War, an estimated 800 enslaved individuals passed through Tazewell County on a pathway to freedom in Canada, thanks to a secretive network of citizen volunteers, which today is nationally recognized as the Underground Railroad. Here in Illinois, while a Free State with laws that did not allow slavery within the state, strong laws against harboring runaway slaves or assisting in any way existed. The minimum fine for harboring slaves was \$1000 and a minimum six months in jail. Additionally, hired bounty hunters worked within the state to capture and either return or, in most cases, resale individuals into slavery in St Louis.

In Tazewell County, the main pathway of the Underground Railroad entered at Delavan and continued through Circleville, Tremont, Dillon to Morton and then around Washington to Metamora. This second Public Recognition Event will honor the citizens that worked the Underground Railroad in the Tremont vicinity.

"The purpose of this series of Public Recognition Events is to properly recognize the work of these individuals, bring public awareness to the existence of the nationally celebrated Underground Railroad here in Tazewell County, and most importantly to add a permanent marker at the gravesites of these individuals for future generations, indicating their involvement as a Underground Railroad Coordinator," continued Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman. "It is our hope these efforts here in Tazewell County will be copied in the future by counties throughout Illinois and beyond."

This event is being hosted by the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society, NAACP Peoria Branch, the Village of Tremont, the Tremont Museum and Historical Society, the Tremont Turkey Festival Committee, and Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman. Planned public speakers at this event will include Pastor Marvin Hightower of the NAACP, Susan Rynerson of the Tazewell County Genealogical & Historical Society, Rich Sauder and Rick Otey of the Tremont Museum and Historical Society, Marc Bailey, owner of the historic residence, and Tazewell County Clerk John C. Ackerman.

This Public Recognition Event is free and open to the public. As it is an outdoor event with plenty of space available for social distancing, no limitation will be in place for attendance, but guests are encouraged to bring face masks if desired.

A previous event on March 9th recognized individuals who worked in Morton Township. Future events are being planned for Circleville and Delavan later in 2021, culminating in Washington in April 2022, marking the 175th Anniversary of the arrest and trial of Underground Railroad Coordinators George Kern of rural Metamora and John Randolph Scott of Washington for harboring slaves. Both individuals were represented by Abraham Lincoln as their Defense Attorney at the Tazewell County Courthouse in Tremont, Illinois, in April of 1847, which was the last court case Lincoln took involving slavery. Abraham Lincoln successfully got the case dismissed for lack of evidence.

#### Notes\*

The approximately one-hour event will be held on the front lawn of the Jones-Menard home. The home will not be open, and no restroom facilities will be available.

In case of poor weather, a decision will be made mid-day and posted on Facebook and on a sign outside the home. In that case, the event will be held in the Family Life Center of the Tremont Methodist Church.

A shuttle will leave from the middle school parking lot (behind the school) at 3:15 to the appropriate location.

Parking is limited at the home and at the church.

Plan to have a turkey sandwich and strawberry shortcake afterwards!

We hope to see you there!

*Your Hosts, Tremont Museum and Historical Society*

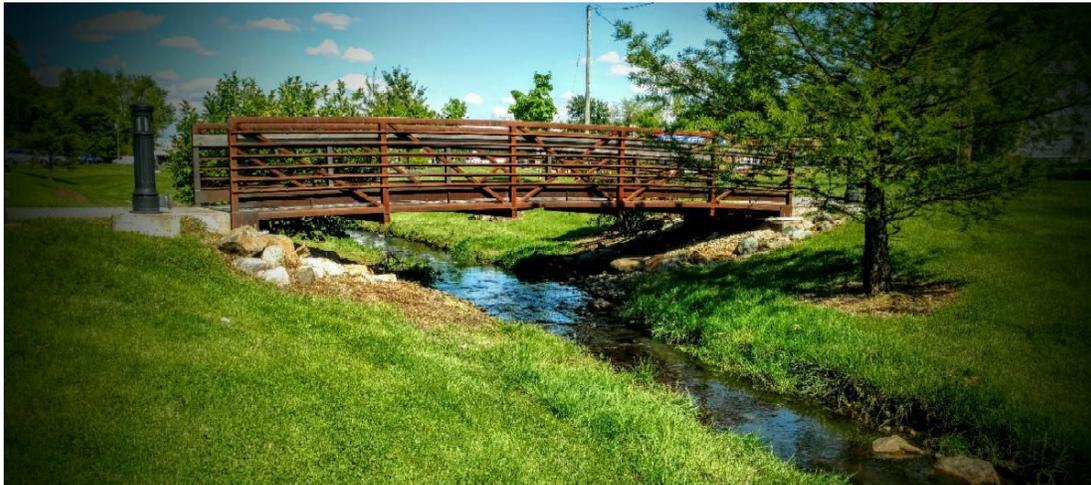
## **Tremont Winning Communities**

In the spring of 2007, TWC embarked on our flagship project, enhancing the old railroad track and drainage ditch commonly known as Tiber Creek along Route 9 just south of City Park. This project came from the work of the Image and Appearance Committee lead by Dale Stuber. It was born out of the notion that the then weedy, unkempt and graveled area was not a good "front door" to our amazing community. Little did we know at that time this would become something so many people would embrace.

Initially, we expected it would take at least two years to design, raise needed funds, get proper approvals and complete the project. Due to such strong community support, the project was substantially completed in about 4 months. Prior to the beginning of construction, there were numerous meetings with local contractors, potential financial supporters, local officials and community members soliciting their help. During that period of time, enough money was raised or pledged to help fund the start of the estimated \$250,000 project cost. The Winning Communities Board decided to begin work and complete as much as possible with the funds raised to that point.

As the project began, we soon realized much more was getting done than anticipated. Local contractors and operators were providing, at no cost, heavy equipment and operating time. The vision for a beautiful and aesthetically pleasing approach to our Village was shared by so many of our residents. The list of supporters began to grow and other businesses provided fuel, grass seed, trees, dirt and many other items too numerous to mention. Community members volunteered their time to walk the area and pick-up rocks, rake the dirt and feed the workers.

The final cost of the project was about \$100,000, significantly lower than expected and completed much earlier than anticipated that September. The dedication and commitment from our main volunteers Dale Stuber, Mike Sauder, and Tom Sauder was critical to the success of the Tiber Creek Project. The support of our community and the numerous volunteer hours given to this endeavor continues to be a source of pride as this beautiful backdrop along our park continues to serve us well 14 years later.



## **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.



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## 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

Merchant's Day - 4:00-8:00PM  
Sampson Street & Rte. 9

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

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

## Friday

Turkey Festival - Starting at 11:00AM

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

Turkey Festival - All Day

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

Underground Railroad Recognition Event - 4:00PM  
Jones-Menard Residence - 412 E. South Street

## Sunday

Turkey Festival - All Day

Parade - 2:00PM

Tremont Museum - 2:00-4:00PM

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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>