



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>

Community Shred Day

Tremont First National Bank will be hosting a community shred day at their Tremont office on Saturday, May 7 from 9am - noon.

For more information, [click here](#).

Tremont Museum

We're Back!

The Tremont Museum will open for 2022 on Sunday, March 13, from 2:00-4:00PM. The museum will be open 2nd and 4th Sundays from 2:00-4:00PM throughout the year. Both buildings will be open and admission is by donation. We are happy to schedule times for groups or individuals by appointment. Call Rich at 309-231-1123.

Let's Talk Turkey!

Ever wonder why Tremont is so turkey-oriented? Why are the school teams called "the Tremont Turks?" Why do we have an annual Turkey Festival? Greg and Steve Sinn have been researching and will present "The History of Turkey Production in Tremont" on Tuesday evening, March 15, at 7:00PM at the Tremont Community Center. They will answer these questions and much more! The program is hosted by the Tremont Museum and Historical Society. Refreshments will be served. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Did you know...?

Tremont's Village Blacksmiths

Blacksmiths were vitally important to the early settlers. Anything iron, such as plows, rakes, pans, wheels, door latches and horseshoes, was forged by the village blacksmith. Purchasing these and other items at a hardware store was impossible on the prairie. As a result, blacksmiths were very important, well-paid members of communities.

When Tremont was first settled in 1835, Philander Dean set up shop. There may have been others. No doubt they were very much in demand. Likely, they were located near the center of town at that time, which was the Public Square (City Park). In about 1840, in that same vicinity, Fred Neiting opened his business. These would have been the men who were helping Tremont's first citizens to settle and to care for the feet of their invaluable horses.

In 1864, Alfred Dean set up shop, possibly with Philander Dean.

In the mid-1860s, John March opened a blacksmith shop about where today's community center is. Later his son, Littleton G. March, took over. Littleton's sons also joined him in the business, which continued until Littleton's death in 1938.

Another early blacksmith was noted on the 1891 plat map. He was located on East Walnut Street, about where the education addition to the Baptist Church is today. It is possible it was James Paine's shop.

In the 1890s, a blacksmith building was located on South James Street next to the alley, opposite today's grade school. This shop, Barkdoll and Miller, was originally owned by Jacob Barkdoll, whose implement buildings were located around the corner on South Street. Other blacksmiths later operating from this location were P.E. McCrane, and the Abbott brothers. Around 1900, Ernest Suchert bought the building and did traditional smithy work there, as well as machine work. He spent decades of his life there. Later, his sons Hans, George, and Herbert joined the business. Suchert died in 1951. Ernest Schaefer bought the shop in 1950, which he ran until 1984, when he retired. The building was sold to the Library Store, who replaced it with a large warehouse.

Around 1900, George Voelpel also became a blacksmith in town, though we are unsure of the location of his shop.

As time passed, hardware stores opened. Blacksmiths no longer were needed to make everyday tools, kitchen essentials, iron latches, etc. However, blacksmiths rebounded as they were still needed for iron repair work and welding, small engines, and the forging of shoes for horses.

When the automobile became popular, blacksmiths had to evolve once more. They worked on small engines and continued to repair iron items. Some began selling lawn mowers and chain saws. However, despite their efforts, the blacksmith became obsolete. Tremont's last blacksmith shop, Ernest Schaefer's Tremont Blacksmith Shop, closed in 1984.

~Tremont Museum and Historical Society



*John March Blacksmith Shop
on South Sampson Street*



*Ernest Schaefer's Tremont Blacksmith Shop
on South James Street*

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten screening for the 2022-2023 school year will be held Wednesday, April 20, through Friday, April 22, at the Tremont Community Center. You may sign up for an appointment by clicking this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EA5A628A7FFC52-20222023>

Students who attend the Turk Center can choose to either schedule an appointment through this link or choose to be screened while they are at the Turk Center. Please let Jennifer Hendrickson know which

option you decide.

Tremont District Library

Tremont District Library is hiring:

Cataloging Library Assistant (Part-time)
Visit [our website](#) for more information.

Story Hour

Thursday, March 3rd, 10:30am
Ages 3-6

Story Hour is held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 10:30-11:15am. No registration is required, so join us whichever days you'd like!

Miss Maddie reads stories, sings songs and rhymes, and does activities that all encourage early literacy and improves socialization skills in the youngest of library patrons. Wiggles are welcome! Make Story Hour a step you take in preparing your child for life-long learning.

Make-it Monday

Miss Nicole loves to learn about the world around her and create cool things, and that's what Make-It Monday is all about! Join her once a month to make a cool S.T.E.A.M. related project! No registration required, ages 7+.

Upcoming topics:

- March: The Human Body
- April: Thermochromic Slime
- May: Levers, Pulleys, Catapults... Oh My!

Baby & Me

Wednesday mornings, 10:30am

New and experienced parents are invited to join Miss Nicole on Wednesday mornings for a parent/baby support group. Meet other parents in the area, make friends, enjoy new toys, lots of books, and a must: free coffee.

The focus of this group is parents and young children ages 0-3, but other siblings are always welcome! No registration required, drop in whenever works best for you.

Chapter One: Monthly Read-Alouds

Ages 8-12, no registration required.

Each month at our Chapter One meeting, participants can enjoy quiet activities while listening to the first few chapters of a new book. If you like what you hear and want to finish the story yourself, extra copies will be available to check out! You aren't required to be at every meeting, just attend what months sound good to you!

Upcoming reads:

- March 22nd – Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Monday

HS Scholastic Bowl at Fisher - 4:30PM

7th Grade VB Regional at Georgetowne - 6:00PM

Tuesday

HS Scholastic Bowl HOI Tournament at Lexington - 3:30PM

MS Scholastic Bowl home vs Beverly Manor - 4:00PM

7th Grade VB Regional at Georgetowne - 5:00PM

Wednesday

8th Grade VB home vs EPG - 4:15PM

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>