



Weekly News

Holiday Lights Contest!

Holiday Lights Contest

presented by
TREMONT WINNING COMMUNITIES

*Be Merry. Be Bright.
Make your house a delight!*

NEW THIS YEAR...CATEGORIES! CHOOSE YOUR STYLE!
CLARK GRISWALD OR MARTHA STEWART

TO PARTICIPATE, SEND US YOUR
ADDRESS & DESIRED CATEGORY VIA EMAIL OR FACEBOOK MESSENGER
LIGHTS MUST BE UP AND ON NIGHTLY
JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE FROM THE 10TH TO THE 13TH

ELIGIBLE HOMES MUST BE WITHIN THE 702 SCHOOL DISTRICT.
TREMONTWINNINGCOMMUNITIES@GMAIL.COM
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TREMONTWINNINGCOMMUNITIES

Let's spread some Christmas cheer by decking the halls! Tremont Winning Communities is excited to bring back the Holiday Lights Contest for the homes within the 702 School District. From simple to extravagant, we want to see them all! This year, we added categories: Clark Griswald or Martha Stewart, you pick!

To participate in the contest, please send your name, address, desired category and a photo of your house lit up via email (tremontwinningcommunities@gmail.com) or a direct message on Facebook (www.facebook.com/tremontwinningcommunities). Entries must be in and lights be on by December 10th.

A list/map of participating homes will be available December 11th so everyone can view the light displays! Grab some hot cocoa and take a ride to check them out!

Judging will take place over the course of the evenings of December 10-13, so make sure your lights are on! The winners of each category will be announced on Facebook on December 15 and in the Tremont Weekly Newsletter on the following Monday. The winner will receive a prize from local businesses and bragging rights until next year.

Be merry. Be bright. Make your house a delight!

TAPD 5th & 6th Grade Girl Volleyball Program

Girls recreation volleyball open gym will be held:

Friday Dec. 8th 6:00-8:00pm at TMS gym.

Registration will be **online only** at <http://www.tremontpark.org/> and opens Dec. 9th and close Dec.14th with only 18 positions available per age group.

After 18 registrations the program will close and names will be added to a waiting list pending coach/player availability.

Practices will begin the week of December 18th (2 practices per week) dates to be determined. Competition schedule will include: Games on Monday nights at Eastside in East Peoria beginning date to be determined and two tournaments hosted in Tremont also to be determined. This will equate to 15-18 matches per team for the season. Season range: Mid January to End of February.

Who: 5th grade & 6th grade girls

Where: Tremont Middle School and Eastside East Peoria

Cost: \$82.00 per player

Questions: TAPD (tapdfacres@gmail.com), 309-925-3811

Program Coordinator: Kate Berry (Kate.berry.44.23@gmail.com)

TREMONT FFA

Annual Tremont FFA Alumni & Supporters Meeting Scheduled

Mark your calendar: The Annual Tremont FFA Alumni & Supporters meeting is scheduled for Dec. 7th at 6pm in the Tremont High School Ag Classroom. Come meet our new ag teacher, Joy Schwarting and co-FFA Advisor Jenny Schweigert. They'll present their strategic plan for the year as well as the many accomplishments made since August. Light refreshments will be served.

School Referendum Informational Meeting - Update

On Monday November 13th, we hosted a public informational meeting regarding the March referendum. There were some very good questions posed during the meeting. One of those questions involved a comparison in tax revenue between the Tremont school district and the Deer Creek-Mackinaw school district. This required some additional research on my part after the meeting, but I was able to discover some interesting details.

In 2016 and 2017, Dee-Mack passed multiple referendums. The 2016 referendum approved \$5.8 million in building bonds for facility upgrades, including the football field and track. In 2017, voters passed another referendum that increased the tax rate in their education fund. Because of the dynamics involved with refinancing existing building bonds at the time, all of this worked out to be virtually tax rate neutral – no increase or decrease to the overall tax rate. The increase to the education fund, however, provided Dee-Mack

with much needed revenue for operating and enhancing programs.

Dee-Mack is a very good comparison district for us because they are similar in size and their district's overall property value figure is similar to Tremont's as well. One advantage they have is that they are not subject to tax caps because part of their district extends beyond Tazewell County. Currently, DeeMack has an overall school tax rate of 5.25%. Approximately, 0.62% of that amount is for their bond payments. That leaves 4.63% to fund the operations of the district.

The overall school tax rate in Tremont is 5.13% with 0.91% designated for bond payments. That leaves 4.22% for operations. That figure is 0.41% lower than Dee-Mack's. As a result, Dee-Mack's tax levy generated around \$575,000 more for operations than Tremont's did this year.

The referendum the Tremont school district is pursuing would add 0.40% to the existing 4.22%. This would result in a 4.62% rate which is almost identical to Dee-Mack's current rate (4.63%). It's important to remember, however, that this rate increase would coincide with a significant decrease in the bond rate as existing building bonds are paid off.

Because of this, the overall tax rate would drop even with the passage of the referendum.

I mentioned earlier that Dee-Mack is a very good comparison district for us. One could argue they are a perfect comparison district in this situation because their current operating tax rate is almost exactly where Tremont CUSD 702 is trying to get with the upcoming March referendum.

The chart below compares Dee-Mack and Tremont school district tax rates

Visit the district website for updates, fact sheets, and other information -- [LINK](#)

Questions can be emailed to d702referendum@d702.org.

Route 9 Rivalry The Tax Rate Edition	Dee-Mack 701 Current Taxes payable 2023	Tremont 702 Current Taxes payable 2023	Tremont 702 With Referendum (Taxes payable 2025)
Rate Excluding Bonds	4.63%	4.22%	4.62%
Bond Rate	0.62%	0.91%	0.24%*
Total School Tax Rate	5.25%	5.13%	4.86%*

*projected

One other note to add is that Tremont's bond rate will drop again to a projected 0.12% the following year as the remaining smaller amount of building bond debt is paid off. This will lower the overall rate even further.

So far, most of the discussion has focused on tax rates and how the school tax rate would decrease even with the passage of the referendum. The next referendum update article will include more details about the impact of the referendum on actual tax bills. While property value assessments have been very volatile lately, it is still possible to create some reasonable projections for tax bills. Since I've thrown enough numbers at you in this update, I will save that information for the next time.

I will also use the next update to clarify language that will appear on the ballot in March. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism for mentioning the expiring building bonds and the resulting significantly lower bond tax rate in the ballot language, so the ballot will make it appear that the tax rate will actually increase. While the "limiting rate" will increase from 4.22% to 4.62% as I described earlier in this update, the substantial decrease in the bond rate will result in an overall rate decrease. Because of the rules regarding ballot language, there is no way to describe this on the ballot itself.

Again, that will be a topic for the next update. Until then, have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

More public meetings will take place between now and March with the next meeting likely

being in early-mid January. We will share information about those details once they are determined.

More information about the referendum will continue to be made available on the school district website as well -- www.tremont702.net.

Visit the district website for updates, fact sheets, and other information -- [LINK](#)

Questions can be emailed to d702referendum@d702.org.

Tremont Hometown Christmas, December 2nd



TREMONT

Homestead

CHRISTMAS

DOWNTOWN TREMONT

DECEMBER 2ND, 2023

4 - 7 PM

Christmas Tree Lighting, Smore's Stations, A Visit from Santa & Letters to Santa, Cookie Decorating, Carriage Rides, Stocking Decorating, Sand Art Craft, Carolers, Hot Cocoa, Face Painting, Food Trucks, and more!

Find all the info at facebook.com/hmtwnchristmas

Come Out For a Night of Small Town Family Fun!



Did You Know...?

The Jones-Menard House Second Owner:
Col. Peter Menard

John Albert Jones sold his beautiful Red Brick home in Tremont to serve as Clerk of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Southern District of Illinois, requiring him to reside in Springfield, Illinois. The next homeowner was Colonel Peter Menard.

Born the day after Christmas in 1797 in Kaskaskia, Illinois, Peter Menard grew up as part of a political family. He was the oldest son of Pierre Menard, the first Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, serving from 1812-1832. His father was also the first President of the Illinois Senate from 1818-1822.

Around 1820, Peter was appointed Indian Agent, and moved to Peoria. An Indian Agent is described as: "...an individual authorized to interact with American Indian tribes on behalf of the government." (Wikipedia)

In 1832, during the Black Hawk War, Menard was First Lieutenant in Captain William Gordon's Company of Spies. This was "A company of Mounted Volunteers of Illinois Militia, organized as a company of Spies, by order...of the U. S. Army. The non-commissioned officers and privates having been taken from the lines of other companies in the service, and the officers having been appointed by Brig. Gen. Atkinson, and continued in the service as a Spy Company... mustered out at Dixon's, (Dixon's Ferry) August 14, 1832." (<http://files.usgwarchives.net>)

He was also one of four men appointed as commissioners to locate a state road from Peoria to Galena, Illinois. Additionally, he invested in real estate and owned half of the land known at the time as Fort Clark, as well as a large part of what is now Peoria, Illinois. He was the first merchant in Peoria.

In 1861, he purchased a farm one mile southwest of Tremont. In 1866, he bought the John Albert Jones home in the southeast part of Tremont. His occupation is listed officially as "farmer" during that time of his life.

Menard passed away in 1871 at the age of 73. He is buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery.

His home was passed to his widow, Emily Jane Briggs Menard, then to other Menard family members. The last of the family owners was a bachelor, Amedie Hyolite (A.H.) Menard, who was a prominent man in his village. For several years, Amedie was a school director and the president of the bank in Tremont. He lived in the family home until his death in 1920. Others who have lived in the historic home include the Wilber Fox family, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Wagenbach and their family of 19 children, and the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Marc Bailey.

*Tremont Museum and Historical Society,
Lori Fuoss*

Tremont Museum

Open Thanksgiving Sunday 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Looking for something interesting to do? Explore Tremont's noteworthy history at the Tremont Museum, corner of South Sampson and West Madison Streets. Admission is free, and you'll be amazed at our gem of a museum!

The Tremont Museum will be open Sunday, Nov. 26 and Sunday, December 10 from 2-4 PM before closing for the winter.

We are always willing to open for individuals or groups by appointment. Call Rich 309.231.1123 or Kay, 410.296.2323 for information or to set up tours.



Mark your calendars - Share & Tell Program!

Tremont Museum's November 21st program will be "Share and Tell." This is an event held once each year. Everyone is encouraged (but not required) to bring something antique to tell or ask the group about.

It is always an interesting program! Everyone is invited to the Tremont Community Center on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00. Refreshments will be served.

Tremont District Library News

LEGO Afternoons

Monday, Nov 20, 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Do you like to build with LEGOs? Of course! Who doesn't?

LEGO afternoons are perfect for kids who are 6 years and older and want to show off their building skills, try out new LEGO sets, and attempt challenges (like creating LEGO stop motion video). LEGO Days are pretty popular here, be prepared to work in groups on LEGO kits! No registration required.

Hogwarts' Half-Bloods (Young Adult Book Club)

Tuesday, Nov 21, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Hogwarts' Half-Bloods is Tremont Library's Young Adult/Teen Book Club. We meet monthly to discuss a book, enjoy a treat from Eli's and hang out for a bit.

Here's the books we'll be discussing:

November 21st: "The Rat Queen" by Pete Haufman

December 19th - "Keeper of the Lost Cities: The Graphic Novel Part 1" by Celina Frenn

Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am

A support group for new and experienced parents.

Tremont Area Park District

Turk Gear available at TAPD

*Various sizes in t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, and hoodies
Prices range from \$10 - \$25*

JOIN TREMONT FITNESS

Cardio, weights, and classes offered. Workout hours 5 AM - 10 PM.

Rates: \$25.00 per month

-Additional member living in household: \$5.00

***All minors must have parents signature to obtain a membership. Must be 16 to work out without a parent. Ages 14/15 must work out with an adult.*

Fitness Class 10 Punch Pass: \$40.00

Tremont Community Senior Meals



Meals are served every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11am at the Tremont Community Center. These are for anyone 60 and up, there is no cost! If you want to join us you can stop in and sign up or call 309-674-1131 ext 231 for more information or to sign up.

If you would like to help support these meals, there are a few ways to get involved!

1. You can volunteer. Help us serve food and clean up from 10:45-12:15 in a relaxed and fun environment.
2. You can donate. Donations of disposable dinnerware (plates, cups, silverware, dessert plates, large and small take-home containers, rectangular tablecloths and napkins) can be dropped off at the Tremont Share Closet during their open hours. If you want a more detailed list of our current needs, you can see our Amazon wish list [here](#).
3. You can entertain. We like to host fun activities from 11:45-12:15 on Fridays and are always looking for creative and fun ideas to fill that time.

If you have any questions about donations or want to get involved, you can reach out to Braden at scsoulmanager@gmail.com.

Community Calendar

Monday

HS Girls Basketball @ Brimfield Tournament - 5:00 PM

MS Boys Basketball @ Washington Middle - 5:30 PM

HS Boys Basketball @ Brimfield Tourney vs Princeville - 6:30 PM

Tuesday

HS Boys Basketball @ Brimfield Tourney vs Brimfield High - 8:00 PM

Wednesday

HS Boys Basketball @ Brimfield Tourney vs Knoxville - 5:30 PM

Thursday

No Events

Friday

HS Girls Basketball @ Brimfield Tourney vs Elmwood Highschool - 2:00 PM

HS Boys Basketball @ Brimfield Tourney vs Knoxville - 2:00 PM

Saturday

HS Boys Basketball @ Brimfield Tourney (times will be 5 or 6:30pm) - TBA

HS Girls Basketball @ Brimfield Tourney - TBA

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.

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

Tremont Winning Communities | P.O. Box 76, Tremont, IL 61568

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