



## Weekly News

### Community Shred Day

#### Free Community Shred Day

Saturday, May 6th  
9:00 a.m. - Noon  
The First National Bank in Tremont



[For More Information](#)

### Did you know...?

#### A Young Soldier's Thoughts

The tree blossoms give it away - white, plum, pale pink, bright pink: spring is here. The air is soft and the sun's new warmth is treasured. When I see these signs, my mind goes to a letter kept at the Tremont Museum, written nearly 160 years ago by a young Tremont soldier. Thomas McClure had seen action, but at the time of the letters quoted here, he was confined first to a general hospital and then to a smallpox hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. With the terrifying and heartbreaking war, sickness, and death all around him, the young corporal wrote to his mother:

*"Mother this flower I plucked from a tree in the cemetery on the fourth day of April, 1864. It is a French Peach bloom...and it was something that I had never seen before and perhaps you have never seen the like before."*

Below: *French Peach blossom*



His words create a clear image of the young man, contemplating the unusual spring blossom, and missing home and his family with his whole heart.

Spelling and punctuation have been corrected in these letters for clarity. Many letters preserved from this time, including McClure's, were full of misspellings and lacked proper punctuation. While it is likely that Thomas did not have much formal schooling, his intelligence and sensitive nature come through in his letters home.

In another letter he wrote:

*"I am happy to say I am yet spared to see one more budding spring and see the forest spread forth its leaves in all its beautiful array."*

Many do not realize that disease killed twice as many Civil War soldiers as wounds from battles. Smallpox was a huge issue. Over 12,000 soldiers in the Union army were admitted to hospitals due to smallpox and almost 40% of those who became sick with it died. A vaccination was available, but many feared having it. Still more, surrounded by the disease, tried to inoculate themselves. This was a very unsanitary process of cutting themselves and then infecting themselves with pus from someone else they thought had the disease. Having smallpox was no small worry.

Tremont's Thomas McClure did survive, did come home, and lived in Tremont to the age of 67. But while a soldier, survival was never a certain, as he expressed in one letter to his mother:

*"Mother, in this letter I will send you a ring as a present made by your ever-remembering son. Not knowing how soon I might be called to my long home, you would certainly be happy to have some little present as a keepsake."*

The Tremont Museum has several letters written by Corporal Thomas McClure, and several written by other Civil War soldiers from Tremont.



Cpl. Thomas F. McClure

## Tremont Museum

### THE FAB 50s EXHIBIT - THIS SUNDAY!

Don't miss this exhibit on the decade of the 1950s!

-Spend an hour or two visiting or re-visiting the 1950s, from poodle skirts to Sputnik, from Elvis to the Long Ranger and much more.

Visit this Sunday, **April 23 from 2 - 4 PM**. Special exhibit admission is:

-\$8.00 for adults

-\$5.00 for seniors over 65

-\$3.00 for children under 12

## Tremont District Library News

### Lego Afternoons (ages 6+)

Monday, April 17 & May 15, 3:00 - 4:30pm

Try out new Lego kits and work on challenges.

### Hogwarts Halfbloods (Young Adult Book Club ages 12-19)

Third Tuesdays, April 18 & May 16, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Good books, great discussion, and even better friends!

### Baby & Me (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am

A support group for new & experienced parents.

### Third Thursdays Adult Bookclub

Third Thursday of Every Month - April 20, 1:30pm

Pick up a copy of the book at the front desk ahead of time and join the discussion!  
We meet at the Tremont Community Center.

### Teen Craft Night: Soaps & Bathbomb (12-19)

Thursday, April 20th - 6:00 - 8:00pm

Registration requested, but not required. Email [lizzi@tremontlibrary.com](mailto:lizzi@tremontlibrary.com). Programs run 6:00 - 8:00pm but are drop-in: come when you can & stay as you'd like!

### **Move & Do (ages 0-5)**

Third Fridays: April 21 & May 19, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Educational free-play, designed for littles.

## **Little Turk T-Ball Registration**

### **Little Turks T-Ball (age 4-6 / Co-ed): \$55.00 Resident**

*T-Ball registrations opens 4/3/2023 and ends 5/5/23*

HURRY AND GET REGISTERED TO AVOID LATE FEES. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR COACHES FOR T-BALL.

EMAIL [tapdfacres@gmail.com](mailto:tapdfacres@gmail.com) IF INTERESTED.

## **Community Calendar**

### **Monday**

HS Track and Field @ Eureka (with Putnam City, LW-RB, Princeville) - 4:15PM

\*HS Softball @ El Paso-Gridley - 4:30PM

\*HS Baseball @ El Paso-Gridley - 4:30PM

### **Tuesday**

HS Track and Field @ Olympia (with GCMS, Peoria Christian, EPG) - TBA

HS Softball @ Delevan - 4:30PM

\*HS Baseball F-So HOME vs Fieldcrest High School - 4:30PM

### **Wednesday**

\*HS Softball HOME vs Fieldcrest High School - 4:30PM

\*HS Baseball HOME vs Fieldcrest High School - 4:30PM

### **Thursday**

MS Track and Field HOME vs Riverview, Peoria Christen, Edison - 4:30PM

### **Friday**

HS Softball @ Metamora Invite-Margie Wright Classic - TBA

HS Track and Field @ Dunlap Relays - 4:00 PM

HS Baseball F - So @ Havana High School - 4:30PM

### **Saturday**

HS Softball @ Metamora Invite - TBA

MS Track and Field @ Tazewood Conference Meet (Location TBA) - 9:00AM

HS Baseball F-So vs U-High Double Header (Location TBA) - 11:00AM

\* - Denotes conference game.

## 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](mailto:info@tremontil.com) | <http://tremontil.com>

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

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