



## Weekly News

### 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

Tremont CUSD 702 will have a referendum on the ballot for the March 19, 2024 election. The purpose of the referendum is to generate revenue to maintain and enhance educational programming and facilities. The timing of this referendum coincides with the expiration of building bonds from the 2007 high school building upgrade. The expiring bond debt will lower the tax rate significantly over a two-year period in 2025 and 2026. The district is seeking to recapture a portion of that amount to put toward programming and other needs. As a result, the referendum could generate \$700,000 or more for the district and still lower the tax rate, which is already one of the lowest rates among area school districts.

The first of several public meetings will be held on Monday Nov. 13th at 7:00 pm in the high school band room. Information about the referendum will be presented.

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

Questions can be emailed to [d702referendum@d702.org](mailto:d702referendum@d702.org).

### Did You Know...?

#### The Influential, Ever Political, John Albert Jones

*Last week's article was on the history of the 1845 Jones Menard home on South Street.*

He was a force to be reckoned with. He was also the original owner and occupant of the "Red Brick" home, as it was often called.

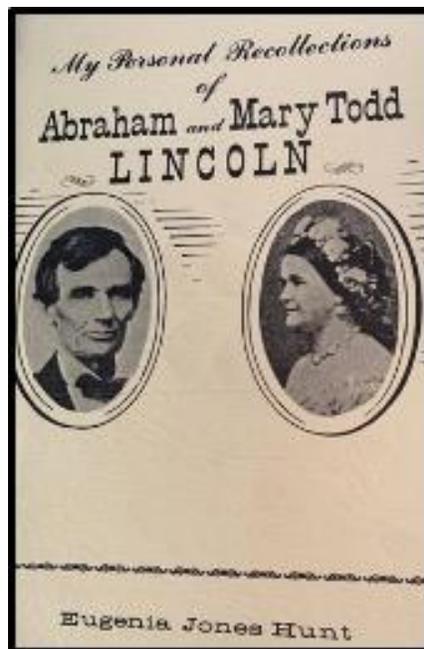
John Albert Jones came from an educated and political background. He was born in 1806 in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. His father, Edward, was the chief clerk of the United

States treasury. Edward was appointed by General Alexander Hamilton in 1870, and served 29 years, through President Jackson's administration. John Albert's uncle was Washington's doctor.

John Albert studied at Georgetown under Dr. Carnahan, who later became the president of Princeton College. He then spent three years studying at a Jesuit college, before graduating in 1825 with a Master of Arts degree from Columbia College in D.C.

In 1835, he came to Tazewell County, Illinois. He was editor of *the Pekin Gazette*, later called the *Tazewell Telegraph*, a Whig paper. He was appointed Clerk of the Circuit Court of Tazewell County in 1841 and served until 1857. During this time, he had a house built in Tremont where the Tazewell County seat was at the time. The house was patterned after one he had owned earlier in Washington, DC.

He was well acquainted with Philander Chase, the first Episcopal Bishop of Illinois. Eugenia Jones Hunt, John Albert's daughter, (who was married to the attorney general of Illinois) later in life recalled that Bishop Chase, who weighed over 300 pounds, had a deep pitched voice, clerical dress, and a black silk skull cap." Bishop Chase met with Mr. Jones in hopes of establishing a church in Tremont. When the bishop visited, Sunday services would be held in their home's parlor with worshipers seated before a roaring fire, listening to music and the bishop's melodious voice.



*Eugenia Jones Hunt's book, My Personal Reflections of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln is available for sale at the Tremont Museum, open 2nd and 4th Sundays from 2-4 PM through Dec. 10. The book contains many memories of her early life at her parent's home in Tremont as well as of time spent with the Lincolns.*

An abolitionist, Jones is now recognized as a conductor on Tazewell County's Underground Railroad. Though by necessity the Underground's activities were secret, Jones' political leanings and the location of his home, which at that time was outside of Tremont, as well as the secret crawl space in the home, are indicator's that this home played a part of helping slaves to freedom in Canada.

Jones entertained many prominent people at his home. Along the way, he also became close friends with a young lawyer, Abraham Lincoln. When Lincoln came to Tremont as part of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, he stayed with the Jones family so often that one bedroom came to be called "The Lincoln Room."

Jones saw great potential in Lincoln. His "Red Brick" home in Tremont was the site of an all day "Grand Rally" for Lincoln's candidacy for the presidency of the United States. According to his daughter, there were, "one hundred Wide Awakes for an evening supper in the dining room." (Wide Awakes were supporters of Lincoln who wore uniforms of red,

white, and blue and who marched in parades and sang campaign songs, etc.) “It was a gala day for Tremont, with a torch light parade in the evening.”

When he was elected, President Lincoln appointed Mr. Jones Superintendent of Commercial Statistics at Washington, D.C. In 1861, Jones moved with his family to Washington, D.C.

After Lincoln was re-elected to the presidency, Jones represented the Tazewell County League as part of Lincoln’s secret bodyguards due to assassination threats. Ultimately, Jones was one of Lincoln’s pall bearers.

After Lincoln’s death, Jones came back to Illinois, and Judge David Davis appointed him as Clerk of the Circuit Court of the United States for the Southern District of Illinois. He was required to reside in Springfield. In 1866, he moved to Springfield, Illinois, and sold his beautiful home to Col. Peter Menard.

Next Week: Prominent Tremont Resident, Colonel Peter Menard

*Tremont Museum and Historical Society*  
*Lori Fuoss*

## Tremont Museum

### Have you visited Tremont's 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

**S.T.E.A.M. Lab Plus (ages 7+)**  
Monday, Nov 13, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Kids ages 7 and up can join Tremont Library's very own S.T.E.A.M. Queen, Miss Nicole, each month after school to learn a little bit more about the building blocks of life: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Some months will be a craft that can be taken home, other will be activities (and messes) that will stay at the library. Come see what we're up to! No registration required.

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

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am

A support group for new and experienced parents.

### **Third Thursday Bookclub (Adults)**

Thursday, Nov 16, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Pick up a copy of this month's book at the library's front desk, and join us for a discussion on the third Thursday of each month at 1:30pm!

Email Maria, [maria@tremontlibrary.com](mailto:maria@tremontlibrary.com), to get on the mailing list for updates about bookclub.

### **Move & Do (ages 2-6)**

Friday, Nov 17, 10:30 - 12:00 pm

Much like Baby & Me and Sensory Play Day, Move & Do is an educational-based free play day for toddlers and preschoolers ages 2-6. There will be different themes to explore each month, new friends to meet, and time to work on those early social and motor skills.

November: Community Helpers

December: "Space"

No registration required. Drop in and stay for as little or long as you like.

### **Minecraft in the Meeting Room (ages 7+)**

Saturday, Nov 18, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Starting at 9:30am: ages 10+

Starting at 11am: ages 7+

Program end: 12:30pm

Starting at 9:30am, ages 10+ can join Miss Lizzi in the Meeting Room for Minecraft. Then, at 11am ages 7+ can join in until the end of the program at 12:30pm. Ask Lizzi ahead of time if you have any questions about our weekly Minecraft days. Continue reading to learn more about this program!

We started our library Minecraft Realm back in November 2021 and it was a huge hit! Kids ages 7+ are invited to come help it grow! Bring your own device and connect to our library Realm. First-time participants and their parents will need to sign a Code of Conduct before joining.

## **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](mailto:scsoulmanager@gmail.com).

## Community Calendar

### Monday

MS Boys Basketball @ Beverly Manor Elementary School - 4:30 PM

### Tuesday

No Events

### Wednesday

No Events

### **Thursday**

MS Boys Basketball @ Germantown Hills - 5:00 PM

HS Girls Basketball HOME vs Princeville High School - 5:30 PM

### **Friday**

No Events

### **Saturday**

MS Girls Basketball 8th Grade Regional vs Chillicothe @ Germantown Hills - 11:30 AM

HS Girls Basketball vs Wethersfield @ Elmwood HS (Brimfield Tournament) - 3:00 PM

## **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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