



Weekly News

Tremont Hometown Christmas - December 2nd



TREMONT

Hometown

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!



Tremont Lions Club Sneaker Collection - December 2nd

Tremont Lions are excited to be a part of the Hometown Christmas Celebration, a free event sponsored by the Commerce Association to be held on Saturday, December 2 from 4:00-7:00 in downtown Tremont! The Club will be accepting old sneakers to be donated to assist Lion's Club initiatives in vision and hearing services.

Christmas wreaths, assembled by Tremont Scouts and Lion's Club members will be

available for purchase.

Goody bags will be handed out to the kids and a Christmas guessing contest will be held in conjunction with the festivities. Stop by and say hello across from Perdue's on the corner of Sampson and Walnut Streets.

If you have some old tennis shoes that are soon to be discarded, the Club will have a basket at the event for collection. Please consider helping out:

- Paired sneakers – tied by the laces
- The nicer the sneaker, the larger the donation!!
- Shoes can be dropped off at our booth Saturday, December 2 as part of Tremont's Hometown Christmas

Tremont FFA Meeting - December 7th

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.

TAPD 5th/6th Grade Girl Volleyball Program Open Gym: Dec 8th, Registration: Dec 9th-14th

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)

Holiday Lights Contest - Lights on by Dec. 10th!

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!

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.

Did You Know...?

Clippings from the Past

From the *Tremont News*:

- 1926:



(Not sure where Grimm Garage was.)

- 1901:

Sleighting parties are all the go this week...

Mrs. Woerner...met with a serious accident last week. She was walking in her yard, where she stumbled and fell, fracturing one of her lower limbs at the knee. Mrs. Woerner is 87 years of age which makes her recovery somewhat doubtful.

- 1913:

The emotionless officials of the big railroad company, taking notice of the number of accidents that occurred while women's tight skirts and high heeled shoes were alighting from the trains, has ordered its trainmen to report as to the heels and skirts of every woman who is injured.

The Big Four suffered much damage to their wire Tuesday from the sleet. Many of their wires were out and train orders suffered in consequence. They are preparing to dispatch their trains by telephone in the near future which is hoped will do away with much of the trouble. Where the telephone system has been tried, it has been a success.

- 1917: Governor Lowden has signed a bill that makes farmers responsible for the highways along their farms. The provisions of this act require that the highways be mowed and the brush be kept out of them.

Orders reducing the alcoholic contents of beer by three percent will be issued soon by the food administration with the approval of President Wilson...

The Big Four morning passengers (trains) from the east ought to change time. They are from one to two hours late every morning so why not make the time later and then one would know what to expect.

There has been much complaint about grownup people using the children's little merry-go-rounds on the public square...They are made light and are only for children and the grownups should be ashamed of themselves for ...breaking them so that the children's fun is spoiled.

*Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, 2023*

Tremont Museum

LAST DAY FOR TREMONT MUSEUM THIS SEASON!

Sunday, December 10 will be your last chance to visit the Tremont Museum until spring. The museum will be open from 10-2 PM. No charge for admission. Over the winter, please feel free to contact us to set up a time for your group to come through. Call Rich at 309.231.1123 or Lori at 309.840.0094.

Tremont Museum 501C3 Organization

The Tremont Museum is a 501C3 organization. Monetary donations are always deeply appreciated. Thank you for your support which will help in preserving Tremont's history!



Tremont District Library News

STEAM Lab

Monday, Nov 27, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math are some of the building blocks of life and learning. To foster curiosity in preschoolers, ages 4-6, we created S.T.E.A.M. Lab! These afternoons will consist of educational play that supports S.T.E.A.M. concepts and is suited for beginner learners.

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

MS Boys Basketball @ Pekin Broadmoor - 4:30 PM

Tuesday

HS Boys Basketball HOME vs Farmington Central High - 5:30 PM

HS Wrestling HOME vs Metamora, Normal Community - 5:30 PM

Wednesday

No Events

Thursday

HS Girls Basketball HOME vs IVC - 5:30 PM

HS Wrestling HOME vs Auburn, Mt. Zion - 5:30 PM

Friday

Boys Varsity Swimming HOME vs Galesburg - 4:30PM

MS Boys Basketball HOME vs Hartem - 5:30 PM

HS Boys Basketball @ Nashville - 6:15 PM

Saturday

HS Girls Basketball HOME JV Round Robin Tourney vs GCMS, Elmwood - 11:00 AM

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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