



Weekly News

TBA Disbursement Meeting - March 20, 6:00 pm

The Tremont Betterment Association Disbursement Meeting

Tremont Betterment Association is the managing body of the Tremont Turkey Festival. The members of the TBA board are past Turkey Festival General Chairmen. All of the profits of the Tremont Turkey Festival are funneled directly back into our community. One way this happens is at the TBA Disbursement Meeting, which is normally held the third Wednesday in March each year. Any group or individual in the Village of Tremont may submit a request for disbursement of funds. All requests will be subject to vote at the meeting.

To Submit a Request: If you would like to submit a request for disbursement, [download this form](#), fill it out, and submit either through mail or email (addresses listed on the form).

- The 2024 request forms must be submitted by March 15, 2024.
- The meeting will be held at 6:00 on March 20, 2024 at the Community Center.

At the Meeting: A representative must be present at the meeting and be prepared with the following:

- Present a 2-3 minute presentation about your request. Items to highlight would be a bit about your organization, how it helps our community, and how many Tremont residents would benefit by your request.
- Answer questions (if any) from Betterment members.
- Representative will leave the meeting after his/her presentation.

After the presentations, the Tremont Betterment Association board members will vote on how the 2023 Tremont Turkey Festival funds will be disbursed.

Disbursements will be mailed out within a week of the meeting, and a notice of all disbursements will be in a Weekly Newsletter soon after the meeting.

Little Dribblers Registration (Kindergarten - 3rd Grade)

Little Dribblers is our recreation basketball program for boys and girls between the ages of Kindergarten – 3rd grade. The program focuses on the basic skills including dribbling, passing, shooting, & scrimmages at the end of the season.

Classes are on Saturday afternoons in the South Gym.

Dates: March 2nd – March 23rd (Saturdays)

Where: South Gym at the Tremont High School

When:

- **Kindergarten & 1st Grade:** 12:30-1:20 (boys & girls together)
- **2nd & 3rd Grade:** 1:30-2:30 (boys & girls together)

Program Instructors: Justin Wahls and High School Players

Cost:

\$45.00 Participation Fee
Includes a participant t-shirt

Registration Ends: February 19th

Registration is now open online and at the Park District Office.
www.tremontpark.org

Tremont FFA Strawberry Sales ENDS Tues. Feb 20th!

Order Online: <https://TremontFFAStrawberries.cheddarup.com>

Cost: \$28/flat or \$17/half flat (a flat = 8 quarts)

Contact: Jenny Schweigert at jenny.schweigert@d702.org or Joy Schwarting at joy.schwarting@d702.org for additional information.

School Referendum Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming Referendum Meetings

Tuesday February 20th at 7:00 at Tremont High School

- Presentations by students and staff
- Referendum information and Q&A
- MS/HS building open for viewing

Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 pm at Tremont High School

- Referendum Information and Q&A

Election Day - March 19th

School Referendum Frequently Asked Questions

Download a PDF version of the following content [HERE](#)

What is this referendum for?

The referendum allows residents of the school district, through a ballot process, to vote to approve or reject increasing the limiting tax rate. Approval of the referendum would help fund operations, including maintaining and enhancing existing programs for students, adding new programming for students, and attracting and retaining quality staff. Funds would also be used for facility upgrades, including an HVAC project at the MS/HS, replacing the grade school roof, adding parking at the middle school, restroom upgrades, etc.

Why is the district proposing this now?

The district has faced significant financial issues over the last 10-15 years, but has patiently waited for the present time to pursue a referendum. The Education fund, which is the largest fund in the budget, has experienced deficits in 14 of the last 20 years. State funding proration in previous years took a significant toll on the district's finances over an extended period of time.

The district waited until the current time to ask for a referendum because the timing coincides with the expiration of existing building bonds from the 2007 high school addition. As the building bonds are paid off over the next two years, the bond tax rate will drop significantly. Passage of the referendum would increase the limiting tax rate at the same

time the bond tax rate decreases. Passage of the referendum could generate over \$700,000 of new revenue going forward for the district while still lowering the overall tax rate for residents.

Isn't our tax rate already high?

Whether one considers the tax rate high or low is subjective. In relation to other communities in the area, Tremont's school tax rate is one of the lowest. Out of a selection of 30 area communities, only two have lower school tax rates than Tremont. If the referendum doesn't pass and the tax rate plummets due to the bond rate decrease, Tremont will have the lowest school tax rate in the area by a wide margin. Trying to continue to operate at that level will make it difficult to compete with other districts in terms of staffing and programs offered to students. Even if the referendum passes, the district's tax rate would still rank near the bottom of the list. Click the link below to see those rankings and a comparison of tax bills for each of those communities.

Area Tax Rate Rankings

When would this take effect?The limiting rate increase would impact taxes paid in 2025 and be based on assessments from tax year 2024. The school district would receive the additional funds for the 2025-26 school year.

How would passage of the referendum impact the tax rate?

This referendum is called a "limiting rate" referendum and is unique to districts subject to tax caps. Tazewell County has had tax caps in place since 1998. The only way for a district to increase its limiting rate, outside of the natural minor fluctuations that occur each year, is to pass a referendum. This particular referendum seeks to add 0.4% to the current year's limiting tax rate (4.22% to 4.62%).

The chart below illustrates the projected impact on the tax rate if the referendum passes.

\$0.40 Referendum	2023-24	2024-25 (proj)	2025-26 (proj)	2026-27 (proj)
Limiting Rate	\$4.22 (4.22%)	\$4.09	\$4.62	\$4.66
Bond Rate	\$0.91 (0.91%)	\$0.84	\$0.24	\$0.12
Total Rate	\$5.13 (5.13%)	\$4.93	\$4.86	\$4.78

The chart below illustrates the projected tax rate if the referendum does not pass.

No Referendum	2023-24	2024-25 (proj)	2025-26 (proj)	2026-27 (proj)
Limiting Rate	\$4.22 (4.22%)	\$4.09	\$4.14	\$4.18
Bond Rate	\$0.91 (0.91%)	\$0.84	\$0.24	\$0.12
Total Rate	\$5.13 (5.13%)	\$4.93	\$4.38	\$4.30

How will this impact my tax bill?

A home valued at \$200,000 would have a tax bill (school portion) of approximately \$3,287 in 2024. If the referendum passes, that amount would decrease to approximately \$3,240 in 2025 and \$3,193 in 2026. If the referendum does not pass, that 2024 amount is projected to decrease to \$2,920 in 2025 and \$2,873 in 2026. Click the link below to see a chart of the referendum's impact on tax bills.

Impact on Tax Bills

What would this referendum mean for our students?

The district would have the ability to retain and attract high quality staff to enhance and add more programming for students. More elective courses and programs at all three schools would provide more opportunities for students.

What happens if the referendum does not pass?

If the referendum does not pass, the district will have to identify other methods to address the financial issues. This could include cuts to existing programming and staff.

Beyond the schools, how will this affect the community?

The schools play a major role in the community. Maintaining quality schools is the best way to ensure the community will continue to grow and prosper. Schools are often a primary factor in a family's decision to move to a new community. Having a strong school district can be instrumental in protecting the investments residents have made in their homes.

What happens if the district needs money in the future for a building project?

Securing bond financing for a building project would require another referendum and approval from voters. There are no projects of that magnitude being planned any time in the near future. Funds from this referendum would help pay for smaller projects, upgrades, and other maintenance items that have been put off due to finances.

What has the district done to address expenses during its difficult financial times?

Program cuts were made about 15 years ago. While some of those programs have returned, some have not due to financial constraints. The district has also adjusted its strategies regarding bus leases and technology purchases in recent years and has utilized federal pandemic funds in a strategic manner to maximize value. Unfortunately, those federal funds will not be available any longer.

The district has also secured savings on energy through a solar project that was built at no cost to the district. The solar company owns the system and sells the energy to the district at a discounted rate. After six years, the district can purchase the system and receive the full savings. The solar system saved the district between \$12,000-\$15,000 in its first year of operations.

The most recent report on Operating Expense Per Pupil had Tremont CUSD 702 ranked 707th out of 849 Illinois school districts. That statistic suggests that the district is not overspending.

What is the bottom line...will taxes go up if the referendum passes?

The tax rate will decrease whether the referendum passes or not. Obviously, it will decrease more if the referendum does not pass. While property values can fluctuate, if they remain relatively steady, tax bills will decrease even if the referendum passes.

When is Election Day?

Election day is March 19, 2024.

Important Final Note: Ballot Language

The language that will appear on the ballot will make it seem as if taxes will increase. While it's true that the limiting rate will increase if the referendum passes, the overall tax rate will decrease because of the expiration of the bonds and the resulting decrease to the bond portion of the tax rate. There is no mechanism available to explain the expiration of the bonds on the ballot itself. The ballot language must focus solely on the limiting rate increase.

Tremont Fishing Show & Tackle Swap Fundraiser for St. Jude

Tremont High School Fishing Show & Tackle Swap Fundraiser for St. Jude



**March 2, 2024 10am-3pm
Tremont High School**

400 W Pearl St, Tremont, IL 61568

Free to the Public!

Event Features:

Seminars

(including Jim Crowley from Jim Crowley Outdoors and Slick Fish Radio)

Local bait companies

Tables of pre-owned tackle

Nate Dawgs Food Truck

Raffles & Silent Auction

(All proceeds benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital)

Table Information

\$20 table fee

Contact Lee Kerr (309-256-3177) to reserve

Fishing Show, Tackle Swap and St. Jude Fundraiser
brought to you by Tremont High School Fishing Team & Big City Fishing Gear

Seminar Presenters

for the
Tremont High School
Tackle Swap and
St. Jude Fundraiser



Dave Blume - Illinois Division Tournament Director for American Bass Anglers

Dave is a long-time tournament fisherman and paints custom crank baits.

Dave will be presenting on crank baits.

Kaiya Ziga - Southwestern Michigan College

Kaiya is a great role model for young people and had great success as a high school angler.

Kaiya will be presenting on spawn fishing.



Jim Crowley - Jim Crowley Outdoors/Slick Fish Radio

Jim has a passion for helping people learn to catch more fish and speaks at a lot of events.

Jim will be presenting on jerk baits.

Did You Know...?

A Small Town's Treasure

Tremont's Sesquicentennial Celebration of 1985 served as the impetus for a small group of residents to gather, led by Tremont resident, Janice Lee. Larry and Faye Childress, Eunice McMullen, Don Niekirk and Dave and Jan Lee sought information about starting a historical society and museum. They officially organized in 1986, with Janice Lee as President. (She continued in that role for 30 years, when Rich Sauder took over as President.)

In a twist of fate, Everett Sather, owner of Casey's General Stores at the time, drove through town looking for a location for a new Casey's store. He found a piece of property on Route 9 where a small antique shop stood. Having no need for the store building, he asked Tremont's mayor at the time, Larry Childress, if he knew of any charitable organization that could use the building. At his suggestion, Sather gave the building to the Tremont Historical Society. The society would simply need to move it.

The Village Board offered village property on the corner of South Sampson and West Madison Streets for the building. The society arranged for a large basement to be dug, paid for with interest-free loans from the growing membership base. Many eventually donated the money. The building was moved to the new location. Everett Sather continued to donate \$1,000 annually to the organization for the next eight years.



Then: Moving the antique store building



Now: Tremont Museum Today

Because of the growing collection of historical items, a large new addition was built onto the original building in 2004. And the museum continued to grow. In 2019, many skilled volunteers worked on the 1912 brick waterworks building next door, which was at the time used for odds and ends storage for the village. Their work converted it into a vibrant agricultural heritage museum in recognition of the vital role that agriculture has played and continues to play in our community.

The museum organization celebrates Tremont and its history and strives to be an integral part of the community. The Winning Communities weekly online newsletter features our articles on a variety of Tremont's unique history at www.tremontil.com ! We change many displays regularly to maintain interest for frequent visitors. Major fundraising exhibits are organized each year at the museum.

Not many small towns can boast of a history museum and an Agricultural Heritage Museum of Tremont's quality.

Two museum buildings in our small town. We have a remarkable history; come see the story!

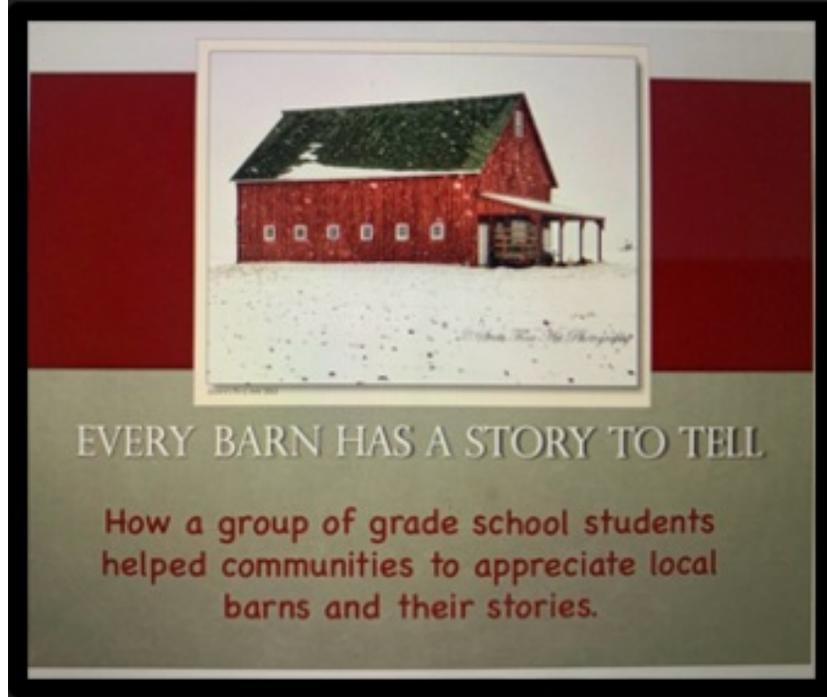
Through February, the museum will be open by appointment. We are happy to take your group through or to let you wander through the museum. Contact Rich at 309-231-1123

*Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, reprint, 2021*

Tremont Museum

SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Tremont Historical Society's next program by Lori Fuoss: Every Barn has a Story to Tell. It will be hosted at the Tremont Community Center, Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00pm.



CAN YOU HELP?

Tremont Museum is looking for someone who works with acrylic to make two display boxes. The boxes are to protect the models of the airplanes that CWO4 John Frederic, Jr. (MIA) and Lt. Robert Beutel (POW) were in when their planes went down. Tom Siedleck painstakingly built the two planes. For more information, please contact Rich Sauder at 309-231-1123.

Tremont District Library News

LEGO Afternoons (ages 6+)

Monday, Feb 12, 3:30 - 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 to challenges (like creating a LEGO stop motion video). LEGO days are pretty popular here, be prepared to work in groups on LEGO kits!

No registration required.

Baby & Me Group (ages 0-3)

Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 am

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.

Third Thursday Bookclub (adults)

Thursday, Feb 15, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

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

Meetings are held at the Community Center, or in the Library's Meeting Room.

Move & Do (ages 2-6)

Friday, Feb 16, 10:30 am - 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!

- February: Snow & Winter
- March: Camping
- April: Spring
- May: Water Play Day (weather permitting)

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

Community Calendar

Monday

HS Girls Basketball @ Regional - TBA

MS Volleyball @ Delevan - 4:15 PM

HS Boys Basketball @ Midwest Central High School - 6:00 PM

Tuesday

MS Volleyball HOME vs Washington Middle - 4:15 PM

MS Wrestling HOME vs Illini Bluffs, Rochester - 5:30 PM

HS Boys Basketball @ Clinton - 5:30 PM

Wednesday

No Events

Thursday

MS Boys Basketball HOME 8th Grade State - TBA

HS Wrestling State HOME - TBA

MS Volleyball HOME vs Dee-Mack - 4:30 PM

HS Boys Basketball @ GCMS - 5:30 PM

Friday

HS Wrestling State HOME - TBA

Saturday

HS Boys Basketball @ Regional - TBA

HS Wrestling State HOME - TBA

HS B Varsity Swimming Sectional HOME - 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>

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