



## Weekly News

### Tremont FFA Strawberries Announcement

Tremont FFA strawberry deliveries are delayed, but expected to arrive the week of March 18th!

### 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.

### TAPD SUMMER REC BALL REGISTRATION: OPEN 2/14 - 3/31/24

#### Summer Recreation Baseball & Softball Registration

- Little Turks T-Ball (age 4-6 / Co-ed): \$57.00 Resident -open later date in April
- 6U Modified Coach Pitch (Co-ed): \$60.00 Resident

- Boys 8 & under / Girls 8 & under: \$85.00 Resident
- Boys 10 & under / Girls 10 & under: \$100.00 Resident
- Boys 12 & under / Girls 12 & under: \$100.00 Resident

**\*\*Please note: additional \$25.00 fee charged for non-resident\*\***

**\*LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CHARGED AN EXTRA FEE OF HALF THE REGISTRATION FEE**

- Example: program fee \$60.00 will be charged \$90.00 registration fee

\* Register online at [www.tremontpark.org](http://www.tremontpark.org) (please note there is a 3% processing fee)

\* forms available at the TAPD office and in the vestibule for registration and payment drop off in the drop box.

\*Watch website and Facebook for T-ball registrations –sometime in April

\*Registration ends: 3/31/2024 Sign up promptly and avoid late registration fees!

## School Referendum Update - Final Update

Election day is Tuesday so this will be the last of these referendum updates. Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to read these articles. Hopefully, these updates have explained the information clearly so voters feel educated enough on the topic to know what they are voting for or against.

If you are reading about this for the first time or still need more clarity, the key points are explained below.

- There are two parts to the tax rate – (1) the limiting rate, which generates revenue for educational programs and other operations and (2) the bond rate, which generates revenue to pay off the district’s debt.
- The school district is seeking input from voters on a referendum that would add 0.40% to the current limiting tax rate for the school district. This would increase the district’s limiting tax rate from 4.22% to 4.62% for taxes payable in 2025 (shown in chart below).
- The limiting rate increase would coincide with a projected 0.79% decrease in the bond tax rate (compared to the current year) as a significant portion of the district’s debt from building bonds is paid off over a two-year period. The current year’s 0.91% bond rate is projected to be only 0.12% by 2026.
- The projected figures in the chart below illustrate the significant decrease to the bond tax rate over the next three years and the corresponding decrease to the overall tax rate.

0.40% referendum	Current Year	Taxes payable 2024*	Taxes Payable 2025*	Taxes Payable 2026*
Limiting Rate	4.22%	4.09%	4.62%	4.66%
Bond Rate	0.91%	0.84%	0.24%	0.12%
<b>Overall Rate</b>	<b>5.13%</b>	<b>4.93%</b>	<b>4.86%</b>	<b>4.78%</b>

- ***The overall tax rate will decrease even if the referendum passes because the bond rate is decreasing by more than the limiting rate would be increasing.***
- **IMPORTANT NOTE** -- Language on the ballot will only address the increase to the limiting rate and not the decrease to the bond rate or the overall tax rate. Therefore, the ballot language will make it appear that there will be a tax increase. As explained above, however, ***while the limiting rate will increase, the overall tax rate will decrease.***
- Despite cuts to staff and programs, years of state funding shortfalls created financial issues for the district over time, but the Board of Education was determined to reach this point before seeking a referendum to avoid increasing taxes on residents.
- Passage of the referendum would generate \$700,000 or more new dollars for the district annually and be used for maintaining and enhancing current programs, adding new programs for students, attracting and retaining staff, and upgrades to facilities, safety and security, and technology.

For more information about the referendum, please visit the link below.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Referendum Web Page](#)

## Did you Know....?

### Edward Cooney, Tremont Entrepreneur

The late 1800s in Tremont were exciting times, full of possibilities, risk-taking and spreading one's wings. Edward Cooney did just that. He was born in 1866, just east of Tremont, and later married Kathryn Loughlin, also of Tremont. Together, they had two sons, Edward A. and James.

Ed Cooney bought the building at 212 South Sampson in 1897 and opened a saloon together with a partner. Four years later, a February 1, 1901 Tremont News article stated, "Ed Cooney sold his saloon last week... to devote all his time to the livery business which he purchased recently."

By 1904, Cooney must have also seen a need for a pool room in Tremont. He bought two pool tables, one from Chicago, and opened a pool hall in the basement of the Columbia Opera House.

Also in 1904, an article appeared, mentioning that Ed Cooney had gone into a completely unrelated venture... the bridge business. As the years progressed, he received more and more contracts for area bridges, such as the 1910 Waltmire Bridge, now on the National Registry of Historic Places. He became well-known for his bridge work in several townships.



*Part of Ed Cooney's work crew.*



*Ed Cooney's home, 317 S. Locust (still standing)*

While still in the bridge business, Cooney entered into yet another business in 1905, when he opened a restaurant at 200 South Sampson Street. Also, in 1910, an article mentioned that Ed Cooney would be completing his contract with the village to lay new sidewalks.

In 1917, Cooney built the People's Garage, for Fred Trout (who owned and ran the Columbia Opera House) and Coulter (who owned and ran a grocery store with Baylor and then McGinnis in town.) This solid building still stands today. It is the larger building that makes up the Tremont District Library. Note the cement block exterior.

Besides sidewalks and local bridges, Cooney also left a lasting mark on Tremont in another way. He made the cement blocks for several homes he built in the Tremont area, including his own, which still stands today at 317 South Locust Street. Driving around Tremont, you'll spot several similar block homes. Some, if not all, were likely built by Cooney.

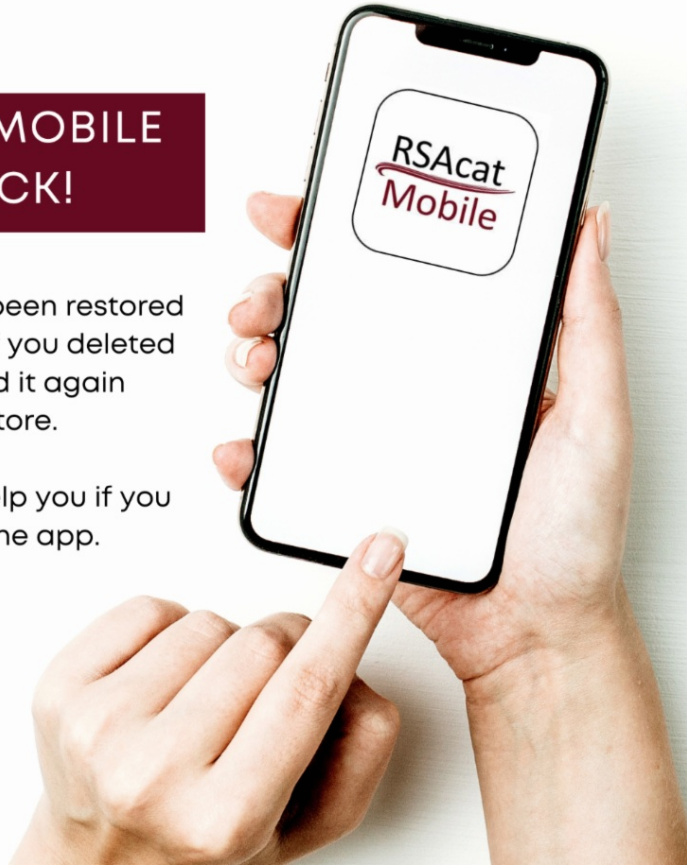
There were several other Tremont men who also felt free to explore many professions at the turn of the century, but probably no one was more diversified than Edward Cooney.

## Tremont District Library News

### THE RSACAT MOBILE APP IS BACK!

The RSA mobile app has been restored and can be used again. If you deleted the app, please download it again using your device's app store.

We would be happy to help you if you need any help restoring the app.



### Paint a Flowerpot at Tremont District Library! (all ages)

Help us welcome spring!

Pick up a flowerpot March 11th-23rd and paint or decorate it using your own supplies and imagination at home-- then bring it in on or before April 13th to display at the library! Adults, teens, kids, & family groups are all encouraged. Voting will take place on People's Choice Awards for each age group.

#### **Dates:**

- March 11th-23rd: Pick up your flowerpot
- Bring your flowerpot back for display; deadline is April 13th.
- April 15th-April 30th: Flowerpots displayed, voting open for "People's Choice"
- May 1st: Winners announced. Pick up your flowerpot to take home anytime after May 1st. Everyone who picks up their pot at the end will get their name in a drawing to win Eli's or Pinky's gift cards.

#### **Rules**

- Limit of 3 flowerpots total per household.
- NO DIRT, NO LIVE PLANTS (We don't mind if you put something inside the pot, but nothing messy, nothing living, and nothing that will fall apart if it is moved around.)
- Please write your full name on the bottom of the pot

### STEAM Lab (ages 4 - 6)

Monday, Mar 18, 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 STEAM Lab! These afternoons will consist of education play that supports STEAM concepts and is suited for beginning learners. Ages 4-6, no registration required.

### **Hogwarts' Half-Bloods (ages 12 - 19)**

Tuesday, Mar 19, 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.

### **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, Mar 21, 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!

### **Move & Do**

Friday, Mar 22, 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!

March: Camping

April: Spring

May: Water Play Day (weather permitting)

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

## **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

HS Softball HOME vs Havana - 4:30 PM

HS F-SO Baseball HOME vs Williamsville - 4:30 PM

HS V Baseball @ Princeville - 4:30 PM

### Tuesday

HS Softball HOME vs Central Catholic High - 4:30 PM

### Wednesday

HS F-SO Baseball HOME vs East Peoria - 4:30 PM

### Thursday

No Events

### Friday

HS Track @ Illinois Wesleyan IL Prep Top Times Meet - TBA

HS Baseball @ IVC - 4:30 PM

### **Saturday**

HS Baseball HOME vs Tremont Cluster - 10:00 AM

HS Baseball HOME vs Tremont Cluster - 12:00 PM

HS Baseball HOME vs Tremont Cluster - 2:00 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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