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Tremont School District Fall 2025 Update



Sean Berry, Superintendent

In March of 2024, voters passed the school district's limiting rate referendum with 66% of voters voting in favor. Since then, Tremont School District has been following through on its plans to make an already high-quality school district even better. The financial stability resulting from the referendum's passage has allowed the school district to address the key areas that were communicated in the months leading up to the March 2024 ballot measure. Those key areas are outlined below.

The Ability to Maintain, Enhance, and add Programming

- New programs include a dedicated Art teacher for the Grade School and Middle School, a High School Family and Consumer Science program, and a new Grade School Special Education Instructional Program.

Facility Improvements and Upgrades

- The MS/HS building has seen the completion of phase 1 of a two-phase HVAC project. Phase 2 will be completed next summer.
- The Grade School has had a more visible transformation as the upper level was upgraded in conjunction with roof repairs this past summer. That project is now complete and looks fantastic.
- Smaller projects already completed include upgrades to various restrooms, flooring (Turk Center), and some upgrades to athletic fields and the South Gym.
- The financial impact of the referendum has allowed the district to complete these facility upgrades without borrowing money and incurring additional debt.



Attraction and Retention of Staff

- This is an ongoing effort, of course, but we believe a key benefit of the referendum is that our district will be even more attractive to potential teaching candidates and a place that current teachers want to stay with so many exciting upgrades happening. A recently-signed five-year agreement between the school board and teachers represents a commitment to this effort.

Even with the passage of the referendum, Tremont school district's tax rate still ranks 28th out of 29 area communities as evidenced by the chart below.

FY26 School District Tax Rates				
Rank	Unit/Dual	District	Other District (if dual)	Total Tax Rate
1	Dual	Robeson Robein 85	East Peoria HS 309	6.69593
2	Dual	Washington 50	Washington HS 308	6.41461
3	Dual	Rankin 98	Pekin HS 303	6.19217
4	Dual	Washington 51	Washington HS 308	6.15361
6	Dual	Pekin GS 108	Pekin HS 303	5.88513
5	Dual	Spring Lake 606	Pekin HS 303	5.77495
6	Dual	East Peoria GS 86	East Peoria HS 309	5.75879
7	Dual	Metamora GS 1	Metamora HS 122	5.71673
8	Unit	Lexington 7		5.71115
9	Dual	Washington 52	Washington HS 308	5.71092
10	Unit	Delavan 703		5.58600
11	Unit	Tri-Valley 3		5.54389
12	Unit	Fieldcrest 6		5.52400
13	Unit	Olympia 16		5.50463
14	Dual	Riverview 2	Metamora HS 122	5.50063
15	Unit	Roanoke-Benson 60		5.43480
16	Dual	N. Pekin/M. Heights 102	Pekin HS 303	5.39679
17	Dual	Covey Creve Couer 76	East Peoria HS 309	5.34908
18	Unit	El Paso-Gridley 11		5.31980
19	Dual	Germantown Hills 69	Metamora HS 122	5.25015
20	Unit	Leroy 2		5.20436
21	Unit	Bloomington 87		5.14991
22	Dual	S. Pekin 137	Pekin HS 303	5.14877
23	Unit	McLean County Unit 5		5.09691
24	Unit	Heyworth		5.07737
25	Unit	Morton 709		4.98999
26	Unit	Dee-Mack 701		4.94393
27	Unit	Eureka 140		4.91320
28	Unit	Tremont 702		4.74054
29	Unit	Midwest Central 191		4.66324

We are excited to move things forward and appreciate the support of the community as we push for continual improvement. Go Turks!

Tremont Fire Open House



Tremont Fire Volunteer Opportunity

Answer the Call – Volunteer with the Tremont Fire Department

When your neighbors call for help, who answers?

You can.

Volunteering with the fire department means more than fighting fires. It means being there when it matters most — for your family, your neighbors, your town.

The Tremont Fire Department is looking for dedicated volunteers to join our team of everyday heroes.

- **No experience? No problem.** We'll train you.
- Build lifelong skills, friendships, and confidence
- Help protect the community you call home
- **Teamwork, pride, and purpose** every single day.

Join Us Today!

To learn more, go to tremontfire.com or come talk with us at our open house on October 5.

Tremont Fire Department

Neighbors helping neighbors

[Learn More](#)

The Share Closet Connection



The Share Closet is thankful to continue partnering with Lifewise Academy this school year to bring Bible education to students in Tremont!

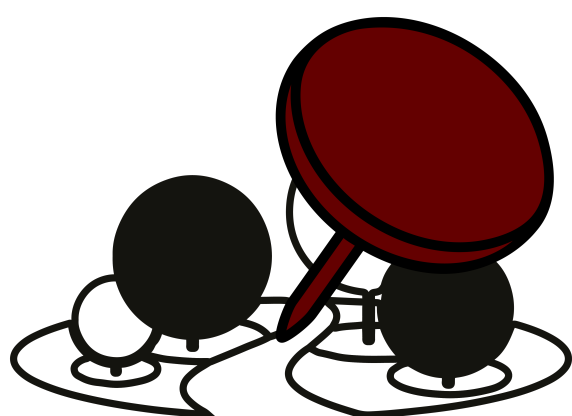
Find out more about this program by visiting their [website](#).

Visit us on [Facebook](#)

Phone: (309) 929-7095

The Share Closet - 227 S Sampson St, Tremont, IL 61568

Organization Updates

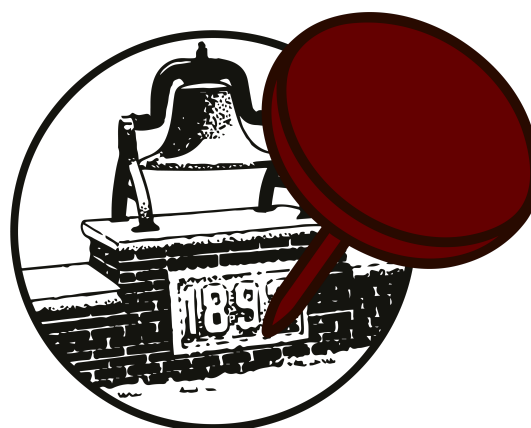


Village of Tremont

Village Board Meetings

The Tremont Village Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Meetings are held at Village Hall and public attendance is welcomed. All previous meetings' minutes can be found on the village website.

[Board Meeting Minutes](#)



District 702

Athletic Schedule

The fall athletic season is filling up quickly with HS golf, HS girls volleyball, MS baseball, and more! Check the calendar below for full details.

[Student Athletic Calendar](#)

Did You Know? *Tremont, in History*

Brought to you by the Tremont Museum & Historical Society

Who Were Tremont's Underground Railroad Conductors?

The nights were filled with secrets in our peaceful village of Tremont; the years from the 1840s to the mid-1860s were active ones for the Underground Railroad. At least five Tremont men led secret double lives because they served as “conductors” of the well-organized, illegal effort to spirit runaway slaves to their freedom in Canada. Conductors would provide meals, baths and a place to stay temporarily to those they sheltered. Great danger was involved, obviously for the slaves, and for the conductors as well. Who were these men who were willing to act on their convictions?

John Albert Jones was a well-educated man, graduating with a Master of Arts degree from Columbia College in 1825. He moved from his birthplace of Washington, D.C. to Pekin, Illinois, where he was a newspaper editor, and then he was appointed as Tazewell County Circuit Court Clerk and served at the courthouse in Tremont, and then in Pekin when the county seat was moved there. He served for twenty years until he left to practice law in Pekin. His family rented a home in Pekin and then later moved to Springfield, where he was active in politics.



John and his wife, Anna Maria, were well-connected and entertained many well-known political figures of the time in their home. Abraham Lincoln, an itinerant lawyer at that time, stayed with the Joneses so often that the front bedroom came to be called "The Lincoln Bedroom." Lincoln was a treasured friend. In fact, Eugenia Jones Hunt, daughter of John Albert Jones, wrote a book about their time in Tremont and beyond, and her life-long friendship with Lincoln titled, "My Personal Recollections of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln."*

When Lincoln was elected President of the United States, Jones served as the government Superintendent of Statistics. During the second inauguration of Lincoln, Jones was one of three representatives of the Tazewell County Union League of America as part of the secret bodyguard to protect the newly-reelected President.

Because of their political and abolitionist views, the location of the home, which was in the country (at that time), and some intriguing features of the home, it is widely thought that the Joneses were part of the Underground Railroad.

**Eugenia Jones Hunt's fascinating book is available for sale at the Tremont Museum for \$5.00.*



Absalom Dillon was the brother of Nathan Dillon, known for being the first non-native in Tazewell County. Nathan came to Tazewell County in 1821 and founded Dillon, Illinois. Absalom arrived in 1824. Early histories note that Absalom Dillon opened a store first in Dillon, then in Pekin in the first year that town was founded.

An interesting connection to the Dillons is found in the history of Levi Coffin, who was known as the “President” of the Underground Railroad. He wrote about a visit to Absalom Dillon’s home. “We found a small settlement of Friends and others who had ‘squatted,’ as it is called, on government land. They had selected their land and were waiting for it to come into market. We were kindly received by our relatives and others at this place and I spent several days here very pleasantly.”

Absalom’s wife, Gulielma Dillon, was a cousin once removed to Levi Coffin. Levi lived in an Abolitionist Quaker community in what is now Fountain City, Indiana. His home there is part of the Indiana State Museum system, named as one of the top 25 historic sites in the nation by the History Channel.

Due to this known association with a member of the Underground Railroad, his own abolitionist views, and word of mouth stories, Absalom was known to be a slave freedom leader.

The Tremont Museum has displays on the conductors and the Jones home.

Next week: Freeman Kingman, Josiah and Levi Matthews, and

Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, 2025

Photos : Jones- Menard mansion and photo from the county Underground Railroad conductors’ recognition event a few years ago at the Jones - Menard home in Tremont, sponsored in part by the Tremont Historical Society.

Calling all Vendors: Hometown Christmas



We're so excited to be able to expand the space for vendors at this year's Tremont Hometown Christmas event! If you own a product-based business, especially with holiday themed products or gifts, we'd love to hear from you. See the form at the link below for guidelines and instructions on how to register.

The deadline to register as a vendor is Saturday, November 15, 2025.

[2025 Hometown Christmas Vendor Application](#)



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Tremont Winning Communities, 211 S Sampson St, Tremont, IL, 61568, United States, <https://www.tremontil.com>

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