

brought to you by:



Tremont Winning Communities



You're Invited! Celebrate the Power of

School and Community Connection

The Tremont High School Alumni Association is excited to invite students, families, neighbors, THS Alumni, and community partners to a special celebratory event held on Saturday, October 18 in the school's cafetorium. The event honors the strong partnerships between our school system and the community at large that helps every student – past and present thrive.

This free, family-friendly event will feature:

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Current student performances, school tours, social hour. Refreshments provided.

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Program – Alumni Honorees

Distinguished:

Tyler Thompson (2005)

Tyler, a senior writer and producer of the hit series *The Chosen*, will be the keynote speaker. We are excited to hear Tyler's remarks, he is an amazingly influential and successful THS grad. *The Chosen* has been viewed by over 280 million people in 175 countries. The series has been translated in over 50 languages.

Athletic:

Drew Gierich (2003)

Drew Gierich was a senior during a magical year for boy's athletic programs. He was named all-conference first team in football, basketball, and baseball. In 2003, he was the Peoria Journal Star's Player of the Year in baseball.

Samantha (Springer) Chakouian (2005)

Samantha won the 2005 Class A state title in the discus with a toss of 140-10. She placed 4th in the shot put. Her junior year, Sam placed 2nd at state in both events. After high school, she went on to be a standout performer at ISU – winning the Missouri Valley Conference discus title for the school in 2009.

Amelia (Glueck) Marino (2014)

Amelia was a dual sport athlete in basketball and track. While a very good basketball player, she excelled in track and field where she earned 13 All-State honors and an amazing 5 state championship titles in long jump and the 100 meters. She was the Peoria Journal Star track athlete of the year in 2014.

Service:

Jim Lonergan (1979)

Jim joined the Tremont Fire Department a few years after graduating from THS – quickly

showing his commitment to the community and the volunteer squad. He moved up the ranks to Chief before retiring in 2025 serving 39 years!

Jeff Hinman (1982)

Jeff taught history, coached 3 sports, became MS & HS principal, and retired as superintendent in District #702 after 34 years of service. His commitment to community service continued as a member of Lions Club, Winning Communities, and Village governance.

Tom Gibson (1983)

Tom followed the path created by his grandfather Glenn, uncle Bob, and father Don by running the family business, Tremont Oil – striving to operate by the principle that if you provide a quality product and quality service, the community will support you. Tom has continued this 100-year-old business by serving with integrity, kindness, and a smile.

It's going to be a fun evening! Whether you're a THS grad, long-time resident, current parent, or new to the area, we hope you'll consider joining us during this informal night to celebrate the past and present while we honor the critical roles played by the school, community, and all residents in providing a dynamic educational system for our children.



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



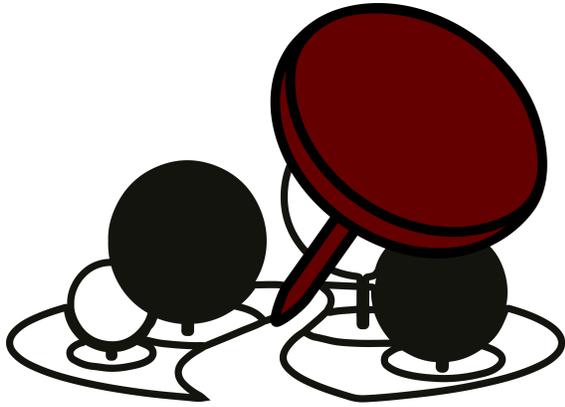
The Share Closet is thankful to continue partnering with Lifewise Academy this school year to bring Bible education to students in Tremont!
Find out more about this program by visiting their [website](#).

Visit us on [Facebook](#)

Phone: (309) 929-7095

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

Organization Updates

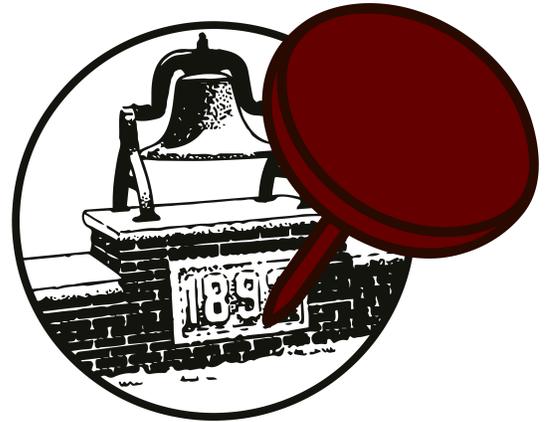


Village of Tremont

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?

Last week's article was about two of the conductors, Absalom Dillon and John Albert Jones, two

of the five known conductors.

Josiah and Levi Matthews

Just imagine a shadowy apparition bumping its way across the plowed fields in the dead of night to start its dangerous journey. Josiah and Levi Matthews carried several runaway slaves in their covered wagon, made just for that purpose. They likely traveled on Deacon Street, which was between Tremont and Morton, as they headed to Woodford County and north via many towns along the way. The Josiah Matthews farm is documented as the main depot of the Underground Railroad in Elm Grove township.

The Matthews farm is gone now. It once was at the dog-leg on Antioch Road in rural Tremont. But the barn was moved nearly 100 years ago to what is the Dan Schwiegert farm now on the curve on Antioch Road. Several years ago, I spoke with 93-year-old Chris Schwiegert at his farm. He told me about the barn and its secret history. He vividly remembered, as a small child, the barn being moved across the fields to his family's farm by steam engine on wheels about two feet wide and three feet high. The barn still stands, to my knowledge.

For generations, stories have been told about some close encounters with bounty hunters. Josiah was especially clever at deceiving them. One time, he had the people in his care cover their faces with flour, and then one of his sons took them into the woods to hunt, thereby fooling his pro-slavery neighbors. There are other stories that have been passed down by word of mouth, too.

In 1879, author Charles Chapman wrote in his [History of Tazewell County](#), "Matthews was an earnest anti-slavery man, and helped to gain freedom for many slaves."



Freeman Kingman

“He is a stout man of four score years, and has the appearance of a man of sixty, rather than eighty years old. He has followed stone cutting, but his time principally has been devoted to farming,” wrote Chapman, back in 1879.

Kingman was also a trustee of the Congregational Church which once stood on the corner where the parking lot to the 2004 Tremont United Methodist Church is today. In the original deed to the Congregational Church, his name is listed with others who were known to be anti-slavery.

Kingman was said to have hidden slaves in the loft of his barn. His farm had been purchased from Benjamin Briggs, who lived on property near his. The Briggs were so vehemently against helping slaves that the Kingmans were more afraid of them than of the slave catchers! Charles Chapman also wrote, “He (Kingman) has transferred passengers on the line of the famous Under-ground Railroad, through Tremont Township.”

There were others who were a part of the Underground Railroad in the Tremont area, no doubt. But these two men, John Albert Jones and Absalom Dillon are part of the five we do know about. They were men of conviction and action, and approximately 800 slaves

reached freedom due to courageous men just like them across Tazewell County.

Tremont Museum and Historical Society
Lori Fuoss, reprinted from an earlier article

**TREMONT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY PROGRAM**

“Eagle Joy In Illinois”

TUESDAY, NOV 18 AT 7PM

TREMONT COMMUNITY CENTER



**Free
Admission**



Tremont Museum will be OPEN on Sunday! (Oct. 12)

Come and learn what you never knew you never knew about your own town! Admission is free.

2-4 PM



If you no longer wish to receive mail from us, you can [unsubscribe](#).

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

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