



251 E. Henri de Tonti Blvd., P.O. Box 144, Tontitown, AR 72770 ~ 479.361.9800

**Tontitown Historical Museum (THM) Report for the COW Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2025**

The THM Board of Directors met at Tontitown City Hall on September 8, 2025.

- 1. Walker Elementary:** Bethany Cebuhar, GT Teacher for Walker Elementary, brought 30 students and parents to the museum on August 27th. Students went in small groups to tour the museum with Juli while Emily showed students the discovery box put together by Helen Tyson Middle School's E.A.S.T students. The GT group is excited to learn more about Tontitown history and to work with staff to build their own discovery box for the museum!
- 2. Digitization Project:** The current count of items in our collections and archives in CatalogIt is 2190. Juli has been attending webinars on museum cataloging processes and has worked this last month to clean up how artifacts, documents and photos are labeled within our system. Her work will make the catalog easier to navigate and for our internal staff to know what is physically in the museum and what is a digital copy. Staff are excited to show a preview of the THM catalog at the upcoming Tontitown Polenta Smear & Taste of Tontitown.
- 3. Visitors:** August: 198; including visitors during the Grape Festival, 30 students from Walker; 2024: 204; 161 from the Grape Festival visitors
- 4. New Exhibits 2026:** Staff are actively working on two new exhibits within the museum. We are excited to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America with an interactive exhibit on the founding of Tontitown and how the first mayor and city council built the city infrastructure of the newly incorporated town in 1910. As well as celebrate the Veterans of Tontitown who have served America since the World War I. If you have photos, stories or artifacts you would like to loan or have scanned for the Veterans of Tontitown exhibit please reach out to staff to see how you can help enrich this exhibit; museum@tontitownar.gov
- 5. Tontitown Polenta Smear & Taste of Tontitown:** THM is preparing for our upcoming event on November 9th from 11a.m.-1p.m. We will be celebrating our Veterans of Tontitown, with a sneak peek of artifacts visitors will see in the new exhibit. We invite everyone to come enjoy some Polenta and Umedo, a traditional dish in Northern Italy and Tontitown's heritage meal, along with a sampling of our local Tontitown restaurants famous dishes!
- 6. Fall Programming:** A showing of Cries from the Cotton Field will be shown at the Springdale Public Library on September 21st. Registration for this event can be found on our social media. September 26th staff will be at Arkansas Arts Academy to promote the museum to educators taking part in the NAM Conference. Museum Manager Emily will be hosting a lecture for the OLLI group in and hosting a booth for Arkansas Symbols Day at Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, in October.

Regular Museum Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9am-1pm, Friday & Saturday 1pm-4pm
 THM Board will meet October 6, 2025 at City Hall at 6pm.

Board of Directors

Misty Piazza	President	Heather Ranalli-Peachee	Member
Kara Jo Engle	Vice President	Daxton Peachee	Member
Megan Taldo McAfee	Treasurer	Torrie Pianalto	Member
Chelsea Stewart	Co-Treasurer	Brittany Berry	Member
Allyson Bowen	Secretary	Kevin Maestri	Member
		Chris Taldo	Member
		Billy Morgan	Member
		Rachel Pianalto-Strickland	Member
		Ashlyn Bowen	Jr. Member

Committees: All Committees have a 1 Year Rotation

HR Committee – 3 board members: Kara, Allyson, & Megan

Food Committee- 3 board members: Misty, Allyson, & Ashlyn

Volunteers Committee – 3 board members: Misty Piazza, Kara Engle, Chris Taldo

Newsletter Committee – 3 board members: Torrie Pianalto, Heather Ranali Peachee, Ashlyn Bowen

Expansion Committee – 3 board members: Kevin Maestri, Billy Morgan, Megan McAfee, Rachel Pianalto-Strickland

Collections Committee – 2-3 board members: Chelsea Stewart, Brittany Berry

Fundraising Committee – 2 board members: Misty Piazza, Rachel Pianalto-Strickland

Education Committee – 2 board members: Dax Peachee, Brittany Berry