



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, October 21, 2025**

The THM Board of Directors met on October 6, 2025 at City Hall.

- 1. Springdale Schools Collaboration:** Museum staff are working with Helen Tyson Middle School as well as Walker Elementary School to create new Discovery Boxes for the museum to loan out and take to off-site events. Students have chosen to focus on the Traditions and Events of Tontitown. We are excited to see what the students create and to work with them through our archives and artifacts.
- 2. Digitization Project:** Currently Juli is preparing our online catalog to be launched early next month. She is cleaning up entries already in CatalogIT and we have beta testers checking entries for us to ensure the website is easy to navigate and sending feedback. We are excited to share the catalog with our visitors, researchers and those generally interested in Tontitown history, this will give our museum national reach through personal computers and cellphones.
- 3. Visitors:** September Visitors: 55 including the Wild & Unstructured Home School Group; 2024: 40
- 4. New Exhibits 2026:** Staff are actively working on two new exhibits within the museum. We are excited to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:museum@tontitownar.gov) A preview of the exhibit will be on show at the upcoming Tontitown Polenta Smear.
- 5. Tontitown Polenta Smear & Taste of Tontitown:** THM is preparing for our upcoming event on November 9<sup>th</sup> 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:** Symbols Day at Shiloh Museum of Ozark History was well attended by 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders as well as home school students from NWA. Students got to learn about the Cynthiana Grape and even do a mess free grape stomp with fake grapes! Upcoming is Springdale Public Schools STEAMFEST, staff will work with student ambassadors to show off our Discovery Box which covers the food culture of Tontitown.

**7. Chelsea Stewart:** We are sad to announce that Chelsea Stewart, our current Co-Treasurer, has accepted a position out of state and will be leaving us at the end of the month. We wish her all the best and thank her for her time on the THM board.

**Regular Museum Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9am-1pm, Friday & Saturday 1pm-4pm**

THM Board will meet not meet in November due to the Tontitown Polenta Smear & Taste of Tontitown.

**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	Rachel Pianalto-Strickland	
Allyson Bowen	Secretary	Brittany Berry	Member
		Kevin Maestri	Member
		Chris Taldo	Member
		Billy Morgan	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