



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, November 18, 2025**

The THM Board of Directors did not meet in November due to the Polenta Smear

- 1. Springdale Schools Collaboration:** Museum Manager Emily met with students at Helen Tyson to discuss how to research topics for the Veterans of Tontitown Discovery Box they are preparing. Students looked at the macro history (nation-wide and world-wide) and the micro history (individual's history and Tontitown specific news). Students asked to learn more about families that have generationally served in the military, what artifacts will be included in the upcoming exhibit and what stories will be told. Mrs. Berry plans to bring this group to the museum in December to do further work and to see the collection.
- 2. Tontitown Polenta Smear & Taste of Tontitown:** November 9<sup>th</sup>, over 160 community members and visitors enjoyed the Tontitown Polenta Smear & Taste of Tontitown. This event harkens back to the Northern Italian villages where many of the founding families are from, most still hold Polenta Smears as part of their community gatherings. This dish is important to Tontitown as it is what the founding families ate the first winter to survive. At this year's event we honor our Veterans of Tontitown and gathered stories and information on our Veterans.
- 3. Digitization Project:** Since purchasing a lightbox for the museum, Juli and Emily have worked to update artifact photos and will continue this work to improve the online collection photos. Juli is continuing her work in adding photos, artifacts and archives into the online catalog.
- 4. Visitors:** 21 visitors for October, including descendants from Lake Village and Sbanottos from our of town that were here for a family reunion.
- 5. 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) any artifacts must be submitted by December 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure they will be included in the exhibit, photos and stories are welcome at any point and can be added to the slideshow that will be playing in the room.
- 6. Fall Programming:** OLLI: Museum Manager Emily was invited by the Osher Life Long Learning Institute to present a lecture on Father Bandini and show the "*Cries from the*

*Cotton Field*” film to students. Both were well attended and sparked a desire for the OLLI group to plan a future trip to THM and Tontitown for other lectures and learning. STEAMFEST, at Walker Elementary was a fun night, students and parents got to see some of the items that students from Helen Tyson created for the museum and ask questions about the museum and town.

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

THM Board will meet on December 1<sup>st</sup> in Chambers at City Hall at 6p.m.

**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
Allyson Bowen	Secretary	Rachel Pianalto-Strickland	Member
		Brittany Berry	Member
		Kevin Maestri	Member
		Chris Taldo	Member
		Billy Morgan	Member
		Ashlyn Bowen	Jr. Member
		Katie Jo Piazza	Jr. Member
		Nikki Mussino	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