



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, August 20, 2024**

The THM Board of Directors did not meet in August due to the Grape Festival

- 1. Grant Updates:** The HumanitiesAR Council resource grant money came in late June and THM was able to order all the items on our quote from Gaylord Archival, these items included: 4 new high-gauge steel shelving units (2 at THM and 2 at UStorage), 2 new archival boxes for dresses, 2 new archival boxes for vestments or other large items, 3 photo album boxes, page and photo protector sheets for album boxes. This project is 90% complete with new shelves up at THM, dress boxes are full and one photo album box is complete. As we catalog and take inventory of the collection the rest of the boxes will be filled and the storage unit shelves will be installed.
- 2. Heritage School:** THM was invited to participate with Washington County Historical Society's Heritage School. This program is geared towards students who wish to learn hands-on about the heritage of this area, it is a week-long program offered twice (one for younger students and the second for older students). THM's Emily and Juli attended each week teaching students about the heritage of Tontitown: Grapes, Grains and Polenta. Students were taught how to play bocce and played several games, as well as how to make Polenta. The groups both weeks enjoyed polenta and a light umedo sauce for lunch along with hand cranked ice cream and homemade cobbler.
- 3. Visitors:** For the month of July THM saw 43 visitors. During our extended hours for the week of the Grape Festival THM saw 166 visitors.
- 4. Social Media:** Juli took some time during July to film the pasta making process over at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. This video along with a reel from Heritage School were a huge success on our social media! Along with planned throwbacks to Grape Festivals of years past have seen a major uptick in our social media presence!
- 5. Grape Festival:** THM was busy during the preparations of the 125th Grape Festival, we hosted one news crew and a couple bloggers who wanted to know more about the history of the town as well as the history of the Grape Festival.

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

The next THM Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for September 9th.

Board of Directors

Misty Piazza President
Kara Jo Engle Vice President
Megan Taldo McAffe Treasurer
Allyson Bowen Secretary

Bev Cortiana-McEuen Member
Heather Ranalli-Peachee Member
Chelsea Stewart Member
Riley Tessaro Member
Olivia Ward Member
Daxton Peachee Member
Torrie Pianalto Jr. Member
Ashlyn Bowen Jr. Member

