

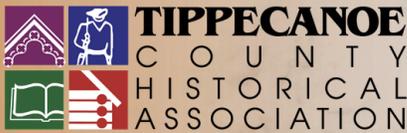
TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S

TippecaNEWS

VOL 5 | ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2026

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Back for 2026: We are thrilled to partner with local Chef Lauren Reed! Join us for more dinners this summer, pairing history with Lauren's culinary talents. Proceeds from each dinner benefit continued work by TCHA.

Members may call [\(765\) 476-8411](tel:(765)476-8411) ext 1 to register, starting April 29 at 10 AM EST. Tickets on sale to general public May 7.

Menus, dates, and themes announced March 26!

EXPERIENCE A *Taste* OF THE PAST

WITH RENOWNED CHEF LAUREN REED

Enjoy a taste of the past while supporting Tippecanoe County's future.

\$65 PER PERSON
Open to attendees age 16 and up



New themes each month, and a program to accompany dinner!

First dinner: June 27, 2026

All 2026 Dates: June 27 | July 17 | August 1 | December 12

FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

2026 TCHA BOARD OF GOVERNORS LINE UP

Meet the 2026 TCHA Board of Governors! The Board is the driving force of the organization, and meets monthly to make decisions and updates for the organization as a whole. It's never too early to think about joining the board, as we will be taking applications for board members in the fall.

Want to try out a TCHA Board meeting before you commit?

Join us on the fourth Tuesday at the TCHA History Center, at 5:15 PM.

PRESIDENT

NICK SCHENKEL

VICE-PRESIDENT

JEREMY SPANN

TREASURER

NATALIA HUFF

SECRETARY

TARA RABER

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Rosanne Altstatt ° Cassie Apuzzo ° Colby Bartlett ° Del Bartlett ° Lorita Bill
Jeff Burnworth ° H. Kory Cooper ° Walt Griffin ° David Hovde
Natalia Huff ° Ashima Krishna ° Tara Raber ° Dave Sattler ° Nick Schenkel
Jeff Schwab ° Bridget Slack ° Jeremy Spann ° Chris Stevenson ° John Thieme
Whitney Walton ° Jillian White ° Todd White

OUTGOING PRESIDENT AND TREASURER

Congratulations to Jeff Schwab and Lorita Bill on their past five years of service on the TCHA Executive Committee. Jeff has served as Board President since 2021, and Lorita has also served as Treasurer during that same tenure. Their transformative change has helped steward TCHA in a forward-moving direction, and we are incredibly grateful for their service, wisdom, and hard work. Both Jeff and Lorita are remaining on the board. We are thrilled to continue to get to have them in our board room. Best of luck to our incoming president, and former Board Secretary, Nick Schenkel, new Secretary replacing Nick: Tara Raber, and to our new Board Member AND Treasurer, Natalia Huff.



Jeff Schwab at our Annual Meeting



Lorita Bill at our Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

HONORING MEMBER DEDICATION

BALL-SHOLTY AWARD WINNER

Each year, the Tippecanoe County Historical Association Board of Governors selects the recipient of the Ball-Sholty Award -- an honor recognizing outstanding contributions to the preservation and storytelling of our local history. We are proud to announce this year's recipient: John Norberg, a champion of Greater Lafayette's stories and voices.

John's career has shaped how our community understands its own history. From his work as a local reporter for the J&C, to his time as a speechwriter at Purdue University, to authoring numerous books that capture the spirit and complexity of our region, his words have preserved moments that might otherwise have been lost. Please join us in congratulating John on this well-deserved recognition and in thanking him for a lifetime of preserving the stories that make our community unique.



Pictured (L to R): Jeff Schwab (TCHA Board President at time of award), Award winner John Norberg, Claire Eagle (TCHA Executive Director)

See the video on our [Facebook page](#).

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS



Pictured (L to R): Brooke Sauter (Feast of the Hunters' Moon Event Manager), Award winner Jan Young, Award winner Bill Young, Claire Eagle (TCHA Executive Director)

Each year, a Volunteer of the Year is chosen by TCHA staff and announced at the Annual Meeting. 2026 Volunteers of the Year: Jan & Bill Young

If you've spent time at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon or at any TCHA program, chances are you've seen their work, even if you didn't realize it. Their dedication, generosity, and steady presence help make so much of what we do possible. Jan has served on the Programs Committee, coordinates the storytelling booth at the Feast, and has been a wonderful liaison with the Weavers Guild -- always helping us keep traditional skills and stories alive.

Bill is a cornerstone of our Facilities Committee, the person we call when something needs checked or fixed (especially electrical!). From grounds work to painting the miles of layout lines that shape the Feast each year, Bill's behind-the-scenes efforts keep everything running smoothly.

Together, Jan and Bill also serve on the Feast Steering Committee and embody what volunteerism at TCHA is all about: collaboration, kindness, and a deep commitment to preserving and sharing history with our community.

Pictured (L to R): Brooke Sauter (Feast of the Hunters' Moon Event Manager), Award winner Jan Young, Award winner Bill Young, Claire Eagle (TCHA Executive Director)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY CLAIRE EAGLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW RAILINGS AT THE HISTORY CENTER

Lafayette, IN (January 25, 2026)—The Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA) has been awarded a grant of \$5,122.95 from North Central Health Services (NCHS) for the purchase and installation of a safety rail for our raised seating platform in the auditorium of the History Center.

As the primary location for the majority of TCHA’s educational programming, the History Center auditorium sees hundreds of visitors each year. The installation of a steel safety rail on each side of the space will act as both a visual and physical barrier, ensuring visitors are more aware of the platform. Installation of the rail has been completed and final touches for the entire project are expected to be finished in the coming weeks.

“This safety rail allows us to continue keeping our visitors safe and accident free,” shares TCHA Executive Director, Claire Eagle. “We are fortunate that NCHS invests in the infrastructure that allows organizations like ours to thrive. This funding directly strengthens our ability to host year-round programs while ensuring the safety of everyone who participates.”



This project is made possible through a generous grant from North Central Health Services (NCHS) administered by The Arts Federation.

TCHA MEMBERS-ONLY TOUR OF THE COURTHOUSE

As our thanks to you, we are partnering with the Tippecanoe County Commissioners to offer a special Members-Only Tour of the Tippecanoe County Courthouse! This tour, led by the Commissioner Tom Murtaugh, will take you through the courthouse on a 1 hour 15 minute exploration of its history, function, and construction. This tour is free for TCHA, but space is limited and you must RSVP to participate. The tour includes walking and stairs, but elevators are available. The courthouse will be opened for TCHA members only during the tour, so don't be late or you will be locked out! Attendees will meet at the East entrance (4th Street Side).

Registration begins April 1st . Call Kelly at 765-476-8411 ext. 3 or email curator@tippecanoehistory.org

Tour Dates and Times:

Saturday, April 18th at 10:00 am

Saturday, April 18th at 1:00 pm

Saturday, April 25th at 10:00 am

Saturday, April 25th at 1:00 pm

Monday, April 27th at 5:00 pm



NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

BY KELLY LIPPIE, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

NEW EXHIBIT IN SHADELAND

A new exhibit is now open in Shadeland in the Union Township Trustee's office. You can explore the history of Union Township and Shadeland including the schools, fire department and founding families. You can visit this display anytime the trustee's office is open or by appointment. They are also looking for more items to share, including photographs and trophies. If you have questions or would like to contribute to the display, contact the Union Township Trustee.



DAYTON, INDIANA GEARS UP FOR THEIR BICENTENNIAL



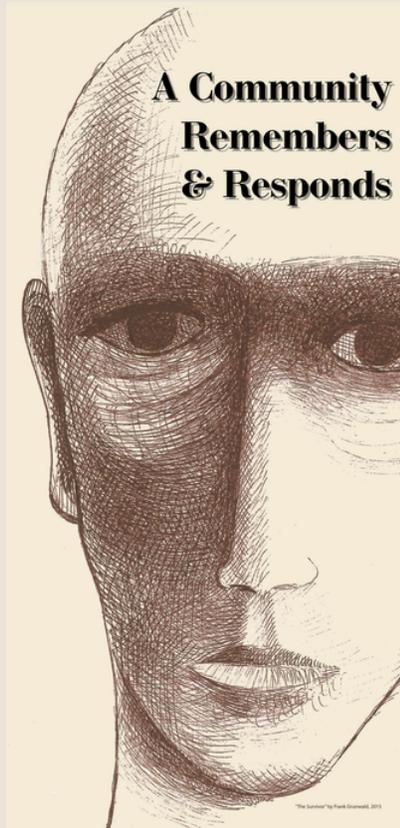
The town of Dayton is looking ahead to their upcoming Bicentennial anniversary in 2029. TCHA recently added a series of commemorative ornaments that were put out to raise funds and awareness for Dayton's Bicentennial. These wooden ornaments feature landmark buildings in town and were designed by local artists.

BETHEL AME CHURCH OF LAFAYETTE RECEIVES GRANT

Lafayette's Bethel AME Church is the recipient of a 2026 Preserving Black Churches grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This grant will fund a historic structures report to guide long-term preservation. Congratulations!



Bethel AME Church, ca. 1955



A Community Remembers & Responds

The Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Committee

Advocating for human rights in Tippecanoe County since 1981

April 3-24, 2026

Opening reception: April 3, 2026 at 6:00 PM

The Arts Federation, 638 North St., Lafayette, IN



BATTLEFIELD MUSEUM

BY TREY GORDEN, PHD, BATTLEFIELD MANAGER

WHAT A FUN START TO THE YEAR!

I'm excited to announce that the Tippecanoe Battlefield Museum will no longer be observing winter hours starting Sunday, March 1st, and continuing through the end of the year. We'll be open every day except Wednesday, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Come on out and see how the grounds are changing as the trees leaf out and the blooming and birdsong start. We're already seeing some beautiful days. The school groups have started visiting, and I'm having the time of my life leading them around the battlefield and talking about the battle with them.

We just had our first of what I hope will be many collaborations with master flint-knapper Ed Mosher to provide flint-knapping workshops for our community. Our session this month was capped at ten participants, which filled up very fast! Everything participants needed was provided, though experienced knappers were encouraged to bring their own equipment, if they preferred. This is an art I have wanted to understand for many years, and I learned so much at this workshop. Ed formulates these sessions to provide quite a bit of individualized instruction (hence the small class size), and so offers valuable instruction to artists at any level of skill, including complete novices, like yours truly. Keep your eye on this newsletter and TCHA's social media for the date of our next flintknapping workshop. See you there!



Master flint-knapper Ed Mosher



Chips and sherds of stone, and tools



FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON

BY BROOKE SAUTER, FEAST MANAGER

Feast of the Hunters' Moon and Colonial Market Days Coordinate 2026 Dates to Avoid Overlap and Support Attendees, Participants, and Public Safety

West Lafayette, Indiana / Lebanon, Indiana — The Feast of the Hunters' Moon and Colonial Market Days are pleased to announce a coordinated scheduling effort for their 2026 events, ensuring that participants and spectators can enjoy both gatherings without conflicting dates.

For many years, the Feast of the Hunters' Moon has operated at the mercy of the Purdue University football schedule. Holding the Feast during the same weekend as a Purdue home game creates substantial strain and added risk for local infrastructure and emergency response services.

We now have the final component of the date-selection process: the Purdue football schedule. With that information in hand, organizers are balancing non-game weekends, coordination with Lafayette-area community partners to ensure adequate resources are available, and the regional historic events calendar. While some weekends may appear “open” on paper, not all are realistically workable when multiple large events overlap and draw from the same shared services.

In a collaborative effort, organizers from the Feast of the Hunters' Moon and Colonial Market Days have worked together to identify dates that support both events and avoid overlap. This coordination allows vendors, reenactors, demonstrators, and the visiting public to participate fully in each event—without having to choose between them.

“This was a practical and positive collaboration,” said Casey Samson, representing Colonial Market Days. “We want people to be able to attend and enjoy both events, and coordinating dates helps strengthen the living history community as a whole.”

Brooke Sauter, of the Feast of the Hunters' Moon added, “Public safety and community resources have to remain part of the conversation when scheduling a large event in West Lafayette. Working with Colonial Market Days allowed us to plan responsibly while still serving the many people who look forward to these weekends every year.”

Through this collaborative effort, the official 2026 Colonial Market Days dates are October 10–11, with the Feast of the Hunters' Moon following on October 24–25.

Both events remain committed to historical education, immersive interpretation, and preserving early American heritage through engaging programming, skilled artisans, and meaningful community participation. Additional details—including program highlights and vendor information—will be released in the coming months.

COLONIAL MARKET DAYS **OCTOBER 10-11**

OCTOBER						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					10	11
					COLONIAL MARKET DAYS	
					24	25
					FEAST of the HUNTERS' MOON	

OCTOBER 24-25 **FEAST of the HUNTERS' MOON**

FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON

FOOD BOOTH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHY HAVE A FOOD BOOTH AT THE FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON?

If your organization needs a means by which to raise money for your organization's activities, participating as a Food Booth at The Feast of the Hunters' Moon is a way to raise money and increase the public profile of your organization. It can also be a great team building experience for participants.

WHO CAN HAVE A FOOD BOOTH?

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon provides opportunities for organizations such as scout troops, church groups, social or community service clubs, and other not-for-profit organizations to raise money by operating a Food Booth at the Feast. TCHA currently shares profits from the Feast of the Hunters' Moon with approximately 50 community organizations who participate in a variety of capacities.

WHAT IS A FOOD BOOTH?

A food booth run by an area organization prepares food on site and then sells these items to visitors at the annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon. The Feast regularly hosts over 40,000 attendees during its two day run. The Feast committee works with organizations to find foods that match with the size of their volunteer base. Profits and expenses from food sales are shared between your organization and TCHA. Checks are usually issued to all food booths between 60 and 90 days after the event. TCHA pays for all the costs of hosting the event, entertainment, advertising, and attracting the attendees.

WHEN DOES A FOOD BOOTH NEED TO GET INVOLVED?

There is an organizational meeting for food booths on April 16, 2026 (but organizations may apply after that date). The 59th Feast of the Hunters' Moon will be held October 24-25, 2026

WHERE IS THE FEAST OF THE HUNTERS' MOON HELD?

The event is held annually at Fort Ouicatenon Park, 3129 South River Rd, West Lafayette.

HOW MUCH CAN A GROUP MAKE RUNNING A FOOD BOOTH?

Since the Feast is an outdoor event, attendance and sales can be weather dependent. In a regular year, a food vendor can earn around \$2,000 or higher, depending on the size of their operation and their food selection. A large food vendor can earn \$15,000 or more during the Feast weekend.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Interested organizations can contact the Feast Event Manager, Brooke Sauter, via email at feast@tippecanoehistory.org.
- The Feast committee will work with you to identify appropriate food items and walk you through the ordering process with our food suppliers to avoid any up-front costs to your organization.
- We will also help you with determining an appropriate setup for your sales area and optional items such as primitive shelters, tables, chairs.
- All volunteers must be in historical dress appropriate to the Feast. TCHA has many suggestions for economical ways to properly outfit your crew.



Delicious hickory chicken at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon, one of the many great foods and food booths throughout the grounds!

April-June Programs

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAM CALENDAR

Feast Sewing Circles

Various dates, see list

Arganbright Genealogy Center

Presented by Brooke Sauter

Open to sewists of all skill levels, who sew by hand or machine. Topics range from garment construction, pattern drafting, discussions on what folks wore in the 18th century, and more. Free, open to the public!

If you'd like to teach a session, please reach out! DM us or email Brooke at Feast@tippecanoehistory.org.

March: 11, 25 All sessions:

April 8, 22 5:30-7:30 PM

May 6, 20

The Lafayette Red Sox thrilled fans with semi-pro baseball at Loeb Stadium and created lasting bonds between its players and the community. From 1935 to 1952, the Red Sox played against other semi-pro clubs and staged exhibitions against Negro League teams, bringing diverse brands of baseball to Lafayette.

Watch for the full program calendar list in the Q2 program guide, coming soon!

Community Baseball:

The Lafayette Red Sox and its Players

Tuesday, June 9, 6 PM

TCHA's History Center

522 Columbia St, Lafayette

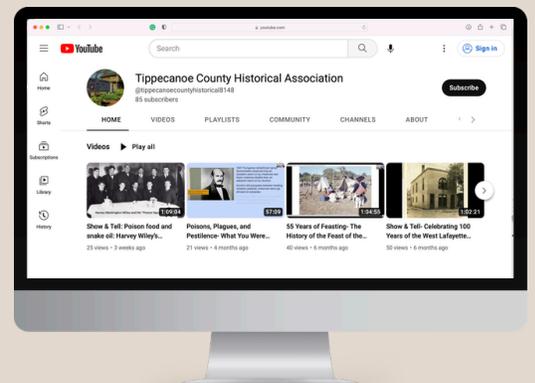
Presented by Matt Meyer, digital archivist at Wabash College

In this program, Matt Meyer, digital archivist at Wabash College, dives into the history of the Red Sox and the players who enraptured the city. Red Sox players came from all backgrounds.

Some were former professional baseball players, some were coaches, and others were public servants. What brought them together was playing baseball while still being active in their community. By showcasing the likes of Mike Kosman, Dale Davis, and Paul "Spider" Fields, this program will highlight the rich history of the Lafayette Red Sox and their cherished place in Lafayette baseball history.

MISS A RECENT TCHA PROGRAM? CATCH IT ONLINE

Many of our presentations, especially our popular Show & Tell programs, are streamed live via Zoom and recorded. Most recordings are posted just a few days after the event on TCHA's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@TippecanoeHistory>



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to all who have joined the Association since the last edition of our newsletter!

Aerica and Isaiah Beaver
Sam Breiner
Clyde and Audrey Burghardt
Barb Kralovic and Steven Charlebois
Cody and Faith Dalton
Rosy Ferner
Yvonne Keech
Gloria Klutzke
Carolyn McDivitt
Brianna Schroeder
Christopher and Kimberly Stevenson

A special offer for our county's birthday!

Introducing...

The **1826 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

To celebrate Tippecanoe County's 200th birthday, we are offering a special Individual, one year gift membership price (\$18.26) to anyone who purchases or renews a membership at regular price in 2026.

Gift memberships will receive all the same perks of membership and help support TCHA's mission to collect, preserve, research and share our unique and diverse history.

This offer is also available to Lifetime members and those who currently have active 5 year memberships.

Plus... All members receive this sticker with 2026 membership renewal!

TIPPECANOE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
300 YEARS
1826-2026
TIPPECANOE COUNTY

What's another way you can support our work?

**HELP PROVIDE SUPPLIES WE NEED TO
CONTINUE TO PRESERVE HISTORY.**

SHOP TCHA'S AMAZON WISHLIST AT
[HTTPS://A.CO/E4NKPXK](https://a.co/e4nkpkk)