

THE ARCH

Putnam County Museum Newsletter



PUTNAM COUNTY MUSEUM

Bridging Generations. Connecting Communities. Preserving Past.

THE ARCH

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FINDING TREASURE IN THE MUSEUM

MUSEUM WISH LIST:

Divided container for screws, bolts, hangers, etc.

Electric teakettle (stainless steel)

Lighted open sign for window

Open flag to put at the highway

New magnetic letters for sign in blue or green (\$79)

ATT booster to strengthen signal in the building (\$99 used at Amazon)

My first few days at the Museum have been a whirlwind of delightful discoveries – and I haven’t even gotten around to exploring the 2,000+ items in the collection. The treasures I keep discovering at the Museum are its people. It’s been a joy to reconnect with old friends, neighbors, and collaborators. It’s also been a pleasure to begin meeting people who are new to me, yet essential to the Museum’s success. I’m humbled by the energy and abilities of the Museum’s people and by the warmth of everyone’s welcome.

One member confessed that he didn’t join the Museum when it was getting started back in 2003 because he seriously doubted such an ambitious project could succeed in such a small place. The Museum, of course, exceeded his expectations. Not only has he since joined, he has taken steps to help ensure that we will have funds for day-to-day operations as well as a larger endowment. He is *Malcolm Romine*.

Another treasure is Assistant Director, *Sarah Myers*. In just two-and-a-half days per week, she sees to hundreds of the nuts-and-bolts details that keep us all going. She supervises our four interns from DePauw, aids directors and volunteers, serving a variety of “bosses” with wide ranging agendas, not to mention guiding me as I begin to uncover all the people and processes involved.

I’ve already come to welcome the chime of the front door, for it so often signals the arrival of another person who brings new ideas, energy, information, supplies and/or homemade cookies. I haven’t begun to meet everyone yet, so I don’t dare to begin to list the volunteers who make this place go, much as I’d like to mention names like

Mickey Meehan and *Sherry Gammon*. When they heard that without the formidable energies of *Tanis Monday*, we might not be able to put on the annual student art exhibit this year, Meehan and Gammon said, “Yes we can,” and made it happen. The art exhibit brought in more than 120 works of art from all over the county and more than 170 visitors to the Museum on its first day (my second day on the job).



If I try to list the names of essential volunteers like *Rita Schendel* (award winner), *Saraellen Peters* (all-purpose coordinator), *Warren Macy* (collections), *Gigi Jennewein Fenlon* (official matters), *Marian Abowitz* (accessions), and *Patty McCastle* (money), I will inevitably omit a few dozen others. So, please

continue to orient me and please help me to thank the scores of volunteers who make the Putnam County Museum such a vibrant cultural institution.

In the workroom, we’ve set up a place where everyone is invited to write down ideas to be discussed. In the first ten days, the “idea board” already abounds with inspiring suggestions. Please feel free to add your own ideas for the Museum as it enters its second decade.

Given the fact that so many people keep the Museum going and growing, it seems to me that the title, “Executive Director,” is a misnomer. My hope is to grow into the role of “executive facilitator.” I can only do it with your continued good will and hardwork.

Kit Newkirk

The mission of the Putnam County Museum is to collect, preserve, and interpret the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the county and its people through education, exhibits, and special programs.

Putnam County Museum pc_museum



PUTNAM COUNTY MUSEUM
1105 N. JACKSON STREET
GREENCASTLE, INDIANA 46135

IN THIS ISSUE...

- From the Director
- Docents
- Upcoming Events

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IDEAS TO DISCUSS

- Membership cards
- Oral histories & storytelling
- Video storytelling
- Mobile app for storytelling around the county
- Summer camps for kids
- Group for people under 40 (dance parties)
- Applying for grant to buy energy efficient lighting
- Mobile and less expensive credit card processing
- Update PastPerfect software
- Refresh systems for:
 - reporting events
 - collecting volunteer data, visitor data
 - tracking inventory of supplies, assets, inventory in gift shop
 - recycling

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Facebook specialist, training provided (1 hour per week)

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

April 26 at 10:30 am
Zeis Founding Family

May 16 from 5 to 7
Donor Appreciation Day

June 13 at 6 pm
Ruth Liz Poor Art Show

June - Flint Founding Family

July - Photography Exhibit

October - Brackney Founding Family

WE NEED YOU...

Looking for a way to give back to our great community? Consider giving your time to the Putnam County Museum.

We need a few good women and/or men to be docents at the Putnam County Museum. Docents are the Museum's face to the public. We greet, inform, give tours and man the gift shop.

The commitment is simple; each volunteering two, three hour stints per month. Additionally, docents come together for a meeting the first Monday of every month. This is a great place to meet new people and learn many interesting facts about Putnam County.

If this sounds interesting, call Mary Ann Meyer at 765-653-6303 or email: mmeyer@cinergymetro.net

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Putnam County Museum has recently received wonderful news from Elaine Peck, Executive Director of the Putnam County Community Foundation, that the Foundation received an anonymous donation to an endowment that will ultimately produce about \$18,000 for the Museum every year. The Putnam County Museum Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and members are very excited about this generous gift that will go far to support the Museum's mission to help ensure that our county's unique heritage and our community's story are kept and shared for years to come. Thank you to the donor for this tremendous gift!



"I walked into the Putnam County Museum and asked for an internship on my first day of college. I began my five-year undergraduate career at DePauw University with very little understanding of the local community and, most importantly, myself. I have been fortunate enough to travel freely and immerse myself in new, thought-provoking cultures, but I am always grateful to be able to return to the Putnam County Museum. I have discovered a culture unique to Putnam County during my time with PCM, and I am honored to have had this experience and influence while at the university.

Throughout the past five years, I have seen the Putnam County Museum mature as directors, Boards, and volunteers devote innumerable hours and thoughts to its projects; the museum's growth was expected and tangible from my perspective as an intern. However, far more growth and maturation occurs at the museum than I was aware—the growth of those individuals dedicated to the PCM mission. I, myself, never expected to grow up at a museum, but that's exactly what happened in the end. I've witnessed an organization take root and grow stronger in its role in the Putnam County community, but I have experienced my own growth in conjunction with the museum. I offer my gratitude to all those who continue to advocate for and volunteer with the museum; by actively engaging in civic duties, you have served as role models for me. I give my thanks to the Putnam County Museum for helping me to understand what makes a community and for helping me to find my place in this one." —Liz Bjordal

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Saraellen Peters - President, Kit Newkirk - Director, Gigi Fenlon - Vice President

We began 2014 with the search for a new Director. We were really pleased by the many qualified applicants that responded to our press release for this job position. We feel so very fortunate to have *Kit Newkirk* taking on the challenge as our new Director. We are confident she will lead us into future success, not only because of her range of skills with many other organizations, but because of her past involvement as one of the original architects that paved the way for the Putnam County Museum's policies and procedures, by-laws, and the actual layout of the facility where we are currently located.

I am confident Kit will feel blessed, as I do, to have such a great board to work with. They are a supportive, exuberant, and capable group of people. I want to take this opportunity to thank board members *Gigi Fenlon-Vice President, Mary Ann Meyer-Secretary, Patty McCastle-Treasurer, Bob Evans, Chris Wurster, David Zeiner, Ellie Ypma, Emily Knuth, Mickey Meehan, Mike Sullivan, Phil Gick*, and our newest board member *Ron Price*, for all that you are doing to help the Museum carry out their mission of preserving the past for our future generations. I would also like to thank our *Emeriti members, Warren Macy, Diana LaViolette and Jinsie Bingham* for being the experienced advice we can count on when making decisions that impact our museum and membership. A special thanks goes out to our volunteer committee members *Mike Myers, Phyllis Rockiki, Shelley Binetti, Kris Knapp, David Taylor, Ken Heeke*.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to our *Assistant Director Sarah Myers*, who fills in the gaps for Kit as she becomes familiar with the happenings of the museum as we move into the year with excitement and expectation.

Saraellen Peters, President



Malcolm Romine and Saraellen Peters

MATCHING CHALLENGE RECOGNITION

Convention and Visitors Bureau
Jinsie Bingham
Greencastle Hometown Dental
Tri-County Bank and Trust
First Financial Bank
Collins Evans Real Estate
PC Board of Realtors
HMSB Insurance
Warren & Connie Macy
Gary & Patty McCastle
Mickey Meehan
Edward & Mary Ann Meyer
Tanis Monday
Jack & Whitney Morrill
Nick & Marilyn Mourouzis
Bonnie Nealon
Rick Parent
Harl & Saraellen Peters
Bill & Jane Pfaffenberger
Greg & Barbara Rice
Julia Romine
Malcolm Romine
John & Barbara Schlotterbeck
Randy Seipel
Duane & Susan Skoog
Carol Sweeney
Bob Thomas
Jean Welter
Cyril & Melissa Welter
Donna Welter
Wendy Welter-Meyers
Ellie Ypma
David Zeiner