

## Updates from Organizations Impacted by Hurricane Harvey

Courtesy of TAM's regional group SETMA (Southeast Texas Museum Association) and Susan Smyer

The MWH survived another storm, despite both the house and the storm being “historic” in nature they must have decided it was a draw. Our Museum Family has been affected though. At least three were rather directly affected and more have family or friends who were. I think all of us who either only had a small leak or a garage flood have a certain amount of survival guilt and still have the stress of the dread of it all. We are slowly getting back to normal-ish.

So we've been helping our coworkers who needed it last week. We made a run over to our neighbor the Clifton Steamboat Museum to advise them on a few objects that got damp. They did take some water, but luckily the exhibits were saved by the fact water pooled in the elevator shaft.

I've been drying out photos and passing out Orvus WA Paste as if it were Halloween candy but with clear instructions on how to prepare it.

Glad to hear from you.

Michelle Cate, Registrar

[McFaddin-Ward Historic House Museum](#)

725 Third Street

Beaumont, Texas 77701

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The Fire Museum weathered the storm and subsequent flooding. Today is my first day back at work in two weeks. The museum also serves as Emergency management headquarters during disasters so it was occupied 24/7 for the past two weeks. I'm nonessential so I didn't have to be here but considering I was flooded in Port Arthur there's no way I could have made it to work anyway. Like one of the firefighters told me when he called to check on me and Isaac and I asked about the building, "Ma'am, she's seen a lot of storms and she'll see a lot more than you and I ever will." LOL Glad to hear Waterworks had minimal damage!

Best,

Ami

**Aminatta Kamara, Museum Manager**

**Fire Museum of Texas**

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You may know by now, but the McFaddin-Ward House came through fine—just a few leaks, mostly in the Reserve Collection building. Michelle and Sam took care of the leaks, and our Facilities staff and guards and Allen Lea secured the art glass windows, etc. The Tyrrell Historical Library apparently sustained some leaks that damaged the interior, though not the collections. This after an entire year was spent on major water remediation and future protection! Go figure.

I was safe but stranded on an “island” surrounded by creeks and bayous, and so were others. All my family is fine, though. One of our staff members lost everything, and we've been trying to help her out, and countless

friends and family lost everything too. We here, and you in Houston, will be a long time restoring normality to our lives and community, but I'm sure it will come eventually. Humans are amazingly resilient.

Thanks so much for checking on us. Keep us posted, especially if we can do anything.

Judy

***Judith Linsley***

**Curator of Interpretation and Education**



**725 Third Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701**

**409.832.1906, ext. 106**

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From Michael Bailey at the Brazoria County Historical Museum:

*Doing fine here in Angleton, levees and ditches did their job.*

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Susan – glad to hear that you're (relatively) unharmed. The Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville too on water intrusion via the baseboards leaking at the lowest point on the bottom floor, nothing major, just continuous saturation in the area for six days straight. Seven shop vacs and countless staff hours, both morning and night later, and everything is fine. I am anxious to hear from other museums in the Houston / east Texas area. Shalom – Mikey. (Sproat)

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Thanks so much for this update. Galveston Arts Center weather the storm fairly well and I'm happy to report no work was damaged and that the ArtWalk scheduled for August 26th will take place tomorrow, September 9th from 6 to 9PM.

We are in the process of assessing the building as we found some flooding in the elevator well, which requires shutting it down for a couple of weeks. Wind-driven rain also caused some damage to our exterior and interior walls and windows on the north side of the eastern half of the building. We hope they will be covered by insurance; but that is yet to be determined.

There was an email thread being sent around via the Galveston Area Museum Network with updates from other Galveston organizations. I'll forward you the last email so you can see updates that were being sent from our neighboring museums.

Thanks again for checking in.

Best,  
Dennis

Dennis Nance  
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Forwarded to me by Dennis Nance concerning Galveston museums:

Quick summary from Galveston orgs...

Galveston Historical Foundation - 8/31/2017

"GHF properties fared well, too. Nothing that couldn't be mopped up or repaired."

Galveston Railroad Museum - 9/1/2017

"We got about a foot of water in the main depot building . Ripping out carpet , some of the gift shop cabinets might need replaced. Two rooms in the display building have wet carpets , The BNSF is bring back our train next week. We will be closed for about 10 working days."

GHF properties fared well, too. Nothing that couldn't be mopped up or repaired. Our hearts go out to our neighbors on the mainland. GHF is also here for our friends and neighbors, if needed.

Jami

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Galveston County Museum is fine, no issues.

Jennifer Wycoff

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I am so glad to hear that both your home and the Waterworks Education Center were spared from the wrath of Harvey. Our home was also spared and we are so very thankful for that. The 1940 Air Terminal Museum did suffer quite a bit of water damage due to roof and window leaks and we will have to remain closed through at least September to make necessary repairs. Thankfully though our hangar space which houses our airplanes and our archives is all safe and sound. There was only a few inches of water that came in the front of the hangar and only experienced one leak in the archives office that caused 2 ceiling tiles to fall down.

Overall it could have been much worse and we hope to get all repairs done as quickly as possible and be back open soon.

Regards,  
Amy

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We came through with just a few drips like you. Home even fared better with no water. Thanks for your concern. Hope others are fine also.

Catharin...  
Catherin Lewis  
West Common Bay School Museum

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Thank you Susan for your email. Spindletop Gladys City Museum had some leakage in buildings but mostly ok.

Troy Gray, Director

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The Alvin Historical Museum only had a small roof leak that did no further damage. Our Cottage Museum did not have any damage. We are truly blessed.

Thanks,  
Tom Stansel

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From Alice Collette at the Heritage Society in Houston:

See top article. The situation is THANKFULLY not nearly as bad as it was with Allison.

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Greetings from Fort Bend County. We are drying out down here. Luckily, we are for the most part far enough away from the Brazos and high enough that we didn't receive a great deal of damage. The Fort Bend Museum, especially, made it through the storm with few issues. We just had a bit of ceiling damage in one room of the Moore House due to a roof leak. No collections were injured. The Dew House lost some AC units but otherwise was undamaged as far as I know.

At the George Ranch Historical Park, the Visitors Center flooded again – 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 3 years. We probably took in about a foot of water in there (Claire can correct me if I'm way off here). Again, no collections were damaged and all things considered our losses were relatively minimal. Staff cleaned out the Visitors Center on Tuesday and we're waiting on the process to move to the recovery phase in there. The rest of the Park is fine

with little damage. Only one pot-bellied stove got some rust stains on it after being exposed to water for a while. It is stable but a conservator will need to look at it to see if any treatment to restore the appearance of the stove is possible.

I can't claim that the staff came out of Harvey completely unscathed but we are all pretty much back to work. The Museum is open and admission will be no charge through September 9. They will also be offering some special hands-on activities for children on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:30 to noon. The Park is also back open Wednesday and will be at a half price discount for everyone through Saturday. The historic lunch on Saturday will be at the Jones Stock Farm as previously scheduled at regular price.

So, we're slowly getting back to normal here and we're definitely blessed.

-Chris

**Chris Godbold**

Chief Curator of Collections

Fort Bend History Association

*(Formerly the Fort Bend County Museum Association)*

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So great to hear you are ok, safe and dry. My husband, Joey, and I live in Houston and are just fine. No damage to homes or cars. AMSET is fine as well – we all started back to work on Tuesday, 9/7, and are doing good. Just trying to deal with all of the reschedules and catching up. We had some leaks in the museum that caused the ceiling membrane to soak and fall in some areas, but the city will be fixing that ASAP. We did not flood and all art is safe and well. Our staff are safe, but some did have water in their homes – our hearts go out to everyone impacted by the storm and we are doing what we can to help rebuild the community.

Hope to see you all soon!

Sarah Beth Wilson

*Curator of Exhibitions and Collections*

Art Museum of Southeast Texas

Beaumont, Texas

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I'm so glad to hear that you and yours are well. I've been communicating with others in Houston- family and museums - and it's a mixed bag. I'll be waiting for news from others.

Thanks,

Carolyn

Carolyn Spears, Stone Fort Museum

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*From the Alvin Historical Museum:*

We are fortunate to report that the Alvin Historical Museum survived Harvey with very little impact. Says much for being housed in a 70 year old former Post Office building. We extend our heartfelt thoughts to our fellow museum family members who have suffered losses.

Barbara Passmore

President Alvin Museum Society

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*From the Clifton Steamboat Museum:*

The Clifton Steamboat Museum in Beaumont, TX has 11 buildings on our property, each of which received flood damage. We are very happy to say there was very minimal damage to our collections.

Sarah Wells

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*From the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center:*

The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center did very well during the storm. We had several minor roof leaks, but none of them ever got bad enough to drip so we just have numerous ceiling tiles to switch out and need to do a thorough roof inspection.

As for staff, my home flooded and other staff members had relatives whose homes flooded. On a positive note, my archival training came into good use. My "collection" of photos, documents, and artifacts were moved to off-site storage, most large furniture items were elevated off the floor, and most remaining small items had been lodged in the building's highest point - the attic. My disaster response team (father, boyfriend, and friends) did a great job preparing, so, although my home flooded, I lost very little. Harvey may have taken the house, but he didn't get this archivist's good stuff! I consider myself very lucky for that reason as I know so many people didn't have a chance to prepare before the water came and lost so much more.

I am glad to hear that mostly everyone came through Harvey with minimal problems and will keep those less fortunate in my thoughts.

Best Regards,

Alana Inman

Manager

Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

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*From the Rosenberg Railroad Museum:*

Thank you for reaching out and compiling all the responses, I'm glad to hear the majority of people are doing ok!

Best regards,

Ratha  
Rosenberg Railroad Museum  
(281) 633-2846

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We've heard positive news from the Varner-Hogg Plantation. Angela sent the following to Michael Bailey. Thanks, Angela.

The lower areas around the plantation property flooded, but none of the building were affected. Fortunately, no staff received any flood damage either. We're just in the process of cleaning up downed limbs and trees. Glad to hear that everything was alright on your end of the county.

-Angela

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