

"Preserving the Speaker's Legacy" exhibit opens at the Sam Rayburn House Museum, Museum preparing

Written by By Anne Ruppert, Sam Rayburn House Museum

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Feb. 24, 2011 - Major changes are coming to the Sam Rayburn House Museum. Beginning March 21, the site will close to the public for approximately ten months. During this time, the house museum will undergo a historic preservation renovation in order to preserve, protect and stabilize the structure. Improvements to the museum's visitor center and portions of the grounds surrounding the house will also be made. The project is under the supervision of architects from the Historic Sites Division of the Texas Historical Commission and Quimby-McCoy Preservation Architecture firm of Dallas.

The project has been in the planning stages for several years and is tentatively slated to begin on May 1. Though the museum will remain closed for ten months, Sam Rayburn and his home will remain in the public eye with traveling exhibits and through presentations at various community organizations.



Prior to the site closure, visitors are invited to come to the museum to tour the newest exhibit, "Preserving the Speaker's Legacy: Restoration and Renovation at the Sam Rayburn House Museum," which focuses on the upcoming renovation. Recent restorations to both Sam Rayburn's 1947 Cadillac and the 1916 garage where the Cadillac is housed were completed in 2010 and are also detailed within the exhibit. The Cadillac is once again on display at the Sam Rayburn House Museum and can be easily viewed from within the rehabilitated garage. Historic photos and artifacts accompany the exhibit.

Visitors are invited to the Sam Rayburn House Museum on Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to tour the exhibit, tour the house museum, view the Cadillac and garage and enjoy refreshments. The event is free.

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The Sam Rayburn House Museum is located at 890 W. State Hwy. 56, two miles west of Bonham.