Remember the Alamo?

Texans have been told for centuries to “Remember the Alamo!” where Texas fought for independence, but have we truly been remembering it? The Alamo standing today has been drastically altered from what it once was, and most visitors accept the restored buildings as the original. The oldest existing picture taken in Texas (above) happens to be of the Alamo. Taken in 1849, it is also the only known photo of the Alamo before the renovations took place. So much of the building has been changed since 1836 that it is estimated only the bottom 23 feet of the walls are original.

In the 1940s, bricks of the Alamo were even taken by scavengers. Shortly after the photo was taken, the Alamo underwent major restoration work by the United States Army, additionally constructing the signature scalloped roof. In the late 1890s, part of the Alamo was owned by the state, while another part was owned by a local merchant who agreed to sell to the state for the steep price of $75,000. The first vice-president of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Adina De Zavala, started raising money but fell short of her goal. Clara Driscoll, a wealthy businesswoman at the time, advanced the last $25,000 needed, giving her the title “Savior of the Alamo.” Even though the Alamo that stands today might not be the same as what stood in 1836, Texans saved the building for a reason, for us to remember what the building means, not necessarily how it looks.

Aislyn Gaddis

The Alamo Today

The Plunge into the Great Unknown

Historical societies are typically made up of older citizens and Grapevine is no exception. Many of us made it through World War Two, 9.11, the Great Recession, and we recall our parent’s memories of the Great Depression. Somehow, this one is different - affecting every one of us every single hour of every single day of our lives.

Today’s panic is obviously flamed by broader news coverage and easy access to international travel - but it is real, it is scary, and it is among us. We are living through a part of history I would have rather read about in a history book than been a participant in.

It is encouraging and impressive to see the high level of rapid response and cooperation in the City of Grapevine and across the country. Unfortunately, for us this means cancelling meetings, programs and events for at least a month and likely several more. Our website, newsletters and emails will keep you all informed of when we will resume our meetings.

We are standing on the brink of a history shaping global event. Be careful and be safe - this too shall pass.

John Boyd

“I know it seems hard sometimes but remember one thing. Through every dark night there is a bright day after. So, no matter how hard it gets, stick your chest out, keep your head up . . . and handle it.”

Tupac Shakur

Grapevine Historical Society
P. O. Box 995, Grapevine, TX 76099
www.grapevinehistory.org
Grapevine’s Prehistoric History

The formal event has officially been cancelled, but there are still several life-sized dinosaur exhibits at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens. About six of these creatures have been set up amongst the beautiful spring flowers and trees that are in full bloom.

Yes, you should stay home and yes you should shelter in place during these difficult times. But, if you need an escape - you can be six feet away from other people in a beautiful outdoor setting, experiencing Grapevine’s prehistorical history and Spring blooms. Things are changing every day, but at the time of this printing it is still OK to go outside for exercise.

John Boyd
Dear Friends,

I hope you and your family are well. As you would expect, the City has been aggressively addressing the COVID-19 outbreak that the World Health Organization declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020. This pandemic has suddenly limited our daily lives in a way we likely never imagined. Though it has forced modifications to our lives and livelihood, we are a great community and together, we can do our part to slow the spread and flatten the curve dramatically.

I am incredibly proud of the people of this community who have responded so orderly, so professionally, so completely in the face of this crisis. You have listened to the advice given to you and incorporated it into your daily, family, and business lives. You have shown concern for your neighbors, the elderly, and all of those that are most vulnerable.

The fact is washing hands, disinfecting, and social distancing are the new normal. We will get through this together. Please stay tuned to our City website, GrapevineTexas.gov, our social media platforms, and our Grapevine Cares hotline at 817.410.4455 for up-to-date information as more unfolds. We stand ready to help our business community and families get back on their feet. Stay encouraged, Grapevine.

Mayor William D. Tate, City of Grapevine, Texas

Support Grapevine Business

Many local Grapevine businesses will be struggling to survive the next few weeks. Here is a message from the Convention & Visitors Bureau: *Hope you all are doing well and staying safe. The staff at the CVB is staying in touch with our stores and restaurants so we can post updates on our website regarding their status. Many will struggle to survive this difficult time. If you are able to do so, please help support our local restaurants that are offering great deals on to-go curbside service. You can click on this link to see the latest:*

https://www.grapevinetexasusa.com/coronavirus

This will be updated often.

Historic Home Finally Moved

After multiple delays, the 1905 Roberson farmhouse made its way across the Grapevine Lake Dam to its new residence at College and Dooley Streets in Grapevine.

Photo by Mark Terpening