



Celebrating P.T. Barnum's 200th Birthday!

The P.T. Barnum Legacy of Tragedy Continues
The temporary closing of the historic Museum building will allow for faster clean-up and proper restoration of the valued collection

The historic section of the Barnum Museum is closed due to the after effects of the tornado on June 24. Air quality reports received on July 15 indicated elevated levels of lead in the 117 year-old structure, which is owned by the City of Bridgeport and on the National Register of Historic Places.

“The lead levels discovered were not dangerous,” explained Kathy Maher, executive director and curator, “however, for the safety of our guests, we will not reopen until the entire building is ‘brand-spanking clean.’”

“The reopening date will be determined as we proceed with the extensive clean-up,” continued Maher. “This highly specialized work must be done by conservation experts familiar with repairing and restoring historic artifacts.”

The People’s United Bank Gallery of the museum will continue to be open for a series of previously planned adult and children’s programs during July and August. The cirque themed and inspired sculpture exhibition by North Haven’s David Millen, “*Celebrating the Spirit of P.T. Barnum! Energy, Vitality, Balance*” will still open on Sunday, July 25 and will be available for viewing during normal museum hours Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays noon to 4:30 p.m.

The temporary museum entrance will be at the back of the plaza on Main Street, to the right of the People’s United Bank main entrance.

The museum has launched a tornado recovery appeal urging people and organizations to make financial contributions at any level to save this treasured landmark.

For a complete listing of 200th anniversary year events celebrating this amazing – and sometimes outrageous – showman, civic leader and politician, P.T. Barnum, visit www.barnum-museum.org or call 203-331-1104 ext.100 or to make a contribution.

During this time while the core exhibitions are closed, all programs including the fabulous sculpture exhibition will be free to the general public, but donations of any amount are truly appreciated.