Happy New Year from Harris County Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff at Cypress Top Historic Park. Another year has become history. We hope you made some great family history this past holiday season. Resolutions are part of the New Year tradition, and we hope you will resolve to visit our historic park in 2016. We will have more activities in the park for you to participate in.

Cypress Top Historic Park is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. The buildings are only open on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Formal tours of the museum complex – led by staff or volunteers – begin from Juergen's Store at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. However, we are happy to have you visit the store anytime while we are there on Tuesdays. Special group tours may now be booked from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays in advance. These special tours are subject to staff availability. We recommend you make reservations one month in advance. The park and museum buildings are open to all and, as with all events at Cypress Top Historic Park, admissions and tours are free.

Juergen's Hall has been converted into a community center. It offers many activities and classes for all ages. Please check the precinct's website for hours of operation and offerings of Juergen's Hall Community Center.

We will have a volunteer work day to clean the little blue building, Blondie’s apartment, on February 4th. It will begin at 9 a.m. and should only take two or three hours. We will have other work days in the coming months to tackle cleaning the larger buildings. In the meantime, if you want to help clean up small displays and merchandise in the store, come by any Tuesday and we can put you to work. Please contact Jim Wilson at cypresstop@pct3.com for more information.

The Cypress Top Senior History Bus Trip in December was for antique shopping in small Texas towns. The group first went for kolaches at a place in Chappell Hill. Then it was on to a small antique mall in Elgin. That mall is packed full of fascinating items. They then went to old Bastrop for more shopping and lunch. There are nine restaurants in three small blocks to choose from and many places to shop. Also, there are art galleries, and at the Bastrop visitor center, a nice museum about the history of Bastrop. This museum deserves a trip of its own.

Their final stop of the day was an antique mall in Giddings. Unfortunately, they ran out of time to visit other shops in Giddings or to stop in Carmine.
At left the seniors study each booth and shelve. At right, they arrive in old downtown Bastrop, Texas. Photos by Jim Pulliam.

At left, the shops offered a great variety of goods. At right, this one offered a bit of philosophy as well. Photos by Jim Pulliam.

At left, the entrance to the Museum. At right, one of its many exhibits. Photos by Jim Pulliam.
At left, the final stop on a beautiful afternoon. At right, the interior of the large antique shop with treasures to find. Photos by Jim Pulliam.

Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (must be at least 50 years old)

There are now waitlists for the Jan. 22 trip to Anahuac & Bolivar, the Feb. 19 trip to the Alamo, and the Mar. 18 trip to Goliad. You can be added to a waitlist by emailing cypressstop@pct3.com or calling 281-357-5324.

You may only sign up yourself plus one friend/spouse. No multiple reservations. You will get a confirmation e-mail a week before the trip if you have a seat.

The Cypress Historical Society is in the Cypress Train Depot (bright yellow building) every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and also on the third Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m. They have a great deal of genealogy information on most early Cypress area families. Drop in and visit them when you are in the area.

The calendars for January and February can be found on the website. There is a link from the park web page or you can look under the Community Center events calendar. The website is www.pct3.com

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