Happy Valentine's Day from Harris County Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff at Cypress Top Historic Park. May the day be as sweet as your fondest memories of your childhood sweetheart. The park has been a bit busier than usual because of several Saturday visits from scout groups. We also hope to soon have an Eagle Scout Project underway in the park.

Cypress Top Historic Park is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. The buildings are only open on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. until 4 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 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays in advance. These special tours are subject to staff availability, so we recommend you make reservations at least one month in advance. The park and museum buildings are open to all and, as with all events offered 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 Thursday, February 4th. It will begin at 9 a.m. and should only take two or three hours. We should be done in time for lunch. 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 if you would like to help.

The Cypress Top Senior History Bus Trip in January visited Anahuac and the Bolivar peninsular, sites representing some of Texas’ earliest European occupation. The group first went to the town of Anahuac at the top of Trinity Bay. There was an 18th century Spanish mission in the general area. The town itself was founded in 1830 by John Davis Bradburn, a Virginian and Brigadier General in the Mexican Army. He was sent by the Mexican government to establish a customs house and fort there. His mission was to enforce unpopular laws passed in April 1830 that stopped United States citizens from immigrating to Texas. He was also the appointed tax collector. Bradburn brought a force which included many conscripted convict soldiers from Mexico and established the town and fort. He named the town Anahuac, the Aztec name for their capital, Mexico City. His heavy-handed actions led to the imprisonment of W. B Travis and others, which led to what is known as the Anahuac Disturbances of 1831 and 1832. The disturbances are considered the beginning of the Texas Revolution.

We were treated to a tour of the Chamber’s House in old Anahuac. The house is beautifully maintained by the Chambers County Historical Commission, and they graciously provided an impromptu tour of the house. The exterior balcony spiral stairs provide access to the upper floor bedrooms and ensure the occupants of the house were strong and nimble. Many of the seniors proved they, too, were capable of the climb to the upper floors.
Following the tour of the Chamber’s House, the doctor’s office and the grounds the seniors went to Fort Anahuac Park. This is the site of the fort founded by Bradburn in 1830. While there is no longer any visible evidence to be seen, below ground are brick foundations and no doubt many artifacts still waiting to be studied by future archeologists.

The seniors then went to lunch at a restaurant poised on the back side of Bolivar Peninsula. While they ate lunch, they watched gulls, terns and pelicans follow barges down the canal.
After lunch, the group visited Point Bolivar and learned about Jane Long, the Mother of Texas. They also visited Fort Travis, which was an active fort during the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II.

The group ended the day with a trip across Galveston Bay on the Bolivar Ferry.
Above, a perfect end to an interesting and fun filled day, the seniors sail off into the sunset aboard the Bolivar Ferry. Photo by Maureen Cummings

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

There are waitlists for the **Feb. 19** trip to the Alamo and the **Mar. 18** trip to Goliad. You can be added to a waitlist by emailing cypresstop@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.

Members of the Cypress Historical Society are 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](http://www.pct3.com)

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