Harris County Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff at Cypress Top Historic Park hope you have an April as eventful and successful as the “Texian” Army in 1836. It’s a great time to visit the San Jacinto Battleground on April 21st for the 180th anniversary of what is often considered one of the most decisive battles in the history of the world. If you would like to know more about this battle’s historic context, please consider attending the new “A Closer Look at History” class at Kleb Woods Nature Center on April 21st. All are welcome to this program intended for school-aged children.

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. Group tours may be booked Tuesdays through Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Group tours are subject to staff availability. 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, admission 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 Three website for hours of operation and offerings of Juergen’s Hall Community Center.

The volunteer work day to clean the 1956 Humble Service Station was a success. They prepared the building to accept the return of two pickup trucks that were used in the station for business purposes. The next clean-up project will be the Grist Mill/Pump House on April 7th. It will begin at 9 a.m. and should only take a couple of hours. If you want to help clean up small displays and merchandise in the store, come by any Tuesday. 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 March visited Goliad, the Presidio La Bahia and the site of the Battle of Coleto Creek. These sites are where Fannin and his force of about 300 Texans met defeat, and later, execution at the hands of the Mexican Army in 1836. The trip’s first destination was lunch on the courthouse square in Goliad. With that delightful chore accomplished, the group settled down to some serious history.
Our next destination was the Presidio La Bahia. Fannin was present at the Presidio during the Battle of the Alamo. He was never able to make a decisive move to reinforce the Alamo, nor did he retreat from La Bahia in a timely fashion to join Sam Houston. Eventually, he left but was overtaken by the Mexican Army at Coleto Creek. Mexican General Jose de Urrea took Fannin and his men back to the Presidio as prisoners, with the understanding Urrea would petition Santa Anna for the prisoners’ eventual release to the United States. But Urrea left and headed east along the coast toward Velasco. Santa Anna then sent orders to the commander guarding the prisoners that the “Texian” troops should be executed as pirates. Fannin and most of his troops were murdered on Palm Sunday in 1836. About 30 “Texians” escaped, however, and spread the word about what had happened. If the Alamo tragedy was not enough, the massacre at Goliad provided more motivation for the surviving Texas army. The “Texians” would take their revenge and win independence the following month at San Jacinto.
The seniors enjoyed touring the ancient site and museum owned and operated by the Catholic Diocese of Victoria. The highlight was a presentation in the Lady of Loreto Chapel about the site and the nine flags which have flown above it. They have confirmed that the purple figure of the Lady of Loreto was at the Chapel 180 years ago during the time the “Texians” were massacred. It is thought she dates from the initial construction of the site in 1749.

The final stop was to Fannin Battleground State Historic Site, where Fannin met defeat at the Battle of Coleto Creek. This is where Fannin made the mistake of staying on the prairie to fight instead of taking cover in the woods. This was a fatal error and the “Texians” surrendered to General Urrea on the condition they would be traded as prisoners of war. The site is operated by the Texas Historical Commission and the interpreter fascinated the seniors by passing around a cannon ball recovered at the site for them to hold.
Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

There is a waitlist for the **May 20**th trip to the McFadden-Ward House and Museum in Beaumont and the Stark Museum of Art in Orange. You may be added to the wait list or sign up for future trips 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 April and May 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)