September begins with Labor Day. This national holiday celebrates the role of labor in building and maintaining our economy. It is celebrated on the first Monday in September to allow workers a three-day weekend.

This holiday began with local governments in 1882. It quickly became popular and, by 1885, had expanded to include many states. By 1887, it was an established holiday across the country. After the United States Army and United States Marshals Service killed several workers during the Pullman Strike of 1894, Congress unanimously voted to approve legislation to make Labor Day a national holiday. President Grover Cleveland signed it into law six days after the end of the strike. Today, the holiday marks the end of summer. Precinct Three Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff at Cypress Top Historic Park wish you a safe and enjoyable Labor Day.

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, admissions and tours are free.

Juergen’s Hall is also a community center. It offers many activities and classes for all ages. Please check the Precinct Three website at www.pct3.com for hours of operation and offerings of Juergen’s Hall Community Center.

A few visitors took advantage of a special open house on Saturday, Aug. 6th. As is often the case, visitors expressed amazement upon learning Cypress Top is more than just an early voting site. A group of 19 scouts and parents were provided a tour of Cypress Top on Aug. 27th. Cypress Historical Society volunteer, Jay Gavitt, kept the group entertained and engaged in the fascinating story of E.F. Juergen, Juergen’s Store, the Juergen family and the role Cypress Top played in the history of Cypress.
During the monthly work day in August, volunteers continued to clean inside Juergen’s Store. Again, four volunteers answered the call and worked from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. cleaning some of the many artifacts in the store. Other volunteers dropped in the following Tuesday to continue that work. Please come and join us for the next work party on Sept. 1st. Each work party is held the first Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Please contact Jim Wilson at cypresstop@pct3.com if you would like to help.

Volunteers working to keep Juergen’s Store at Cypress Top in tip-top shape. Photo by Jim Wilson.

The senior history bus trip in August visited the Bryan Museum in Galveston. But before they got to the museum the group visited a Galveston Seawall landmark for lunch. The decorations in the restaurant trace its historic roots to Murdoch’s Pleasure Pier in 1911. Old menus on display were of special interest, and the diners longed for the days when fried tenderloin of Speckled Gulf Trout could be had for $4.75. The classic Gaido’s Seaside Inn seemed to please the convivial group, and while many were thinking “nap” after the meal, it was time to visit the museum.

Unfortunately, the museum does not allow pictures inside. We encourage you to visit yourself for a first-hand look at the interior. The museum’s collection of Texas art, weapons, historical documents and other items are well worth the trip.

The seniors enjoy lunch at a classic seawall restaurant in Galveston. Photo by Jim Wilson.

Bus tour participants enjoy a moment on the patio behind the Bryan Museum. Photo by Jim Wilson.
Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

You may now sign up for the Sept. 30th trip for antiquing in Warrenton, the Oct. 14th trip to Hallettsville and the Nov. 4th trip to the International Quilt Festival in downtown Houston. You may be added to the waitlist or sign up for future trips 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.

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 September and October calendars 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

Save the date for this special event at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve: October 22, 2016 Diggin’ Old Stuff; featuring activities for kids.