Commissioner Steve Radack and the staff of Cypress Top Historic Park would like to wish you a happy Thanksgiving Day and a wonderful holiday season. We invite you to bring your family and friends to visit the park during this joyous season.

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. each Tuesday.

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.** Our new telegraph pole exhibit is now installed in the Juergen’s Store Museum. Stop by and get an up-close look at the beautiful insulators you spent years seeing at a distance on the highway.

Juergen’s Hall is now a community center. It offers many activities and classes for all ages. Please check the Precinct Three website at [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com) for hours of operation and offerings of Juergen’s Hall Community Center.

Our monthly volunteer work party in October cleaned up the gas station. The next volunteer work party will be **Nov. 3rd.** We’ll work in the Pump House/Grist Mill. Please come and join us. Each work party is held the first Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Please contact Jim Wilson at [cypressstop@pct3.com](mailto:cypressstop@pct3.com) if you would like to help.
The senior history bus trip in October was to Hallettsville. This small county seat of Lavaca County is a delightful place to visit. It has one of the most striking of all Texas courthouses.

Before the group reached Hallettsville, they stopped at Schulenburg for breakfast at a well known country bakery. After savoring the cherry turnovers, pecan bars, cinnamon rolls and kolaches, they dropped in on a couple of neighboring antique stores to stroll down memory’s lane. Then it was on to the Lavaca County Courthouse. Once there, they met “Big Jim” Jakubek, who would be their guide. Jim is six-foot-eight and a retired sheriff with more than 30 years of law enforcement experience in Lavaca County. He is imposing yet warm. His many stories of the courthouse were fascinating. The Courthouse was built in 1897. It was designed by notable Texas architect Eugene Heiner of Houston, who has many public buildings to his credit. The seniors enjoyed access to the courtroom. Many sat on the bench, as well as in the records vault with its clockwork-like huge vault door. They even examined the brickwork in the basement.

Following the tour, which included climbing stairs from the basement to the second floor for those who choose not to ride the elevator, the now-hungry again group took lunch at a local restaurant housed in a historic structure on the courthouse square. It was highly acclaimed by “Big Jim.” The seniors were well pleased with their lunches.

After lunch, the group was hauled directly to jail. The old Lavaca County Jail is currently finding use as a Halloween Haunt. However, the owners hope to restore the jail and have it function as a museum. The jail was built in 1885 and has the original flat bar steel mesh cell walls on the second floor. The cells are dungeon-like, small and depressing. The first floor has newer cells from the 1950s. These cells are designed for three to a cell with another day room cell that includes a shower and table. The jail was replaced in 2005, but had been in use for 120 years.
At left, the haunting hallways of the old jail. At right, the oldest cells on the second floor. Photos by Jim Wilson.

At left, the guide explains the wall that separated male and female prisoners. Photo by Jim Wilson. The seniors are let into the exercise yard. Photo by Fred Collins.

**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 **Nov. 4th** trip to the **International Quilt Festival** in downtown Houston and the annual Christmas Antique Shopping trip on **Dec. 2nd**. 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) at Cypress Top Historic Park 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 November and December 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](http://www.pct3.com)