Commissioner Steve Radack and the staff of Cypress Top Historic Park invite you to enjoy this park and any of the other sixty-plus parks he maintains for your benefit and enjoyment. Parks are seldom more inviting than during early spring in Harris County.

We welcomed a group from Cypress Creek Church on a Senior bus trip from Harris County Precinct 4 this month. The group enjoyed visiting the general merchandise store and vintage bar museum as well as the Juergen home. One member shared her memories with the group, which is a highlight typical of each tour. They found themselves lacking sufficient time to explore all the buildings and hope to return for a second visit in the future.

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 (6 or more) tours may be booked Tuesdays through Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.** Group 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.**

Our volunteer work parties for building maintenance **resume in March and have been moved to the second Tuesday of each month.** Please come and join us. Each work party is from 9 to 11 a.m. Contact Jim Wilson at cypresstop@pct3.com if you would like to help.

The senior history bus trip in February traveled to Palacios to visit the City by the Sea Museum and the Luther Hotel.

The City by the Sea Museum has a variety of artifacts that tell the history of the area and the town of Palacios. An exhibit there about LaSalle and his failed colony also included a film about the excavation of one of LaSalle’s ships, the LaBelle,
found in Matagorda Bay. The Hurricane Carla exhibit examined the devastating impact this Category 5 storm had on the town and showed how citizens of Palacios helped one another and the town to recover. Palacios was also the location of a World War II training camp and later POW camp known as Camp Hulen. At one time, more than 14,000 troops were stationed at the camp and Palacios boomed as a result. The museum has many artifacts from the camp and the era.

At left, a docent welcomes the seniors to the City by the Sea Museum. At right, a historical marker on the museum building. Photos by Jim Pulliam.

At left, a display about Camp Hulen which includes a hunk of granite from Hitler's castle. At right, the first panel of a walk through Palacios history. Photos by Jim Pulliam.

Following the museum tour, the group broke for lunch. Some sampled a local seafood place while others tried a Mexican food restaurant next to the City Park. Everyone enjoyed strolling through the small community. The group then visited the historic Luther Hotel, built in 1903. We were treated to a tour of the hotel by Jack Findley, who married into the Luther family in 1993 and has been the day-to-day manager since 2011. His knowledge of the hotel, its history, past guests and its many quirks made the tour a delight for the seniors. One of the signs in the lobby reads "What happens at the Luther Hotel… will be posted on Facebook." Many declared they would return for a weekend stay in the old place. I think they all felt that instead of staying in a hotel, it would be more like visiting an aunt or uncle who had never fully accepted the 21st century.
At left, the seniors enter the Luther Hotel. At right, the historical marker was of interest. Photos by Jim Pulliam.

At left, proprietor Jack Findley welcomes the group. At right, Jack shows pictures of the hotel in the early 1900s. Photos by Jim Pulliam.

At left, the group examines the photo memorabilia in the breakfast room. At right, photos of hotel visitors include entertainers like Tommy Dorsey and politicians like Governor Neff and LBJ, who was a family friend and regular visitor. Photos by Jim Pulliam.
Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

Future trips: **March 17, 2017**, Liberty: Sam Houston Center, including research library, Jean and Price Daniel House and other historic structures; **May 19, 2017**, Waco: Waco Mammoth National Monument and the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame.

You may 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.**

Juergen’s Hall is 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.

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 March and April 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