Commissioner Steve Radack wishes you a safe and fun summer vacation and hopes you will visit and enjoy Cypress Top or one of the other 65 plus parks in Precinct Three.

After the flurry of activity with Cypress Historical Society’s **Hands-on-History** summer camp in June, July has been rather quiet. Park historian Jim Wilson used the lull to visit the Harris County archives. He found source material that clarified the histories of Cypress Top and Kleb Woods. We also had a couple of groups tour the museums. A group from Avanti Senior Living enjoyed talking with their tour guide, Cypress Historical Society president Jim Sigmund.

The **senior history bus trip** in July visited the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The museum had a special Texas map exhibit, *Mapping Texas, From Frontier to the Lone Star State*. The exhibit is organized by the Texas General Land Office in conjunction with Frank and Carol Holcomb, The Bryan Museum and the Witte Museum.
The seniors studied the maps that illustrated Texas from the 1520s through the early 1900s. Each map tells a story of how the world perceived Texas over time. Texas has always been about land speculation. Many maps were produced from the late 1820s until the 1850s, a period of intense immigration to Texas.

While the seniors found all the maps to be interesting, they were most intrigued with the maps of Houston and Harris County. They enjoyed seeing how the city and their “stomping grounds” had changed over time. They spent the most time studying the 1900 Harris County map, which showed the original survey parcels. Using this map, they discovered who originally owned their properties. Interestingly, the exhibit included the original bounty grant to Joseph Gamble for 320 acres, part of which would eventually become the site of the Houston Museum of Natural Science…right where the seniors were standing!
The seniors then went to lunch at a local restaurant where they enjoyed some Tex-Cajun fare. After lunch, they visited the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. This small museum is in the old Houston Light Guard Armory, built in 1925. This beautiful building has been restored to its original splendor and is an elegant home for this special museum.

The museum is dedicated primarily to preserving the legacy and honor of the African-American soldiers who have served their country since the American Revolution. It features artifacts from the frontier days shortly after the civil war through all major U.S. conflicts. A selection of art, including bronze statues, depicts buffalo soldiers primarily from the mounted-cavalry era. Another exhibit memorializes African-American astronauts, including Ronald McNair who died during the Challenger launch disaster, and Michael Phillip Anderson who died during the Columbia reentry catastrophe. The museum is well-designed, well-kept and deserves a visit by anyone interested in military history.
Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

Future trips: You may now sign up for the all history bus trips through the end of 2017. The **August 4** Port Arthur’s Museum of the Gulf Coast, **September 15** Bastrop Museum & Visitor Center, **October 27** Montgomery County Fernland Farm, **November 18** (Saturday) Liendo Plantation Civil War Reenactment and **December 1** Antique Christmas Shopping. 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.**

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.**

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](http://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 August and September 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)