Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Happy New Year. And, we invite you to visit the park and museums and learn more about the local history of the Cypress area.

We had two special tours in December at Cypress Top. The first was a Girl Scout troop that worked with the Cypress Historical Society (CHS) volunteers to earn a badge. They toured several of the museum buildings and then went into the CHS facility and completed an activity.
Another special group tour was for the 7th grade Texas history class from Rosehill Christian School. They toured the buildings with staff historian Jim Wilson and CHS volunteer Jay Gavitt. Touring Cypress Top's historic buildings is a memorable way to learn history. History comes alive and is no longer a collection of random facts, but instead has an anchor in the students’ personal experience.
The December **History Bus Trip** went in search of Christmas presents. The group left Cypress Top and stopped at a bakery in Carmine, Texas for breakfast. Then it was off to the antique mall in Elgin. This nice mall has scores of dealers, and many of our seniors found unique presents for someone special. They then traveled to Giddings where the group split up for lunch. Some chose the old meat market that is usually on Texas Monthly’s annual list of the top ten barbecue places in Texas. After lunch the group hit the Giddings antique mall called Whistle Stop Antiques. Several seniors found treasures to gift to friends and family. They then continued on to Carmine. The antique shops there were now open, and the group explored four or five of them. On the way home, a stop was made at a local bakery in Chapel Hill where they purchased goodies to later enjoy.

**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 following history bus trips: **January 19** to the Bell County Museum in Belton, **February 16** to the Danish Heritage Preservation Society Museum Complex in Danevang and **March 16** to the Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton and Chappell Hill Museum in Chappell Hill. 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.**

Cypress Top Historic Park is open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. The buildings are now open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Formal tours of the museum complex led by CHS 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 to give you an impromptu tour of any of the buildings. **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 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 December and January calendars can be found on the Precinct 3 web site. www.pct3.com There is a link from the park web page as well.