Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Happy Father’s Day. We invite you to visit the park and museums and learn more about the local history of the Cypress area.

During May, Juergen’s Hall was again an early voting location for the General Election Primary Run-offs. It is always nice to see the historic site used for a community-wide activity. It reinforces that Cypress Top, once the hub of the community in 1856, remains so today.

**Summer Camp**

Cypress Top Historic Park will host the 2nd annual Cypress Historical Society’s Hands-on-History Summer Camp from June 25 through June 29 and registration is now open. The Monday through Friday camp hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Youngsters going into grades 4-6 are eligible for this unique experience. Campers will explore early crafts, blacksmithing, digging for and examining artifacts, interviewing seniors, creating family trees, interpreting photos, creating museum models and exhibits, viewing maps, discovering early schools and giving museum tours. The cost is free with a Cypress Historical Society membership ($25). Space is limited so early registration is recommended. Contact the Cypress Historical Society at (281) 758-0083 or cypresshistsociety@att.net

At left, Cypress Historical Society volunteer and summer camp facilitator Jay Gavitt explores early Cypress history in an old photograph with a summer camper during last year’s program. Right, Hands-on-History campers construct log cabins. Photos by Jim Wilson.

**Senior History Bus Trip**

The May 18 bus trip went to Beaumont where the Seniors boarded the Ivory Bill for an excursion on the Neches River. This boat is owned and operated by the Big Thicket Association, a 501c3 that works to promote the Big Thicket National Park.

The seniors board the Ivory Bill for a tour of the Neches River. Photo by Jim Pulliam.
The tour was most pleasant as temperatures were warm but not hot, the waters calm, and the boat’s engines quiet so everyone could enjoy comments from the guides and engage in conversation as well. The Captain told of the river’s first steamboat operator, Andrew Smyth and his boat, Laura. They plied the river for the second half of the 19th century.

Everyone enjoyed the wildlife, mostly turtles and birds, with a glimpse of an alligator or two. A special treat were Swallow-tailed Kites. These large graceful hawks are sharply marked in black and white with a long, forked tail. They glide over the trees along the bank and soar above the river, catching dragonflies in midair or snatching lizards, snakes or young birds from the trees.
After the boat trip, the seniors went for a late lunch at a local restaurant where most sampled the seafood and gumbo while others had fish tacos. The catfish seemed to be the best selection, but all the seniors cleaned their plates. After lunch it was time to head home with most of the participants enjoying a cool nap on the bus.
Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips

(Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

Future trips: There is now a waitlist for the June 15 bus trip to the Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin. You may now sign up for the July 20 trip to the Chamber House and the Fire Museum in Beaumont and the August 17 trip to visit the Victoria County Courthouse and the Pharmacy and Medical Museum of Texas, both in Victoria. 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 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 June and July calendars can be found on the Precinct 3 web site, www.pct3.com. There is a link from the park web page as well.