Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a safe and Happy 4th of July. We hope you enjoy celebrating our nation’s birthday. Our great nation celebrates another birthday because of the sacrifice and courage of our founding fathers and all those who have served to preserve our freedom. Please keep safety in mind while celebrating with family and friends.

Summer Camp
Cypress Top Historic Park hosted the 2nd Annual Cypress Historical Society’s Hands-on-History Summer Camp in June. Seventeen kids attended the week-long camp which focuses on local history from the time of Native American’s to today. The kids had a variety of activities including developing their own family tree. They also made oral history reports from interviews with grandparents.

Above, the Cypress Historical Society’s Summer Camp class of 2018. Photo by Jane Hippen.

At left, the kids learn about old Cypress Top from a 1907 photo while they visit Juergen Hall. Photo by Jim Wilson.
At left, the kids use the picture of Cypress to make a map. At right, after careful study the kids draw their map of 1907 Cypress. Photos by Jim Wilson.

At left, the kids toured all of the historic buildings; here is Blondie Kerr’s apartment. At right, the kids learn about the pump house. Photos by Jim Wilson.

One day during the week-long camp the kids visited Kleb Woods Nature Center. While at Kleb they participated in an archeology dig operated by the Houston Archeology Society. They also worked with Blacksmith Dave Koenig. This year they did some paleo-forging and made fish hooks after the fashion of Native Americans before European settlement in the New World.
At left, kids carefully dig in the archeologist’s pit. At right, they screen dirt and material to search for small artifacts. Photos by Margo Herman.

Beginning with a small piece of copper wire, the kids use rocks as hammers and anvils to shape the hook. At right, the action up close. Photos by Margo Herman.

The kids had a great time during the week and kindled an interest in history which we hope will grow into a lifelong learning adventure.
Senior History Bus Trip
The June 15 **Senior History Bus Trip** went to Austin, Texas to visit the Texas Military Forces Museum. This museum is at the site of Camp Mabry, home of the 36th Texas National Guard Division during most of the 20th Century. The Great Hall at the museum features many large vehicles including jeeps, tanks and airplanes.

![Above, the guide details the movements of the 36th Division in the southern European invasion. Photo by Fred Collins.](image)

The museum’s 19th century exhibit tells the story of the Texas Revolution, the Texas Navy, the military struggles of Texas as a Republic, and the role of Texas troops in the Mexican-American War, War Between the States, Spanish-American War and Philippine-American War. One of the more interesting artifacts in the museum is an actual canon used by the Texans in the Alamo. While in this gallery, the guide talked about the “decimation” of the men of the Mier Expedition which took place during the days of The Republic of Texas. The Mexicans put 17 black beans and 160 white beans for the Texas prisoners to draw from a jar. Those who drew black beans from the jar were executed. Our guide also had a large pottery jar full of beans for all the seniors to draw. Fortunately, all of them drew white beans and all lived to come home and tell the story.

![At left, a senior tries his luck with the jar of beans. Photo by Fred Collins. At right, the seniors listen to the story about the jet. Photo by Kaitlin Will.](image)
The Texas National Guard fought in every theater of World War II. The 36th Infantry Division’s role in Europe usually garners the most attention, but the Texas Guard units fought in the Pacific with outstanding records, too. In the museum’s Great Hall the history of the 112th Cavalry Regiment and the 124th Cavalry regiment is exhibited. The 112th, serving under General Douglas MacArthur, fought its way from New Britain, through New Guinea into the Philippines and was among the first units to occupy Japan. The 124th served in the China-Burma-India Theater of War, making an epic march through mountainous jungles before fighting a vicious battle to drive the Japanese off the Burma Road. The exhibit included photographs, weapons, bugles, saddles, radios and other objects used by the two regiments from the 1930s through World War II. One significant artifact in the gallery is the ultimate GI souvenir. It is the hat of Field Marshal Rommel that one of the 36th soldiers found in Rommel’s home in North Africa. The hat is unique, and they also have a photograph of him wearing it.

A very timely exhibit is the 49th Armored Division, Cold War, and Global War on Terror Gallery. This exhibit tells the story of the Texas National Guard during the Cold War, its peacekeeping missions, the story of the 49th Armored Division, and the brave men and women of the Texas Army and Air National Guard who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan during the last decade, as well as those who have helped protect America here at home.

After a two hour plus tour walking about the museums, the Seniors felt like a bunch of hungry soldiers and were off to a late lunch at a popular restaurant nestled along the Colorado River in the hills northwest of Austin. They enjoyed a leisurely lunch before heading back to Cypress Top. They could not resist one more stop at a sausage and bakery establishment in Chapel Hill.

**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 **July 20** trip to the Chamber House and the Fire Museum in Beaumont. You may now sign up for the **August 17** trip to the Brazos Valley Museum in College Station and a tour and lunch at Messina Hof Winery and the **September 21** trip to tour old Victoria and visit the Victoria County Courthouse. 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 July and August calendars can be found on the Precinct 3 web site. www.pct3.com There is a link from the park web page as well.

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**Kleb Woods Hummingbird Festival**

**September 8, 2018**