Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Happy Halloween. May all your tricks be gentle and cute and all your treats be sweet. October is also German-American Heritage Month. German immigrants dominated Cypress in the early 20th century, and E.F. Juergen, who purchased or built most structures in the Park, was the son of a German immigrant. His grandson donated the buildings and contents to the County to establish the Park. German immigrants have had a profound effect on local and state heritage and culture. We celebrate their role in our community.

On September 4, we welcomed a group from Reach Unlimited. This program is a daycare for people with special needs. The congenial group toured the store, Juergen Home, and Cypress Historical Society building. They were happy to find familiar objects as well as some that were new to them. Their enthusiasm for the tour made it a great experience for our staff and volunteer, who assisted with the group.

The August Cypress Top Historic bus trip planned to visit the new museum at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. Unfortunately, the trip had to be cancelled because of the extreme weather and flooding brought by Tropical Storm Imelda. We will reschedule this trip sometime in the future.

The County workers are painting many of the buildings in Cypress Top Park. They have not all been painted since before the park opened in November 2008. The Humble Service Station had faded badly, and since the building is steel panels bolted together, the building has a tendency to rust and not hold paint well. The Service Station is a Humble franchise design. Humble (Now Exxon-Mobil) provided the blueprints which specify the design and construction in great detail, down to the tile color in the bathrooms and paint color for each element of architecture. The workers are painting the station according to the specifications, and we will soon see how beautiful it looked when it had its grand opening in 1956.

Unfortunately, the original "new" rubbed off quickly. Within a couple of years, there was an accident and a car drove into the corner of the building. The metal corner below the window on the showroom was bent and difficult to repair. The heavy metal was battleship-like in character and withstood the wreck. Too difficult to fix properly, the station still shows the dent sixty-odd years later.
The design of the Service Station is rare, and it well might be the only example left. According to the website History.com: Ever since the 40s and the New Deal, road construction and the development of a national network of roads was a Federal priority. While in Germany during World War II, President Eisenhower admired the high-speed highways he saw and drove on. With the Cold War and the need to move ballistic missiles cross-country swiftly, the time had come for a high-speed interstate to transport military equipment, civilians and commercial goods. It took several years wrangling in Congress, but finally on June 29, 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. The bill created a 41,000-mile “National System of Interstate and Defense Highways” that would eliminate unsafe roads, inefficient routes, traffic jams and all of the other things that got in the way of “speedy, safe transcontinental travel.” At the same time, highway advocates argued, “in case of atomic attack on our key cities, the road network would permit quick evacuation of target areas.” For all of these reasons, the 1956 Law declared that the construction of an elaborate expressway system was “essential to the national interest.”

Humble Oil, watching this play through Congress, knew the Federal-Aid Highway Act would eventually pass and new highway routes would replace old ones. Therefore, Humble came up with a design for a service station that allowed it to be moved easily: bolt-together panels. We have not researched how many of these stations were built, but by the early 1960s the routes of most interstates were mapped. Within 20 years, service stations were passing from the scene and being replaced by convenience stores that also sold gasoline. By 2010, most oil companies were tearing down stations that were only ten years old and replacing them with new, larger ones. Those on small properties were dismantled and the locations closed. Any service station built before 1970 is a rarity nowadays. This special design even more so.

Ironically, this station, the only building in Cypress Top Historic Park designed to be moved, is also the only building in the complex that has not been moved, with the exception of the small gristmill building. It is interesting that the industry has moved to the concept of a convenience store that sells gas. The Juergens sold gas at their General Merchandise Store beginning at least in 1915. When Clarence Juergen remodeled and reopened the store in 1938, it was exactly the same concept that thrives today.
Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

You may sign up for the **October 4** trip to the old Bellville Jail in the morning and the Warrenton Antique Festival in the afternoon, and the **November 8** trip to Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites. Rest assured that you will have multiple opportunities for great kolaches on all of these trips.

The December trip is **SATURDAY, December 14**. It will go to the Bastrop Christmas Historic Home Tour. To attend you must purchase your ticket directly from Holiday Homes Tour. Presented By: Bastrop Museum & Visitor Center, 904 Main Street, Bastrop, TX 78602, Phone: (512) 303-0057. Time: 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Price: Early Bird Tickets $15 until Nov. 15, $20 Regular Price. [https://www.visitbastrop.com/event/holiday-homes-tour/238/](https://www.visitbastrop.com/event/holiday-homes-tour/238/)

Because of a parking conflict at Juergen Hall, this December special trip will leave from Kleb Woods, 20303 Draper Rd, Tomball, 77377.

Sign up for future trips by emailing cypresstop@pct3.hctx.net 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 7:00 a.m. to dusk. **The buildings** are 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, our staff and volunteers 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**, offering 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 October and November calendars can be found on the Precinct Three website under the “Activity Calendar” link. [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com)