Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff remind everyone to stay mindful and exercise care to avoid the spread of COVID-19. We hope that you are finding time to engage in favorite hobbies, and in new ways to connect with your family and community during this time. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Group tours and activities at Cypress Top are temporarily suspended. While activities are tentatively set to resume on June 1, this is subject to change as the current situation evolves. Call 281-357-5324 or visit www.pct3.com for information and updates to the park calendar.

Despite the unfortunate postponement of many of Precinct Three’s activities and trips for the time being, the Cypress Community still manages to be busy and active with special events. On Wednesday, May 6, Cypress received a special visit from the U.S. Navy Blue Angels as they conducted a flyover of the Houston Metro Area. The Blue Angels flew over different cities across the country in Honor of the COVID-19 Responders on the front lines during this pandemic. Their Houston flight plan took them past all the major medical centers in the area, such as various Houston Methodist branches, First Texas Hospitals, HCA Houston Healthcare centers, and the Texas Medical Center District downtown. Many came out (while maintaining proper social distancing and wearing appropriate facial protection) to watch the aircraft fly overhead. Can any eagle-eyed readers figure out where in Houston the picture below was taken?

A view of the flight demonstration squadron above Houston. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Cody Hendrix.
Not only did members of the Cypress Community get to see the Blue Angels flyover on Wednesday, but on the following Sunday, the Lone Star Flight Museum sponsored another flyover of Houston. This flyover featured a variety of rare and historic warbirds including the B-25 ‘Devildog’, P-51 Mustang, C-45 Beech, T-6 Texan, BT-13 Valiant, L-17 Navion, T-34 Mentor, and many others. The original flight scheduled for Friday, May 8 was rescheduled due to high winds. The 8th marked the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the end of WWII in Europe. The rescheduling, and a flight path going over 18 destinations throughout Houston, allowed many the opportunity to witness the special event on Mother’s Day. Two Cypress Top employees took advantage of the viewing opportunities. One went to the National Veterans Cemetery area. The other stayed in the local Cypress area, viewing the flyover from Cy-Fair High School. Any readers with an interest in WWII area planes should look at the pictures below and see if any of the planes can be identified.
Despite the suspension of activities, work continues at Cypress Top Historic Park. Staff are busy updating displays and utilizing new items from our collection. Our historian recently put some finishing touches on a display in Juergen’s Store about the history of Coca-Cola.

We have also renewed a large panoramic picture of the railroad depot and “Main Street” of Cypress in 1907 that hangs in Juergen’s Hall Community Center. Over the years, the picture experienced discoloration and damage. During our current period of inactivity, we had time to get the picture reprinted and the frame redone. It now looks good as new and is back on display in the Hall. Once life returns to normal, we encourage everyone to come out and learn more about Cypress Top Historic Park. New artifacts and new facets of its history are always being discovered.
Above, a photo of Cypress from 1907. (Please excuse the glare.) Photo by Brigid Burke.

Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

Social distancing is an impossibility in an enclosed bus and Seniors are considered a higher risk group. Therefore, we have decided to cancel the June 19 trip to the Black Cowboy Museum in Rosenberg and the July 24 trip to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts - Rienzi House European Decorative Art and the Museum of Southern History and Morris Cultural Arts Center at Houston Baptist University.

We will continue to take reservations for future bus trips. Registrants will be notified of any changes or cancellations. Current planned trips are: August 14 to the city of Galveston where we will be accompanied by Santos Cruz. Santos’ father was the head bartender for the notorious Macio Family. Santos has great stories to tell about growing up on the island and seeing notorious and mysterious places.

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 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. They are currently closed due to Covid-19 precautions.

The June and July calendars can be found on the Precinct Three website under activity calendars. Select from the drop down menu. www.pct3.com.