

# Cuba News

Winter 2010

## *A message from the Cuba Township elected officials*

The levy is the process through which taxing bodies request funds. This year the Cuba Township Board of Trustees passed the yearly tax levy at the December 10, 2009 board meeting. In response to our nation's current economic situation and the concern of our taxpayers, the board passed the General Town levy and Road District levy with an approximate 5% reduction to both levies. This reduction will directly impact your property tax bill, received in May of each year. The Township continues to be good stewards of your tax dollars and will continue to provide quality services with reduced funding.

The levy process and tax cap laws can be confusing. We welcome your questions on this, or any topic. Please feel free to contact the Township:

Township phone - 847- 381-1924

Township email: [cubatownship@comast.net](mailto:cubatownship@comast.net)

Road District phone - 847- 381-7793

Road District email: [tomgooch@cubaroads.com](mailto:tomgooch@cubaroads.com)

## Supervisor, *DAVID F. NELSON*

As we welcome a new year and reflect on the year just past, it is unfortunate that I am again writing to tell you about the increased use of the Township's food pantry. In the newsletter of January 2009, I reported that the food pantry was welcoming new families and individuals weekly. That, I am sorry to say, is the situation as I write to you now.

However . . . as always, I am pleased to report that our community is meeting the need of the increased demand with overwhelming support. Daily donations of food, gift cards and dollars are brought to the Township by residents wanting to help those in need. Individuals, families, local businesses, churches, scout troops and neighborhood groups are filling the shelves with donations. Additionally, we are happy to welcome an ever increasing number of volunteers to assist our staff with the sorting and organizing that such donations necessitate. It is humbling and heartwarming to see such support.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from the services of the Township's food pantry, please contact the Township office at (847) 381-1924. All inquiries are confidential. Please see more information inside this newsletter regarding our annual *Have a Heart Food Drive* and the Food Pantry wish list.

There are changes within Cuba Township in this new year. Richard J. Kosner, Cuba Township trustee for 13 years, announced his retirement effective October 31, 2009. We thank Dick for his service. He was instrumental in developing our annual *Have a Heart Food Drive*, now in its ninth year. I am pleased to report that the Cuba Township trustees appointed John J. Mumaw to fill this vacancy effective December 10, 2009. Jack is a 36 year resident of North Barrington. We welcome Jack to the board and look forward to working with him.

I wish each of you a very happy New Year. Please feel free to contact the Township office with your questions, concerns or comments.

Township board meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Township office, 28000 W. Cuba Road, Barrington. All meetings are open to the public

Office hours-  
Monday—Friday  
9:00 am—3:30 pm

## CUBA TOWNSHIP SERVICES

**Handicapped parking placard applications** are available at the Township office. Once approved by a physician, the Township can provide a temporary parking card for up to 90 days. If a permanent card is required, obtain a temporary from the Township, then mail the application to the Secretary of State's office for a permanent card.

**R.T.A. applications** for passes for the SMART card for senior citizens and the disabled are available at the Township office. This card provides free transportation for seniors and the disabled on Metra and CTA. Proof of age is required- a driver's license or state identification card is acceptable. Photos can be taken at the Township office for Township residents at no charge- non-Township residents, please provide \$5 per photo. We will then complete the application and the pass will be mailed to you in approximately 4 weeks by the R.T.A.

**Half fare taxi program** is available for Township residents who are 65 years of age or older. The Township will subsidize half of your taxi fare up to \$7.00. Please stop in the office to sign up for this program. Proof of age is required.

**Notary public services** are offered at no charge.

**The Cuba Township food pantry** is available to any Township resident indicating a need, after an intake interview. Distributions are available every 30 days. Please call the office for more information. Donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.

**The General Assistance and Emergency Assistance** programs offer limited financial assistance to Township residents. Income guidelines determine eligibility. Additionally, limited financial assistance is available through the Salvation Army. Please contact the Township office for more information.

**LIHEAP (low income home energy assistance program) and SHARING** applications are available at the Township office. These programs offer limited financial assistance, based on income, for heating and electric bills. Funding for these programs begins in late October/early November and continues through the heating season. Please contact the Township office for more information.

**Township vehicle stickers** are available for residents living in unincorporated areas of the Township. There is no charge for the stickers and they are not required. They are offered as a courtesy.

**Passport processing services** are offered at the Township office by appointment only. Processing takes up to 8 weeks. Identification (usually a driver's license) and proof of citizenship (birth certificate or naturalization papers) are required. Please call the Township office for an appointment. More details on requirements, fees and documentation are available at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

**A drop-off box for used eyeglasses** is in the Township office. Eyeglasses are collected by the Lions Club and given to health care professionals for distribution to the needy.

**Warning sirens** are located throughout the Township to warn residents of dangerous weather. The sirens are owned and maintained by the Township with cooperation from the local fire department. The sirens are designed to be heard *outside* to warn residents to seek shelter.

**Mosquito abatement services** are provided for the Township through a contract with Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc. Larviciding is done throughout the Township to prevent the hatching of mosquito eggs. Additional emergency spraying is performed if the West Nile virus is detected in the Township. Please call Clarke's hotline at 800-942-2555 for more information.

**Voter registration** is available at the Township office for any Illinois resident. To register, a person must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years of age by the date of the next election, and a resident of the address at which they are registering at least 30 days prior to the election. Two forms of identification are required- one must show your name and current address and one form of identification may be a piece of mail for a contractual service addressed to you at your residence. The Township office is open for voter registration Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm.

**Early and Absentee Voting** is available at the Township office prior to every election. You must be a Cuba Township resident to vote at the Township office.

**The Cuba Cares fund** is a 501 © (3) charitable fund. Monies donated to this fund are used to assist residents in need who do not qualify for other resources. After determination of need, disbursements are made to a vendor to assist in maintaining self-sufficiency. Funds are available to Cuba Township individuals or families only every 12 months. All monies donated are tax deductible; the fund is administered at no expense to the Township and no taxpayer funds are used to maintain it. To make a donation or inquire about assistance, please contact the Township office. All information regarding disbursements or inquires is confidential.

**Retired flags** can be dropped off at the Township office. The local VFW post and American Legion will collect the flags and dispose of them at periodic sanctioned ceremonies.

**Free firewood and mulch** are available seasonally through the Cuba Township Road District. Please go to [www.cubaroads.com](http://www.cubaroads.com) for more information on services offered by the Road District.

Please click on "assessor" on the Township's home page ([www.cubatownship.com](http://www.cubatownship.com)) for services provided by the **Cuba Township Assessor**.

**Questions can be directed to the Cuba Township office at (847) 381-1924**

Continuing to explore the possibility that President Theodore Roosevelt might have visited his cousin Margaret (Mrs. Augustus Van Horne Kimberly) at the Kimberly House on Honey Lake, Roosevelt is known to have visited Chicago in 1880, and according to David McCullough's biography *Mornings on Horseback* when the future President was in Chicago in 1884 for the Republican convention, he made numerous excursions into the surrounding countryside. However, this was about the time that his first wife died.

We move on to the children of Augustus Van Horne Kimberly and his wife, Margaret Barnhill, a cousin of Theodore Roosevelt. One of their sons, Percy became an Admiral, and another son, Raymond, opened a military academy on family land on the south side of Honey Lake. This academy was destroyed by fire on March 8, 1945 and the academy was then moved to Des Plaines. "Gus" Kimberly and his wife both died in 1927 and are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Barrington.

In 1929 – 1930, a total renovation was made to the house by the well known architect Robert Work. That the changes were substantial is documented by the existence of earlier photographs. It was then that the front door was moved to the other side of the house, and the road realigned away from the lake. Among the changes was the addition of wrought iron railings around the front door. These came from a cemetery in New Orleans. Subsequent owners have always cherished the house, and have continued to research its history.

By the 1940s, the Kimberly acreage was gradually sold, much of it on the south side of the lake to M.B. "Mike" Mervis, whose "Oaks Farm" became the home of his prize-winning Arabian stable. The only clue to the whereabouts of any Kimberly descendants is in the geneology written by Arnett C. Lines, Barrington's earliest historian. It shows that a daughter of Percy, Georgiann, married a James W. Barrett, Jr. from Racine, Wisconsin, died there in 1965, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Returning to Dr. Edmund Kimberly and his wife, Marie Therese Ellis, it is just possible Marie was also a Roosevelt cousin. Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, the father of Margaret, was married to an Elizabeth Ellis. The Kimberly, Ellis and Roosevelt families might well have known each other in New York State. It is indeed interesting to speculate how Augustus Van Horne Kimberly could have met Teddy Roosevelt's cousin when he was born and raised in Chicago and at Honey Lake. The young Kimberlys apparently attended their cousin's Inauguration after his re-election in 1904, so there clearly was contact between them.

Still much research could be done about this interesting family that graced our Cuba Township countryside all those years ago.

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## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**April 13, 2010**

**Cuba Township office**

**28000 W. Cuba Road**

**Barrington, IL 60010**

**7 pm**

**Cuba Township will hold its 160th Annual Town Meeting**

**Originally implemented to give citizens a uniform place and time to gather, this state mandated meeting provides an opportunity for any registered voter of Cuba Township to speak.**

**March 1, 2010 is the deadline by which Cuba Township voters may propose agenda items for the Annual Town Meeting. Proposals must be written, signed by at least 15 registered Cuba Township voters and delivered to the Cuba Township Clerk, Priscilla H. Rose**

**Please join us—questions can be directed to the Township office at (847) 381-1924**

## Highway Commissioner, *THOMAS W. GOOCH*

As you may have heard, I reduced my levies for the coming year in both the Road and Bridge fund and the Road Maintenance (gravel tax) fund in order to provide some tax relief in these troubled times. Under Township law, the Highway Commissioner makes the determinations on necessary funds which are then approved by the Board of Trustees of the Township. The Road District and the Township should be separate political entities. I was able to secure two grants through both federal stimulus money and through the State of Illinois, both which seem to consistently claim to have no money. These grants made possible the ability to reduce the Road District's tax levies, and I so informed the Board of Trustees. We were very fortunate to receive both of these grants and could not have done so without the assistance and persistence of State Representative Mark Beaubien (R-52nd Dist.). State Representative Beaubien has been a staunch supporter of the Cuba Township Road District and without his assistance we could not be as successful as we are.

As I write this letter, we are preparing for forecasted winter storms during Christmas week, and by the time you read this we will be well into winter. When you see our trucks out, please remember that they are not only dropping salt behind them as they plow, but also liquid chemicals to accelerate the salt. Try to stay back at least 50 feet and please give the drivers every benefit you can by not using bright lights when approaching them and yielding as much as possible. We are presently maintaining 170 miles of roads, or about 360 lane miles of roads this winter and by slowing down and letting a truck pull through an intersection even when you have the right-of-way certainly allows that driver to cover his route better and faster.

We are already making mulch for next spring and look forward to serving your needs again. In the mean time, split oak, maple, and elm firewood is available at the Road District garages every Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., limited to a trunk load or about 25 pieces. I instituted this program a number of years ago along with the mulch program and they have proven to become increasingly popular.

Think Spring - less than 100 days to go!

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## Report Validates BCFPD's Support For Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems

The *Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District's* (BCFPD) longstanding support for residential fire sprinkler systems dates back to 1997, when trustees passed an ordinance requiring installation of automatic sprinkler systems in all new residential construction of any size. The ordinance covers all areas of unincorporated Cook, Lake and McHenry Counties served by the BCFPD.

Now, an analysis conducted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that demonstrates the effectiveness of fire sprinklers validates the Fire District's proactive stance.

The NFPA analysis found that sprinklers reduce the risk of home fire death by 80%, and can decrease fire-related property damage by up to 70%. Using data compiled over a three-year period, the report demonstrates that fire damage in homes protected by sprinklers averaged \$5,000, compared to \$16,000 for properties without sprinklers.

"Sprinklers are carefully designed to confine a fire to the room or area of origin," BCFPD Deputy Chief John Feit explains. "They are extremely effective in reducing property losses and, most importantly, saving lives."

The Fire District earned statewide recognition at an awards presentation during last year's Fire Team USA Residential Fire Sprinkler Summit in Addison, IL, for its support of residential sprinklers.

For more information on the District's fire sprinkler ordinance, call 847-304-3600.

## TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS

The Barrington Area Council on Aging is once again offering the AARP Income Tax Assistance Program. A trained volunteer will assist seniors with their taxes at the BACOA office in the Prairieview Building at The Garlands of Barrington, 6000 Garlands Lane, Barrington, Illinois. Assistance is by appointment only and will run from early February through April. Appointments fill quickly, so call as early as possible to schedule an appointment. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call BACOA at ( 847 ) 381-5030.

### Why should I care about phosphorus? or phosphorus does what? or What can I do about phosphorus?

You can do something about the phosphorus that is polluting our lakes and streams. Excess phosphorus from lawn fertilizers and detergents causes algal blooms in our waters that smell and kill fish. Lakes in the Flint Creek Watershed exceed the water quality standard for phosphorus. Cuba Township has joined local efforts to improve water quality by supporting the use of phosphorus-free fertilizers and detergents.

Here are some simple steps you can take:

Already done. Laundry detergents are phosphorus free.

Do it now. Read the label on your dishwasher detergent (see [www.assabriveriver.org/take-action/prevent-pollution/detergents](http://www.assabriveriver.org/take-action/prevent-pollution/detergents) for a list of dishwasher detergents and their phosphorus contents). By July 2010 in Illinois, detergents can only contain trace amounts of phosphorus in the form of phosphates.

Plan ahead. Next spring buy phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer or request phosphorus-free fertilizer from your landscaper or lawn service. Soils in our area already contain sufficient phosphorus.

For more on this topic, see [www.flintcreekwatershed.org](http://www.flintcreekwatershed.org).

*Patsy Mortimer, Coordinator  
Flint Creek Watershed Partnership*

## **PRESCRIPTION RECYCLING**

**The Barrington Police Department  
accepts prescription medicine for recycling  
the first Saturday of each month.  
Medicine can be dropped off at the  
Barrington Public Safety Building,  
400 N. Northwest Highway, Barrington  
from 1-3 pm.**



The elected officials of Cuba Township are pleased to present

# HAVE A HEART

## ***FOOD DRIVE***

**Saturday, February 13, 2010**

**Barrington Public Safety Building**

**400 N. Northwest Highway**

**Barrington**

**9 am to noon**



This 9th annual drive is held in conjunction with Barrington Township. All donations will be equally distributed between both pantries and support individuals and families in the Barrington area

### ***SUGGESTED DONATION ITEMS***

Canned fruit	Paper products	Toothpaste
Canned vegetables	Feminine hygiene products	Tooth brushes
Dried pasta	Cookies	Peanut butter
Cereal	Dish washer soap	Dish soap
Canned prepared meals	Jelly	Microwave popcorn
Fruit juice	Diapers	Spaghetti sauce
Laundry supplies	Toiletries	Snack foods
Canned tuna and chicken	Canned soup	Cleaning supplies

**GIFT CARDS IN \$10 DENOMINATIONS TO GROCERY STORES AND GAS STATIONS**

**Voter registration** will be provided. To register to vote, you must be 18 years of age on or before the next election and provide 2 forms of identification— one must be a photo i.d. and have your current address.

**February 2, 2010 is the date of the next election for all registered Illinois voters. Please read the following information regarding dates and deadlines for this election.**

**A new state law permits any registered Illinois voter to vote by mail without the need for an absentee ballot. Requests for a ballot by mail can be made online at [www.votingbymail.info](http://www.votingbymail.info) or by calling the Lake County Clerk's office at (847) 377-2406.**

**VOTER REGISTRATION** closed January 5, 2010 for this election. Voter registration opens three days after the election.

**Grace period registration:** January 6 – January 26, 2010. Grace period registration is available to qualified individuals at the Lake County Clerk's office, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, IL 60085, (847) 377-2410. If you register to vote during grace period registration, you must vote at that time-you will not be able to vote at your regular polling place on election day or use early voting- for this election only.

## **EARLY VOTING**

Early Voting is available at the Cuba Township office, 28000 W. Cuba Road, Barrington, IL 60010, January 11, 2010 – January 28, 2010, 9 am 4:30 pm; Saturdays 9am to 2pm

**A valid government issued photo i.d. is REQUIRED to vote early**

Persons voting at the Cuba Township office must be registered voters in Cuba Township

## **ABSENTEE VOTING**

Absentee Voting is available at the Cuba Township office, 28000 W. Cuba Road, Barrington, IL 60010 January 29 and February 1, 2010- 9am to 4:30pm. Saturday, January 30, 2010 hours are 9 am to noon.

## **ELECTION DAY VOTING**

For information on election day voting, please go to [www.lakecountyil.gov/countyclerk/elections](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/countyclerk/elections). You can view your ballot and find your polling place at this website.

**Snow bird voting program-** designed for those voters who are normally out of state at fall and spring election time.

**Temporarily Absent Student Program-** designed for students away at college.

**Permanent Voting by mail program-** designed for those who wish to always vote by mail.

For more information on the programs listed above, go to [www.votingbymail.info](http://www.votingbymail.info).

Please feel free to contact me at the Township office at 847-381-1924 at anytime with your questions or comments.

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# **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH HEATING BILLS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS**

Cuba Township is pleased to administer two programs for low-income households to assist with the expense of heating bills.

LIHEAP (low income home energy assistance program) is funded locally and with federal grants to provide financial assistance to qualifying families and individuals. If approved, the grant will be applied directly to your NICOR and ComEd account.

SHARING is offered through the Salvation Army and operates in a similar manner to LIHEAP. Each program maintains different qualifying income levels.

Please call the Township office at (847) 381-1924 to determine your eligibility or to make an appointment to complete an application for either program.



# Cuba Township

28000 W. Cuba Road  
Barrington, IL 60010

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 12  
Barrington, IL

## ERCWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Cuba Township email: [cubatownship@comcast.net](mailto:cubatownship@comcast.net)  
Office phone: 847-381-1924  
Office fax: 847-381-1322  
Assessor phone: 847-381-1120  
Assessor fax: 847-381-0837  
Road District phone: 847-381-7793  
Road District fax: 847-381-7994

[WWW.CUBATOWNSHIP.COM](http://WWW.CUBATOWNSHIP.COM)

### Officials

*David F. Nelson, Supervisor*

*Priscilla H. Rose, Clerk*

*Rebecca M. Tonigan, Assessor*

*Thomas W. Gooch, Hwy. Commissioner*

*Donald F. Griffith, Trustee*

*John J. Mumaw, Trustee*

*Arthur L. Rice III, Trustee*

*Roberta A. Svacha, Trustee*

### Assessor, *REBECCA M. TONIGAN*

My staff and I would like to wish you all a safe and Happy New Year.

By State law, a sales ratio study is performed to see if our assessments meet the required 33 1/3% of fair market value for the prior three year's sales to establish a basis for our assessments. For purposes of this study, the sales will be from January 2007 through December 31, 2009. We are committed to equity and fairness and, as such, should the sales show a decrease in values, then this decrease will be reflected in the assessments. We are not planning on doing a total reassessment and have been notified by the Lake County Supervisor of Assessors office that Cuba Township will probably have a factor of under 1.000, which means all property values will most likely decrease. ***This does not mean, however, that the taxes will decrease.*** That will depend on the levies let by the taxing bodies. The equalization factor is derived from the values of all properties in the Township and where they fall in the 33 1/3% study, the amount of values decreased or increased by all property owners in the Township through the Lake County Board of Review and the outcome of any Property Tax Appeal Board decisions.

I would encourage you all to review your properties on line at [www.lakecountyil.gov/assessor/assessments](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/assessor/assessments) to make sure that we have correct information regarding square footage and amenities. If you see any discrepancies, please contact us at (847) 381-1120 and we will be happy to make an appointment to review those differences.

Also, please make sure you have the appropriate exemptions applied to your property. As reviewed in previous newsletters, there are several types of exemptions available. Some of the exemption amounts have now increased. They are as follows:

General Homestead	\$6,000
Senior Homestead	\$4,000
Homestead Improvement	\$25,000 assessed/\$75,000 market
Senior Freeze Income	\$55,000 (of total household income or less)
Senior Tax Deferral Income	\$50,000 through the Treasurers office
Disabled Veteran's Exemption	\$70,000 assessed
Returning Veteran's Homestead	\$5,000 a one time deduction of the veteran's primary residence