

CUBA TOWNSHIP

FALL 2001

Supervisor,
DAVID F. NELSON

Our nation experienced a collective tragedy on September 11, 2001. My sincerest sympathies to any of you that may have sustained personal losses due to the terrorist attack on our country. As our nation grieves and ultimately recovers from this tragedy, I would ask all of us to remain calm in these uncertain times and stay true to the principles that founded our country over 200 years ago.

We are pleased to announce that Cuba Township is now on line at ***WWW.CUBATOWNSHIP.COM***. Our website features all of the elected officials and their duties. Additionally, property assessment information is available. See Assessor Fred Foersterling's article in this newsletter for more information regarding access to assessment information. I hope you'll have an opportunity to view our site. Our cyber-presence in no way changes the daily duties or accessibility of your Township officials. As always, please feel free to contact us by phone, mail or in person with your questions or concerns.

Beginning December 1, 2001, the Cuba Township office will be offering passport processing services. New passport applications will be accepted as well as renewals. Please call the Township office for information on required documentation and fees. Applications are accepted by appointment only.

Saturday, October 20, 2001 was the date of the Cuba Township Fall Festival. Our newly acquired property, The Grove, at 28160 W. Cuba Road, was the site. Games, pumpkin painting, brats and hots dogs were the perfect addition to the lovely fall day. At present, the historic farm house at The Grove will be used as rental property. The seven acres surrounding the farm house will be maintained as open space.

My best wishes to each and everyone of you for a safe and happy holiday season!



Pictured at left is Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District's mascot Sparky and a young attendee at the Township's Fall Festival. At right is pictured BCFPD's 1928 Pirsch fire engine and more young attendees.

Town Clerk,

REBECCA M. TONIGAN

Every ten years state legislators and county board members redraw district lines based on new census figures. Revised districts must be of equal population, contiguous and as compact as possible. All of Lake County's eighteen townships are being reviewed in respect to the total number of registered voters. Due to a significant rise in the number of registered voters, current estimates indicate the number of precincts in Lake County will increase from 403 to 450. Lake County Clerk Willard Helander's role in redistricting is to evaluate precinct boundaries and to equalize the number of registered voters within new district lines.

Lake County Clerk, Willard Helander, has declared November 2001 "**Voter Registration Month**". All unregistered residents are encouraged to register. Two forms of identification are required, one must show your current address. Voter registration is available for any Lake County resident at the Township office, Monday through Friday 9:00am to 3:30pm. As voter registration closes 30 days prior to any election, the last day to register and still be eligible to vote in the March primary is February 19, 2002.

Prior to the March 19, 2002 primary, every registered voter in Lake County will receive a new voter registration card. If your precinct has changed, it will be noted on the card. On the ballot in March is the governor's race, state offices, county board representatives, precinct committeemen, county offices and state offices. Local issues, yet to be determined, will also be included on the ballot. For more information on the March ballot, you can call the Lake County Clerk's office at (847) 377-2313.

Assessor,

FRED J. FOERSTERLING

Listen my taxpayer and you shall hear, of all the referendums planned for next year. Before each of us decides on how we will vote on these issues, certainly one of our key questions will be, "How much will it raise our taxes?"

In a generic way, hopefully I can assist you by describing the methodology I use to answer this question. It's really far less complicated than the taxing districts seem to make it.

There are basically two kinds of referendums, bond referendums and tax rate referendums. In both cases the cost to the taxpayer is easily measured as a comparison between the taxes paid before and after a specific referendum. This is generally measured in terms of a percentage of increase.

Bond referendums are usually for the purchase of specific capital improvements. This type of referendum is a proposal to borrow money through the sale of bonds to pay for the cost of the improvements. The loan is paid back with interest over a specific period of time from ad-

ditional revenue collected through real estate taxes.

Exactly how much will this type referendum increase our individual taxes? If the district is currently collecting 100 thousand dollars in taxes, and the debt service for this bond will be 10 thousand dollars per year, that's a 10% increase in taxes for every taxpayer in the district. It's that simple.

Referendums asking for a tax rate change are requesting taxpayer approval to raise the district's current legal taxing limit. Unlike a bond referendum, the tax rate referendum normally represents a permanent increase in the district's taxing authority. With this type referendum the unit of comparison is tax rate. If the current district tax rate is say \$1.00 per hundred of assessed value, and they are asking for a new rate of \$1.50, that will be a 50% increase in taxes for every taxpayer in the district. Again, it's that simple.

Although we know far more about assessments than taxes, we will always do our best to answer your questions or send you in the right direction. Give us a call at 1-847-381-1120 or check out our new web site at www.cubatownship.com/assessor.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to those local individuals and organizations who keep the Cuba Township food pantry well-stocked. As the pantry exists solely on donations, we are always grateful for their thoughtfulness and generosity. While food pantry requests are generally greater near the holidays, please remember that the need exists year-round. Donations of nonperishable food items and grocery store gift certificates are accepted during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 3:30pm. Recent donors include:

Clarke's Bakery, Barbara and Larry Benson, Walter Schoenholz, Neil Harris, Peter Schmitz, Betty Lopez, N. Barrington School Pack #229 and Dorothy Engelhardt

Items from the food pantry are available to any Township resident indicating a need. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call the Township office at 381-1924. All information is confidential.

A special thank you to *Doug Meyer and Chris Busse*. They spent several hours this past summer sorting and organizing food in the pantry.

The *PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY* program has just completed its second season. Over 250 pounds of local produce were donated and distributed to local residents. Many thanks to all of the local gardeners who contributed.

The *Shop and Share* certificates distributed in the summer newsletter were very successful. Thanks to all who participated in the Shop and Share program, a very impressive \$445.53 was donated to the Cuba Township food pantry in the form of food certificates to Jewel. Many thanks to the Jewel Food Stores for their participation.

Cuba Township Directory

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| Township phone | 381-1924 | Highway Dpt. | 381-7793 |
| Township fax | 381-1322 | Highway fax | 381-7994 |
| Assessor's office | 381-1120 | | |

Business hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Town Board meetings- second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Cuba Township resident, *Stevenson Mountsier*, has recently been elected chairman of the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. Mountsier also serves as Lake County Board representative for District #17. LCSWM's focus is the creation of countywide stormwater management regulations. Congratulations Steve!

HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILLS . . .
is available for those who qualify through the *SHARING AND LIHEAD PROGRAMS*.

The *SHARING* program offers financial assistance, to those who qualify, through the Salvation Army. If approved, the funds are applied directly to your NICOR bill in the form of a credit to the account. *SHARING* funds are administered through local offices such as the Cuba Township office.

LIHEAD (low income home energy assistance program) is a similar program administered through the Township. Funds come from state and federal sources. Qualifying income guidelines apply. If you qualify, a credit will be applied to your utility bills.

Please call the Township office at 381-1924 for information on both of these programs