

# Cuba Township

28000 W. Cuba Road  
Barrington, IL 60010

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No.  
12

## 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

Richard J. Kosner, Trustee

Arthur L. Rice III, Trustee

Roberta A. Svacha, Trustee

## CENSUS 2010

Just about a year from now, a very important event will take place.

In April 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau will conduct its survey to find out just how many of us Americans there really are.

The census count is extremely important. State and federal funds are distributed based on population counts received from the census. In addition, population determines state and federal legislative boundaries.

After the census is concluded, our Congressional, State Senate and State House districts will be redrawn. So, a lot of things depend on getting a proper count. For this census, the form is going to be much shorter and much less intrusive than in 2000.

There will only be 10 questions on the form that you'll be asked to fill out. The information is absolutely confidential.

The census will also offer an opportunity for employment. You can go to the census website at [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov) for more information on employment opportunities.

This is an extremely important survey- please do your part and participate.

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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 News

Fall 2009

## Supervisor, *DAVID F. NELSON*

Summer's harvest has been shared with the Cuba Township food pantry by many of our local gardeners. Weekly drop-offs of produce have enabled our food pantry recipients to receive fresh, locally grown produce in addition to non-perishable food items. My appreciation is extended to all of our Cuba gardeners for their generosity and considerable work involved in getting their goods to the pantry.

Several local families have chosen to make a difference through sizeable monetary contributions to the *Cuba Cares Fund*. The *Cuba Cares Fund* is a 501 c (3) that is not supported with tax payer dollars and is managed separately from the Township. It is funded solely on contributions and exists to aid Cuba Township families in need. The recent contributions have enabled the *Cuba Cares* board of directors to impact families in need, directly, by assisting in the payment of utilities bills, medical expenses and other issues related to the maintenance of self-sufficiency. The generosity of our donors has touched the lives of many local families who are struggling with the financial demands of daily life during this stressful national economic period.

The number of families coming to the Township for assistance with groceries continues to increase. Although the demands on the pantry are escalating, as always, I find that our residents are meeting the increased demand with ongoing contributions. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade food collection was substantial and came at just the right time as our shelves were again becoming bare. Your donations to the pantry are always welcome and can be made at the Township office, 28000 W. Cuba Road, Barrington, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm. As we are always glad to accept donations, we are also happy to welcome volunteers in the pantry to sort and shelve food. Please contact the Township office at (847) 381-1924 if you would like to volunteer. If you or someone you know could benefit from the resources of the food pantry, please contact the office at (847) 381-1924. All inquiries are confidential.

Thinking ahead to the December holiday season, I'd like to thank in advance the Barrington Noon Rotary and the Lake Zurich Walmart. In partnership, Walmart and the Noon Rotary purchase holiday gifts for low income school aged children in Barrington Community Unit School District #220. These purchases benefit many of our own Cuba Township residents. This program, which began several years ago, is a special holiday treat for our food pantry recipients.

Cuba Township is again pleased to present our ninth annual *Fall Festival* this year on Saturday, October 17, 2009, 1 – 4 pm. This wonderful afternoon held on Township property known as *The Grove* at 28160 W. Cuba Road, provides a lovely time in the countryside amid century old oaks with surrounding natural prairie. The Township is pleased to provide refreshments and entertainment. I hope you'll join us for this fun-filled afternoon.

### **FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST**

Cold and hot cereals  
Coffee and juices  
Canned chicken and tuna  
Canned fruit  
Peanut butter and jelly  
Non-perishable prepared dinners  
Snacks  
Diabetic/low sodium food  
Pasta sauce  
Pet food  
Paper products- toilet paper, paper towels, napkins  
Laundry and cleaning supplies  
Toiletries- toothpaste, shampoo, etc.  
Gift cards to local grocery and discount stores in \$20 denominations  
Gas gift cards

## 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 \$2 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. *The original reduced fare permit will soon be obsolete. Please stop by the Township office to apply for a new SMART card.*

**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**

## Assessor, *REBECCA M. TONIGAN, C.I.A.O.*

**A widespread opinion heard often these days is that "the property tax system is broken".** As property values continue to decline, the expectation is that assessments and tax bills should do the same. But it isn't happening and so the conclusion is that "something must be wrong - the system must be broken". In fact, the property tax system is working very much the way it was intended. "What?" I can already hear your snicker of disbelief. "You must be kidding!" *We are in the most seriously declining real estate market that many of us have ever seen...*

*-assessments still haven't gone down for most people*

*-and, when they finally do, the drop will be much more gradual than the actual market downturn*

*-and, even then, tax bills won't go down...*

**...how can you say that it's working?**

**The property tax system in Illinois is doing exactly what it was designed to do,** provide a stable revenue stream to local taxing authorities for the purpose of supporting local services. And the value of your property - looking at the average of the three years of sales *prior* to the assessment date - determines your share of the total tax. Is it perfect? Absolutely not! Could it be better? Of course! Is it the best way to support local government? Lots of opinions here, but no one has come up with a better way. People think the property tax system isn't working because it isn't doing what everyone wants it to do *right now* and because many never really understood how it was intended to work in the first place. In a badly declining real estate market we now see shortcomings that didn't bother us in the double digit appreciating market of a few years ago. Assessments that lag behind the market are now a disadvantage and many homeowners feel over assessed. We are told that taxes will not go down even if assessments go down, so we feel overtaxed as well. It doesn't seem right, so, "the system must be broken".

**Certainly the property tax system has flaws and I would be the first to say that it isn't perfect, but broken? Not really.** Most people just don't like it. In fact, it is possibly the most hated tax of all the taxes we pay. Why? Because **the property tax is very, very visible.** *We actually get the bill.* And then we have to pay it in two large installments only 3 months apart. For most of us it's a major expense and we can't help but think of the other ways those tax dollars could be spent. Yet the property tax really has many significant advantages over sales taxes, income taxes and other forms of taxation. To begin with it's money paid locally that stays local. We can actually see what we are paying for and we can decide whether we are getting our monies worth. And, if we don't think that we are, we can talk directly to our local elected officials about it. We elect local residents to administer all aspects of the property tax system, from the assessor who values our property to the various boards that make the spending decisions. The board meetings of all taxing bodies are public meetings and open to community scrutiny. And in the end, if we are still unhappy, we can choose to become part of the solution ourselves by running for one of the offices that make the critical spending decisions that eventually become our tax bills.

**Compared to every other tax we pay, the property tax is by far the most transparent. And the assessment process is by far the most transparent part of the property tax system.** Every year property owners receive a "blue card" that tells them the new assessment, the change from the previous year, where to get additional information and how to challenge the assessment if it doesn't seem correct. Compare that to the levy – that part of the process that actually creates the tax burden. Did you get an individual notice that told you how much the levy increased, where to find out why and how to challenge it? That part of the system – the spending side – is much less visible, which is why taxpayers are left with the mistaken impression that taxes go up because assessments go up. They never actually see the levy increases from year to year – they only see assessments going up. But, in fact, increased spending by taxing bodies is what increases taxes. No spending, no tax. It is just that simple.

**Everyone wants the assessed value of their property to be fair and accurate,** but the number that should concern us the most is not the assessment, but the amount of money that our school districts, municipal governments and other local taxing bodies want to spend. If spending didn't increase, our taxes wouldn't either, no matter what assessments did. In most of my conversations with taxpayers the core problem isn't really the assessment, but rather the amount of taxes they are paying. And, if we really want to lower or stabilize taxes, we must convince taxing bodies to lower or stabilize their spending. That is the only way to get real property tax relief. But then we must also be willing to accept the cuts in services that result from the cuts in spending. Our local services are not free; we pay for them with our property taxes. And balancing our demand for services with the costs of providing them is a challenge for all of us.

## CUBA TOWNSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

To help create and maintain a high quality of life for Cuba Township residents, while providing Township services such as Road Maintenance, General Assistance, Property Assessment, Voter Registration and Absentee Voting, in a fiscally responsible manner.



## ComEd Statement Regarding Vegetation Management

Thursday, August 13, 2009

### Tree Trimming

- ComEd understands the value of wooded communities and the pleasure trees bring to residents. We also must balance our concern for this community value with an equally important set of concerns: public safety and the reliability of transmission and distribution systems.
- ComEd will continue its longstanding practice of balancing the aesthetics trees provide with adequate electrical clearance to ensure reliable service. ComEd is not modifying its vegetation management program to eliminate trees under distribution lines—those that serve neighborhoods with power.
- Following the major East Coast blackout in 2003, state and federal authorities placed a greater emphasis on distances between trees and high-voltage transmission power lines because electrical outages can occur if a tree branch is near to or touches a power line.
- Pursuant to state and federal guidelines and mandates, ComEd will continue to trim trees adjacent to and remove tall-growing trees under high-voltage transmission lines—those that transport large volumes of electricity via a network of cables and large steel towers frequently located adjacent to interstate highways and railroad tracks.
- High-voltage transmission line tree maintenance is critical to maintaining proper electrical clearances that ensure public safety and electrical reliability.

### Herbicide Use

- A main factor in restoring power quickly during emergency situations is clear access to transmission line rights-of-way. By keeping weeds and brush low, we ensure personnel safety as well as access and visibility for ComEd crews.
- ComEd's qualified and licensed professionals use safe methods when applying herbicides and follow standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency, American National Standards Institute, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the International Society of Arboriculture.
- For many years, rights-of-way maintenance has included selectively applying commonly used herbicides to non-desirable invasive species, making way for the growth of natural grasses and other herbaceous plants. In some cases, the communities we serve utilize the same herbicides in their vegetation management efforts.

### Safety, Reliability & Education

ComEd continues to lead and follow industry best practices and governmental regulations when performing tree and vegetation maintenance around our power lines to ensure public safety and reduce interruptions.

ComEd's tree maintenance approach and philosophy is recognized nationally for balancing public safety and reliability with protecting and preserving trees. Earlier this year, ComEd earned the distinction of Tree Line USA Utility for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row. The award, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes utilities that meet strict requirements related to quality tree care, annual employee training in tree care practices as well as tree planting and public education.

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## \$\$\$\$ CASH DASH \$\$\$\$

The Illinois State Treasurer's Office is currently holding over \$1.4 billion in Unclaimed Property, \$54 million belonging to Lake County residents alone. Come to the

### *Cuba Township office*

*October 14, 2009, noon to 3 pm*

to see if your lost property is being held by the State Treasurers Office. *Cash Dash* representatives will be available on site to check your name in the database. Representatives can also help start the claims process on the spot or answer your questions about existing claims. Information will also be available on other programs offered by the Treasurer's Office, including the *Bright Start College Savings Program* and *Finally Home*. For more information, please contact the Cuba Township office at (847) 381-1924.

## NEW TOWNSHIP VEHICLE STICKERS NOW AVAILABLE

New Cuba Township vehicle stickers are available at the Township office. The stickers are valid for 2010—2014.

The stickers are offered to Township residents at no charge and are not required by the Township. They are provided as a courtesy.

Year, make, model and license plate number of the vehicle is required to obtain a sticker.

In conjunction with Secretary of State, Jesse White, Cuba Township is pleased to offer 2 classes for Illinois residents. Both classes will be held at the Township office at 28000 W. Cuba Road, Barrington, IL

### ***RULES OF THE ROAD CLASS***

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

9:30 am to 11:30 am

This class is designed as a review for anyone needing to take the written portion of the driver's examination.

The class is offered at no charge, however,

***A reservation is required***

Please call the Township office at (847) 381-1924 to make a reservation

### ***MOBILE DRIVE SERVICES DAY***

Thursday, October 8, 2009

10 am to 2 pm

*Residents can obtain:*

Duplicate driver's license

Corrected driver's license

Illinois state ID card

Driver's license renewal

***Residents age 75 and older must obtain their renewal at a Illinois State facility***

***No road test is given on this day***

The elected officials of Cuba Township are pleased to present

The 9th annual

# Fall Festival

Saturday, October 17, 2009

28160 W. Cuba Road– *The Grove*

Barrington

1 pm to 4 pm

This fun-filled afternoon is the 9th Fall Festival. Activities for all ages include games, pony rides, petting zoo, hayrides, food and live music.

Again, this year, Cuba Township is happy to have a  
**BAKE SALE**

Coordinated through the generosity of Barbara Benson, all proceeds from the bake sale will benefit the Cuba Township food pantry.

Your donation of baked goods is appreciated and can be dropped off at the Township office on Friday, October 16th, 9 am to 3:30 pm.

Donations to the food pantry of non-perishable, non-expired food items and gas and grocery store gift cards are appreciated.

**Questions- Please contact the Township office  
At (847) 381-1924**

## Highway Commissioner, *THOMAS W. GOOCH*

Much to write about this time, some good, some very bad. On the good side, we have had a pretty good construction season, cleaning up a lot of drainage in the Township with the financial help of our intergovernmental partners. Over 6,000 feet of 12" storm drain and a lot of structures to keep water moving were installed. Likewise, we have patched and paved a lot and have been the recipients of a sizable amount of stimulus and grant money—more on that next time.

We couldn't have done it without a hard working crew and without our college student work force, most of whom live in Cuba Township. They gave it their all before returning to school and we sure appreciate it. Soon we will be switching the trucks over and by the time you read this will probably be about 45 days from snow plowing season. Once again, we are committed to using less salt. Our web site at [www.cubaroads.com](http://www.cubaroads.com) will have a lot more information on our plans after October 1st and will be interactive after November 1 for snow removal issues. Again, this year, we will be handling about 170 road miles of winter weather problems and intend to do it well.

The bad news? Commonwealth Edison has apparently changed and worsened their tree trimming policies. On the reverse side in its entirety is their written policy which spells only the destruction of trees. Following below is an email from a Chicago area village detailing how they carry out that policy:

From: Larry Bury  
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2009 4:26 PM  
To: Mayors; Managers; Public Works Directors; Utilities Regulation Committee  
Cc: MarkFowler; Larry Widmer; Mike Walczak; Chris Staron  
Subject: Com Ed policy to eliminate vegetation under power transmission lines

I wanted to make sure you were aware of a situation that has occurred in Northfield (as described in the email below from Stacy Sigman). This has the potential to impact any municipality with ComEd power transmission lines routed through their community.

Without notice, ComEd began undertaking a new policy where they are using a powerful herbicide to eliminate all vegetation in their right of way under their power transmission lines. For areas where this approach is impractical, they intend to clear cut any vegetation with the potential to grow over 10 feet tall (despite the fact the transmission lines themselves are nearly 70 feet above the ground). The result in Northfield is a broad swath of land under the distribution lines and towers with dead vegetation (Stacy will be sending photos tomorrow that document the damage). ComEd has also begun doing the same in neighboring towns and Burr Ridge.

This appears to be not only an aesthetic issue but also a potential safety issue as the dead vegetation could present a fire hazard during dry weather. I spoke with Stacy this afternoon and she indicated that they are continuing the clear cutting despite agreeing to desist.

You may wish to take this up with your ComEd service representative to see if they have similar plans in your municipality if they have not already contacted you.

Obviously, like I fought the gas company when they wanted to install a forced main on Cuba Road, I'm going to do my best to prevent any clear cutting of any area which Edison shares with my right of way. Off my right of way and over easements on your property, I can't do much, but you can certainly start the process of protest. Were Edison to implement this policy where there are above ground wires we would have a much different looking Barrington countryside and cause the destruction of a lot of good vegetation and privacy screening. I will be amending the Road Districts' right of way ordinance to address this and intend to do everything possible to oppose it. I hope all of you will join me.

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## Cuba Heritage

by **Barbara Benson**

Throughout its history, Cuba Township has been home to several people and families, that have been noteworthy (or notorious) beyond the Barrington area. Space dictates that their stories be told in several episodes, beginning with the distinguished Kimberly family.

In 1830, Dr. Edmund Kimberly, and his wife, Marie Therese (nee Ellis) came to Chicago from Troy, New York. Their names can be found in the "Book of Original Entry" Map of Chicago, located on 39<sup>th</sup> Street in that year. Dr. Kimberly was one of only five doctors then practicing in the new community, on the swampy shores of Lake Michigan. In 1833, when Chicago was first incorporated, he was one of five elected trustees of the new town, as it was then designated. A recent discovery of three wooden boxes, containing Old Chicago City Council papers, buried in the vault of the Illinois State Archives in Springfield, includes the original document tallying Chicago's vote to incorporate as a town in 1833. In a detail of that document, published in the Chicago Tribune on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the signature of E.S. Kimberly can be clearly seen. (As also can that of Mark Beaubien, Illinois 52nd district State Representative Mark Beaubien's ancestor.)

Dr. Kimberly's career included being one of the founders of Rush Medical Center. But he and his family enjoyed traveling out to areas beyond the City, and in 1857, they found themselves on the shores of Honey Lake in the Biltmore neighborhood in North Barrington. This, they evidently concluded, was a beautiful place to build a home, and they eventually purchased close to 200 acres along the eastern and southern shores of the lake.

The residence they built, which, late 19<sup>th</sup> century photographs show to have been of Carpenter Gothic design, was originally sited with the front door facing the lake, and the narrow road, then nothing but a dirt track, which became known as Kimberly Road, then passed between the house and the lake. This was changed in a later remodeling. The Kimberly's eldest son, Augustus Van Horne Kimberly, married Margaret Barnhill Roosevelt, the daughter of Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, an uncle to Theodore Roosevelt. One romantic story of the house, is that the flower urns at the front door were a wedding gift from Teddy Roosevelt to the young couple. That is documented down through various owners of the house after the Kimberlys.

Another story, but unproven through extensive research, is that Roosevelt was brought to the Honey Lake house after he was shot in 1912, while campaigning in Milwaukee for his Bull Moose Party. But all newspaper accounts of the time and various biographies of him, say that he was brought from Milwaukee to a hospital in Chicago, and that his wife Edith subsequently came from New York by a train that then took him back to their home, Sagamore Hill, on Long Island. That Teddy may have visited his cousin here is possible, as he was frequently in Chicago for political conventions and often traveled on from Chicago to the Western states. Locally, the Barrington Review, (now Barrington Courier-Review) published its first edition in 1889. The microfilms at the Barrington Area Library have been well researched, and have not yielded any reports of a visit to Honey Lake by the former President. The only other resource is possibly the Roosevelt Diaries, located at Harvard University Library.

To be continued in the next Newsletter.