Cuba Township

28000 W. Cuba Road Barrington, IL 60010

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Cuba Township email: 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

ELECTION INFORMATION ENCLOSED!



Officials

David F. Nelson, Supervisor

Priscilla H. Rose, Clerk

Rebecca M. Tonigan, Assessor

Thomas W. Gooch, Hwy. Commissioner

Douglas B. Alexander, Trustee

Donald F. Griffith, Trustee

John J. Mumaw, Trustee

Arthur L. Rice III. Trustee

Clerk, PRISCILLA H. ROSE

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

OCTOBER 9, 2012- LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

The Township office is open Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm for voter registration. Two forms of id are required- one must be a government issued photo id and one must have your current address. ANY change of address requires re-registration.

OCTOBER 10 - NOVEMBER 10, 2012-**GRACE PERIOD VOTER REGISTRATION**Registration can only be done at the Lake County Clerk's office in Waukegan. You must vote at that time- you are not eligible to vote on Election Day -for this election only. Please call the Lake County Clerk's office at (847) 377-2410 for more information.

OCTOBER 22, 2012- November 3, 2012 **EARLY VOTING** begins at the Township office for Cuba Township voters only. A government issued photo id is *required* to vote. Hours are Monday- Friday, 9 am to 4:30 pm and Saturdays, 9 am to 2 pm

NOVEMBER 6, 2008– **ELECTION DAY.** Polls are open 6 am to 7 pm Please go to <u>www.lakevoterpower.info</u> for questions relating to the election.

Illinois law permits any registered 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 or by calling the Lake County Clerk's office at (847) 377-2406

Please feel free to contact the Township office for additional questions or comments at (847) 381-1924.

The next election is April 9, 2013. Please go <u>www.elections.il.gov</u> for information regarding this election.

CUBA TOWNSHIP

Township board

meetings are held

the second

Thursday of each

month at

6:00 p.m. at the

Township office,

28000 W. Cuba

Road, Barrington.

All meetings are

open to the public

Office hours

Monday-Friday

9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Cuba News

Fall 2012

Supervisor, DAVID F. NELSON

Your township tax dollars are hard at work for you in many ways. To name a few, Cuba Township provides voter registration, road maintenance, property assessment and food pantry services. These services, as mandated by law, are provided to ensure the safety and quality of life for our residents. Other services, as permissible by law, are offered to provide the utmost value for your tax dollars. (See inside this newsletter for a more detailed list of Township services) We are proud to serve in our positions, in what we like to think is "grassroots" government, providing service and accessibility in your neighborhood. Our doors are always open to hear your comments, suggestions, questions and concerns. Additionally, our board meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm, always have a spot reserved for public comment. We welcome your attendance at our meetings at the Township office at 28000 W. Cuba Road, Barrington.

The need for donations to our Township food pantry continues. Your donations of non-perishable, unexpired food and gift cards to grocery stores and gas stations are welcome in the office during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 9am to 4 pm. Additionally, I hope you can support the pantry by dining at Chessie's, in the Ice House Mall, on October 17, 2012. 15% of the proceeds from patrons' bills presenting the coupon below will be donated to support the Cuba Township food pantry. We thank Chessies' for their support!

Chessie

Dine and Share

Wednesday, October 17, 2012
15% of your total check(including carry-out service) will be donated to the

CUBA TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

Please present this coupon when dining. More coupons are available at the Township office.

ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION

A new law which became effective July 18, 2012 permits Illinois townships to enter into contracts with electricity suppliers on behalf of residents and small commercial retail customers within the portions of the township that are not otherwise a part of a municipality. The contracts provide for the bulk purchase of electricity from a supplier and then the sale of that electricity at fixed rates in townships. By aggregating the buying power of a large number of small customers, Cuba Township may be able to obtain a better rate for its residents than if residents shop for electricity on an individual basis.

There are two ways that Cuba Township can initiate this process. The first type is an "opt-in" program which requires individual customers to enroll in the electricity aggregation program before being included in the pool of customers who purchase from the supplier. Customers who do not "opt-in" remain with their current supplier, while those who so are rewarded with what will presumptively be a better rate. No referendum is required to establish aggregation on an "opt-in" basis.

The second type is an "opt-out" program that automatically includes each residential unit and certain small commercial retail customers in the pool unless the customer affirmatively decides not to participate. The second type is the more popular program because customers are more likely to see a greater reduction in their bills if aggregation is provided to them on a default basis. If the residents approve the referendum, the township must then develop a plan of operation and governance for the aggregation program and hold at least two public hearing on the plan. An RFP must also be prepared and issued for companies to submit proposals to provide electric services to the township. Thereafter, the Illinois Power Agency Act mandates that the aggregated electricity suppliers must notify customer of the rates, conditions of enrollment, and the option and method for customers to "opt-out" of the aggregation program.

Cuba Township is currently investigating its options related to electric aggregation. If you are interested in changing your provider before Cuba Township takes action, you may visit http://pluginillinois.org. If you have a view as to whether Cuba Township should participate in electric aggregation, please contact Supervisor, David F. Nelson or Trustee Doug Alexander at (847) 381-1924.

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 reduced fare passes for senior citizens aged 65 years and older and the disabled are available at the Township office. Proof of age is required- a driver's license or state identification card is acceptable. The pass is good for reduced fare on fixed bus and rail services provided by the CTA, Pace and Metra. The Township will take the required picture and complete the application. It will be received in approximately 4 weeks. The photo is no charge for Township residents-\$5 for non-township residents. Seniors that qualify for the Circuit Breaker program are eligible for free rides on the RTA and should contact the Illinois Department of Aging at 800-624-2459 or go online at www.cbrx.il.gov to apply.

PACE/Dial a Ride program is subsidized by the Township for seniors and the disabled. The service offers local curb-to-curb service for \$1 each way. For enrollment, reservations and information please call 800-451-4599 or 815-363-4305. Reservations can be made 24 hours in advance and 7 days in advance for medical appointments.

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 and residency is required.

Notary public services are offered at no charge.

The Cuba Township food pantry is available to any Township resident indicating a need. An intake interview is required. Please call the office for more information. Donations 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 September 1st of each year for seniors, the disabled and families with young children and continues through the heating season. November 1st is the first application date for all other qualifying households. Please contact the Township office for more information.

Township vehicle stickers are available at no charge 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*, Monday through Friday, 10am to 3pm. 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 at 847-381-1924 to make an *appointment*. More details on requirements, fees and documentation are available at *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. 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 4 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 (c) (3) charitable fund. Monies donated to this fund are used to help residents need who do not qualify for other assistance. After determination of need, disbursements are made to a vendor to assist in maintaining self-sufficiency. Funds are available to any Township individual or family 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 inquiries is confidential.

The Community Room is available to any Township resident for small group meetings of a not-for- profit nature. Please contact the Township office for specific details on use and for availability. Cuba Township reserves primary user rights of the room.

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 mulch and firewood is available seasonally through the Cuba Township Road District. Please go to www.cubaroads.com for information on Road District services or call 847-381-7793.

Please click on "assessor "on the Township's home page www.cubatownship.com for services provided by the Cuba Township Assessor or call 847-381-1120.

Assessor, *REBECCA M. TONIGAN*

Assessments are now in their third year of decline in Lake County and there is every indication that this trend will continue into 2013 and perhaps beyond. But, as most taxpayers have seen, declining assessments are not providing property tax relief. In spite of lower assessments, property taxes have generally gone up, as taxing bodies continue to ask for more money. And the taxpayer frustration is palpable.

In the rapidly appreciating real estate market of a few years ago, assessments were often the scapegoat. As market values went up, assessments went up and most people, including many elected officials, blamed rising property taxes on rising assessments. Now most people understand that assessments are not the problem; government spending is. But because assessments are the most transparent part of the property tax system and the only part that offers a formal way to protest (you can't contest your tax bill, the tax rate or the state multiplier), it is still the focal point for many taxpayers. In recent years, in fact, the business of "tax consultant" has exploded to "help" taxpayers challenge their assessments. While in 2006, there were 3,600 complaints filed in Lake County, last year that number climbed to over 25,000 and many of those appeals were filed by "tax consultants" who didn't even exist a few years ago.

There is a major flaw in the property tax system that has become obvious in this declining market and "tax consultants" are using it to their advantage. Assessors and the Board of Review are operating with different rules. While Assessors are required by law to consider three years of sales when determining assessments, the Board of Review rules specifically state that sales closest to the assessment date (January Ist of the assessment year) are the preferred indication of value. In an appreciating market this difference in methodology offered no real advantage. But in a declining market, it benefits those who file appeals. Taxpayers who file appeals are receiving reductions from the Board of Review that taxpayers who do not file are not receiving. Assessors are unable to assess to the current market but the Board of Review is adjusting to it.

So, what should I do if I think my assessment is wrong?

Contact my office. You may have information about your property that I need to consider and I may have information about the market and assessment process that you need to consider. If, after we talk, you still think that your assessment is incorrect, you may file an appeal with the Lake County Board of Review and request a hearing in person, by phone or by letter. The forms are available in my office, on the county website or at the Chief County Assessment Office in Waukegan. My office is happy to explain and assist in this process.

Do I need to hire a "tax consultant" to file an appeal?

NO...the entire process is very "user-friendly". The county website, in addition to providing assessment information, provides valuable tools for analyzing your assessment for accuracy and fairness. For those who want a clearer overview and understanding of the Property Tax System, the county offers "Public Information Meetings". These presentations outline the appeal process and demonstrate the county website tools. And for those who are "computer challenged" or just want more specific help, the county also offers "Tax Assessment Help Centers" where you can actually work one-on-one with a county or township assessment official who will assist you in evaluating your individual property tax assessment utilizing the county web applications. Many "tax consultants" do little more than make use of the same tools available to you at the county website.

But, if you do decide to hire someone to help with your appeal, please consider two things:

First, two recent court cases call into question the legality of a non-attorney "tax consultant" representing taxpayers in a Board of Review hearing. Some experts are of the opinion that a non attorney "tax consultant" is "invoking jurisdiction" when an appeal is filed and therefore, by definition, practicing law without a license. In Cook County the findings of non-attorney "tax consultant" hearings were challenged and taxpayers were required to repay the tax savings resulting from the assessment reductions. Currently many counties in the state require that any non-owner representative in an assessment appeal be a licensed attorney. Considering this, if you do decide to hire a tax consultant, a licensed attorney might be the best choice.

Second, make sure that you understand how the person you hire will be compensated and what it will cost you. Most assessments are going down and any fee calculation should not include the reduction that the Assessor made from last year to the current year. Rather the fee should be based only on the reduction made by the Board of Review from the 2012 final Equalized Assessed Value, as it appears on your assessment notice. I have seen cases where taxpayers have paid more in fees than they saved in taxes.

The appeal process is an important safeguard and is open to all taxpayers in Lake County.

In conjunction with Secretary of State, Jesse White, Cuba Township is pleased to offer

MOBILE DRIVER SERVICES DAY

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

10 am to 2 pm

Residents can obtain: Duplicate driver's license Corrected driver's license

Illinois state ID card Driver's license renewal

For more information please go to: www.cyberdriveillinois.com



Highway Commissioner, continued

during the winter months. Our plans are still being formulated for the use of it. It is my intention to operate it without having to hire any additional employees. I did take several veterans recently up to the new VA hospital in North Chicago and it seems to me that it would be something that Cuba Township veterans groups could utilize, just as many of our senior citizens could utilize it during the winter months when driving is difficult, for trips to places where PACE or the Dial-A-Ride busses cannot go. If you have any ideas I'd like to hear about them. It's just another way your township tries to improve the quality of life for our taxpayers.

I hope all of you will come to our Fall Festival. I will be there, and my wife and I will look forward to meeting each and every one of you. While you are here at the Fall Festival if you would like to see our garages, take a look at the organization of them or the vehicles, just ask, I will be more than happy to open them for you or sit down and discuss our many services. Mulch deliveries will be ending shortly and firewood will begin at the Fall Festival. Again, we will limit quantities of the firewood to a basic trunk load so that everyone can have some. But you are welcome to come every Friday thereafter and get a trunkful. I wish I could give out larger quantities particularly to some of you who are heating with wood, but we simply do not have the time to split firewood to allow those quantities to be given out.

Stay warm, let's have a nice safe winter.

Cuba Township will be a distribution site for the Illinois Department of Transportation's new ILLINOIS YELLOW DOT program

The program, recommended by Barrington's Police and Fire Departments, is a life-saving traffic safety initiative that provides first responders with critical information to improve emergency care for persons involved in vehicle crashes. Yellow Dot participants receive a bright yellow dot decal and a yellow folder, along with a brochure explaining the program. The folder is placed in the glove compartment and should contain important information such as name, emergency contact information, medical conditions, physician name and a list of current medications. The dot is displayed in a conspicuous place on their car and indicates the folder is stored in the glove compartment. In the event of a collision, first responders can retrieve the folder and make decisions regarding emergency treatment and prepare hospital personnel as well, in the critical first moments of an accident. The program is free of charge and recommended for drivers of all ages. Those interested in receiving the materials can pick them up at the Township office at 28000 W. Cuba Road, Barrington, IL, Monday - Friday 9 am to 4 pm. For more information, please contact the Township office at (847) 381-1924.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH HEATING BILLS FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

income households to assist with the expense of heating bills.

LIHEAP (low energy 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.

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS TAKEN AT CUBA TOWNSHIP

Cuba Township is pleased to administer two programs for low- Cuba Township is pleased to be a passport acceptance agency. Our staff can accept applications for processing



for any individual. **Appointments** For more are required. information on required documentation and fees, please go to www.travel.state.gov. You can also contact the Township office at (847) 381-1924 for information and to make an appointment.

CUBA TOWNSHIP'S WHITE MEMORIAL CEMETERY LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS **LEGAL NOTICE**

SECOND NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to all and any persons, wherever situated, pursuant to Section 9 of the Illinois Cemetery Protection Act, 765 ILCS 835/9, for the purpose of finding any person or persons who have or may claim to have an interest of whatever kind, including but not limited to ownership, assignation, or as heir-at-law, next-of-kin, or specific legatee under will of an owner or assignee, in certain interment rights in the White **Memorial Cemetery**, a cemetery of Cuba Township, in Lake County, Illinois, located at Prestwick Drive, near the intersection of Cuba Road and Barrington Road, Barrington, Illinois. The interment rights are described as follows:

Description of Gravesite by Lot and Block	Last Known Owner	Last Known Transfer Date
Block B, west of lot #68, graves 1-6	Caswell	unknown
Block B, lot 68, graves 2 - 6		unknown
Block B, lot 67 graves 1-6		unknown
Block B, lot 15B, graves 3,4,5	M. Dodge	unknown
Block B, lot 16B, graves 1,2,3,4	Ohnsman	unknown
Block B, lot 10, graves 1,2,3,5,6	J. Newcomb	unknown
Block B, lot 11 grave 6	B. L. Hopkins	unknown
Block B, lot 63, graves 1 - 6	Rudolph L. Nagler	unknown
Block B, lot 62, graves 1,2,5,6	V. Bliss	unknown
Block B, lot 25, graves 7 - 12	J. L. Schryver	unknown
Block B, lot 26B, graves 1 - 6	W. Lytle	unknown
Block B, lot 60, graves 3,4,5,6	Lewandoski	unknown
Block B, lot 26A, graves 4,5,6,	August Hawk	unknown
Block B, lot 27, graves 3,4,5,6	Rindal	unknown
Block B, west of lot #10, graves 1 - 6		unknown
Block A, lot 47 ½, grave 6	P. Davidson	unknown
Block A, lot 45 N ½, graves, 1,2,3,4	S. Schryver	unknown

Any person or persons who have or may claim to have any interest in the above interment rights must contact Ms. Priscilla H. Rose, 28000 West Cuba Road, Barrington, Illinois 60010; Phone 847-381-1924, by October 31, 2012.

Be advised, that should no claim of interest be made to the above internment rights or any of them, then the cemetery's board of managers may file a petition in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court for Lake County, Illinois, seeking to have the court find the interment rights to have been abandoned, and, once found to be abandoned, sold at public sale.

Dated: September 28, 2012 /s/ Priscilla H. Rose Priscilla H. Rose, Cuba Township Clerk Let us put a smile on your face at the 12th annual

Fall Festival

Saturday, October 20, 2012 1- 4 p.m. 28160 W. Cuba Road, *The Grove*

Food, games, and fun for all!

Sons of Bildor and Second Wind will be performing live!

No reservations required—

please call the Township office at

(847) 381~1924 for more information

BAKE SALE

All proceeds from the Bake Sale will benefit the Cuba Township Food Pantry

Your donation of baked goods will be appreciated and can be dropped off at the Township office on Friday, October 19th, 9 a.m. 4 p.m.

Donations of non-perishable items for the pantry will also be accepted at the Fall Festival

Highway Commissioner, THOMAS W. GOOCH

It seems like only yesterday I was talking about the beginning of construction season and putting away the snowplows and by the time you read this we'll be winding up construction season and getting the trucks ready for another winter.

I think with the staff I have put together here,and the innovative winter weather operations that we steadily improve upon, you again will be pleased with our winter snow and ice operations. This year we have a new liquid which contains absolutely no chlorides whatsoever. It is three years into production and has been tested and proven in the state of lowa and in some Northern townships in Illinois. It is based more on soy by-products and does not create the crystals that clog filters like the beet by-products have in the past. I continue to concentrate on ways to further reduce the use of salt. In the past ten years since I have been highway commissioner we have come a really long way in salt reduction; from 500 to 600 pounds a lane mile to I 50-250 pounds a lane mile. I think the world and the environment is a better place here because of it and I intend to continue the effort.

Speaking of continuing the effort, as I read this I hear of a press release whereby Lake County, North Barrington and Hawthorn Woods are reaching agreements regarding the proposed shopping center on Route I2. I continue to be concerned about the use of township roads at the north end of the township as "cut through" roads for this proposed shopping center and pledge to you that so long as I am the highway commissioner of this township I will do everything possible to prevent that from happening.

I recently attended the American Public Works Association's annual educational conference where "traffic calming" is becoming a very hot topic. This is a method whereby things such as "speed humps", **not bumps** are used along with other methods such as road narrowings and landscaping to reduce speed and quantity of cars in an effort to reduce speeds and pass through vehicle movements. I have already talked to the Township engineers, Gewalt Hamilton and Associates ,regarding "traffic calming" and we are going to begin working on a long range plan to achieve this result in areas that could conceivably be used for access to the Route 12 corridor and proposed shopping centers in that area. I am quite serious about this. People have chosen to live in our township for peacefulness and tranquility, not to see high speed traffic going to and from a large commercial development.

Speaking of the American Public Works Association, after two years of attending and taking the appropriate courses I was recognized as certified as a snow and ice control supervisor. The effort brought with it a wealth of new knowledge and ones that I think can be put to good use here in Cuba Township.

Again, for the second year, I have rejected my scheduled salary increase. As many of you know, elected officials of township salaries are set I80 days prior to the beginning of their new term. Some four years ago my salary was set with scheduled increases of 2.5% or the cost of living whichever is less. That formula would have granted a salary increase last year and a salary increase this year. I rejected both of them out of consideration for the overall economic climate and the fact that my own people could not receive the same type of increases although this year they did get a small cost of living increase. It's not much, but it was the right thing for me to do.

Speaking of cost savings, we continue to have Intergovernmental Agreements ever expanding in scope with the Villages of Lake Barrington, North Barrington, Tower Lakes, Deer Park and Barrington Hills. One such example is the paving program. A certain amount of roads both in the Township and in the villages are paved in house by my own paving crews, but we also administer the commercial paving contract, including the preparation, necessary engineering, the letting of bids and the supervision of the work as it takes place. This year our joint contract with Lake Barrington, North Barrington, Tower Lakes and the Township was approximately 1.6 million dollars and resulted in the paving of many roads. We reduce unit costs by this method.

This year, amongst others, we completed Indian Trail from Route 59 through the Township portions to the Lake Barrington boundary. Of interest is the name of the road and another of my local history lessons. Indian Trail was in fact an Indian Trail in the very old days and I suspect many of you in recent years of traveling in automobiles thought it was reverting to perhaps it was Native American Indian days. However we caught it in the nick of time and the spirits of those long-gone Native Americans probably rest easy knowing that the motoring public can again safely use their trail. Of interest, during the pulverizing of the existing Indian Trail I found two old whiskey bottles pre-prohibition and probably post turn of the century. I found similar bottles when we rehabilitated Cuba Road about ten years ago. I am beginning to think that a lot of our earlier residents had a rollicking good time as they traveled around in Model-T's and/or buggies.

We are continuing our traveling recycling program this fall and are presently creating recycling days in October in the various villages. Scheduled so far is Lake Barrington Shores during the morning of October 13, 2012. Those of you living there will receive more information from your media system within the Shores and the villages will be publicizing what we do there shortly.

I acquired a used I4 passenger bus this year for \$6,000. It has a high end retail value of about \$15,000 so it was a good buy for the Road District. It is my desire not to compete with the PACE system or the Dial-A-Ride system but to be able to provide services for such things as Veterans' groups traveling to the VA hospitals or shopping trips for senior residents to places where PACE does not go