

Cuba Township

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Barrington, IL 60010

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Assessor phone: 847-381-1120
Assessor fax: 847-381-0837
Road District phone: 847-381-7793
Road District fax: 847-382-1210

WWW.CUBATOWNSHIP.COM

Officials

David F. Nelson, Supervisor

Priscilla H. Rose, Clerk

Rebecca M. Tonigan, Assessor

Randall J. Marks, Hwy. Commissioner

Douglas B. Alexander, Trustee

Christopher J. Cocoma, Trustee

John J. Mumaw, Trustee

Jill Talbot, Trustee

Let your voice be heard!

Take the Healthier Barrington Survey!

Earlier this month the Healthier Barrington Coalition sent out the 2014 Healthier Barrington Needs Survey. This survey has been conducted by the Coalition every three years since 1996 and offers residents living in the 60010 area an opportunity to provide input into the various aspects of living in the Barrington area. Topics include transportation, recreation, education, healthcare, employment and much more. If you have received a copy of the survey, please take 10-15 minutes to share your viewpoint. If you would rather take the survey online, please go to TakeTheCommunitySurvey.com. Please do not take the survey twice. Your voice will be heard and you can help shape the future in the Barrington area.



New vehicle stickers are available for those living in unincorporated areas of Cuba Township. The stickers are available at no charge and are provided as a courtesy— they are not required.

CUBA TOWNSHIP

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 am-4 pm

Printed on Recycled Stock

Cuba News

Winter 2014

Supervisor, **DAVID F. NELSON**

As I write this, our area is mired in unrelenting cold and snow. As you read this, I hope we all can see signs of Spring! Please know that during this period of extreme weather, the Cuba Township Road District staff, under the direction of Highway Commissioner Randy Marks, has worked many long hours plowing and salting to maintain safe and secure roads. A casualty of this winter weather situation are many Township families and individuals who are facing hardships placed on them due to expenses associated with this winter, including higher than usual utility bills. My staff is available to any who may qualify for assistance. Please contact the Township office at (847) 381-1924 to schedule an intake interview to determine if you qualify for assistance or to provide referrals to other programs which may be beneficial. As always, my appreciation is extended to all who donate to our food pantry and to our volunteers as well!

In order to provide the services mentioned above, Cuba Township receives tax dollars through the Lake County property tax system. Cuba Township Assessor, Rebecca Tonigan, and her staff strive to maintain the integrity of this process, working with the County to ensure that assessments are fair and equitable and that the tax burden is distributed evenly among all Cuba Township tax payers.

As illustrated above, you can see that Cuba Township provides the 3 mandated duties of Illinois townships— road maintenance, assistance to those in need and property assessment. Township government in Illinois has evolved since its inception in 1850, but still adheres to the tenets of the township form of government established here over 164 years ago. Since that time, services, as permissible by law, have been added to enhance the lives of our taxpayers and provide assistance as necessary. At 24 square miles, Cuba Township is close to the people it serves and strives to be accessible and responsive. Accessing tax payer dollars through the levy process, this year, Cuba Township chose to keep our levy at the amount requested last year, in order to not place any additional tax burden on our residents. While holding the line on spending, we will continue to provide the level of service as provided in the recent past.

Township government, as designed, is closest to the people. To that end, your comments, suggestions and concerns are always welcome. Please feel free to contact us as listed below. Additionally, I invite you to attend any of our board meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm at the Township office, 28000 W. Cuba Road, Barrington. And, see below, for information on our Annual Town Meeting, a meeting unique to township government.

CUBA TOWNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION 28000 W. Cuba Road Barrington, IL 60010

Supervisor's office (847) 381-1924
(847) 381-1322 fax
cubatownship@comcast.net
www.cubatownship.com

Assessor's office (847) 381-1120
(847) 381-0837

Road District office
(847) 381-7793
www.cubaroads.com

Please feel free to contact us with your comments, questions or concerns

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

April 8, 2014

Cuba Township office
28000 W. Cuba Road
Barrington, IL 60010
7 pm

Cuba Township will hold its 164th 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 the Township to speak. Cuba Township voters may propose agenda items, relevant to the powers granted to the electors under the Township code, 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

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. Applications are also available online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/vsd62.pdf.

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.

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 4:00 pm.

The Cuba Cares fund is a 501(c)(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 for more information on services offered by the Road District.

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

Cuba Heritage

By Barbara Benson

As we go through one of the toughest winters in many years, my thoughts often go back to the early years of pioneer settlement across the vast expanses of the United States, and the conditions which the settlers endured. Their wagons rolled along frequently uncharted roads, their axes felled trees, and the saws they carried in their wagons cut the logs to make rudimentary cabins and shelter.

Such a family were the Kelseys, their name memorialized in the road that winds across part of Cuba Township where they first claimed land to farm.

There survived, with descendants of Francis Kelsey, a letter which he wrote in 1842, the transcription found in the archives of the Barrington Area Historical Society. Present day residents of Cuba Township can surely still be moved by the story it tells. It is reproduced here, with a few notes in parenthesis to clarify time and place, and as it was transcribed, trying to follow 19th century penmanship.

Here was a man concerned for the well-being of his family.

"July 20, 1842

One year ago, I started my journey for the west. The weather was fine, the roads good, and we passed our journey without any misfortune or accident, excepting one. The 3rd night we staid close to Erie July 29th in the Ohio. Wealthy, Diantha and Angeline were walking. Defores(t) fell from the wagon. The hind wheel was rolling on his shirt. They held the wheels or reins and stopped the horses. We took him and brought him to. I then first to a doctor one mile ahead. The doctor bled him. We stayed till the next day and then went on. The next week, the 5th of August, on Friday we arrived near Tecumseh (in Michigan, just southwest of Ann Arbor) at Alonzo Williams. They were all well. We left them Monday on the 8th, and on the 20th day of our journey we arrived at Chicago. Our goods I sent by water was there all arrived safe. I then went west to stop at Janesville on the Rock River as that was the healthy place. I went as far as Elgin on the Fox River and one of.....

We were all well and healthy till now, the first of September, as we began to have ague and fever. Mother passed her journey well and cheerful. After we stopped she was well and appeared smarter than she had for some time before, she was taken sick on the 7th of September and died on the 10th of September. The doctor called her sickness the billions (sic) (presumably biliousness).

Our prospects were quite gloomy at that time. We had ague and chill and fever for a few weeks.....in the opinion of our doctor our sickness was environed by going thru Michigan and some families that have moved up the lake by water have been well and healthy and those that have come by land generally sick men only.

Lyman Clifford heard of my living at Elgin and thought I had better move up the river as it was very healthy and I now live in the south part of Lake County. Thought I would take a farm as there are plenty of them to let and then look around the country west of Chicago. For about twenty-five miles the land is not good for winter wheat but within four or five miles of the Fox River there west, as far as I have heard the country is first right good. I...the country is some better but west it is further from market. (Note: the railway line northwest, with depots at Barrington and Fox River Grove would not exist until 1855). There is land here for ten shillings an acre that will make good farms and other land with improvement that can be bought very cheap. I like this country better than I expected. I have not purchased and I may wait till next summer if there is a prospect of our living.....in the spring.

Good farms can be rented by fencing... and two thirds or give one third any size or quantity of land.....

I went last week to Chicago and Sylvester Salin went with me to Chicago. I drove forty bushels of wheat and got eight (y?) four cents per bush-el. It is thirty-two miles.....gone one day and back the next."

"If there is a prospect of our living"? How to interpret that? Were there doubts about their survival? Francis Kelsey did survive; he and his descendants were to have over 125 years of land ownership in Cuba Township. He was a veteran of the War of 1812, and in 1850, at the first Cuba Town Meeting he was appointed Overseer of the Poor. He was one of the first settlers of this area to be buried in White Memorial Cemetery. A true pioneer of our Township.

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 NIPER 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.



IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

New Early Voting Site for Cuba and Wauconda Voters

The Lake County Clerk's office is most grateful to Cuba Township for the long partnership in facilitating Early Voting at the Township offices. New state laws continue to increase requirements and associated costs for voting. In an effort to minimize the financial burden to taxpayers, a number of early voting sites have been combined and relocated to better serve with fewer sites.

Beginning with the March 18, 2014 primary, early voters in Cuba and Wauconda Townships will be served at the Lake Barrington Village Hall, 23860 N. Old Barrington Road, Lake Barrington. Early voting sites are open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting Monday, March 3 until Saturday, March 15.

The convenient in-person early voting option is available to all registered voters. State law requires early voters to present a current, government-issued photo ID before receiving a ballot.

Any voter can request a ballot by mail online without signing a separate paper ballot request at www.LakeVoterPower.info or may complete a printable form online to sign and mail to Lake County Clerk, 18 North County St., Rm. 101, Waukegan, IL 60085. For more information, call 847/377-2406.

Clerk, **PRISCILLA H. ROSE**

March 18, 2014 is the date of the next election for all registered Illinois voters. This is a primary election— you will be asked to select a party ballot at the time of voting. Illinois voters are not registered by party— at each primary a different party can be selected. Voters requesting a non-partisan ballot will receive a ballot with issues only— there will be no candidates.

State of Illinois 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 or by calling the Lake County Clerk's office at (847) 377-2406.

VOTER REGISTRATION closes for this election on February 18, 2014. Voter registration re-opens March 20, 2014. Voter registration is available at the Township office, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. Two forms of i.d. are required, one must be a valid, government issued photo i.d.

GRACE PERIOD VOTER REGISTRATION runs February 19- March 15, 2014. 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 Lake Barrington Village Hall
23860 Old Barrington, Lake Barrington, IL 60010
March 3 – March 15, 2014, 9 am - 4:30 pm; Saturdays 9am to 2pm
A valid government issued photo i.d. is REQUIRED to vote early

WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT?/ ELECTION DAY VOTING

To view your ballot and find your Election Day polling place, please go to www.LakeVoterPower.info. Election day voting hours are 6 am to 7 pm.

- **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
Please feel free to contact me at the Township office with any questions at (847) 381-1924.

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

MOBILE DRIVER SERVICES DAY

Wednesday, April 2, 2014
10 am to 2 pm

Residents can obtain:

- Duplicate driver's license
- Corrected driver's license
- Illinois State ID card
- Driver's license renewal

Please refer to www.cyberdriveillinois.com

For more information on fees and required documentation

RULES OF THE ROAD

Wednesday, March 19, 2014
10 am to noon

This class is designed 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.**

No road test is given on this day

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

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.

Highway Commissioner, **RANDALL J. MARKS**

The Cuba Township Road District Team has been out in full force this season. As you can imagine, it has been a battle due to sub zero temperatures and 22 snow events already this season.

Our season snow totals are 35.7 inches as of January 25, 2014; we are fast approaching the season average, and winter's end is not yet in sight. Last year, for the entire season we were at 33.4 inches; in December of 2012 we only had 1 inch of snow.

Cuba Township Road District's primary concern is to maintain streets and roads, in both summer and winter. Our goal is to have the roads passable by morning and evening rush hours, and then to clean and clear roads as time allows. We have experimented with new liquid de-icers that are more environmentally friendly and that have less impact on our surroundings.

Please watch the Road District's website at www.cubaroads.com for updates. You may also consult our website to obtain a **Winter Service Request Form** to voice your concerns and compliments.

The Cuba Township Road District staff is working on scheduling spring activities such as forestry, pot hole patching, and drainage, as well as other items that need attention. This is a lead in to setting up our paving and restoration program for the upcoming summer months.

Assessor, **REBECCA M. TONIGAN**

The 2013 property tax appeal session is now finished. There were some significant reductions at the Board of Review again this year. Many of you don't realize that if you do not appeal with the Lake County Board of Review, you will be one of the 90% of the Property Owners who will not get relief on your tax bills for 2014. You will then be paying the taxes for the 10% which received a reduction at the Board of Review.

There are 2 reasons for this:

1. If you don't file an appeal for a reduction in your assessed value you will not receive relief.

I have tried in the last number of years to regain uniformity throughout Cuba Township to no avail. The Lake County Board of Review has taken the stand that if a property owner receives a reduction then the reduced amount on the assessed value of that property will remain the same until the next quadrennial reassessment period, (which is 2015).

I, as well as many other Lake County Assessors, believe that this is an unfair and illegal practice by the Lake County Board of Review, but the Lake County Chief County Assessment Office has the right to change an Assessment as he sees fit. This has occurred for the past 2 years. I have re-valued most of my neighborhoods in Cuba Township to regain the uniformity, and then the Lake County Chief County Assessment Office has overridden the changes I have made to give the 10% the upper hand.

How does this affect the regular taxpayer? If you did not receive a reduction in your assessment you will essentially be paying for the reductions that your neighbor received. All the taxes that would have been paid by the reduced property are then redistributed to those who did not receive a reduction.

Is this fair? Absolutely not!

What can be done regarding this issue?

I have been asking myself that very question for each of the last number of years. I have come up with some solutions, only to be stopped in my tracks by the Chief County Assessment Officer, Martin Paulson.

2. If the taxing bodies request an increase in their levies, your tax bill will most likely go up.

In many earlier newsletter articles I have recommended that Cuba Township residents attend meetings for their taxing districts. You may say to yourself, "why would I want to do that?", or "Will this be a waste of my time?", or even "I don't have the time." My suggestion is that **YOU SHOULD MAKE THE TIME.** If the taxing districts don't hear from their constituents, they are less likely to "toe the line" and may ask for increases each and every year. Levies for all taxing districts must be filed by the last Tuesday in December. All taxing districts must address the levies at either a regular meeting, or if they are asking for an increase of the Consumer Price Index or 5%, whichever is lower for any given year, they must hold a public hearing. Take a look at your tax bill and see to which taxing bodies you are paying the most dollars. Obviously, in most cases it is your local school district, fire district and Village. Contact these districts or go on their websites and see when they will be addressing the levies. **Then, attend the meeting and let your voice be heard!**