

Cuba News

SUMMER 2006

Supervisor, *DAVID F. NELSON*

On behalf of the elected officials on Cuba Township, I'd like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the Township residents for their continued support of the Township food pantry and *Cuba Cares* fund. As our requests for assistance continue to increase, I am pleased to say, so have our donations.

Many residents and service groups are keeping our pantry well-stocked. Our annual *Have a Heart Food Drive*, held in February of each year, is a substantial source of supplies for the pantry. Also, many local scout troops have contributed, as well as the Barrington Post Office, through the recent food carrier drive. Additionally, the food pantry was the recipient of a generous donation from the Barrington High School class of 2006. The Cuba Township food pantry is available on a monthly basis for any Township resident indicating a need.

The *Cuba Cares* funds has benefited from the generosity of local families and individuals who have expressed their generosity through cash and checks donated to the fund. There are even a few donors who have once been recipients. It is true "what goes around comes around". The *Cuba Cares* fund is a 501 ©(3), founded to assist Township residents who do not qualify for other forms of assistance. Financial assistance is available once every 12 months. Funds are paid directly to a vendor, no cash assistance is available. Payment is authorized after an intake interview with the Township General Assistance Coordinators, Cheryl Tanaka and Kate Formichella. The purpose of payment is to aid and promote maintenance of self-sufficiency. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the food pantry or the *Cuba Cares* fund, please call the Township office at (847) 381-1924. All inquiries and subsequent assistance are confidential information.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge the passing of a friend of Cuba Township's, Leonard Kuskowski. As president of the Village of Tower Lakes, the Township worked cooperatively with Len. He was a great citizen and will be missed by many. We extend

Cuba Township's 6th annual Fall Festival will be held on

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

Be sure to mark your calendars now for this afternoon filled with food, fun, games and live music. Stay tuned for more details in the fall edition of *Cuba News*

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 9:00am—3:30 pm

In an effort to mitigate the health risks related to West Nile Virus and to decrease the “nuisance factor” associated with mosquitoes, Cuba Township is pleased to continue our long-standing relationship with Clarke Mosquito Control. Clarke provides larviciding for the Township. Larviciding kills the mosquito eggs before they hatch. Additionally, sites are checked throughout the mosquito season for breeding. Helicopter applications are also performed periodically.

For more information on the Township’s mosquito abatement program or to report possible breeding sites, please contact Clarke Mosquito Control at 800-942-2555.

Cuba Heritage

By Barbara Benson

In the last newsletter I recounted some of the early history of the Porter one room schoolhouse which had been located on the east side of Buckley Road. And now, here is “the rest of the story” told in part through the reminiscences of the late William Klingenberg, Jr. and recounted in the book “Tales of Old Barrington” by Cynthia Baker Sharp:

“When I was six years old, (1910) it was time for me to start school, and I went to the Porter School which was located on what is now Buckley Road. It was the only building on this sod road and located on the east side in an oak woods about halfway between Cuba and Oak Knoll Roads. There would only rarely be a buggy or wagon pass this school during a day. The schoolteacher was Annabel Welch, and the class consisted of about thirteen children and covered eight grades. The desks were designed to accommodate two persons. It was good to be able to sit close, especially on cold days.

A dug well with a hand pump was located south of the schoolhouse. The older boys would pump a pail of water and bring it in for drinking. It had a dipper with a long handle on it, and everybody drank out of it except the teacher, who had a folding-cup. The dipper was never washed except at the start of the school year. The pail of water had to be emptied every day after school during the winter, or it would be frozen the next day. All the pupils, regardless of age, would play together at noon or recess. The schoolhouse floor was scrubbed once a year at the start of the school year. Thereafter, every Friday noon the teacher, with the help of the students, would sweep the floor and clean the blackboards”.

And what became of the Porter School? In the mid-1940s, when consolidation began, it was sold to Ruth Mead a well-known artist, and moved to her property on Ridge Road, to always be known as “the schoolhouse” but to be used as an extra storage place for the household. When a devastating tornado came northeast through Barrington in 1967, the Mead house and the Porter School were virtually destroyed. Just some clay pots were left along the school’s north wall. A photograph exists of the school in its original location. It was published in “Tales of Old Barrington” in 1976. As most of its pupils pass away, the Porter School exists only in the history books.

I hope, that if Cuba Township is successful in moving the Flint Creek Schoolhouse onto its property, that the histories of all the Cuba Township one-room country schoolhouses can be preserved there.

RULES OF THE ROAD

CLASSES SCHEDULED FOR CUBA TOWNSHIP

In conjunction with Secretary of State, Jesse White, Cuba Township will present the **Rules of the Road** class. The class is designed as a review for anyone needing to take the written portion of the drivers' examination.



Wednesday, August 16 2006
9:30 am—11:30 am
Cuba Township office
28000 W. Cuba Road
Barrington

Please call the office at **(847) 381-1924** for more information or to make a reservation. The class is offered at no charge, however a reservation is required.

"Which phone number do I call?"

Please use the telephone numbers below to help direct your call to the Township
(847) 381-1924— CUBA TOWNSHIP OFFICE

Please call this number to reach the Supervisor or Clerk and for general Township information. Additionally passport questions can be answered at this number

(847) 381-1120— CUBA TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Please call this number to reach the Assessor or Deputy Assessors regarding information on your assessment or exemptions

(847) 381-7793 - CUBA TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT

Please call this number for any questions related to roads and road maintenance
Township



FLINT CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT

The Flint Creek Watershed Partnership is comprised of watershed stakeholders dedicated to the preservation, protection and improvement of the Flint Creek sub-watershed of the Fox River. Our mission is to realize a long-term vision for a healthy watershed and educated citizens. Our goal is to educate while building partnerships for projects to improve water quality, reduce flooding and preserve and restore wetlands, prairies and other natural features for future generations.

The partnership received start up funding for 2005-2006 from Barrington Area Development Council and Citizens for Conservation; Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) recently awarded it a Management Assistance grant for 2006-2007. Our first project is to update the 1994 Watershed Management Plan to current standards for federal grant eligibility. Grants help defray the costs of projects as diverse as stream bank restoration along the creek as well as detention and wetland upgrades throughout the watershed. The first step of the project is a stream inventory this summer by SMC interns. They will survey both Cook and Lake County portions of the creek starting at the mouth in Lake Barrington where Flint Creek enters the Fox River and working upstream toward the source of the north branch of the creek in Lake Zurich and the main stem sources in Barrington and Inverness. The inventory will take about five weeks. Homeowners will be notified when definite dates are available.

Current partners include the Barrington Area Development Council, Citizens for Conservation, the Barrington Area Council of Governments, Barrington Hills Conservation Trust, Barrington Township, Cuba Township and village governments. The partnership meets at 10 am the 4th Monday of the month at different locations in the watershed. Any landowner on the creek or in the watershed is welcome to attend. Please contact the watershed coordinator, Patsy Mortimer at (847) 381-8663, pmortimer@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Assessor, **REBECCA M. TONIGAN**

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Another tax cycle is coming to an end with the 2005 tax bills going out in the beginning of May and the first installment having been due on June 6, 2006. The following is a list of some tax rate changes that may have been seen in various municipalities.

- A) Home Rule Municipalities – This means that the municipality is not subject to the tax cap, which is 3.3%.
 - 1. Barrington Hills- The rate decreased by 7.4%.
 - 2. Lake Barrington- The rate increased by 1.1%.
- B) Districts with rate increases due to Referendum having been passed by constituents.
 - 1. Lake Zurich Fire Protection District - Increased 37.7%.
 - 2. Village of Tower Lakes -Increased 12.5%.
- C) New “Limited Tax Bond” Issues – Non-Referendum
 - 1. Barrington Park District - Increased 3.7%.
- D) New Special Service Areas (SSA’s).
 - 1. Fox River Grove – Talon Subdivision (office condo’s on Rt. 22).
 - 2. North Barrington #13 – No 2005 tax levied.

Now, having explained the various changes to the tax bills, I will try to explain what changes you may see in your assessments for 2006. The county has reported that Cuba Township is slated for a 7.61% equalization factor this year, which means that if all things stayed the same, each property would go up 7.61%. This is based on a 3-year sales ratio study conducted by the Department of Revenue and the Lake County Supervisor of Assessments. This factor shows that, as a whole, Cuba Township properties are 7.61% low. I have researched various scenarios and have found 2 contributing factors that stand out above the rest:

- A. The condos in Cuba Township as a whole are valued lower than the market shows.
- B. Land in Cuba Township is valued much lower than the market shows.

In order to get these assessments to 1/3 of their fair market value we will a) review the condo’s accordingly (per condo subdivision based on the sales in those subdivisions (i.e. Lake Barrington Shores, Shorley Woods, Port Barrington are each individual subdivisions), and b) increase the land only values throughout the Township. This will adjust the assessments so they are in line with the market.

The books will be closed as early as possible this year, (late July, early August) to allow for more time for appointments in our offices, once the blue Assessment Cards go out to all property owners. If an agreement can be reached in these local meetings, the trip to Waukegan/Board of Review for hearings can be avoided, saving us all time.

Please feel free to contact my office when the blue cards arrive and the information has been published in the Courier to make an appointment with us here at Cuba Township. Please do not contact us before that time, as we will be unable to facilitate any changes until the blue cards are mailed.

Please keep in mind that the tax rates in Cuba Township are much lower than in most of the remaining Townships in Lake County. The average tax rate for Cuba Township unincorporated and municipalities is 5.5-6.5% while tax rates in other parts of Lake County can be as high as 10%.

Exemptions

Please make sure you check you tax bills to ascertain whether you are getting the exemptions you are entitled to, such as:

- 1 – General Homestead Exemption Limited of \$5,000.00 – Applies only if this is your principle residence.
- 2 – Senior Homestead – Applies to the year you turn 65. \$5,000 for 2005 and \$3,500 for 2006. This will be reflected on the next tax bill. For example if you turned 65 on April 1, 2006 if applied for, the exemption will be taken into account on the 2006 tax bill payable in 2007.
- 3 – Homestead Improvement - \$25,000 assessed value or \$75,000 market value.

Highway Commissioner, *THOMAS W. GOOCH*

BRIDGES.....

Has anyone noticed in their travels about the area that a couple of bridges are being renovated, resulting in closed roads? We certainly have heard many cries of outrage over road restrictions and closures.

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I'm clean on the bridge issue. They are not projects under my jurisdiction, I have no control over how the jobs are being done,- the County Engineer gets full responsibility for this one. Rest assured if they were my projects the work would be going on 'round the clock 7 days a week to get them done and get critical roads open.

Old Barrington Road was restricted to "local traffic only" because the road can not handle a high traffic volume that it wasn't designed for. This is an old chip and seal road with limited asphalt on it. Originally designed for the wagon trade between Wauconda and Barrington it served until Route 59 was built. So Miller Road built and improved to a much stronger level with traffic control at Route 59 was designated the detour route. Hopefully all will be over shortly.

Meanwhile the school house move is awaiting bridge completion on Kelsey Road also. It has given us time to meet with the mover and begin work on the permits for state highway movement and county permits for its new location. Much work is involved in all this and many needed contacts in State, County and Local Governments. I can't tell you how helpful State Representative **Mark Beaubien**, County Board Member **Steve Mountsier** and Village Presidents **Kevin Richardson** and **Bruce Sauer** have been in this whole process with the many contacts they have and their zeal for helping the project.

As many know we had to charge \$25.00 this year for delivery of a load of mulch. The diesel fuel prices are killing us and I just had no choice. If these costs keep going this way we're going to plant hay. Why you ask? We'll need it for the new horse drawn trucks that we will be ordering.

We are well into the season now with a lot of drainage and asphalt work in progress and starting. Call me with any questions you might have **AND REMEMBER THIS NUMBER-----"138"** that's how many days from the day I'm writing this to the day when our snow season starts. Isn't that great news to think about?

Call me if I can help you, I'm always available. Home is (847)382-1224, my cell is (847)508 -1201, the road district is (847) 381- 7793. My cell is always on, don't be bashful.

Page 5 **BRAIN AEROBICS**

Aerobics keeps your muscles in shape. *Brain Aerobics* keeps your mind in shape.

The next meeting of the program, sponsored by the *Barrington Area Council on Aging*, will be Wednesday, July 19, from 10:30 a.m.-noon. at The Garlands of Barrington.

Brain Aerobics is aimed at all ages, and is designed to increase brain activity through logic exercises, imaginative exercises, opinion exercises, reminiscence and more.

The monthly meetings will include:

- Using the eye to stimulate the mind: Visual puzzles and optical illusions
- Discovering how *you* learn—and your brain's unique strengths.
- Humor as a brain builder.
- Words for the wise: puzzle word games to make you think and laugh.
- Tapping both sides of the brain



The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m.-noon. at The Garlands of Barrington.

For more information or to register, call **BACOA** at (847) 381-5030.

Clerk, ***PRISCILLA H. ROSE***

The April 2006 election brought the implementation of *Early Voting*. New to Illinois, this law allows any registered voter to vote early, beginning approximately 21 dates prior to each election. There are no requirements to vote early— it's available to any registered voter. Cuba Township is pleased to offer early voting to all registered voters of the Township. As the next election is November 7, 2006, early voting will begin at the Township office in mid-October. Details will follow in the Fall 2006 newsletter.

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

Township office in mid-October. Details will follow in the Fall 2006 newsletter.

An exciting way to take part in the election process is to become an election judge. Individuals are always needed to serve on election day in a variety of functions at the polling places. High school students, age 17 and older, are eligible to serve as election judges. Judges are compensated for their time and receive training. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Lake County Clerk Willard Helander's office at (847) 377-2408.

With college students home for the summer, make sure they are registered to vote and complete the *Temporarily Absent Student Program Card*. This program will make sure they receive absentee voting materials at their school address. If the voter is already enrolled in the program, look for the address update card which will be mailed to each student in August.

Voter registration is available at the Township office for all Illinois residents Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3:30pm. Two forms of identification are required, one must be a photo i.d. and one must indicate the individual's current address.