

# Cuba News

WINTER 2007

## Supervisor, *DAVID F. NELSON*

As a new year begins, some reflection on the year past is in order. The conclusion of 2006 brought some sad news to Cuba Township. Former Township trustee, Robert E. Dunk, passed away at his home on December 27, 2006. While all who knew Bob will mourn his passing, a recognition of his full life should be celebrated. Although battling illness in the past year of his life, Bob never lost sight of the importance of his family and country. He was a dear friend to the Township and his presence will be sorely missed.

A very positive note regarding the year past, is the contributions to the Cuba Township food pantry and CUBA CARES fund. While increasing numbers of Township families and individuals find it necessary to seek the assistance of the food pantry and financial assistance from the Cuba Cares fund, I am pleased to report that donations and contributions are at a record high. Our community continues to astound me with their unbridled generosity. Donations of non-perishable food items continue to be made year-round. With the help of Township resident Shirley Shaw, the CUBA CARES fund has been the recipient of many generous financial contributions. The Township is very grateful to all donors! Please see the pink insert inside this newsletter for information on the *Have a Heart Food Drive* benefiting Cuba and Barrington Township's food pantries. The date is Saturday, February 10, 2007.

The Township food pantry is available to any Township resident indicating a need. Distributions are available every 30 days after an intake interview with one of the Township's General Assistance Coordinators, Cheryl Tanaka and Kate Formichella. Financial Assistance is available to any Township resident indicating a need through the *Cuba Cares fund*. Assistance is available to a family or individual only every 12 months and is limited to health and safety situations involving maintenance of self-sufficiency, health concerns and issues relating to employment. An intake interview is also necessary for assistance through the Cuba Cares fund. For more information regarding either of these programs, please contact the Township office at (847) 381-1924. All information is confidential.

Please know that all of the elected officials of Cuba Township are here to serve you, our residents. Your comments questions and concern are always welcome—do not hesitate to contact us!

### CUBA TOWNSHIP REMEMBERS *ROBERT DUNK*

Robert E. Dunk, former Cuba Township Trustee, passed away December 27, 2006. A retired captain in the U.S. Marine Corps and a fighter pilot and squadron leader flying in the South Pacific during World War II, Bob and his wife Ann made their home in Lake Barrington, raising 6 children here.

Bob served as a charter member of the Barrington Rotary club, remaining as an active member for 30 years. His service as Cuba Township trustee spanned the years from 1984 to 2002.

Former Cuba Township trustee, Stevenson Mountsier remembers Bob. "I always enjoyed visiting Bob and his wife Ann. He never wanted to talk about his health issues, but rather talked about what was going on in the world and how proud he was to be an American and how proud he was of his family."

Bob stood out as an exemplary model of a good citizen. He was dedicated to providing service to his community. His commitment to community and family will be missed.



*Robert E. Dunk*  
Cuba Township trustee from  
1984-2002

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

## Assessor, *REBECCA M. TONIGAN*

My staff and I would like to wish you all a safe and happy New Year.

We are approaching a county-wide quadrennial reassessment year. This means that all properties in the Township are due to be revalued. It is difficult to say how the conditions of the current real estate market will affect the re-evaluation. By State law we are required to use the prior three years sales to establish a basis for our sales ratio study. For purposes of this quadrennial reassessment the sales will be from January 2004 through December 31, 2006. We are committed to equity and fairness and as such should the sales show a decrease in values then this decrease will be reflected in the assessments. To the same end should the sales show an increase in a neighborhood then that too will be reflected in the assessments.

I would encourage you all to review your properties on line at [www.co.lake.il.us/maps](http://www.co.lake.il.us/maps) to make sure that we have correct information regarding square footage and amenities. If you see any discrepancies, please contact us at (847) 381-1120 and we will be happy to make an appointment to review those differences.

Also please make sure you have the appropriate exemptions applied to your property. As reviewed in previous newsletters there are a few types of exemptions available.

General Homestead	\$5,000
Senior Homestead	\$3,500
Homestead Improvement	\$25,000 assessed/\$75,000 market
Senior Freeze Income	\$50,000 (tiered benefit for over \$45,000 of income)
Senior Tax Deferral Income	\$50,000
Disabled Veteran's Exemption	\$70,000 assessed

## Cuba Heritage

By Barbara Benson

Thinking about my latest CUBA HERITAGE column, and reflecting that I would Email it as a document to Cuba Township Clerk, Priscilla Rose, I found my topic, from Email, back to the days of stage coach mail and rural post offices.

In 1988, in connection with the opening of the new United States postal facility on Grove Avenue in the Village of Barrington, I had researched and contributed a History of the Post Office in the Barrington Area, to a commemorative book published by the Barrington Rotary Club. Much of the following is drawn from that book to recall the days when mail sent weeks and months ago was eagerly awaited by the pioneers in the scattered settlements of a vast country.

According to local historical resources and U.S. Postal Service Archives, a Post Office named Flint Creek, in McHenry County, was the first to be located in what is now the Barrington area. It was on Section 10 of what was later named Cuba Township, and Vincent H. Freeman was appointed the Postmaster on July 1, 1839. Some context is required about the date and location. Vincent Freeman lived on Section 10 and operated a saw mill on Flint Creek, close to the creek's confluence with the Fox River, probably in partnership with an E.W. Densmore, who owned considerable acreage in Section 10, according to an 1861 Plat map. Furthermore, in November of 1839, Lake County was established out of the eastern part of McHenry County.

John Sears, who lived on Section 15, and succeeded Freeman on September 12, 1840, kept his position for only a few months, because on July 13, 1841, the Postal Service closed the Flint Creek office and transferred it to Lake Zurich, which was on the Waukegan to Dundee stage route. The route followed Cuba Road from the intersection with Ela Road, west to the presently named Buckley and Oak Knoll Roads, then south on Ridge to County Line Road, where it passed into Barrington Township at Sutton Road.

It was probably in early 1836, that the Postal Service began contracting with stage coach operators to carry the mail. This was the time when the territory around Chicago was opening up for settlement, and the stage routes were becoming competitive. Among new mail routes advertised on October 29, 1836, was the following: "From Chicago to George McClure's on Fox River and back. To leave Chicago every Wednesday at 6 a.m. and arrive McClure's Thursday by 6 p.m. Leave McClure's Friday at 6 a.m. and arrive at Chicago Saturday at 6 p.m." From other routes that were advertised at the same time, this was clearly the northwestern route, but McClure's exact location is not known. Of greater interest is the travel time for these routes which were nothing but trails, well worn by the Native Americans and the army, heading for their forts in the northwest.

In 1847, the Flint Creek Post Office was re-established in Lake County, with the new Postmaster Harvey Lambert appointed on October 7, 1847. Earlier, in 1846, the Little Fort Porcupine (Waukegan was then called Little Fort) reported that an Act of Congress had established several mail routes in Lake County, among them "Dundee via Barrington, Lake Zurich, and Gilmer to Libertyville". Since the Village had not then been established, "Barrington" refers to Barrington Center at Route 68 and Sutton Road, where a small settlement was growing, and Squire Alvah Miller maintained a postal stop in his house at that intersection.

The best information about where Harvey Lambert lived, is again from the 1861 Cuba Plat Map, which places a Lambert property on Section 35, and therefore not directly on the Cuba Road stage and mail route. Lambert was succeeded on July 14, 1849 by John J. Bullock. Bullock's house was located on Section 27, in the vicinity of where West Cuba Road joins our present day Northwest



# Have a Heart Food Drive

**6th Annual Food Drive to benefit Barrington and Cuba Township's food pantries**  
**Your donations serve Barrington area residents**

*Saturday, February 10, 2007*

9 am—1 pm

2 drop-off locations for your convenience

**Barrington Countryside Fire Station #1**

440 W. Northwest Highway, Barrington

**Barrington Countryside Fire Station #3**

22N22 Pepper Road, Lake Barrington

Facility tours will be available

## **Suggested donation items**

Canned fruit  
Canned vegetables  
Dried pasta  
Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Laundry detergent  
Toilet paper

Paper towels  
Feminine hygiene products  
Napkins  
Cereal  
Microwave popcorn  
Toiletries  
Canned tuna and chicken

Gift cards—grocery, discount store, and gas cards  
Toothpaste  
Snack foods—crackers, etc.  
Cookies  
Canned prepared meals  
Fruit juice

**Voter registration** is also available at both drop-off locations

To be eligible to register you must:

1. Provide 2 forms of identification with your current address— one must be a photo i.d.
2. Be 18 years of age or older on or by the next election date of April 17, 2007

## Highway Commissioner, *THOMAS W. GOOCH*

Winter is in full swing now. During this past summer I attended a number of seminars on snow and ice control operations including a look at new chemicals and materials. As we already have had for a couple of years, state of the art computer controlled delivery systems I decided to experiment on a limited basis with some new liquids.

During the summer I reached an agreement with Algonquin Township Road District to buy pre-mixed liquids from them in order to avoid the expense of a mixing station until we know if the new "super mix" will work.

The latest theory for a "super mix" is a combination of salt brine, liquid calcium chloride and —believe it or not— beet juice! It may or may not work and if it does it will further reduce our already low salt concentrations. Unfortunately there is no recognized authority or data on the new mix only the opinions of those who are selling the mixing stations—so we'll have to see what the future results show, but we have already used this year over 3,000 gallons of the mix. In the meantime we are continuing to use 100% liquid calcium chloride with a corrosion inhibitor which substantially reduces our salt quantities and is a tried and proven liquid addition to salt.

THINKING OF SPRING, I decided I would like to have every year a Saturday morning meeting, sort of a town hall meeting on roads with any and all of you who would like to join me to discuss that years road maintenance programs, talk about snow removal and how we can be better next year, talk about salt damage and restoration needs, where there are drainage problems, bad culverts and never ending patching needs and hear anything else you would like to tell me! So this year I decided to hold such a meeting on **March 31, 2007 at 8:30 A.M and continuing until 11:00 A.M.** where I'll be available to you individually from about 9:30 onward. **Between 8:30 and 9:30 I thought we could have a joint meeting where we could all discuss issues together.** I'll supply coffee and some food we will meet at the Township Garage. As you know, we provide year round services for Lake Barrington, North Barrington and Tower Lakes and administer their road programs. I will ask some of their elected officials to attend to answer your concerns if any related to a particular village's program. To my way of thinking this will help you be aware of what I'm planning in the upcoming season and help me hear and solve your concerns and problems. If the idea is well received by you and we accomplish as much as I think we can we will make this a yearly event. **SO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

On the School House, we have problems arising in the form of Commonwealth Edison. In order to move the building we have to drop lines along Miller and Kelsey Roads. Edison is estimating the cost at approximately \$30,000.00 to do that. They won't even give me an exact amount unless I pay for it. I am bitterly disappointed in their attitude and behavior. I have tried to make this happen for over a year now and feel like I have reached an impasse. I can not in good conscience use this kind of money, taken from the taxpayer for something like this even though it means preserving a historic structure. My ever helpful friend **Mayor Kevin Richardson** is as always trying to find a solution as am I. At this point it seems like our best chances is appealing to the upper management levels of Commonwealth Edison for a little community involvement from them. If you know of anyone in the upper levels of management there and want to help us please give me a call. **I have a new cell number 847 951 7575 please make a note of it and use if you need to talk on any subject.** I could really use some help on this school house. We are running out of time and simply can't pay this amount to a utility company for this purpose.

Finally check out [www.cubaroads.com](http://www.cubaroads.com). Our Blog was opened and placed there in December and available for your use for feedback and comment. I should have my first posting there for you to read and comment back by the time you read this newsletter. I intend this Blog to be a fun thing for comments from the community on any subject.....

Cuba Township's 6th annual *FALL FESTIVAL* was held on Saturday, October 14, 2006. The pictures below are a small example of the wonderful day enjoyed by all.

*Photographs courtesy of Roy Svacha*

## 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, February 21, 2007**  
**Wednesday, April 18, 2007**  
**9:30 am—11:30 am**  
**Cuba Township office**  
**2800 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.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH HEATING BILLS

#### FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Cuba Township is pleased to administer 2 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 assistance to qualifying families and individuals. If accepted, the funds will be applied directly to the NICOR account. The SHARING program, offered through the Salvation Army, operates in a similar manner to LIHEAP. Each program, however, maintains different qualifying income levels. Please call the Township office at (847) 381-1924 to determine eligibility or to make an appointment to apply.



### BACOA to offer AARP Income Tax Assistance, help with telephone tax refund

The Barrington Area Council on Aging, Inc. (BACOA) is once again offering the AARP Income Tax Assistance Program—and will also help seniors apply for a telephone tax refund.

A trained AARP volunteer will assist seniors with their taxes on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon at the BACOA office at the Prairieview Building at The Garlands of Barrington, 6000 Garlands Lane, Suite 100, Barrington.

Volunteers will also assist seniors—even those who are not filing income tax forms—to apply for the IRS one-time telephone tax refund. The refund is a one-time payment available on 2006 federal income tax returns, designed to refund previously collected long-distance federal excise taxes. It is available to anyone who paid long-distance taxes on landline, cell phone or Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service. The IRS will refund taxes on long-distance service billed for the period after Feb 28, 2003 and before Aug 1, 2006. The refunds will range between \$30 to \$60, based on the number of exemptions claimed on the tax return.

Assistance is by appointment only and will run from February 1 through Thursday, April 13, 2007.

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.

### Cuba Heritage— CONTINUED from page 3

Highway. This was directly on the Watkegan to Dundee stage and mail route.

Even some 60 years ago, recollections, that came more directly from the early pioneers, or their immediate descendants, could be at odds with the records we now have available. Frank Hager was born in 1868 on a Cuba Road farm which had been sold to his family by a Mr. Gothard, who in turn had purchased from L.H. Bute, sometime after the 1861 map was published. The Bute property was directly east of the Bullock property. In the 1940s when Hager was talking with Arnett C. Lines, he recalled that the first post office was on the "Hecock", (Wesley Hickock) property.

None of the plat maps, however, show Wesley Hickock as a landowner in the vicinity of Cuba Road. His name occurs on the 1885 plat map, further north in the township, but an 1888 map does note "Old Log P.O." on what was the Bullock property. It is possible that Wesley Hickock rented for a while from John Bullock before buying his own land.

In the next newsletter: The reminiscences of Frank Hager and others, and the "rest of the story" of Cuba Township's early Post offices.

We're on the web-  
[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*

## Clerk, *PRISCILLA H. ROSE*

The next election is **April 17, 2007**. Local village officials and school board representatives will be on the ballot. Please visit the Lake County Clerk's website to view your specific ballot- [www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl](http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl). From there, click on "What's on my ballot" and follow the prompt.

**VOTER REGISTRATION**- Any Illinois resident who will be 18 years of age on or before April 17, 2007, may register to vote. 2 forms of identification are required, one must have your current address and one must be a photo i.d. Voter registration is available at the Township office during regular working hours, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm. Additionally, the office will be open for voter registration on Saturday, March 17, 2007, 9 am to noon. To be eligible to vote in the April 17, 2007 consolidated election, you must register by March 20, 2007. Grace period registration is available through April 3, 2007 only at the Lake County Clerk's office. If you register to vote during the grace period, you must vote at that time.

**EARLY VOTING**- Beginning March 26, 2007, any Cuba Township registered voter can vote early at the Township office. Early voting hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 am to 3:30 pm and Thursday, 9:00 am to 6 pm. Early voting is also available on Saturdays, March 31st and April 7th, 9 am to noon.

**ABSENTEE VOTING**- Beginning Friday, April 13, 2007., absentee voting is available to those voters who are physically unable to vote on election day or who will be absent from Lake County. Absentee voting is available April 13, 2007, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Saturday, April 14, 2007 9:00 am to noon, and Monday, April 16, 2007, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. You must be a registered voter in Cuba Township to vote absentee at the Township office.

**ELECTION JUDGES**- Individuals are always needed to work at the polls on election day. Student, as well as adults can serve in this capacity. Students must be at least 17 years of age to be considered for entry in to the Student Election Judge Program.

For more information, please contact the Township at (847) 381-1924 or the Lake County Clerk's office at (847) 377-2317 or visit their website at [www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl](http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl).