



# Porter Cove Homeowners Association

P.O. Box 895, Chesterton, IN 46304

www.portercove.com

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April, May and June 2008

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## Spring is Almost Here—Let's All Work to Clean Up our Subdivision!!

It's been a long, hard winter. Spring is just around the corner and we all can look forward to green lawns, flowers, Kids Cove Park, and just being outdoors. We need everyone's help to make our subdivision look BEAUTIFUL after such a tough winter season. When the weather permits, please take the time to rake and bag leaves and twigs on your property. Pick up any fallen tree branches, trim tree limbs that overhang sidewalks, and put everything out at curbside. Then, call the Town of Porter Public Works Dept. at 926-4212 and ask for a pickup. Please, don't put those bags or items into your trash receptacles as Allied Waste may not take them. Also, don't forget to pick up all papers and trash that have blown onto your property. Please help keep your neighborhood clean by picking up any trash in the street near your home.

It's a good idea to take a broom and sweep all the salt off your walkway, driveway and sidewalks. Use a dustpan to collect and put into your trash receptacle.

For homes that border Kids Cove Park and the detention pond, it would be nice if a group of neighbors have the extra time to get together and pick up litter in those areas. The detention pond will be bushhogged this spring and the grass will be mowed on a regular basis during the season.

It will also be time to check your outdoor dusk to dawn lights and put in new bulbs and/or replace the globe if broken. Please recall that in the *Covenants & Restrictions*, homeowners are asked to maintain outdoor dusk to dawn lights. It truly is a safety issue for our kids as well as adults! If your outdoor light doesn't work, please call an electrician and have it repaired.

In 2007, PCHA adopted the Prairie-Duneland Bike/Hike Trail from Pearson Road to Babcock Road. So, if you're out for a walk or hike, please take a trash bag and help pick up any litter. You can dispose of that litter in the receptacles along the trail or in your home trash receptacle.

Working together, we can keep our subdivision clean throughout the season!

**\*\*The Porter Public Works Dept will be picking up curbside this Saturday, April 5th, weather permitting.\*\***



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Your 2008 PCHA Board

President - Nancy Hiatt  
395-1567 president@portercove.com

Vice President - Sharon Jones  
219-973-8742  
vicepresident@portercove.com

Secretary - Madalene Vargas  
921-0057 secretary@portercove.com

Treasurer - William Lopez  
921-0024 treasurer@portercove.com

Director - Jim Wiseman  
929-1488 director@portercove.com

### Kids Cove Park

With the season upon us, kids and adults will start coming out to the park. Please report any vandalism or equipment damage to Sharon at 219-973-8742 or secretary@portercove.com.

### 2008 Assessment Fees

If you have not already paid your Annual Assessment Fees of **\$25** you are in default and a lien may be placed against your home. **Please contact the Treasurer ASAP!**

### Important Numbers

Police Dept 911 or 926-7611  
Fire Dept 911 or 926-1226  
Parks Dept 921-1687  
Allied Waste Services 219-662-8600

### Annual Porter Cove Yard Sale

The annual yard sale will be held in the fall this year. Last year, residents complained that it coincided with too many other yard sales in Porter and Chesterton. More info this summer.

# Welcome New Neighbors To Porter Cove

Two new neighbors have joined our community in this first quarter.

1. 787 Essex Drive was purchased on Dec. 26th, 2007
2. 787 Pearson Rd was purchased on Mar. 13th, 2008

1516 Commodore Lane is currently pending a sale and should close on or before March 31st 2008.

If you are one of the eight homeowners trying to sell your home this spring, remember that buyers are looking to purchase “their home” not yours—so pack up and store as many personal items as possible.

A little warm color paint and new quality hardware goes a long way.

Make your space look as large and welcoming as possible, you may have to put some furniture in storage.



Remove anything that buyers will have to walk around to enter a room.

Clean off counter tops and clear out your garage as much as possible, because kitchen, bath and garage spaces are what sells the homes in our community.

If you do these things, your home should sell fast even in today’s market because of the Porter Cove location. If priced and advertised correctly, Porter Cove homes sell in 90 days on average.

Make sure your advertisement

mentions the proximity to the South Shore line, the community park and the award winning Duneland school system which makes buying a Porter Cove home a great investment.

We welcome all our new neighbors and want to extend our congratulations for selecting a great community!

Please take it upon yourselves to introduce your family and extend your warm wishes to our new neighbors at your earliest convenience.

Gifting a basket of goodies or dropping off a thoughtful card is a good way to say, “We care about our community and those who choose to live here.”

Getting to know your neighbors doesn’t just mean you’re making new friends, but you’re helping to keep our community ***In Demand*** and ***Safe***—two key elements needed to increase property values.

Please join the Porter Cove Welcome Committee. Duties are simple. Call the PCHA Vice President at 219 973-8742



In the near future, will we discontinue this section. Our goal is to have the Porter Cove Network displayed on our website only. If you would like to network with neighbors please go to [www.portercove.com](http://www.portercove.com), click ***Workforce*** in the left column and view phone numbers and discounts.

Advertisement is free to residents of Porter Cove. The following are just a few networking opportunities that you may find online.

- **Lawn Care and odd jobs**  
Alexander Buff—[cdbuff@crow.n.net](mailto:cdbuff@crow.n.net)  
Andrew Scott Menard 395-9873

## Free Porter Cove Classifieds

- **Baby Sitters** (Red Cross Certified)  
Krystena & Jesica 921-0508  
Lea Dujmovich 263-6080,  
Alexander Buff 926-5218
- **Pet Sitters**  
Krystena & Jesica 921-0508  
Alexander Buff 926-5218
- **Computer Troubleshooters**  
IT Specialist- Charles 746-1478
- **Mortgage Loan Financing**  
Suzi Toadvine 916-6752
- **Real Estate Consultants**  
Area Specialist-Sharon 973-8742
- **Financial Consultants** Cindy  
Wyman 405-2405
- **Spa and Salon Services**  
Serenity Salon 219 921-0300
- **Home Cleaning Services** Michelle  
Bryant 241-6935

If you have a business or service that you would like to offer to the community, simply log onto our website, click ***Workforce*** in the left column and register.

Please take note that these listings will be provided for information purposes only and the PCHA Board strongly recommends that you exercise your consumer right to interview and research the backgrounds of those you would like to conduct business

# Current Important Issues for Porter Cove Residents

## Tax Returns for FY 2000-2007

The current Board determined in January of this year that tax returns had never been filed for our Homeowners Association (HOA). Although the IRS and Indiana Department of Revenue (IDR) don't levy taxes on a HOA as small as Porter Cove, they do require that certain forms be filed each year. A local CPA firm was engaged and returns were completed and mailed to both the IRS and IDR on March 7th for tax years 2000 through 2007. No taxes were owed (a HOA is allowed so much in earned interest) but we were recently contacted by the IDR who assessed penalties of \$250 for years 2003, 2004 and 2005 for a total of \$750. We may be penalized for years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2006 as well. We are in a "wait and see"

mode. Meanwhile, the CPA firm has already written a letter of appeal and that will be followed up by our letter of appeal if necessary. Our belief (and hope) is that the IDR will understand the appeal and dismiss the penalties.

All of us on the Board felt that it was important that we inform all Porter Cove Homeowners of this issue. We will keep everyone updated as to the outcome. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about this particular issue, please contact any Board member listed on page 1.

## New Board Members for 2008

As you may recall, there were two open positions on the 2007-2009 Board. At this year's Annual Meeting, Madalene Vargas and Jim Wiseman agreed to the Secretary and Director positions.

They will join Nancy Hiatt (President), Sharon Jones (Vice-President) and William Lopez (Treasurer) for the remainder of 2008. It's nice to have a full Board again!

## Resolving Issues with Neighbors

Board members encourage each homeowner to resolve issues with their neighbors in a considerate and respectful manner. Whether it's a barking dog, inappropriately parked vehicle, uncut lawn, trash, noise, etc., we suggest approaching your neighbor and talking about the problem. If that doesn't work, you may contact any Board member who will act as a mediator especially if the behavior violates *Covenants & Restrictions*.

Please know that certain activities are against Town of Porter ordinances and you can call the Police for more immediate action. We suggest the non-emergency number of 926-7611.

# Proper Disposal of Rx's & Other Household Wastes

## Expired or Unwanted Medication Program

Porter County has a program for County residents to be able to properly dispose of expired or unwanted medications.

You can take your medications in their original container, if possible, to the next household hazardous waste collection. Use a black marker to mark out any personal information on your prescription label.

They should never be thrown in the garbage, as they can be scavenged from trash cans and illegally used or flushed down the drain, which may kill bacteria that breaks down waste in sewage treatment plants and septic systems.

Drugs and expired medications are a safety threat to our children, older adults, as well as animals.

For more information you can contact the Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County at (219) 465-3696. To learn how to dispose of old needles call Porter at (219) 465-4943.

Please refer to the enclosed brochure for more information.

## Disposal of other Household Wastes

Living in Porter Cove entitles residents to receive curbside recycling every other week by Regional Industries (the Town of Porter's waste haulers).

But, residents should know that Porter County has another program for the collection of household hazardous wastes, including tires and old appliances. These hazardous materials should be taken to the various drop off locations throughout the County. It is not recommended that you put these wastes in your home trash receptacles because Regional Industries will not take them.

The first date for dropping off hazardous waste materials is April 12th at the Kouts High School. Collections will go until October 18th with most at the Expo Fair Grounds on Hwy 49.

Please see the inserted 2008 Collection Calendar for dates, times and locations.

For more information on the collection of hazardous wastes, please call (219) 465-3696.

## Recap of 2008 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on Monday, February 4, 2008 at the Hawthorne Park Community Center in Porter. Attendance was low but we were glad to see those brave residents who came out! The Board felt that the bad weather combined with a cold, February weeknight was to blame. If you missed the meeting, please go to [www.portercove.com](http://www.portercove.com) and click on 2008 Annual Meeting in the left column. That will direct you to a page where you can download four separate files all converted to PDF. One is the handout given at the meeting and the other three are financial reports: 1) the 2008 proposed budget; 2) the 2007 Income/Expense Report; and, 3) the 2007 Balance Statement. You will need Adobe Reader to access these documents. If you don't already have that feature on your computer, see the bottom right-hand corner of the page to upload.

It was fortunate that Madalene Vargas and Jim Wiseman attended the meeting and agreed to fill the vacant Secretary and Director positions. They are wonderful additions to the Board and we all look forward to a very productive year!

## [www.portercove.com](http://www.portercove.com)

Our website has been up and running for several years. It started out as [www.portercove.org](http://www.portercove.org) and has morphed into [www.portercove.com](http://www.portercove.com). In January of this year, the Board engaged a computer services company to maintain the website with regular updates and needed improvements. Each month, features are being changed or added. Our goal is to make it extremely user-friendly. Please take a look and let us know what we can do better.

We encourage all homeowners to go to [Speak-out](#) in the left column, click, and post comments in the four available categories. There is a 1-3 day delay for postings. Please be advised that any comments that are obscene in nature will not be posted.

Everything you need to know about Porter Cove is at [www.portercove.com](http://www.portercove.com)! Check it out today!!!

**\*\*JUST IN: Go to our website to learn more about the Verizon DSL Internet Service. If enough homeowners call 395-1074 and leave their name, telephone number or address, Verizon may consider adding this service to our subdivision! No obligation to call. More info on-line.**



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Weekly Basis!!!

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