

PORTER COVE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



HELLO NEIGHBORS!

We, as a board, would like to bring you, our fellow neighbors and Porter Covers, up to speed on what has happened this year in our neighborhood and where we stand financially as a homeowners' association.

We take pride in our little corner of town, and we hope you do too. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please shoot one of us an email and we will help you as best as we can.

EXPENSES

Nearly 27% of our owners have not paid their \$25 annual dues yet this year, which equates to about \$2,000 in uncollected dues. If you have not paid yours yet, please send your payment in as soon as possible to: PCHA, PO Box 895, Chesterton, IN 46304. If you are having difficulty making your annual payment, please contact a board member to make payment arrangements.

In addition to a recurring NIPSCO bill for lighting near our entrance signs, here are a few of the expenses we have recently incurred:

- Liability Insurance, \$1,600
- Accounting fees, \$1,400
- Detention pond clearing, \$2,200

- Entrance sign repair, \$1,400
- Landscaping, \$1,650

One of the reasons some of these expenses are listed here in this newsletter is to make the point that there are real expenses that the association is obligated to pay every year. These dues are **not optional** and are very little in cost compared to every subdivision with a HOA in the area. It is not fair to the other residents who pay their dues on an annual basis for other residents to ignore their obligations. Liens will be filed on all properties not paying their dues, including penalties and back interest.

INSURANCE & TAXES

In light of a lawsuit a few years ago, we have recently changed our Liability Insurance coverage to include \$1 million in liability with a \$1 million umbrella.

Eric, our board President, has been working hard to correct a few problems the previous board left behind. He has gathered all the appropriate records and paperwork to get taxes filed on behalf of our homeowners' association for the past several years. Due to his efforts, the seven missing years have been filed and we have been

NEWSLETTER FALL 2016

YOUR PCHA BOARD

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granted abatement and relieved from penalties. Due to the lack of filing, our Secretary of State Office had deemed us inactive, and Eric has corrected this problem as well. Thank you, Eric!

CRIME WATCH

Back in March, local residents Pam Saf-
fran and Gus and Julie Brown coordinated a crime watch group, and since then, had multiple meetings within our subdivision, with Porter police in attendance. The town has provided signs that read, "This is a Neighborhood Watch Community", which have been placed throughout the neighborhood. Please help us further deter crime in our neighborhood by keeping your lampposts in working order, and keeping your porch and garage lights on from dusk until dawn. If you have issues with the operation of your lamppost, please contact a board member listed above.

PORTER COVE PARK

Earlier this year, the majority of the playground equipment was removed due to safety concerns. Rebuilding Together Duneland chose our park as a worksite for their annual workday in April and assisted with removal. Gus

To keep up to date on the subdivision's news,
join Porter Cove Homeowners Association on Facebook or visit www.portercove.com.

FUTURE EAGLE SCOUT

After witnessing years of vandalism and neglect at our subdivision's park, a fellow Porter Cover decided to take action. Josh Guzek, a resident of our neighborhood for his entire 17 years of life, has been a Boy Scout since he was about 7 years old. He is currently a member of Troop 929 and is working toward his Eagle Rank, which is quite an accomplishment! Just to put this great achievement into perspective, only 2.01 percent of eligible Scouts have earned this honor since the inception of the award in 1912.

Josh chose to do work at Porter Cove Park as part of his Eagle Scout Project and his original plan included painting the sign and shelter, sealing the shelter posts, building an enclosure and planting arborvitae around the portable bathroom, and building two picnic tables. With successful fundraising and business and family donations and discounts, he was able to add to the plan to include landscaping around the park sign and packing a gravel pad in front of the portable bathroom (to be completed this fall).

Planning and implementing this project required 300+ hours and the cost, including materials and labor, was approximately \$2,000.

Josh would like to remind you to shop these local businesses, as his project would not have been possible without them: Vega Landscaping, Trillium Woods Nursery, Hopkins' Ace Hardware, Von Tobel Lumber and Four Seasons Landscaping. Vega Landscaping and Trillium Woods are both owned by fellow Porter Covers.

"I would like to thank all of those who helped me complete my project. These people include donors and people who offered to donate, owners of businesses that donated materials, and every resident in Porter Cove for inspiring me to work hard and make our park look nicer for everyone. I could not have done anything without you all," said Josh.

44 households in Porter Cove donated a total of \$1,081.

He still has a few merit badges to complete before he is awarded as an Eagle Scout, but with his positive attitude and dedication, he will be done before we know it!

Brown has been leading the efforts by giving updates on Facebook. Fliers were also delivered to homes back in March. Davis and Sons excavating has also donated top soil to improve drainage and our HOA has donated \$503.76 for drainage tile. Josh Guzek, a neighborhood Boy Scout, has chosen our park to be part of his Eagle Scout Project and has recently done some fantastic improvements. Please read more about Josh and his project in the sidebar to the left.

POND/SIGN MAINTENANCE

The detention pond was recently mowed, cleared and cleaned up, which hasn't been done in a couple years. Cracks in the entrance signs were recently discovered and have since been repaired. A 10-year protective sealant has also been applied. Starting next year, a contractor will be hired to maintain the signs and pond.

REMINDERS

In the best interest of our community and to maintain and possibly increase property values, we ask all of our neighbors to keep up with the outer appearance of their home. If you need assistance in finding help to do so, please contact a board member and we will do our best to point you in the



Pictured above is Josh Guzek standing near the entrance sign to Porter Cove Park. He recently completed work at the park as part of his Eagle Scout project.

right direction. If you would like to be listed on our Facebook page to provide a service such as raking, mowing, landscaping, gutter cleaning, snow removal, etc., please send an email to corinnem181@aol.com.

Fall has arrived, and winter will be here before we know it. On that note, please remember that per Town of Porter Ordinance 2015-10, on-street parking is not allowed when we have 3 inches or more of snow. If your vehicle is left in the roadway, you will be subject to fines and fees associated with removal of the vehicle.

Also, this ordinance states that property owners must, within 24 hours after any snowfall or formation of ice, remove such snow or ice from the sidewalks and keep them cleared. It is also unlawful for snow, slush or ice to be deposited onto any public street, alley or sidewalk.

Throughout the rest of the year, we ask that you park your vehicles in your driveways and do your best to keep the sidewalks open. We understand driveways in our neighborhood aren't long enough to fit every vehicle at all times, so if you must park in the street, please park near the curb, and away from mailboxes and curves in the roadway.

Please drive safely and slowly down our streets, and obey traffic laws. Earlier this year, a couple "Children at Play" signs were added to our neighborhood street signs.



THANK YOU

To those of you who have donated your time, resources and efforts to our neighborhood, we send you a HUGE thank you!