

# Porter Township Newsletter

Cass County, Michigan — August, 2009

Check out our new Website — <http://www.portertownship.org>

## Porter, Newberg and SEPSA

Your township board has been making plans to make a number of much needed road repairs. The board has been talking with the county road commission to get the best price for black top and other road repair supplies, but a financial problem has arisen that may put part or all of the road repair work on hold.

As you know, Porter Township is unique in that the residents receive fire and ambulance service from two departments. The Southeast Public Safety Authority (SEPSA) provides service to

Mason Township and the south half of Porter Township. The Newberg Township Fire and Ambulance Service provides service in Porter Township from the north Porter line south to an east-west line about ½ mile south of Shavehead Lake Road. Specifically, Newberg serves all residents in sections 1-18 and 20-24.

Porter Township has a contract with Newberg Township to provide fire and ambulance services for the north half of Porter Township. To compensate Newberg for their emergency services

Porter Township has paid Newberg with funds received from SEPSA that SEPSA received from the tax payers in the Newberg coverage area.

Thus far this year, SEPSA has not been willing to provide Porter Township with the tax money received from the tax payers in the Newberg coverage area. As a result, Porter Township will have to use funds allocated for other projects, most notably road repair, to meet its obligation with Newberg Township.

### *Porter Township news roundup*

#### Scholarship Awarded

The Scholarship Committee, after reviewing several applications, recommended, to the Township board, that Michelle Krauter receive the \$500 scholarship to attend Southwestern Michigan College. Michelle plans to attend SMC this fall.

#### New Zoning Enforcement Officer

Gregory Price, of Union, was appointed by the township board as the new Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO), at a special meeting on July 20.

Greg has lived in the area for 27 years. In addition to his responsibilities as ZEO, Greg will continue to serve on the Domestic & Sexual Assault Task Force. He will continue to participate in Genesis a nonprofit organization to help the homeless and people with addictions, in addition to being involved in bail bonding and fugitive recovery.

Greg will be in the township office Mondays and Thursdays from 10 am to 4 pm and you may call him at 269-641-2375.

#### Reminder

Your Homestead Exemption automatically drops off your property when any legal change is made to the property. Examples of changes that would cause the Homestead Exemption to be dropped would include a change in ownership, adding or removing a name on the property, a change in the description, refinancing, placing the property in a trust, or adding a life estate.

In order to get the Homestead Exemption

reinstated, you must complete an application and submit it to the Township office. Only fulltime residents are eligible for homestead exemptions.

The Homestead Exemption only affects the school tax on the winter tax bill, but that affect is significant.

#### Thanks to volunteers

The Porter Township board would like to thank the following resident-volunteers for their service on the following boards and committees. **Sewer Board:** Carl Klappauf - Chair; Dave Nagy, Denise Lamphier, John Penkala, Gert Temple, Leard Wylie

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** Hank Yeoman, Chair, Bob Temple, John Vandermaas, Phil Yoder, Steve Northrup, DeDe Fisher, alternate

**Wetlands Protection Advisory Committee:** Gert Temple - Chair, Nevin Meyers, Bob Collins, Pat Williams, Jeff Kline, Mary Dawson, Leard Wylie

**Planning Committee:** Keith Kankel, Chair, Thomas Robbins, Phil Yoder, Dave Nagy, Laura Shaffer, Rick Russwurm, Leard Wylie

**Board of Review:** Bill Eustice, John Penkala, Max Brown

**SEPSA Board:** Tom Harman, Phil Mumaw, Pete Fournier

#### From the Building Department

The building department would like to address a few recurring issues and problems. The job of the inspectors is to protect the public provide maximum safety to individuals by making sure work is done properly.

**ALL** building requires zoning compliance,

including sheds and decks.

Permits are required for construction of all buildings, except full time farm facilities of 40 acres or more, such as hog barns. Please call and ask before construction begins.

Michigan law requires persons who contract for hire in the construction, plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling businesses be licensed.

Many issues have recently arisen because unlicensed individuals performed work that proves to be improper and substandard. If a problem arises, the inspector and the township will not be able to help. Working in Michigan without a license can result in a minimum fine of \$5,000 and a maximum fine of \$25,000. Please ask for proper credentials and make sure proper permits are pulled. This process is here to protect you!

Make sure your contractor is insured.

Recently a number of difficulties have been encountered during the final inspections, which have delayed the issuance of a certificate of occupancy. Prior to receiving a final building inspection your contractor must have requested and there must have been a final inspection of the electrical, plumbing, and mechanical work, where applicable. Without a certificate of occupancy your insurance may not pay for a loss, and you will not receive your homestead exemption. Please make sure you or your contractor calls for the final inspections and that you receive the certificate of occupancy. It is illegal, in the state of Michigan, to move into a home without a certificate of occupancy.

## Commodities Distribution Dates

### 2009 Schedule of Dates:

CSFP	TEFAB
08-19-09	08-19-09
09-16-09	
10-14-09	
11-18-09 (tentative)	
10-16-09 (tentative)	

The hours for distribution will be 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Mason Township Hall. If you qualify to receive commodities you will receive a box containing items such as cereal, pasta, dried beans, peanut butter, and canned milk, vegetables, and meat.

To qualify to receive commodities, there must be children under the age of 6 and/or seniors over the age of 60 in the home.

In addition there are limits on the maximum house hold income.

In order to receive commodities you must register with Donna Kruse at 269-641-7425 prior to the CSFP pick up date or at the time of pick up. When registering, you will need to have the Social Security cards from everyone living in the home, proof of your income, and a picture ID.

## General Information

### Township Board.....

Supervisor.....Dan Harvey  
Clerk.....Marty Russell  
Treasurer.....Helen Croninger  
Trustee.....Leard Wylie  
Trustee.....Steve Northrup

### Building Inspectors

Building, Rich Drews  
Electrical, Jack Hughes  
Mechanical & Plumbing, Ed Wainwright

### Zoning Enforcement Officer

Gregory Price.....641-2375 M, Th, 10 am-4 pm

### Contact Information

Township Office.....269-641-2375  
Hours.....10 am-Noon and 1-4 pm  
Fax.....269-641-2571  
Fire Department.....269-641-7100  
Emergency.....911

E mail.....porter@portertownship.org

### Office Hours

Township Offices are open 10 am to Noon and 1-4 pm Monday through Friday

**Dan Harvey, Supervisor**, will be in the office Mondays and at other times by appointment.

**Marty Russell, Clerk**, will be in the office Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

**Vickie Hall, Deputy Clerk**, will be in the office during office hours Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

**Helen Croninger, Treasurer**, will be in the office on Wednesdays. During tax collection time she will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Nancy DuFour, Deputy Treasurer**, will be in the office on Wednesday.

**Connie Dalrymple Zoning Administrator** will be

here building nights or can be reached at her office in Union at 641-7182

**Pat Keirn or Connie Bickel, Sewer Department**, will be in M-F during regular hours. Sewer bills may be paid in person or by mail.

### Meetings

**Township Board Agenda meetings** are held the first Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm, unless otherwise posted.

**Township Board meetings** are the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm, unless otherwise posted.

**Building Night** meets weekly from 5 - 7 pm to let you apply for building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical permits. All of the permit applications are available on line so you need not come to building night for electrical, mechanical or plumbing permits.

Porter Township  
69373 Baldwin Prairie Rd.  
PO Box 517  
Union, MI 49130

PRSRT STD  
AUTO  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CASSOPOLIS, MI  
Permit No. 3