



## LAKEPOINTE GARDENS COMMUNITY NEWS

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### INSECT PREDATORS:

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources held an open meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Porter County Library, to discuss their efforts to slow the spread of the gypsy moth. First detected in Lake County in 1973, the gypsy moth has now spread to seven (7) other NW Indiana counties, including Porter County. Oak leaves are their preferred food and with repeated defoliation they may kill even formerly healthy trees in two to four years.

Local sites of significant infestation are “Portage,” “Tanglewood Estates”, and “Valpo North 17” which Lakepointe Gardens is in the center of. The Forestry Department has slated “Valpo North 17” for spraying this year, but all depends on funds being allocated from the state.

By signing my attendance at the meeting, I, along with local media will be notified when and if spraying will take place. Ideal conditions would be early morning on a calm day. The spray is considered to be not harmful to humans, but could cause some throat irritation if inhaled an extensive time. Remember this is an effort to slow down growth. Eradication would be impossible.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the gypsy moth and its effect on our environment feel free to contact me and I will be happy to share the brochures I brought back from the meeting.

The twitter site for the project is [gypsymothin.gov](http://gypsymothin.gov)

### SPRING ACTIVITY:

With spring approaching a flurry of activities will begin with spring clean-up followed by weeding, mulching and pruning.

Most of you are familiar with the “Opt-Out” list. For those that aren’t, it’s a list of names and addresses of those that would prefer our landscaper not prune their bushes or weed their house trim. Keep in mind if you Opt- Out of pruning or weeding, you must do it yourself or pay someone else to do it and the weeding must be completed before the mulching.

If you choose to Opt-Out of either or both of these services, you must contact me to get

on the list. In regards to mulching, all homes will be mulched front and side yards only, unless you have stone landscaping. Chocolate brown is the only color of mulch permitted.

**PROJECTS FOR 2017:**

Projects for this year will include weather sealing the new fence on Vale Park Road, Wildflower Lake sign refurbishing and relocating, solving the drainage issue behind our five unit townhome, masonry repairs to the east entrance wall, and opening the drainage channel at the north end of Lakepointe Drive.

**WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS:**

Since our last newsletter in November of 2016, we have several new residents to be introduced; Sherry Boisvert has moved into her townhome at 2912 Columbine Circle. Frank and Carol Fredrick are at 1614 Geranium Circle and Jamie and Sandra Lang are at 2710 Lakepointe Drive. I'm sure you will all join me in welcoming our new residents to Lakepointe Gardens.

**SNOW REMOVAL BUDGET 2016:**

Jack Frost was kind to us in 2016 as we finished the year at \$4170.00, under budget for snow removal, driveway clean-ups, and salting. Putting this in perspective that amounts to 3 small snow removals of 2" - 4" at \$1,300.00 each.

**PASSING THOUGHTS AND REMINDERS:**

We are a "Neighborhood Watch" community; please report any strange and unusual Activity to the police department at (219) 462-0717 (non-emergency).

Remember to change those smoke alarm batteries annually. Once they start failing, it's too late, especially if you're not capable of climbing stepladders. The beeping can be very disturbing when you are trying to sleep. Change them all at the same time every year.

It's very difficult to find anything positive about the masses of geese that have been roaming the community, however, they do slow down the traffic on Lakepointe Drive, and if you haven't noticed, blowing the horn doesn't make them move any faster.

I wish I had the answer to getting rid of them, but so do thousands of other communities. Nothing we've tried, to-date has slowed them down, but I do know the most senseless thing you can do is to feed them. People that feed them should take them in as house pets and get them off our streets, sidewalks, and lawns. **DO NOT FEED THE GEESE.**

Easter is less than two (2) months away, and we are wishing everyone a wonderful holiday. If you have any questions or comments regarding this newsletter do not hesitate to call me.



Bob Wirtz,  
Operations Manager LPG-POA