



## **BOROUGH OF DOYLESTOWN** **BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

### Gypsy Moth Information

The gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, a native of Europe and Asia, was accidentally released near Boston in the late 1860's. Since then it has spread throughout many areas of the North East United States despite continuing efforts to eradicate it. The moth lays eggs in the summer which over winter and hatch in May. The caterpillars hatch and then voraciously consume tree leaves, to the point of weakening or even killing the tree.

Over the past few years the Borough has been working to control infestations of gypsy moths and it appears that for the most part the program has been successful. Our arborist has examined many trees over the winter and we are hoping that the lack of viable eggs that we are seeing is evidence of our success in the fight against the gypsy moth.

Borough residents can help protect Borough trees by taking the following steps.

Watch your trees for signs of infestation and contact us if you find evidence of any of the following:

- Before May - Look for egg masses on tree trunks, branches, firewood, or in a sheltered spot, even on lawn furniture. They look like tan fuzzy patches about two inches long.
- After May - Look for the caterpillars, they get to be about two inches long and they have five pairs of raised blue spots followed by six pairs of raised red spots along back.
- In July and August: Check for the moths. Females do not fly and they are white with brown markings. Males are brown.

Additional actions you can take:

Once an egg mass is confirmed as gypsy moth eggs, destroy egg masses before May. Purchase commercial traps or contact us to learn how to make traps to catch the caterpillars. Pesticides may harm beneficial insects, children and pets, so use only after consulting a professional.

Don't confuse the native tent caterpillars and web worms with gypsy moths. Gypsy moths do not make tents in trees. You may see Borough staff or arborists out checking the trees in your area as we monitor for areas where there are gypsy moths in evidence. We will be taking actions to control them as they are found but your help is essential to our staying ahead of these infestations and protecting our trees.