



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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***Media Relations Information for 10/11/2016***

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## **LPPD wraps up one man's series of Wednesday crimes by late afternoon**



Steve Szabo

07/10/1996

During the afternoon of October 5<sup>th</sup>, 20 year old La Porte resident Steve Szabo elected to commit a series of crimes which were unraveled by La Porte Officers in a matter of hours, in large part a result of alert La Porte residents who were ready and willing to help out.

The agency was initially alerted of a stolen pickup truck around 7:30 a.m., near the 9600 block of Montgomery Lane. Although leads were few to none, later that afternoon another uninvolved resident in the same area reported Szabo for trespassing on his property in the 9500 block of Belfast Road. As officers conducted an interview with the trespasser, they discovered Szabo was not only a wanted felon in possession of a firearm, but was also responsible for stealing the pickup truck from Montgomery earlier that morning.

With Szabo arrested, the event appeared to be wrapped up. That is, until a resident in the 10900 block of Spruce North Drive returned home from work and reported that their home had been burglarized. Among the items stolen were several weapons, including the handgun found on Szabo earlier that afternoon. Follow up interviews with other residents then revealed Szabo was in the same stolen pickup on Spruce North earlier that day, posing as a lawn service professional.

Szabo was ultimately arrested and charged for his crime spree, involving the burglary of a residence, a stolen vehicle, and illegal possession of weapon, with additional narcotics charges resulting from follow-up work by LPPD detectives.