



G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

"Community with Police...Caring & Sharing Together"

JANUARY 2020

May the New Year bring to you warmth of love and a light to
guide your path towards a positive destination...



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS,
BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR YOUR
SUPPORT THIS PAST YEAR SO THAT WE COULD
MAKE ALL OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS A
GREAT SUCCESS!!**

**ALSO A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER
ACT NOW MEMBERS AND CERT TEAM!
WITHOUT THESE TWO VALUABLE COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATIONS WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO
GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY AS WE DO.**

One of our most successful community programs is the Shop-With-A-Cop Program that occurs every December. This past December marked our "18th" annual event and we served 8 local families that included 23 children and 14 adults. Since we began this project we have given back to our community \$68,395.00 with this project alone and have helped out a total 140 families, 502 children and 234 adults at Christmas time.

Our Trunk or Treat annual event occurs on Halloween every year and even though this last year's event felt more like Christmas with the snowy weather, it is always a department and community favorite! We have held this event for 11 years now and have spent over \$17,000 since 2008 to make this a free and safe experience for our community.

We have also provided Home Energy Assistance for heating during the cold winter months and have provided \$12,000 to local families in need.

Our Scholarship Program has been around since 2008 and we have provided Roscommon High School seniors with \$15,000 worth of college scholarships to date.

We are committed to continue providing these great community programs again in 2020 and hope we can count on our community for continued support!!

Winter Walking Tips

Falls account for more than one million injuries in the U.S. annually.

Here are some tips for safe winter walking:

TIP #1: Wear proper footwear. Proper footwear should place the entire foot on the surface of the ground and have visible treads.

TIP #2: Accessorize to see and be seen. Wear sunglasses so that you can see in the reflective light of the snow, wear a bright coat or scarf so that drivers can easily see you.

TIP #3: Plan ahead. While walking on snow or ice on sidewalks or in parking lots, walk consciously. Instead of looking down, look up and see where your feet will move next to anticipate ice or an uneven surface. Occasionally scan from left to right to ensure you are not in the way of vehicles or other hazards.

TIP #4: Make sure you can hear. While seeing the environment is important, you also want to be sure you can hear approaching traffic and other noises.

TIP #5: Anticipate ice. Be weary of thin sheets of ice that may appear as wet pavement (black ice).

TIP #6: Walk steps slowly. Be sure to grip handrails firmly and plant your feet securely on each step.

TIP #7: Enter a building carefully. Look at the floor as you enter the building it may be wet with melted snow and ice.

TIP #8: Be careful when you shift your weight. When stepping off a curb or getting into a car, be careful since shifting your weight may cause an imbalance and result in a fall.

TIP #9: Avoid taking shortcuts. A shortcut path may be treacherous because it is likely to be located where snow and ice removal is not possible.

TIP #10: Look up. Be careful about what you walk under. Injuries also can result from falling snow/ice as it blows, melts, or breaks away from awnings, buildings, etc.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

JANUARY 3rd

10:00 a.m. ACT NOW Executive Board Meeting
@ Gerrish Police Dept.

JANUARY 15th

6:00 p.m. **CERT CLASS** @ Gerrish P.D.

JANUARY 22nd

6:00 p.m. **CERT CLASS** @ Gerrish P.D.

JANUARY 29th

6:00 p.m. **CERT CLASS** @ Gerrish P.D.

JANUARY 31st

10:00 a.m. ACT NOW Executive Board Meeting
2020 Planning Meeting @ Gerrish Police Dept.

CERT Training for 2020

Chief Hill along with CERT Coordinator Bob Barber have scheduled the four Team Trainings for Gerrish CERT volunteers for 2020. These trainings are very useful and everyone is encouraged to attend as many of them as possible. Volunteers need to attend at least two a year to keep up their member status with the Gerrish CERT team.

- **March 11, 2020** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
FLOOD RESPONSE & GEAR/BAG CHECK
@ Gerrish Twp. Hall
- **April 15, 2020** 10:00 a.m. - ???
EOC (Emergency Operations Center)
EXERCISE including SEARCH & RESCUE AND
CERT TRAILER DEPLOYMENT
(This will be a call-out activation, follow
instructions for meeting location)
- **August 22, 2020** 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
CERT SKILLS & POKER RUN
Will meet at Gerrish Twp. Hall to Start
- **November 18, 2020** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
CERT COMMUNICATIONS
@ Gerrish Twp. Hall

There are several other outside trainings, call-outs and detail events pre-scheduled and if you are on the CERT team you should have received a 2020 schedule with these events all listed by month.

A Basic CERT class will run from January 15, 2020 to February 19, 2020. If you are interested in joining the Gerrish CERT team you will need to attend this class. Please contact Chief Brian Hill for information at (989) 821-5207 Ext. 287.

WELCOME OFFICER NATHAN SOCIA



As many of you are aware, we lost two Officers at the end of last year, Officer James Scroggin who accepted a job with the Crawford County Sheriff Department and Officer Shannon Fick who left to peruse her career with the U.S. Border Patrol. At the end of December, Officer Nathan Socia began his FTO training program and is currently going through this 14 week program with Sgt. LaBonte.

Nathan grew up in Mio, Michigan where he attended Mio AuSable High School. He played both varsity football and baseball and participated in Knowledge Bowl and Student Senate for two years. He graduated in 2018 with certificates in both Welding Technology and Automotive Technology from Kirtland Community College's high school program.

Nathan joined the Luzerne Fire Department where he attended the Fire Academy and is a State Certified Fire Fighter I & II.

He earned his Associates Degree in Technology Management from Kirtland Community College and completed the Kirtland Regional Police Academy on December 6, 2019.

Nathan was officially hired and sworn in as a Road Patrol Officer for the Gerrish Twp. Police Department on December 17, 2019 and we welcome his youthful energy to our team!

Nathan is very eager to learn and looks forward to developing his law enforcement career here at our department.

If you have the opportunity to meet Officer Socia, please welcome him to our community. He is looking forward to serving our local residents, business owners and organizations and is enthusiastic about participating in all of our community events!

