



G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

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

JANUARY 2021



A SEASON OF GIVING...

In addition to the Shop-With-A-Cop festivities in December, the Gerrish Twp. Police Department team participated in several other charitable events including working with the Department of Health & Human Services to provide gifts and food/gift cards to Roscommon County foster children and their foster families.

They also participated in the "NO SHAVE" campaign hosted by the Roscommon County Sheriff Department in which money is raised for a different charity each year. The Gerrish Twp. Police Officers Association donated \$300 towards the event which supported the Kids Helping Kids Foster Christmas Program this year.

The GTPOA also decorated a tree for the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center Festival of Trees fundraiser. This was a Virtual event this year but was still very successful in raising over \$5,400 for the center. Our "Hot Cocoa" themed Christmas tree was won by Janae Ostling! ☺☺☺



SHOP-WITH-A-COP

Our 2020 SWAC Program was a great success in spite of the changes that had to be made due to COVID-19 rules and guidelines.

One officer took a child from each family and did one-on-one shopping with them wearing masks and scheduled on different dates for each family.

The gifts were wrapped by the Gerrish Police Officers and a very small group of 8 citizen volunteers following all guidelines for small indoor gatherings with proper social distancing, screening, sanitizing and wearing of face masks.

After making phone contact with each family the gifts were delivered and dropped off outside the homes on December 22nd.

This year marked the "19th" Annual SWAC Program and we adopted 8 families which included 28 children and 15 adults.

This program would not have been possible without all of the generous donations from our local businesses, organizations and individuals.

Since the Gerrish Twp. Police Department started the Shop-With-A-Cop Program, we have provided gifts and assistance for 148 local families, 530 children and 249 adults. This project was funded by over \$72,607.00 spent out since 2002.

Thank you to all of the Gerrish Officers for their dedication to this program and to the ACT NOW Executive Board for their support and commitment to the program and our community through their benevolent actions!!

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

JANUARY 8th

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

JANUARY 23rd

Food Truck Distribution @ Roscommon Area Schools
Bus Garage (10:00 a.m. until food is gone)



Roscommon Food Truck Distributions

The Gerrish Township Police Department has assisted the Roscommon Area Christian Ministries Team and their partners with monthly Food Truck Distributions in 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for this service was intensified as reflected in the 2020 statistics. In 2020, there were 2,738 families served and 6,499 individuals served. Roscommon County Transit Authority made 258 deliveries to homes that had no means of transportation. 294 pallets of food were distributed totaling 204,797 pounds of food. 505 volunteers from the community assisted including students from the schools. Gerrish Township CERT members assisted with traffic and safety along with the Gerrish Twp. Police Department and the Roscommon County Sheriff Department.

These food distributions occur once a month at the Roscommon Area Public Schools Bus Garage and the need for the distributions will remain through 2021. The process requires more volunteers than usual as COVID-19 restrictions do not allow people to get out of their vehicles and select their own food. The food is sorted, boxed and placed in the vehicles by the volunteers who all wear masks.

The total cost of food in 2021 will be at least \$14,400 for the trucks provided by the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

If you would like to make a donation, those may be sent to the Good Shepherd UMC of the North, 149 W. Robinson Lake Road, Roscommon, MI 48653. Please note "Food Truck" on the memo line of the check. If you are interested in volunteering please call (989) 275-5577 Monday - Thursday between 8am - 4pm.



Don't blame the weather...take charge of your own safety with these winter driving tips:

- It takes up to ten times longer to stop so slow down and allow more room between vehicles
- Put your turn signal on sooner so cars behind you have more time to react and stop if needed
- Avoid distractions, taking your eyes off the road for even a few seconds can rob you of precious reaction time
- Put your phone away and don't multitask (eat, drink, put on makeup, etc.)
- Watch for black ice that makes the road look wet especially on bridges, ramps and overpasses after sudden drops in temperature
- Avoid a ticket...Michigan law requires drivers to move at a speed that is "reasonable and proper" for the road conditions
- Don't make sudden moves and accelerate and brake smoothly and gradually
- If you start to skid take your foot off the accelerator and steer in the same direction the rear of your vehicle is sliding
- Avoid using cruise control on ice and snow
- Keep your headlights on low if driving in snow, fog or rain to reduce reflective glare
- Four-wheel drive, all-wheel drive and front-wheel drive vehicles are just as difficult to stop and turn on wintery roads as rear-wheel drive vehicles
- Slow down and allow at least 6-10 car lengths between your vehicle and a snowplow
- If you can't see the snowplow's mirrors the driver of the plow cannot see you
- DO NOT PASS A SNOWPLOW on the right as this is illegal in Michigan.
- When passing a snowplow on the left you should use extreme caution as they are heavy, unpredictable, blades may be hidden and are very sharp and visibility due to the "snow cloud" is very low
- Move over for stopped snowplows by slowing down and moving to an open lane if possible
- If you meet a snowplow coming in the opposite direction (such as on a two-lane road) slow down and turn on your windshield wipers and increase your distance from the centerline if you can do so safely

Watch for more Winter Driving Safety Tips in the February issue of the GAPS Newsletter. For more information including trash statistics and resources visit the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning at www.michigan.gov/WinterDriving.