



G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

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

MARCH 2021



Although it is not an official holiday in America, more than 57% of Americans celebrate March 17th. St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in the U.S. for 284 years. 79% of Americans don green attire for the day and 30% of those who celebrate will cook a traditional Irish meal.

In 1631, the Catholic Church first recognized March 17th as a feast day commemorating Ireland's best known and most beloved patron saint, Saint Patrick. Over one million Irish men, women and children immigrated through Ellis Island in the 1800's bringing St. Patrick's Day traditions with them. They faced oppressive discrimination and were mostly unemployed and lived in severe poverty in New York City tenements. As their numbers grew they discovered strength in unity and rallied together to celebrate their beloved patron saint with a parade every March 17th. The practice of St. Patrick's Day parades and festivals followed the Irish immigrants as they made their way across America's heartland and into the deep south seeking cheap farmland and job opportunities. When the Irish first came to America they were rejected and despised, now everyone wants to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day! The first parade was held in 1601 in St. Augustine, Florida and Harry S. Truman was the first US President to attend NYC's St. Patrick's Day parade to help fight racial prejudice against Irish immigrants. Chicago first used 60 pounds of green dye in its river in 1962 and in 2020 St. Patrick's Day went dark when the NYC parade was cancelled for the first time in its 259-year history due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

May the luck of the Irish be with you on St. Patrick's Day and please be safe as you celebrate all the great Irish traditions.

ERIN GO BRAGH !!

(Meaning ~ Ireland Forever)



Spartan Nash Direct Your Dollars Program

For several years, ACT NOW and the Gerrish Twp. Police Department have been collecting receipts from Family Fare (formerly Glens Markets) to reach the goal of 150,000 points. Once we receive this total, we will submit all the receipts and will be awarded \$1,000.00 through this community giving program.

ACT NOW is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and meets all the requirements for this program.

If you have been saving your receipts and turning them in to us we really appreciate it. Please keep saving those receipts and if you do not save your receipts, please do so as we are about 27,000 points away from reaching the goal. Receipts from any Spartan Nash store or gas station that show the "Direct Your Dollars" value at the bottom of the receipt is eligible. Receipts can be turned into the Gerrish Township Police Department or given to any ACT NOW board member.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS EASY FUNDRAISING EFFORT!!



Gerrish P.D. 2020 Annual Report

The 2020 Gerrish Township Police Department Annual Report is now available and can be found on our website www.gerrishpolice.org under the 2020 ANNUAL REPORT tab.

2020 was a bit different in regards to COVID-19, however the police department continues to operate and measure progress and success each year based on the department's organizational and operational goals. These goals are included in the 2020 Annual Report along with information regarding department staffing, vehicles, equipment, technology, training, collaboration and statistics.

This report is also available at the Gerrish Township Police Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

MARCH 2nd & 3rd

CERT Team Training - CPR/AED Renewal
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Each Day (2 hour classes)
@Gerrish Twp. Police Dept.

MARCH 5th

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

MARCH 16th

CERT - Annual Pipeline Training (VIRTUAL)
2 Sessions at 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.



MARCH 27th

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

COVID CORNER

COVID-19 vaccines continue to be administered throughout our state. As of 02/23/2021, 1,994,310 doses have been administered in the State of Michigan. Only 5,299 of those have been given in Region 7 (Roscommon County).

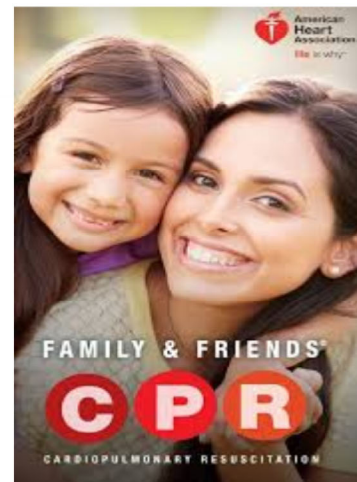
As this vaccination process continues, even if you have received the vaccine, you will still need to correctly wear masks, continue to social distance and practice good hand washing hygiene until all groups indicated on the Preliminary Timeline have been vaccinated. Currently this timeline goes through September as the production and distribution of the vaccines continue.

Before we can get back to the "normal" and lose those masks, we have to develop herd immunity as a state and nation. Herd immunity is when a large part of the population is immune to a specific disease. If enough people become resistant to the cause of a disease, such as the COVID-19 virus, it has nowhere to go causing the infection rates to drop and the disease to peter out. According to the Center for Infectious Disease, around 70% of our population would need to be immune to achieve herd immunity to the Coronavirus. For more information or to sign up for the vaccine go to the health department website at www.CMDHD.org.

**ARE YOU PREPARED
TO SAVE A LIFE?**



LEARN CPR TODAY



Did you know that 70% of cardiac arrests happen at home and only 45% of these victims receive CPR from bystanders? The American Heart Association offers a variety of programs that Instructors can offer their communities to teach them about the importance of learning CPR and acting quickly in an emergency. The Gerrish Township Police Department wants to assist community members in learning the valuable life-saving CPR technique. It is not difficult to learn and anyone can do it. Julie Hill is part of our staff and is a certified CPR/AED and First Aid Instructor through the American Heart Association. Gerrish Police Department will provide free classes for any of the AHA Community Programs and Courses. These are perfect for anyone who wants to learn CPR and prefers to learn in an Instructor-led facilitated environment.

This course is for people who do not need a course completion card for a job or other requirements. **Family & Friends CPR** is ideal for community groups, parents, grandparents, caregivers, baby-sitters, schools and students and others interested in learning how to save a life.

This course covers:

Adult Hands-Only CPR and AED and Options such as:
Adult CPR with Breaths
Child CPR and AED
Infant CPR

Adult/Child/Infant Choking

This course can run anywhere from 45 minutes to 2 hours depending on the Options covered. Each student will receive a manual and a Certificate of Completion. There are also two 20-minute community programs:
Adult & Child CPR Anytime
Infant CPR Anytime

If you or your group (doesn't matter how small) are interested in any of these AHA Community CPR programs, please contact Julie Hill at (989) 821-5207 Ext. 291 or email jhill@gerrishpolice.org to set up a course date. Julie also teaches certified BLS, BLS Renewal, Heartsaver and First Aid courses.