



# G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

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

DECEMBER 2021



May the Peace and Joy of the Holiday Season  
be with you throughout the coming year.  
*From all of us at the Gerrish Township Police  
Department...Have a Very Merry Christmas  
and a Safe and Happy New Year!*

## Wrapping Paper Drive

We are holding a Christmas Wrapping Paper Drive to help replenish our stock for our 20th Annual Shop-With-A-Cop Program. If you would like to donate a roll (or two) of wrapping paper, please drop those off at the Gerrish Twp. Police Department Monday-Friday from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm or at the Gerrish Township Municipal Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. We will be accepting donations up until Monday, December 20, 2021.  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The Gerrish Twp. Police and ACT NOW will be hosting their 20th Annual Shop-With-A-Cop WRAP PARTY on Monday, December 20th starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Gerrish Twp. Police Department. If you would like to come help wrap gifts, please RSVP by contacting Julie Hill at (989) 821-5207 Ext. 291 or email at [jhill@gerrishpolice.org](mailto:jhill@gerrishpolice.org). We will be following all the CDC social distancing guidelines and ask that if you are not fully vaccinated to please consider wearing a mask. If you are not feeling well, please stay home as we need to keep our department staff as healthy as possible. We will not be serving pizza this year.

### Safer Ways to Celebrate the Holidays

Holiday traditions are very important for families and children. There are several ways to enjoy the holidays and protect your health. Because many generations tend to gather to celebrate during Christmas and the New Year, the best way to minimize COVID-19 and the Delta Variant risk and keep your family and friends safe is to get vaccinated if you are able to. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention here are some safety tips for gathering during the holidays:

- Wear well-fitting masks over your nose and mouth if you are in public indoor settings if you are not fully vaccinated. Outdoors is always safer than indoors.
- Avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces.
- If you are sick or have symptoms, don't host or attend a gathering.
- Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have a close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- CDC still recommends delaying travel until you are fully vaccinated. If not vaccinated and you must travel, follow the CDC's recommendations.
- Everyone is required to wear a mask on any public transportation even people who are fully vaccinated.
- If a member of your household has a weakened immune system or is unvaccinated, you might choose to wear a mask.
- If you are gathering with people from different households and potentially from different parts of the country you should consider extra precautions like avoiding crowded spaces before travel and taking a test in advance to reduce risks.
- Do not put a mask on children younger than 2 years old.

For further information on maximizing protection from the Delta variant and traveling or gathering for the holidays, visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).



## UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

### DECEMBER 3rd

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

### DECEMBER 11th

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

### DECEMBER 20th

SHOP-WITH-A-COP WRAP PARTY  
5:00 p.m. @ Gerrish Twp. Police Department

### DECEMBER 25th...



Gerrish Township Fire/EMS Presents:

# Stuff the Ambulance

Gerrish Township Fire/EMS Department will be hosting their  
Annual STUFF THE AMBULANCE this holiday season.

This year donations will support the Crawford-Roscommon Child  
Protection Council's "Baby Shower" Program.



**DECEMBER 18, 2021 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653

Contact Asst. Chief-EMS Kristi Gilliam with any questions  
(989) 745-8008

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

We will gladly accept donations any time at the Gerrish Twp. Fire/EMS  
Department if you are unable to make it on the day of the event.

Please consider helping our Township Fire/EMS  
partners and make a donation to this year's Stuff the  
Ambulance that will benefit new mothers who are in  
need in Roscommon and Crawford counties.

### 'Tis the Season for Scammers...Don't Be a Target!

According to the Federal Trade Commission, \$86 million was  
reported lost in 2020 across the United States from frauds  
originating in scam texts. One third of the scam attempts  
started as text messages or emails.

Phone scammers hire professional-sounding speakers to make  
their robocalls more convincing, but many crooks who rely on  
emails and text messages don't even bother editing their  
messages giving you an advantage in figuring out their  
authenticity. Here are some great clues to SPOT FAKE TEXTS  
from the AARP Fraud Watch Network:

- The text or email suggests a relationship that doesn't exist, like a friendly personalized message from a bank you don't use or from a store you never ordered from.
- Spelling mistakes and poor grammar are common as the crooks writing these messages are doing it fast and sending out thousands at a time. They do not pay close attention to basic mistakes in punctuation and spelling.
- They use emojis. Legitimate companies rarely insert these into their messages.
- The message will have a website link not associated with the company that is supposedly reaching out.
- The email or text is directed to multiple phone numbers and people. Real businesses do not send out chain messages.
- The sender uses ALL CAPITAL LETTERS. This is not common in legitimate texts but scammers see it as a way to grab your attention.
- A "sent" time on a personalized email or text suggests it originated from a foreign country.
- A request for you to text your phone number or other personal information...never respond to this, legitimate companies do not seek information this way.
- Language that creates an unnecessary urgency to spark your emotions to spur you to take action without first thinking it through carefully.

If you have not yet been a target of these types of scams, you are very likely to experience at least one of them especially during the holiday season when scammers prey on good people and their generosity in giving. Never give out any personal information on the phone or via text messaging or emails unless you are confident of the senders identity or are using an Authenticity Code or Authenticator Application.

Never open texts or emails that have these red flags, do not reply and delete them immediately.

The Gerrish Twp. Police Officers Association has decorated and donated a "Gingerbread Christmas" tree to the NMCAC Festival of Trees Fundraiser. Check out our tree and many others during Christmas in the Village on Dec. 4th at the Village Hall on Lake Street from 10 am - 5 pm. All the trees will be raffled off and all proceeds go to the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center.

