

G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

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

FEBRUARY 2022



2021 Annual Reports

During 2021, ACT NOW and the Gerrish Twp. Police Department were able to host more of their annual programs, projects and fundraisers than in 2020. The two organizations worked in coordination and raised over \$5,400 between their annual Golf Outing in August and a Glow Golf Fundraiser in September. Also awarded two \$1,000 Scholarships to RHS Seniors, collected 25 large bags of trash from two road clean-ups along County Road 100, hosted an Annual Meeting and Picnic for 70 residents at the Gerrish Twp. Marina and raised \$2,300 for Special Olympics Michigan during the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Hosted the 13th Annual Trunk or Treat Drive-Thru event and the 13th Annual Kids Helping Kids Foster Christmas Program expending over \$6,500 between the two events. Raised over \$1,700 during the Shop-With-A-Cop Stuffed Elephant Animal Sale and adopted 7 families for the 2021 Shop-With-A-Cop Program providing gifts totaling \$4,560 for 17 children and 9 adults.

For further details, check out the 2021 ACT NOW Annual Report and the ACT NOW Community Programs & Projects Synopsis available at www.gerrishpolice.org under the ACT NOW tab - Fiscal Year Reports & Budget and ACT NOW Programs & Projects. **

Since ACT NOW began many of their programs and projects, over 20 years ago, they have donated \$221,033 back to our community through benevolent actions. Thank you to all of the ACT NOW Board members and volunteers that helped make our 2021 year a success in following through with our Vision and Mission of "Neighbors with Police...Caring Together for Our Community."

**** Hard copies of these reports are also available at the Gerrish Township Police Department.**

Police Department 2021 News

2021 was a challenging year for the Gerrish Township Police Department as we ran most of the year one officer short of our normal staff of seven officers. We hired a new officer in May of 2021 and in September one officer resigned. COVID exposures and quarantines caused further staff shortages and shift changes. Chief Hill stated, "I am very proud of the officers attitudes and efforts to step up and fill our needs for our community." We continue to seek to fill our seventh officer position, however there are way more positions to fill in our local area and throughout the state than there are candidates to fill them.

Our part-time Administrative Clerk position was changed to a full-time position in June and current Admin. Clerk Julie Hill has stepped up to assist in many aspects of the day-to-day office activities.

The Department continues to update equipment and technology as needed and keep our 25 year-old building and grounds maintained. We are replacing aging and/or purchasing new bullet-proof vests for officers and have received a 50/50 match grant award through the Bureau of Justice Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership. We upgraded/replaced three of the Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) that are carried in our patrol units and have begun work replacing our in-car video system and purchase of body-worn cameras. We applied for a Small Rural and Tribal grant to help offset some of the costs for this camera system and will receive \$14,000 toward the system. We continue to work with our partners throughout Roscommon and Crawford Counties to procure an updated Computer Aided Dispatch, Law Enforcement and Jail Records Management System that can be share by all agencies in real time.

The Department recorded a total of 721 hours of training in 2021 in various topics including mandatory annual training and review of policies as dictated by our training schedule.

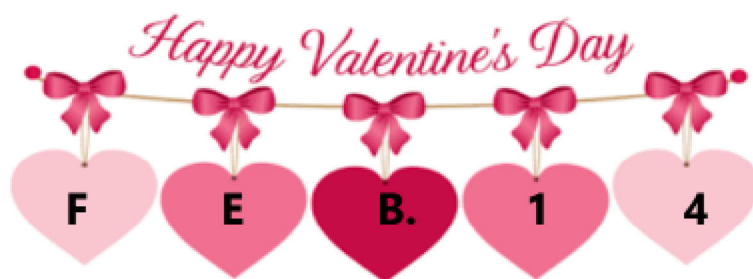
The Department answered 1,482 calls for service in 2021 and issued 204 citations. Our house check program yielded 981 checks of residences and businesses including frequent checks of the storage units located in our Township.

For more information on Department statistics, accomplishments, highlights, and community partnerships and collaboration, check out our 2021 Annual Report on our website at www.gerrishpolice.org or stop by and pick up a copy at the Department.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

FEBRUARY 4th

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



Friday and Saturday
February 18 & 19, 2022
At beautiful Higgins Lake
North State Park

FEBRUARY 26th

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



class of 2022

ACT NOW is currently accepting applications for their 2022 Scholarship Awards. ACT NOW in partnership with the Gerrish Township Police Department will be awarding two \$1,000 Scholarships to Roscommon High School Seniors. These scholarships are awarded based on community service, GPA and need.

Applicants must complete an application, provide two letters of recommendation from school personnel, one letter of endorsement from a community member, official high school transcript and a 300-word essay on the "Value of Community Service."

Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2022 and are available at the Roscommon High School, the Gerrish Township Police Department and online at www.gerrishpolice.org under the ACT NOW tab. Applications can be dropped off or mailed in care of ACT NOW to the Gerrish Twp. Police Department at 3075 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653.

For further information regarding our Scholarship Program please contact Julie at (989) 821-5207 Ext. 291 or email jhill@gerrishpolice.org.

This Scholarship Program began in 2008 and we have awarded \$22,000 to RHS Seniors over the past 13 years.



Heart Disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, but there is a lot we can do to prevent it. Taking time to care for your heart can be challenging as you go about your daily life but it's easier than you think. Research shows that self-care can help you keep your blood pressure in a healthy range and reduce your risk of heart disease and stroke.

Self-care includes being patient with your body. You may not see or feel the results of your efforts right away but small steps can lead to big progress. Try these heart-healthy suggestions from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and show your heart some love:

- Get a daily dose of physical activity such as a 30-minute walk, bike ride, exercise class, etc.
- Cook meals that are low in sodium and unhealthy fats.
- Take your medications as prescribed and keep your medical appointments.
- Sleep 7-8 hours a night.
- Manage stress through meditation, yoga, a warm bath or shower, quiet time with a good book or funny movie.
- Try to reach or stay at a healthy weight by moving more and having snacks like fruits and veggies ready to grab when hunger hits.
- If you have been putting off making a doctor's appointment, many providers now offer telehealth appointments so start a routine health care program with your physician.
- Try a wearable technology device such as a Fitbit or Apple watch that measures steps, heart rate and sleep.
- Monitor your blood pressure and blood sugar at home if your physician suggests doing so.
- Try some healthy eating planning like those you can find from health.gov and MyPlate.gov.
- Connect with family or friends for support. Research shows that their encouragement can help make self-care easier and more effective.
- If you have more than one health concern, lack confidence in the ability to make a health change or suffer from depression, you can always talk to a qualified mental health provider for help handling the demands of multiple medical conditions.

For more tips and information on heart-healthy living, visit www.hearttruth.gov and show your heart and yourself some LOVE.