

Gerrish Township Advisory Community Team – Neighbors On Watch (ACT-NOW)



“Neighbors with Police ... Caring Together for Our Community”

(Michigan Licensed - 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization)

AGENDA

- BACKGROUND & CHARTER
- HISTORY
- MISSION
- PERSONNEL
- COMMUNITY MTGS
- FUNDING
- COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- PROJECTS/PROGRAMS
- GETTING INVOLVED
- CONTACT INFORMATION
- SUMMARY
- QUESTIONS

BACKGROUND & CHARTER

- Established – 1998:
 - *Small group of concerned citizens met w/ Gerrish Police Officers.*
 - *Worked closely w/ Community Specialists - MSU (Reg'l Community Policing Inst.).*
 - *Means for Public to proactively work w/ local Law Enforcement to better community.*
- To establish regular meetings with Gerrish Township (G.T.) Police Dept. to problem-solve about crime & Community Issues.
- To organize a Community Advisory Group in Gerrish Township.

HISTORY

- **06/02/98** – 1st Advisory Comm. Plng Session held. *(31 people attended)*
- **08/10/98** – 1st Executive Board Elected.
- **11/16/98** – ACT-NOW Name Estb'd, Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies (GAPS), Areas & Officers Assigned.
- **02/15/99** – Bylaws Drafted & Adopted.
- **04/19/99** – Applied for \$1500 Startup Funds *(mini-grant via Regional Community Policing Institute)*: Rxd \$634; - Opened Bank Accts, 7 Neighborhood Watch Signs, 200 Block Watch Manuals, & Filed Michigan Articles of Incorporation.
- **06/21/99** – 1st GAPS Report Given to ACT-NOW.

HISTORY *(cont'd)*

- **08/12/99** – 1st Executive Board Mtg.
- **09/18/99** – G.T. Police Dept. – Neighborhood Association of Michigan (NAM) Community Policing Award.
- **11/15/99** – 1st ACT-NOW Potluck & Silent Auction (*raised \$236*).
- **02/10/00** – Michigan Association of Chief's of Police Awards:
Cert. of Recognition – GAPS; Hon. Mention – Community Policing.
- **06/10/09** – Licensed State of MI - 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization.
 - Started Neighborhood Watch (*32 Groups w/ Captains*),
 - Started Monthly & Qtrly Community Mtgs.

MISSION

- We, the Advisory Community Team – Neighbors On Watch (ACT – NOW) are committed to benefit the people of Gerrish Township by promoting the preservation, appreciation and improvement of the physical, social and aesthetic qualities of all Gerrish Township neighborhoods, through benevolent actions.
- *“Neighbors With Police ... Caring Together for Our Community.”*

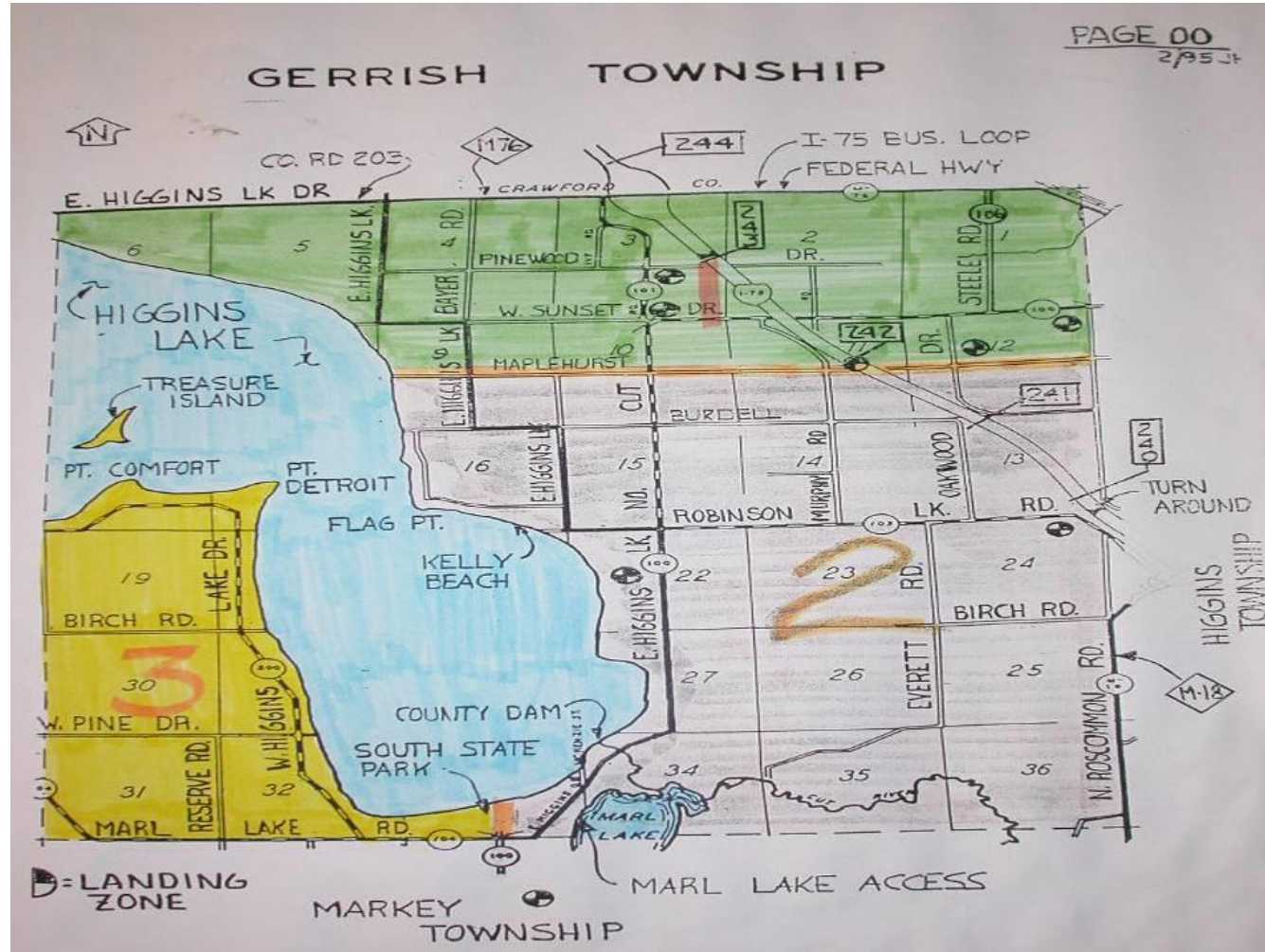
PERSONNEL

- > 200 Members from Gerrish Township.
- 34 Neighborhoods & Associations in 3 GAPS Areas.
- Executive Board:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| CHAIR | John Ellis | GAP #1 REP | Sharon Zacny |
| CO-CHAIR | Mike Briggs | GAP #2 REP | Ralph Rowland |
| TREASURER | Bob Barber | GAP #3 REP | Stan Baysdell |
| SECRETARY | Julie Hill | POLICE REP | Lt. Eric Muszynski |
| MEMBERSHIP | Carlos Jean-Francois | ADVISORY (Non-Voting Members) | |
| | | - Police | Chief Brian Hill |
| | | -Community | Mary Link |

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies (GAPS)

Areas



COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- Annual Picnic. (*3rd Monday in July*)
 - *Election of Executive Board Members*
 - *Community Award Presentations*
- Education, Public Awareness, Community, Safety & Well-being:
 - *Drug & Alcohol Related*
 - *Environmental*
 - *Fraud & Identity Theft*
 - *Sr Citizen & Youth Related*
 - *Weather Spotting Classes*
 - *Neighborhood Watch & Home Security*



FUNDING – Previous & Current GRANTS

- Houghton Lake Rotary Club
- Houghton Lake Rotary Interact Club
- Michigan Region 7 Homeland Security Planning Board (*for CERT*)
- Roscommon Rotary Club
- Roscommon Rotary Interact Club
- Roscommon County Community Foundation Kellogg Youth Fund
- Roscommon County Community Foundation Tobacco Settlement Fund
- Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

FUNDING – DONATIONS

- Energizer Company & Home Depot
- Gerrish Fire Fighter's Association
- Gerrish Police Officer's Association
- Higgins Township
- Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chamber of Commerce (*Winterfest*)
- North Central Area Credit Union Employees
- Roscommon County Fire Fighter's Association
- Schroeder Foundation
- Several area businesses and individuals

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Civil War Reenactment
- Friends of Rosc. Area District Library
- Friends for Safe Schools
- Higgins Lake Camp Westminster
- Higgins Lake-Rosc. Chamber of Commerce's:
 - *Great Easter Egg Scramble*
 - *Winterfest*
- Higgins Lake Sunrise Run
- Rosc. CRAF Center
- Rosc. Elem. School – Walk to School
- Rosc. High School Band & Music
- Rosc. River Festival
- River House Shelter
- Special Olympics Michigan “*Law Enforcement Torch Run*”

ANNUAL PROJECTS/PROGRAMS SUPPORTED

- Adopt-A-Highway
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Gerrish Township Public Safety
- Higgins Lake Improvement
- Home Emergency Assistance
- Kids Helping Kids
- Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC)
- Scholarships
- Scrap Metal Project
- Shop-With-A-Cop (SWAC)
- Trunk or Treat
- Roscommon Area Christian Ministries Food Distributions
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

- MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program.
- From top of Pioneer Hill south to Hillsdale.
- Annual Spring & Fall Cleanup.
- Promotes clean environment/aesthetic quality.
- Pizza and pop served afterwards to volunteers.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

- Established: 2004 – w/in ACT-NOW; 2007 – Own Organization.
- Partners: Rosc. Rotary Club (*Co-Sponsor*), Gerrish Police & Fire/EMS.
- Provides Area Residents & 1st Responders quality resource for safety ed., hazard mitigation, emerg. response asst., *et al* volunteer efforts.
- Part of Nat'l & Michigan Citizen Corps of community volunteers.
- Gerrish CERT: (*several 1000 man-hrs/yr of volunteer support*)
 - *14 Active Volunteers;*
 - *20 hrs of initial training for Certification;*
 - *Trained in basic response techniques to assist Local Citizens & 1st Responders;*
 - *Quarterly Mtgs, Exercises & Training under supervision of Gerrish Police;*
 - *Deployable Mobile Unit – Enclosed 20'-Trailer equipped w/ CERT gear & supplies.*

GERRISH TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY

- Spts Public Safety Programs, Projects, & Services (*Police, Fire, EMS*):
 - *CERT & Trailer.*
 - *Fire Fighter Programs.*
 - *Fire Prevention/Safety at Schools.*
 - *Police Dept. Drug Drop Box.*
- Assists Police with Victim's in need of:
 - *Lodging;*
 - *Transportation; and/or*
 - *Meals.*

HOME EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Provide heat, gas, electric, wood, etc. for families in need, usually in association w/ Shop-With-A-Cop Program.
- When no other similar programs are available or would take too long to receive assistance.
- Done thru application & vetting process.

KIDS HELPING KIDS

- Established – 2009.
- Furnishes Gifts & Holiday Meal for the ~ 50 Foster Children in Roscommon County & their Families at Xmas.
- Fiduciary Partner w/ Roscommon Dept. of Health & Human Services.
- Kids from local schools, youth groups & youth org's volunteer to:
 - *Shop & Wrap Gifts.*
 - *Work the Event Night as "Elves" passing out gifts & serving dinner.*
- Not highly publicized due to confidentiality when dealing w/ the Foster Children & Families.
- Foster Children only receive a \$25 gift card from the State at Xmas.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Established - 2008 as two \$500 Scholarships.
- Two \$1000 Scholarships Awarded to Roscommon High School students each year (*amount increased in 2017*).
- \$22,000 total to 20 Students in Roscommon County.
- Applicants selected by ACT NOW Executive Board.
- Based on “*Importance & Value of Community Service*,” GPA & need.
- Presented at the Roscommon H.S. Senior Awards Night Program.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2008 – Amy Burmester & Danielle Clear
- 2009 – Marissa Luck & Jessica Zacny
- 2010 – Casmera Gendernalik & Andrew Huffman
- 2011 – Megin Dennis & Olivia Meadows
- 2012 – Trace Hill & Dallas James
- 2013 – Bradley Biggs & Erin O’Rourke
- 2014 – Janelle Gavin & Lea Stites
- 2015 – Katie Burmester & Jessica Morton
- 2016 – Erica Luck & Paige Patterson
- 2017 – Katelynn Brookes & Harleigh Hill
- 2018 – Madison Baerlocher & Madison Barton
- 2019 – Rachael Frazho & James Herrick
- 2020 – Karlee Erickson & Bailey Warson
- 2021 – Ashton McDaniels & Seth Patchin
- 2022 – Alex Goodall & Alisha Pratt



SCRAP METAL PROJECT

- Scrap Metal Collection at Gerrish Township compost collection site redeemed for cash (\$) at local recycling center by volunteers.
- Promotes recycling of metal & cleans up community.
- All proceeds go towards ACT NOW Projects & Programs.
(Approx. \$2,000/yr)
- Program runs annually. (Apr - Oct)



SHOP-WITH-A-COP (SWAC)



- 1 Child per family shops with Gerrish Police Officers for family Christmas gifts & treated to dinner.
- ~7 Families are selected each year based on need & job/income deficiencies.
- Families apply through assistance from schools, churches, orgs, etc.
- Do not repeat assistance & verify families not receiving help from other similar org's.
- 2002 – 2021: 155 Families (*258 Adults & 548 Children*).

TRUNK or TREAT

- Participants decorate their vehicles & pass out candy at Gerrish Township Park on Halloween night. *(Since 2008)*
- Huge community event for families. *(Approx. 600 - 1,000 kids/yr)*
- Additional donated candy provided to vehicles to pass out.
- Warm Cider & Donuts served.
- Warming Stations provided.
- Prizes awarded. *(totaling > \$800 in value)*
 - *Best Decorated, Most Created, Scariest, & Random Participation.*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

- ACT NOW & the Gerrish Township Police Department appreciate your continued support as we strive to fulfill our mission to the Community.
- Many of our programs and projects would not be in existence without the generosity of our citizens, business owners and local organizations & groups.
- *“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

~ Margaret Mead

THANK YOU FROM YOUR GERRISH TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICERS

- Chief Brian Hill
- Lt. Eric Muszynski
- Sgt. Norm LaBonte
- Officer John Wybraniec
- Officer Zachary Stachurski
- Officer Andrew Taylor
- Officer John Ellis



CONTACT INFO

- ACT-NOW Secretary: Julie Hill
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 - Mailing Address: *ACT – NOW
3075 E. Higgins Lake Dr.
Roscommon, MI 48653*
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- All Meeting Minutes, Reports and this Brief posted online.
 - Website: <http://gerrishpolice.org/act-now/>