



**GERRISH TOWNSHIP POLICE
DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT
2022**

This is the Annual Report for the Department highlighting the Staffing, Equipment, Training, Technology Updates, Collaborative Efforts, Accomplishments, Statistics and Community Partnerships and Collaboration for the 2022 calendar year.

Brian A. Hill

Gerrish Township Police Department 2022 Annual Report

To show complete transparency and as a service to the Gerrish Township Board and the Citizens of Gerrish Township, I give the following annual report for the period of 01-01-22 through 12-31-22.

Department Staffing

- Currently the Department remains funded for a staff of seven full-time Officers, one full-time Administrative Clerk and one part-time Custodian. The Department keeps administrative hours from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office has no administrative hours on the weekend. At all times, an Officer is available through the Roscommon County Central Dispatch via a non-emergent number of 989-275-0911 or 911 for emergencies.
- The Department hired two new full-time Officers this year, Officer Andrew Taylor in April of 2022, and Officer John Ellis in August of 2022. Officer Andrew Taylor came with 3 years of experience from employment at other Departments in the State and Officer John Ellis was hired under a first ever sponsorship agreement between the Department and Officer John Ellis. Officer Ellis was hired as a Police Cadet paid and employed by the Police Department and maintained that status for the 17-week Academy at the Kirtland Community College Regional Police Academy where he graduated on December 2, 2022. He was sworn in and started our internal Field Training Program under the direction of Sgt. Norm LaBonte and Officer John Wybraniec. The Academy fees were paid in their entirety by a workforce reutilization grant through Michigan Works at a total of \$8,250.00.
- As of this report at the end of 2022, we are now fully staffed, and it is the first time in three years that we have been. My many thanks to the Officers and their understanding families in our Department that stepped up, changing shifts for proper community coverage, and working the overtime necessary due to the shortage of Officers.
- As a note, the State of Michigan is still experiencing a shortage of Officers as there are more jobs available than Officer candidates to fill them. There is a myriad of reasons, but most of all the career is not as appealing as it once was. Finding candidates is difficult and most agencies are hiring away from each other as wage scale and benefit packages may be more appealing at other agencies. Additionally, Departments have had to recruit formally to find a candidate first and seek the agreement of sponsorship. Indeed, recruiting and retaining quality Officers is the number one problem plaguing Law Enforcement in today's USA dynamics.
- Our Administrative Clerk continues to serve in a dual role with our Fire/EMS Department as an Emergency Medical Technician, EMS 2nd

Lieutenant and American Heart Association CPR/AED and First Aid Instructor. She supplies her CPR/AED and First Aid services to many Community groups that need and or want those valuable tools for home or work and instructed 18 classes in 2022. She is also a full-time employee at the Police Department as the Administrative Clerk and is the glue that holds us all together in the office.

- Our staff continued to roll with the COVID-19 health brushes in 2022 as did many other disciplines, but we have finished the year all in good health and ready to serve our community.

Department Units

- The Department has three Ford Explorer SUV All-wheel drive vehicles for patrol, a 2016, 2017 and a 2020 (see photo below). We are scheduled to add a vehicle to the fleet in the coming 2023 year. As of this report, we have a new 2023 Ford Explorer SUV All-wheel drive Police Interceptor on order with the earliest projected date of arrival of April 2023 with a price tag of \$43,030.00 which is a fleet price as we order with Macomb County to receive their volume discount.
- The Department authored a grant to obtain financial help for the ordered 2023 Patrol vehicle referred to above from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This money came from the Federal Government to Gerrish Township to aid in financially recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic. We applied for the same in September of 2022 and received notification in November 2022 that we were awarded \$41,630.00 which will aid in the purchase. It is a one-time grant for a one-time purpose. We were incredibly happy for the consideration.
- As an added note, this will allow us to have four patrol vehicles available to the Department. We have found it particularly challenging to keep vehicles mechanically sound due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 duration. We did not buy a vehicle in 2022 to maintain budget options in the event any further equipment would be necessary to clean and sanitize vehicles, buildings and the like to keep employees as safe as possible. Also, vehicles were at a premium due to chip shortages from the manufacturers. We experienced replacement part delays which led to service delays and a shortage of our own cars to use on the road as they were stuck in the shop waiting for parts.

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The Department owns, continues to maintain, and uses a 2007 6x6 Polaris Ranger which is used in conjunction with the Fire/EMS Department. The vehicle was received from an outright donation grant authored by Chief Hill and supplied by The US Smokeless Tobacco Companies, who in a lawsuit were required to supply reparations to communities. They sponsored and gave away approximately 70 units a year during their grant period in the United States. The unit is used in many ways to include search and rescue, ice rescues and anytime terrain prevents an ambulance to make its way to a scene. Over the years, we have used local grants to improve the capabilities of this rescue unit. Many local partners to include ACT-NOW through its Public Safety Fund, Gerrish Township Police, Fire/EMS, Roscommon County Community Foundation (Morley Foundation Fund, Doug Allen Fire & EMS Fund, and General Fund) and the Higgins Lake Foundation have been major donors to make this piece of equipment available to our community. Many thanks to all.



Department Equipment

In August of 2022, the Department invested in the most up to date in-car video systems with body camera integration available in the marketplace. The Department's old Digital Ally in-car video system dates back some 15 years and was innovative technology at that time, however, has lost adequate support due to its age. The Department reviewed different systems and ultimately decided upon a Watchguard Motorola product that integrates the in-car video system with a body camera product for seamless coverage of recorded events which cost \$50,030.00. Chief Hill authored a Small Rural Tribal Federal grant for the body cameras which would cover \$2,000.00 per camera and the service as a software cloud storage system. We applied for seven body worn cameras and received confirmation that we were awarded \$14,000.00 for same. The grant is a reimbursement style grant and in December we were finally able to settle the account as paid in full. As of this report, we have been reimbursed our \$14,000.00 against the \$50,030.00 total of the project. The system is performing as advertised and is a great asset for the Department and the Community. Transparency is crucial in our society today and we are happy that we can supply these resources to accommodate the expectation.

The Department had to replace five of our Preliminary Breath Testing units as they have aged out with no further support options from parent manufacturers for parts and service.

Technology Updates

- Following our Technology Plan, we replaced the computers at two workstations as they have aged out and have updated our existing training laptop accordingly.
- We have moved to a Microsoft Office 365 system for all our Officer's communication and calendar needs so we all can share calendar events accordingly.
- Our upgraded new Department website has been launched with the hosting service Realm30 Media. You can view our site at www.gerrishpolice.org. The site is easier to use and a definite upgrade from our 2014 version of our website.
- We continued a third year of a 5-year lease payment schedule to the Motorola contract which replaced all our 800 MHz radios in 2020.
- The Department continues to work as a partner with all the Roscommon County Dispatch, Roscommon County Sheriff Department and Jail, Denton Township Police Department and the Richfield Township Department of Public Safety to look at common report platforms to integrate all reporting systems into one solution. We have worked for about three years trying to find the right solution to this endeavor. COVID-19 pandemic certainly hurt

our consistent effort and of course technology is going extremely fast in our world today. We are hopeful for settling on a solution in 2023.

Building and Grounds Highlights

Most folks do not realize that our building and grounds here at the Police Department are nearly 25 years old and therefore we are beginning to replace building needs for upgrades.

- In keeping with the maintenance of our building that was built in 1999, we ordered a new whole building generator to replace the original one presently on site. The total cost to replace same was \$41,800.00 of which a deposit of \$21,400.00 was paid with order in February 2022. Due to supply chain issues, we do not expect to see same until the spring of 2023 with the balance owed at that time of installation. The money has been saved over several years in our Capital Equipment line item in expectation of this replacement. The current unit has become obsolete, and parts are hard to find even as regular maintenance is needed let alone actual breakdowns. We look forward to the situation being remedied.
- As we had also planned budgetarily from some years of saving from the Capital Project line item, we were able to remove and replace our 25-year-old shingles on the Police Department building this year at the cost of \$31,000.00. The job was done by Past and Present Builder LLC., a local contractor. Still scheduled is the replacement of the fascia siding on the roof lines at a cost of \$3306.00 also to be done by the same building company when the fascia order arrives.

Community Partnerships Activities and Collaboration

- This year, GTPD and ACT-NOW have partnered to award two graduating Seniors of the Roscommon High School \$1,000.00 Scholarships each to the university/college of their choice.
- We hosted a Spring and Fall Road Cleanup (MDOT Adopt a Highway Program) where cumulatively we had 20 volunteers that cleaned up 19 bags of miscellaneous trash from both sides of County Road 100 from Pioneer Hill to Hillsdale Drive in Gerrish Township.
- We held our 23rd ACT-NOW Annual Meeting and Picnic at the Gerrish Township Community Park Marina and hosted 60 guests that attended.
- We hosted our 13th Annual Golf Outing and fundraiser at the Redwood Golf Course which netted over \$6,400.00 towards our continued benevolent activities yearly in the Township.
- We hosted a bowling tournament at Fred's of Roscommon where we raised a total of \$2,263.00 towards our continued benevolent activities yearly in the Township.

- This year's Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Michigan Special Olympics raised \$1,665.00 toward the project for our local and state athletes.
- We once again hosted our 14th Annual Trunk or Treat on Halloween on the grounds at the Gerrish Township Municipal Center as in pre-COVID-19 pandemic years in the past with a face-to-face event. Over 900-1000 people visited the event this year with 42 decorated trunks judged for three main prizes and ten random prizes for the trunk participants were awarded.
- Our "Kids Helping Kids" Foster Christmas program was delivered again in partnership with several youth and adult group partners. This year we spent \$6,295.00 on the event to accommodate all the foster children and their foster families for Christmas 2022.
- Additionally, we delivered our 21st Annual Shop-With-A-Cop Program providing Christmas for eight full families with 27 children and 13 adults served with an expense of \$6,513.00.
- GTPD and CERT helped the Roscommon Area Christian Ministries with their monthly Food Distributions servicing 2,576 families and 5,948 individuals and distributed 181,585 pounds of food from 294 pallets for the 2022 year in 12 monthly distributions.
- The Department continues to take part in the Handle with Care (HWC) collaborative effort in partnership with the Children's Assessment Center and the local schools. The program has the Officer send a simple form with limited information that a child may have experienced trauma during a recent Police call for service and the child may be experiencing a difficult day at school the following day.
- We continued our partnership with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in collecting and properly disposing of the collected discarded prescription drugs. We are currently averaging over 180 pounds a year that are discarded in our Drug Drop Box. As a note, since installing our new Drug Drop Box granted by Rite-Aid in October 2019, we have disposed of 423 pounds of unused/unwanted drugs in our community.

Chief Representation in the Community

- I continue to serve as the 911 Technical Advisory Committee Chairperson for Roscommon County, a seat I have held since 2001 representing the three Township Police Departments.
- I continue to serve the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) as a Past President of the organization and a de-facto member of the Executive Board. Additionally, I continue to serve as the organization's Legislative at-large appointment. This group analyzes all Law Enforcement legislation to take a position for the organization and work

on lobbying our Representatives and Senators on behalf of MACP and law enforcement in Michigan.

- I additionally attend the Local Emergency Planning team meetings that occur to discuss and formulate plans for Emergency Management within the County.
- I am currently one of three Law Enforcement Administrators selected to sit with the Roscommon County Emergency Operations Center in case of an activation in the County.
- I continue to be a member of the multi-disciplinary team at the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center to review child abuse/neglect and sexual assault cases in our County.
- This year, I entered my second year of board service to the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC) board as a Law Enforcement representative which conducts the business of the center.
- Additionally, I was re-elected as the Chairperson of the Executive Board of Officers for the NMCAC.
- Our Department continues its work with our Gerrish Township Community Emergency Response Team which helps augment our Public Safety in the Township when our services are overloaded due to natural weather events, special events in the community and as a member of 7th Region Homeland Security umbrella agency.
- I have attached reports of highlights of GTPD/ACT-NOW collaboration and our listed partners for 2022. (See attached)
- I have also served Gerrish Township as the Chairperson of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee at the request of the Gerrish Township Board. This Committee produced grant applications, grant review and grant agreements paperwork and made recommendations to the full Gerrish Township board to distribute \$310,113.00 to projects to benefit the Township and the community in 2022 and 2023.
- On behalf of the Department this year, I signed another three-year agreement with the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center to take part in the established protocol commitment for joint investigations of child abuse/neglect and sexual assault cases to enhance our ability to enforce these laws for the benefit of our children in the community.
- Also in November of 2022, the Department began meeting with the Superintendent of the Roscommon Area Public Schools about the possibility of employing one of our Officers in a dedicated role to serve the District as a School Resource Officer to provide a preventive, proactive role within the schools. The position would also aid in safety and security issues, making sure that our schools are protected in their time of need. Grant funding is being sought by the School District through the State Education Department grant section. The grant is a three-year opportunity. In accordance with this, I have authored a

School Resource Officer Job Description, School Resource Officer Operational Policy and a proper School Resource Officer Agreement between the District and Gerrish Township. We are hopeful to receive the grant for this collaborative community program. Results of the grant scoring will not be available until January of 2023.

Officers Representation in the Community

All of our Department staff are members of the GTPOA (Gerrish Township Police Officers Association) which makes donations and supports many local community programs, projects and organizations. This Association was established in March of 2000 and currently all our Officers and staff contribute to the Association each pay. This year, the Association supported the Roscommon County Sheriff's Office Auxiliary and Victim Services Unit at their bowling and golf outing fundraisers, ACT NOW fundraising events, the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center Festival of Trees fundraiser, Higgins Lake Sunrise Run and Trunk or Treat.

Noted Training

This year, our department recorded a total of 540.5 hours of training in assorted topics during the year. Some highlighted notable training appears below, but certainly is not all the training received:

- The Department continues to have an on-line training presence using Virtual Academy. The software program supplies relevant, documented training that also automatically reports to our state licensing body Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) each Monday morning of the training conducted. Virtual Academy also allows for Department Policy & Procedure review.
- Documented hours of training were logged in Improving Law Enforcement Response to Person in Mental Health Crisis and policy review for handling of incidents involving mentally ill subjects.
- Chief Hill attended the MACP Professional Development Winter Conference in Grand Rapids in early February for Executive level training. Chief Hill also attended the MACP Professional Development Summer Conference training in Bellaire in June.
- Chief Hill received training in the Michigan Critical Incident Management software used at the Roscommon County Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center.
- Lt. Muszynski attended the required LEIN Terminal Agency Coordinator training.
- Sgt. LaBonte attended the required LEIN Terminal Agency Coordinator training to support a two deep approach to the necessary position required by the State of Michigan.

- Lt. Muszynski attended the LEIN Local Area Security Officer (LASO) training to fill the role vacated by our previous Lieutenant who retired in June 2022.
- All Officers were trained in Emergency Vehicle Operation (EVO) and the Department policy on Pursuit Driving.
- Lt. Muszynski attended the Incident Command System (ICS) 300 and 400 series of classes for command level individuals to fulfill his requirement for the Lieutenant job description.
- Officers Taylor and Stachurski received on-line training from the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (NMCAC) in investigative matters of Child abuse and sexual assault protocols used at the NMCAC.
- Officer Taylor received Taser (CEW) training in the use of the X-2 model of Taser.
- Officer Taylor completed his required LEIN basic training via zoom which is needed for a new Officer.
- Officer Taylor received training in the Criminal Justice Agency Security Awareness as required to operate LEIN in Michigan.
- Office Taylor received a CPR renewal of certification training as required.
- Both Officer Taylor and Officer Stachurski completed their required Incident Command System 100, 200, 700 and 800 courses.
- Officers received training in the use of Deadly Force and Firearms and the Department policy on same.
- Both Officer Taylor and Stachurski attended a Non-Fatal Strangulation and Suffocation training to better serve victims of domestic violence at their time of need.
- Lt. Muszynski re-certified as the Department Taser (CEW) Instructor.
- Officer John Ellis attended his required Michigan Radar Operator Certification Course.
- All Officers took part in the Spring 2022 required Firearms Range Shoot and classroom instruction and passed successfully.
- All Officers received their yearly TASER (CEW) classroom, practical and written testing in the use of the Department X-2 units.
- All Officers were trained in the use of Carter's Kit sensor bags and received bags for the patrol units. These kits help officers when dealing with those folks on the Autistic spectrum to comfort them and perhaps de-escalate their behaviors.
- Officers received training in Surviving Life After an Officer Involved Shooting.
- Officers received their annual training in Naloxone (Narcan) use to include practical application, classroom, and policy review.
- Officers received training in Use of Force investigations during an Officer Involved Shooting.

- This year, we completely changed over the video systems in use at the Department, retiring a 15-year-old system. All Officers received training in the operation and policies affiliated with our new Watchguard Motorola in-car and body camera integration system.
- Management Officers took part in a separate session as well for the body camera and in-car video system for the purposes of being able to produce videos for the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requiring copying, extracting, and redacting when needed.
- Lt. Eric Muszynski and Administrative Clerk Julie Hill attended a two-day Freedom of Information Act training sponsored by the Law Enforcement Records Management Association (LERMA).
- Officers all attended a refresher staff meeting training on PA 56 of 2012 application and Higgins Lake summer issues.
- All Officers received training in the operation of Unit #241, the Department Rescue vehicle.
- Lastly, Officers received training in classroom and practical exercise in a technical response to an Active Violence Incident as required by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES).

Statistics and Information of Interest

The Gerrish Township Police Department responds to a variety of calls for service that are generated in many ways. Calls for service may come from Central Dispatch, or they may come in directly as walk-in or telephone complaints to the Police Department during Administrative hours. Additionally, calls for service are generated by people that come to the Gerrish Township Main Office and leave their complaints with officials or office staff from that location. In all cases, the information is centrally vetted through the Roscommon County Central Dispatch and an Officer manages every call for service.

A total of 2,226 calls for service requiring documentation were received for the Police Department in 2022. This is up from 1,482 calls for service in the same period in 2021. This is not a surprise as our Department took on an active role with the local Courts of supplying Preliminary Breath Tests daily to people who have been arrested for Drunk Driving violations. These are part of their bond restrictions pending their court process. Overall, in analyzing the data from 2021 to 2022 in the same reporting period, the following highlights are worth noting:

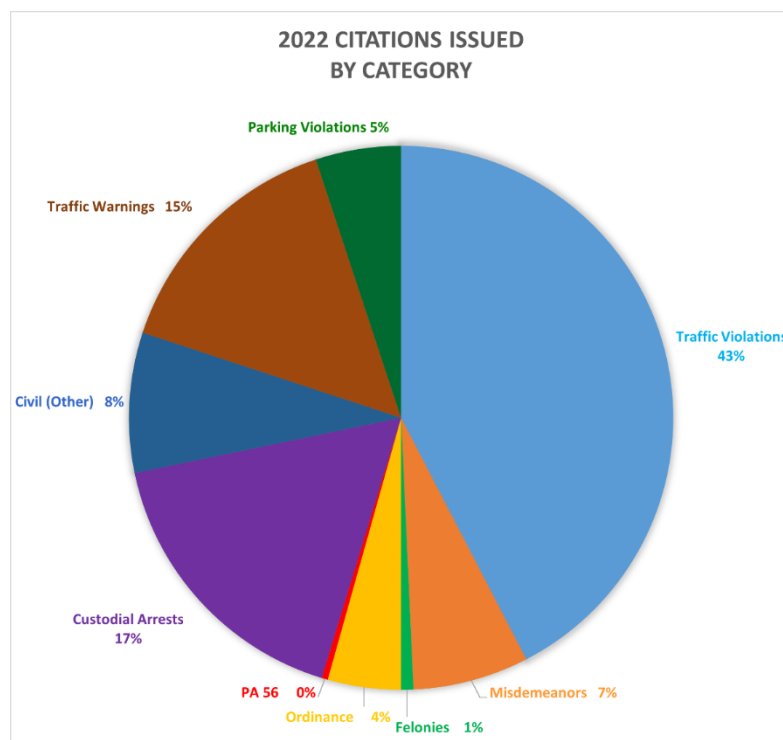
- Reported Breaking and Entering residential/commercial properties show a slight increase in actual numbers in 2022, however we are still down in the overall percentage and still enjoy a 54% reduction from 2019. As folks continue to return to normal pre-pandemic conditions, I expect that rate could reduce further.
- Reported Assaultive Crimes are up 8.0% from 2021 statistics.

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- Reported Larceny/Theft was up 9% from 2021 statistics. This is not surprising with the state of the economy and inflation occurring as well as our shortage of Officers thus affecting some visibility in patrols for deterrent.
- DWI and OUID's were down 55%. This does show an overall decrease in our traffic presence and self-initiated field activity due to the shortage of Officers and lack of retention of staff available to address target areas.
- Fraud activity statistics down slightly from 2021 but within a few complaints of each other.
- Sexual Assaults/Child Abuse Neglect and Adult Criminal Sexual Conduct cases have doubled in 2022 in comparison to 2021. This is not surprising as overall cases of reporting are up in our County and we believe this is due to getting mandatory reporters such as schools back in person, so children have the availability to report to mandated reporters to initiate investigations.
- Malicious Destruction of Property reports have doubled this year as opposed to 2021. The numbers of complaints are low and thus not alarming alone by the statement.
- Reported Ordinance complaints showed another decrease as the Department initiates two waves of enforcement during the year to address Ordinance issues that affect the quality of life of the community. The Department managed 116 (down from 127 total complaints in 2021). Once again, our court rate is still extremely low to achieve compliance.
- We saw another slight increase of accidents in the Township this year as travel and traffic returned to near normal in 2022.

The Department issued 175 Citations in 2022. Notable categories with charges are as follows (see Pie Chart):

- Traffic Violations 117
- Misdemeanor Violations 19
- Felony Citation/Pended Warrants 2
- Civil Infraction Non-Traffic (Justice Reform) 23
- Ordinance Violations 12
- Public Act 56 Violations 1
- Custodial Arrests 47
- Written Verbal Traffic Warnings 41
- Parking Violations 14

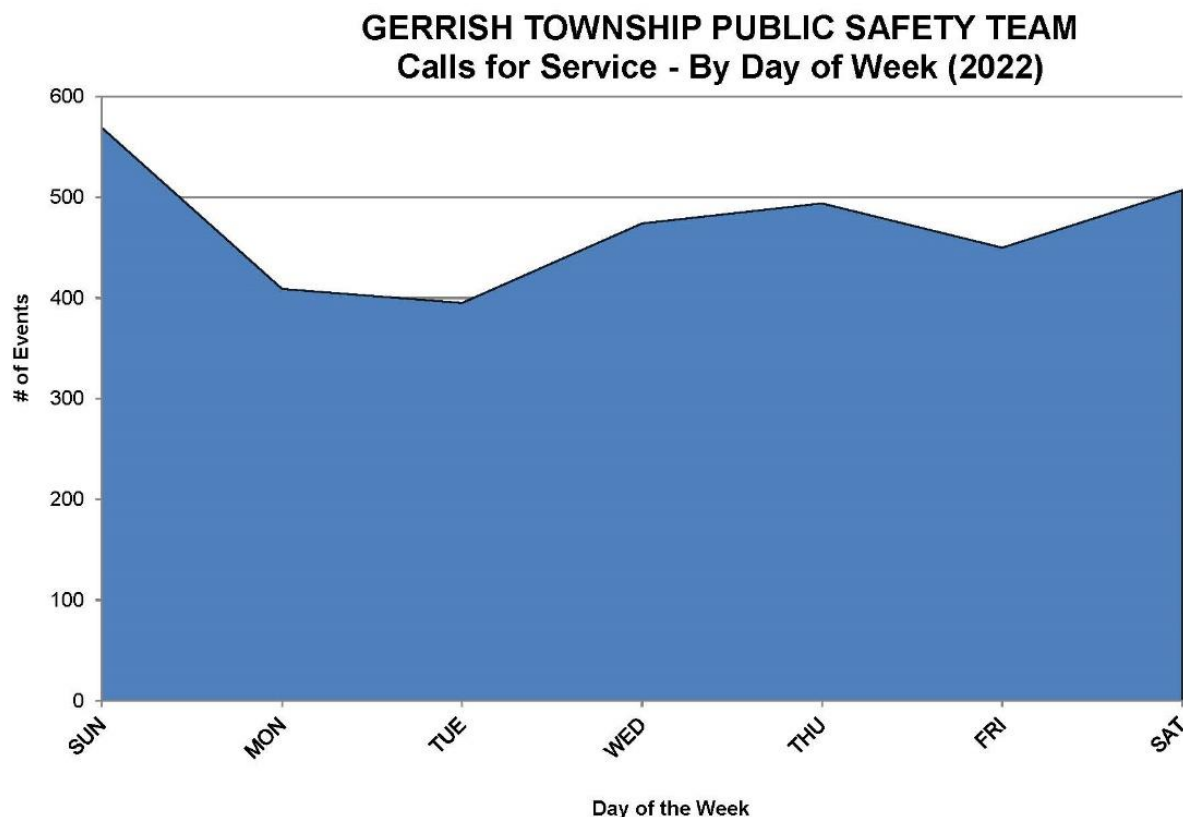


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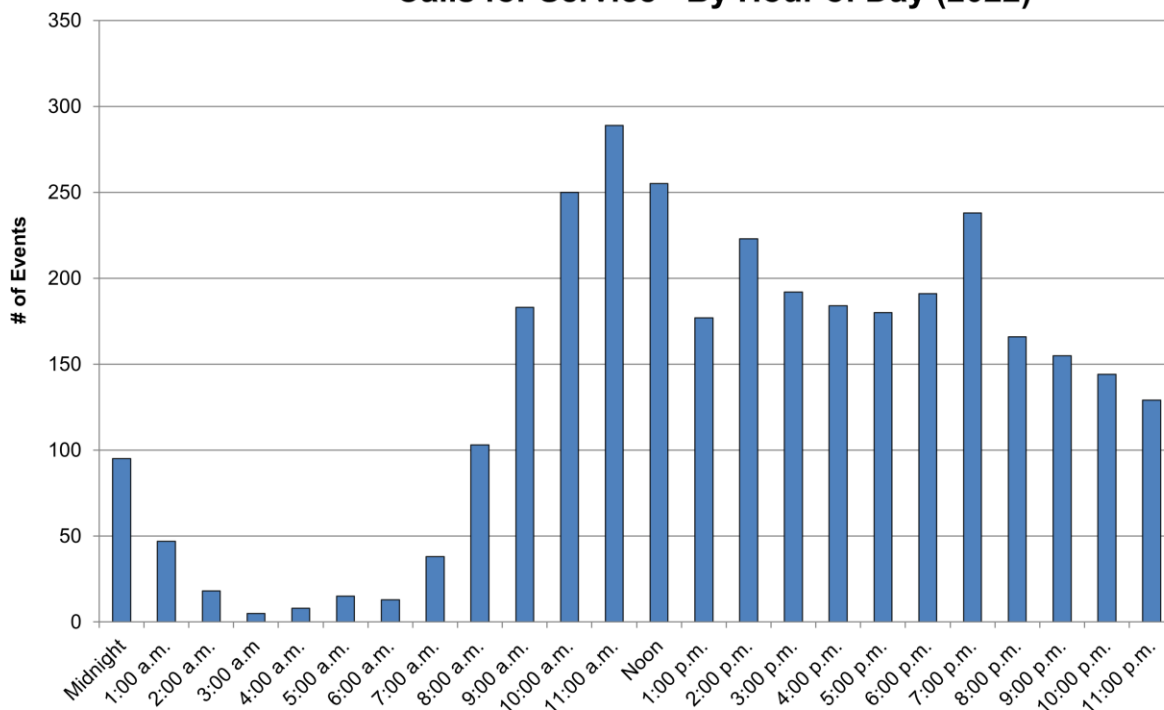
The Department's seasonal House Check program yielded 964 checks of individual residences/businesses that sign-up each year for unoccupied residence checks during various periods throughout the year. These also include frequent checks of the storage units found in the Township.

DAY	# EVENTS
SUN	569
MON	409
TUE	395
WED	474
THU	494
FRI	450
SAT	507

Gerrish Township Public Safety Team generated various responses to 3,298 Events/Calls for Service per Central Dispatch CAD statistics. Sundays continued to be our busiest days by call volume in 2022 as was the case in 2021 comparatively and the greatest number of calls occurred around 11:00 a.m. which mirrors the 2021 data. (See Charts Below)



**GERRISH TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM
Calls for Service - By Hour of Day (2022)**



This year we begin working on our updated Organizational and Operational goals as a team to work and measure our progress and success each year. These will be available later, and they will cover 2023-2026. We draft these to follow when making operational, financial, equipment and technology decisions as they relate to our police services.

As with each year that passes, we continue to make changes and train to our policies and operational procedures on the changed policies which are affected by the ever-constant Criminal Justice Reform environment law changes each year. As well, we have changed as necessary to try and address the increased volume of mental health related calls for service and increasing domestic violence related calls for service. My wish for all is to find it in themselves to focus on being kind to one another. Kindness costs absolutely nothing, spread some!

In closing, many remarkable things are happening and continue to happen in our Higgins Lake community. I appreciate the board and the community support throughout the year as we work on goals, objectives and plan for our community needs each year. Cheers to a Happy New Year and prayers for a healthy and safe Country in 2023.

GERRISH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Brian A. Hill

Chief Brian A. Hill, #17-1



**3075 E. Higgins Lake Drive
Roscommon, MI 48653
(989) 821-5207**

ACT NOW is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
“Neighbors with Police...Caring Together for Our Community”

2022 Annual Report

- 04/23/22 Bowling Tournament Fundraiser at Fred’s of Roscommon
(Raised \$2,262.68)
- 05/02/22 Awarded two \$1,000.00 Scholarships to RHS Seniors Alex
Goodall and Alisha Pratt
- 05/17/22 Spring Road Clean-Up (MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program)
11 Volunteers collected 10 Bags of Trash
- 07/18/22 Held the 23rd Annual Meeting & Picnic outdoors at the Gerrish
Twp. Marina with 60 guests in attendance
- 08/13/22 13th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser at the Redwood Golf
Course (Raised \$6,421.92)
- 09/13/22 Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for MI Special Olympics
(Raised \$1,665.00)
- 09/20/22 Fall Road Clean-Up (MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program)
9 Volunteers collected 9 Bags of Trash
- 10/31/22 14th Annual Trunk or Treat with Gerrish Twp. Police Dept. at
the Gerrish Twp. Municipal Complex (Spent \$2,203.29)
- 12/01/22 14th Annual “Kids Helping Kids” Foster Christmas Program
Supported 44 foster children and 16 foster families
(Spent \$6,295.34)
- 12/19/22 21st Annual Shop-With-A-Cop Program
Supported 8 local families including 27 children and 13 adults
(Spent \$6,513.36)

CERT Volunteers assisted the Roscommon Area Christian Ministries Team and the Gerrish Twp. Police Department with monthly Food Distributions servicing 2,576 families and 5,948 individuals. Distributed 181,585 pounds of food in 2022.

May-October Season “Scrap Metal Project” (Raised \$2,217.18)

September-December held the annual Shop-With-A-Cop Stuffed Animal Fundraiser. Plush Patriotic Eagles were sold this year at the

(OVER)

Roscommon Firemen's Memorial Festival and at the Gerrish Twp. Police Department & Gerrish Twp. Main Office. (Raised \$771.00)

December donation \$250.00 to the RHS Marching Bucks for their annual "Breakfast with Santa" Program.

February Home Energy Assistance to local residents (\$4,050.00)
December Home Energy Assistance to local resident (\$542.58)

December Rent Assistance to local Shop-With-A-Cop family to prevent an eviction process (\$1,084.96)

Made annual donations/supported the following groups/organizations:

- Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center
- Gerrish Township CERT Team & Crawford CERT Team
- Friends for Safe Schools "Boot" Program
- Department of Health & Human Services "Pathways to Potential" Program
- Rotary Club of Houghton Lake Service Auction
- Higgins Lake Sunrise Run
- Roscommon Co. Sheriff's Office National Night Out



**3075 E. Higgins Lake Drive
Roscommon, MI 48653
(989) 821-5207**

ACT NOW is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
“Neighbors with Police...Caring Together for Our Community”

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY ACT NOW

GERRISH TOWNSHIP C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) \$9,867.00 *

14 trained volunteers who are ready to be deployed when called upon. They hold annual meetings, exercises and trainings under the direct supervision of the Gerrish Township Police Department. They receive 20 hours of training to become certified members who can help the community by providing critical support by giving immediate assistance to victims, providing damage assessment information and organizing other volunteers at disaster sites. They are also trained to assist the local and state emergency services and perform such duties as shelter support, crowd control, evacuations, first aid and search and rescue. The Gerrish Township CERT team was established in 2006.

KIDS HELPING KIDS PROGRAM \$59,148.00 *

Currently planning for our 15th Annual program that furnishes Christmas gifts for approximately 50 foster children placed with foster families out of Roscommon County. We partner with the Department of Health & Human Services and provide a little extra for the foster children as the state only provides a \$25.00 gift card for each child during the holidays. Kids from our local schools, youth groups and organizations volunteer to shop for the gifts and wrap the gifts. DHHS staff deliver the gifts to the foster children along with a Walmart gift card to the family.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM \$24,000.00 *

ACT NOW awards two \$1,000 scholarships to Roscommon High School graduating seniors each year. The scholarships are awarded based on GPA, community service and need. The scholarships are based on the value and importance of community service as seen through the eyes of the youth applicants. The scholarship program was established in 2008.

SHOP-WITH-A-COP PROGRAM \$84,516.00 *

2023 will mark the 22nd Annual Shop-With-A-Cop Program where officers take one child from each of the selected families shopping for gifts and treats them to a meal afterwards. These families are selected through an application process in which the officers work with the local schools to locate children and families that are in need of assistance at Christmas time. This is not only a way to give to those in need but to also encourage positive law enforcement interaction with the children. To date we have brightened the holiday season for 163 families, 271 adults and 575 children. Our community group gathers to wrap all the gifts and the officers deliver the gifts just a few days before Christmas.

TRUNK OR TREAT \$25,587.00 *

2023 will be the 15th Annual Trunk or Treat which is held on Halloween night each year. This is a huge community event for children and families. Participants decorate their vehicles and set up

on the outdoor park area behind the Gerrish Township Hall and pass out candy to hundreds of kids each year and the “trunks” are judged and prizes are awarded for “Most Creative,” “Scariest” and “Best Decorated.” Random participation drawings are included for everyone who puts a trunk in the event. Approximately 900 - 1,200 people attend this event each year. Last year 42 trunks participated. The project was modified to a DRIVE-THRU event in 2020 & 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were held at the Roscommon Area Public Schools complex.

GERRISH TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY FUND \$16,458.00 *

This fund supports the Gerrish Township Public Safety Services (Police, Fire, EMS) with helping to sponsor public safety programs and projects such as the CERT team with their Trailer Project, Fire Safety Week and the Safety Education Trailer for children, providing child safety car seats through the Crawford Roscommon Child Protection Council and helped provide the Police Department’s original Drug Drop Box, just to name a few.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUND \$23,433.00 *

This fund provides citizens with heating assistance costs in the winter when all other resources have been expended. In the past it has provided furnace repairs, wood, fuel, propane and propane tank installations and/or repairs.

ACT NOW also sponsors other community groups and organizations such as the Special Olympics of Michigan Law Enforcement Torch Run, Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center, Roscommon Area District Library, Roscommon CRAF Center, The Lion’s Den MBTC, Roscommon Area Christian Ministries, Roscommon Bucks Marching Band, Roscommon Musical Program, Salvation Army Bell Ringing and the Higgins Lake Sunrise Run.

ACT NOW also hosts an Annual Meeting & Picnic every July to thank the members and volunteers. We provide burgers, hot dogs, sides, beverages and dessert to all that attend. We keep our members and community aware of our meetings, events and fundraisers via our G.A.P.S. Monthly Newsletters, emails, web posts and social media outlets.

ACT NOW also does an Annual Scrap Metal Project from April – October as a way to promote recycling of metal and cleaning up our neighborhoods and community and also participates in Road Clean-Up through the MDOT Adopt-a-Highway program twice a year in the spring and the fall.

ACT NOW holds an Annual Golf Outing every August and a Bowling Tournament Fundraiser every April as a way to raise money for all of our great community projects and programs and in the past have also held large successful ATV Raffles, Getaway Package Raffles, Cash Raffles and Glow Golf events.

ACT NOW has been a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization since June 10, 2009 and has an Executive Board with nine voting members and two non-voting advisory members with a general membership of over 200 citizens.

Our 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.