



G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

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

MARCH 2023



St. Patrick's Day celebrates the life of Saint Patrick - the patron saint of Ireland. He was an influential missionary that brought Christianity to Ireland. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17th every year because St. Patrick's death is believed to have been on March 17th in the year of 461. The Church began observing this day with a special feast to honor him starting in 1631.

St. Patrick's Day Fun Facts:

- ✠ The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place in America - not Ireland.
- ✠ The New York City St. Patrick's Day parade is the oldest and largest parade in the U.S.
- ✠ Chicago began its annual tradition of turning the Chicago River green on March 17, 1962.
- ✠ The color green became officially associated with St. Patrick's Day in 1798 (the year of the Irish Rebellion).
- ✠ St. Patrick's Day switched over from strictly a holy day for Catholics to an official Irish public holiday in 1903.
- ✠ Each year, 5.5 million people visit St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.
- ✠ Before St. Patrick became a missionary he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave.
- ✠ St. Patrick is said to be buried in the town of Downpatrick, County Down, in Northern Ireland.
- ✠ Coloring beer green originated in New York City in 1914 to make parties more festive.
- ✠ Traditional meal was cabbage and bacon, American's substituted corned beef for bacon in the late 19th century.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

On February 16, 2023, Chief Brian Hill and Roscommon Area Public Schools Superintendent Cathy Erickson signed a School Resource Officer Agreement between RAPS and Gerrish Township.

This is a 3-year agreement in which the School District will pay 75% of the Officer's wages and benefits. A State grant will provide 50% of the position funding for the three years and the School District and Gerrish Township Police Department will split the remaining 50% of the committed funding.

Officer John Wybraniec will be filling this position and brings 22 years of law enforcement experience in a variety of roles. He will have an office in the Roscommon High School but will be available to serve all three schools within the campus. Officer Wybraniec will work throughout the school year at the campus and will resume his regular patrol officer position during the summer months.

Chief Hill is pleased to enter into this partnership with our School District and is confident that Officer Wybraniec will do a great job in fulfilling the essential duties and responsibilities required for the SRO position. The safety, security and welfare of all the students, faculty and staff is of utmost importance to our community.

Officer Wybraniec began his new position as SRO at RAPS on February 21, 2023. He looks forward to serving the schools and community in this role.

Pictured Left to Right...
Gerrish PD
Chief Brian Hill,
RAPS
Superintendent
Cathy Erickson
and Gerrish
Twp. Police
Officer
John
Wybraniec (new
SRO for RAPS)



UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

MARCH 3rd

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

MARCH 12th

DAYLIGHT

SAVING

TIME

BEGINS...

Turn Clocks

Ahead One

Hour



MARCH 25th

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

MARCH 31st

Deadline Submission for ACT NOW Scholarship
Applications

BOWLING FUNDRAISER

ACT NOW and the Gerrish Twp. Police Department will be hosting their annual Bowling Tournament Fundraiser on April 22, 2023 at Fred's of Roscommon. The event will start at Noon with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m. The fee is \$50 per person, 5-person team (\$250 per team). The teams can be guys, gals or mixed and participants will bowl 3 games. Prizes will be awarded for 1st Place \$500, 2nd Place \$250 and 3rd Place \$100. We will also be holding a large 50/50 Raffle and a Chinese Raffle for some really great prizes donated by local businesses and organizations. You can stop by and participate in the raffles even if you are not bowling.

All proceeds will benefit ACT NOW and the Gerrish Twp. Police Department's community programs and projects that they sponsor every year such as the Scholarship Program, Shop-With-A-Cop, Trunk or Treat, Home Energy Assistance Program, the Gerrish CERT team and Gerrish Township Public Safety programs just to name a few!

If you would like to be a Lane Sponsor for \$100 or donate a prize for our drawing or enter a team, please contact Julie at (989) 821-5207 Ext. 291 or email at jhill@gerrishpolice.org. Please reserve your spot early as there is only room for 8 teams.



Police Dept. News

Gerrish Twp. Police Department took delivery of a new patrol vehicle last month. This vehicle was ordered in September 2022 with an anticipated delivery date of April 2023. We were able to piggy-back on a state order through Macomb County's contract and the vehicle was actually ready on January 23, 2023. This is the same make and model of the other three vehicles in our fleet. It is a 2023 Ford Police Interceptor Utility AWD and it will not replace a vehicle but will become Vehicle #4 in the fleet. The car cost was \$43,030.00 and the majority of the funds used to purchase the car came from an ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant that was awarded to the Department from Gerrish Township on November 15, 2022. The Department only had to front \$1,400.00 from their budget to make up the difference not covered by the grant proceeds of \$41,630.00. This allowed the Department to add the extra vehicle and provide the new equipment and upfitting charges from their current budget. The additional patrol vehicle will allow the Department to maintain a rotation schedule so that we are not short a vehicle when one of the units is out for maintenance or repairs which is taking longer these days due to supply and demand and/or lack of parts.

The outside graphics on the vehicle have been added and it will match the color and design like the rest of the fleet. It is the darker



blue color and matches the last vehicle purchased which was the 2020 Ford Interceptor as shown in photo above.

Congratulations We would like to congratulate Officer John Ellis on the completion of his 10-week Field Training program. He was cleared for solo patrol by Chief Hill on February 17th by both his FTO training officers Sgt. Norm LaBonte and Officer John Wybraniec. Officer Ellis was hired last August as a Cadet Recruit and completed his Academy in December of 2022. We welcome him to our team and Law Enforcement family!!