



G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

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

APRIL 2023

*At This Easter, May You Be Blessed With
Lots of Joy, Peace, Goodness, Happiness and Love.
Happy Easter to You and Your Family.*



2023 Law Enforcement TORCH RUN will take place on September 12th at 6:00 p.m. The 5-K Run will start at the Gerrish Twp. Police Department and end at the S. Higgins Lake State Park Boat Basin/Pavilion. The registration fee is \$30 and you can bicycle or walk the route if you would like. Hot dogs, chips and bottled water will be provided at the end of the event for all volunteers and participants. Bus transportation will also be



provided for returning participants back to their vehicles afterwards. The registration fee includes a run shirt (which is different from the green sale shirts shown here). These green sales shirts can be purchased for \$20 each and are made of a 52% cotton/48% polyester blend. The shirts are available to purchase at the Gerrish Twp. Police

Department so if you would like to pre-order them, please contact Julie at (989) 821-5207 Ext. 291. We will be selling Raffle Tickets also for \$10.00 each for either a Gun Raffle or a Cash Raffle. For more information on the shirts and raffles, please check out our Facebook Event page or visit the Gerrish Police website. Watch for upcoming participant registration information including an on-line link. All proceeds from this event will support Special Olympics Michigan. This is a great opportunity to not only support our local and state athletes but our local law enforcement agencies also!

DISTRACTED DRIVING

APRIL is "Distracted Driving Awareness Month" and we would like to share some facts and stats with you about the dangers of distracted driving. The exact definition of distracted driving is fairly straightforward...any activity that takes your eyes off the road while you are driving. Even looking away for just a moment can be dangerous.

Accidents involving distracted drivers have increased 11% in the U.S. and 27% in Michigan over the last five years. Distractions can include using your cell phone for calls or texting, eating, drinking, talking to other passengers, looking at backseat passengers, pets in the vehicle, operating built-in touchscreens for radio or navigation systems or anything else that takes your eyes off the roadway even if just for a moment.

The most common riskiest behavior is texting and driving/using cell phones. Distracted driving was a contributing factor in 15% of all fatal crashes in the U.S. in 2019. In Michigan there were 14,326 distracted driver auto accidents in 2020 and 143 of those accidents involved "using a cell phone."

In 2020, more than 17% of drivers involved in car crashes while "using a cell phone" in Michigan were 20 years of age or younger. Fatal automobile accidents where a driver was using a cell phone in Michigan increased approximately 88% between 2016 and 2020. In 2019, there were 3,142 deaths in the U.S. as a result of distracted driving.

Food for thought...four distracted seconds of speed at 55 mph is the same as driving an entire length of a football field with your eyes shut. Please pledge to keep your eyes on the road at all times to save yourself and others from accidents, injuries or even death. We will be highlighting awareness throughout April on our Facebook page with a different message each week.



UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

APRIL 7th

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

APRIL 9th



APRIL 15th

Scrap Metal Project Collection Begins
Scrap Trailer located behind Gerrish P.D.

APRIL 22nd

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

APRIL 22nd

ACT NOW Bowling Tournament Fundraiser
Noon @ Fred's of Roscommon
(Registration begins at 11:30 am)

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.

STILL SPOTS LEFT FOR TEAMS AND LANE SPONSORS...

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. Lane Sponsors names/logos will be displayed under the score boards on each lane...this is a great way to support our event and get some community recognition!!

LEADERSHIP

Leadership is one of the most important elements of being a great supervisor in any profession, and is also true in law enforcement. With the change in our command staff from last year, Lt. Muszynski has successfully completed the Police Executives and New Chiefs School in October of 2022. This was an intense one-week program held in Okemos, MI and covered a range of topics unique to upper command positions in law enforcement. These training sessions are held every year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall, and are sponsored by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP).

Lt. Muszynski is currently attending a 5-month Command Level One training through Shield Leadership Institute. This consists of a ten-day training (five 2-day sessions) that began in January of this year and will finish at the end of May 2023. This course is intended to support newly promoted command officers, those preparing for promotion as well as those already in these positions. The 80 hours of instruction will cover such topics as Crucial Conversations, Managing Conflict, Supervising Effective Report Writing, Implicit Bias, Use of Force Updates, and Brain Science. The attendees must complete on-line assignments as well as attend all of the in-person sessions that are currently being held in Cadillac, MI. This is one of the few relevant, contemporary basic supervision training courses that are offered in the State of Michigan, and around the nation. The Shield Leadership Institute is a Michigan based company that is led by David Harvey who is a former Police Chief and City Manager of Garden City and has a Master of Public Administration degree from U of M. He also served as a former MCOLES (Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards) Director. Dave also received his B.A. in Criminal Justice from Madonna University and continues his law enforcement passion by giving back to the community in the form of education and training.

Spring Road Clean-Up

Mark your calendars for our MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program Road Clean-up scheduled for May 17, 2023. We will start at 4:00 pm at the Gerrish Twp. Police Department. We supply the trash bags, buckets, pokers, gloves and safety vests. Pizza and pop will be served afterwards to all volunteers. Please contact Julie at (989) 821-5207 Ext. 291 to sign up if you would like to help!!

SCRAP METAL PROJECT OPENS APRIL 15TH...DROP OFF ANY SCRAP METAL IN THE TRAILER WHICH WILL BE LOCATED BEHIND THE GERRISH POLICE DEPARTMENT BY THE FENCE.