



**GERRISH TOWNSHIP POLICE
DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

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 2023 calendar year.

Brian A. Hill

Gerrish Township Police Department 2023 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 01-01-23 through 12-31-23.

Department Staffing

- Currently the Department stays 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 of course for emergencies 911.
- The Department entered into an employment contract with the Roscommon Area Public Schools to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Roscommon Campus to handle matters of safety, security and to engage students and parents in a positive proactive manner in all matters that come before the Officer and the school. Chief Hill assigned Officer John Wybraniec from our staff to fulfill our obligations for the State of Michigan Department of Education grant funded position for a three-year period. The grant covers 50% of the Officers wages and benefits for that period. The school District chips in 25% and our Police Department funds the remaining 25%. A total of 1520 hours are worked by the Officer each year in the School Resource environment. This past year has been a resounding success for all involved.
- Additionally, in preparation for my intended retirement here in 2024, the Department obtained a grant through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) that allowed the Department to select a Police Officer Cadet and sponsor him through the Kirtland Community College Police Academy paid in full by the grant. We hired Alexander Cole, a local resident and he started his 17-week Academy in August of 2023 and recently graduated December 2023 and as of this writing, he is engaged in his Field Training phase with two assigned Field Training Officers for the 17-week duration of the training program.
- As of this report at the end of 2023, we are fully staffed to seven Officers and have one additional Officer for a small period of time to account for training time needs before he can solo patrol. He will be ready to fill the vacancy that will occur when I retire.
- As a note, the State of Michigan is still experiencing a shortage in 2023 of Officers as there are more jobs available than Officer candidates to fill same. 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 one's wage scale and benefits package may be more appealing than that of others. Additionally, Departments have had to recruit formally to find a candidate first and seek the agreement of sponsorship as we did this past year to get back to full staffing. 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, 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. 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. Additionally, she is a primary cog in the wheel that keeps our Community Policing philosophy and activities on track. She creates all necessary media postings, advertisements and associated documents relating to our community outreach.
- This year, I have been in a succession plan mode so that the board has internal candidates to fill my role as the Chief of Police. The board supported my request to review internal candidates first to find our next Chief. Command staff has been meeting monthly to review the duties of the Police Chief position to provide a seamless transition for the team moving forward.
- Over the past couple of years of having employee shortages, we have now begun sending Officers to specialized training to replace knowledge and advanced certified people that have left the Department.

Department Units

- The Department decided in 2023 to expand the patrol units available to four Ford Explorer SUV All-wheel drive vehicles for patrol. The Department fleet consists of a 2016, 2017, 2020 and 2023 patrol units (see photo below). The Department did not come up with this decision lightly. The current economy with supply and demand chains challenged has caused us to have at times two of our three cars down due to waiting on replacement parts to get the units back in service. It appears to be a long-term problem with delay of parts and long service down times, thus making the decision not a "want" but indeed a "need" to run our operation.
- In preparation of this, 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 were awarded \$41,630.00 which aided in the purchase. It is a one-time grant for a one-time purpose. We were

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incredibly happy for the consideration, and it also helped us afford the one-time addition to the fleet of units available to help with the above explained crisis.

- As a note regarding new patrol car availability in the future, the current new police fleet automobile market is incredibly low on vehicle inventory and building them is extremely slowed due to labor issues that occurred across in the industry recently. The parts supply and demand market remain challenged for the near future. We are scheduled to replace the 2016 unit in 2024. It appears that ordering the same could take as much as nine months to one year to produce.



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 seventy 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

- To review, in October of 2022, our Department completely changed over our in-car cameras and instituted a body-worn camera program using a Watchguard-Motorola product that integrates the in-car video system with a body camera product for seamless coverage of recorded events. We received a 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. We paid for the remaining monies from our Capital Equipment account that is used for large purchases. That money is saved from year to year from fund balances that may occur through wise management of expense line items operationally. In the first quarter of 2023, we worked through learning the system, adjusting policy and overall use of the system. Additionally, we worked the grant reporting requirements until November of 2023 where we had finally fulfilled our obligations for reporting to the Federal government on the necessary items to fulfill. The system is performing as advertised and is a great asset for the Department and the Community. This new system reduces administrative time for freedom of information production and the production of the necessary prosecution needs. We

have trained accordingly so that we are three persons deep in people trained to produce video needs. 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 purchase four ‘Stop Stix’ tire deflation devices to replace our “Road Spikes” product that had to be attritted out as the product is no longer made, thus we had no way of replacing the spikes as used when deployed. The “Road Spikes” product served the Department well over the last 20 years. We have implemented the new devices in each patrol unit and trained all our staff on the practical use of same and the associated policy of the deployment rules was updated accordingly.
- In accordance with being ready for mass casualty incidents, the Department instituted the carrying of a “Stop the Bleed” trauma bleed kit in each patrol unit. We partnered with the GTFD/EMS subject matter experts in a collaborative effort to identify and outfit the bag with all the necessary wraps, bandages, clotting specific bandages for field use. The total expense for the project for the units was \$1,025.00 which also included a “Mega Mover” tarp for each unit to assist in the removal of patients from hallways, common areas, etc. if a casualty were to be experienced.
- With the true addition of a fourth patrol unit and saving the original cost of the unit through the ARPA grant, we were able to order all the necessary equipment that each patrol vehicle has and required of patrol duty. To mention a few, a new Motorola Mobile 800 MHz radio, AED, digital camera, automotive jump-starting pack, “Stop Stix,” small tool kit, fire extinguisher, “Stop the Bleed” trauma bleed kit, and traffic safety cones/ equipment.

Technology Updates

- Following our Technology Plan, we replaced a computer at one workstation as the tower aged out.
- This year, we had to purchase a laptop for the School Resource Officer for his use when away from the building while at school so that he could access our records management system for doing reports remotely. In keeping with our technology equipment replacement plan, we will likely be in need in 2024 of an additional computer tower to the two we usually provide for each year as they attrit out at the workstations.
- We purchased a monitor for the Watchguard-Motorola server for use in the server room.
- As a highlight financially, through good money management and also a technology note, we paid off the 5-year lease for our 800 MHz Motorola Mobile and Portable Radio upgrade that we signed for in 2020. This was paid off one year in advance of the 5-year original contract.

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- This year, we embarked on researching, purchasing, and developing a piece of technology to bring our communication level up to the market where people spend 94% of their time. This is a free mobile application (App) for iPhone and Android cell phones available through the Apple Store or Google Play depending on your operating system. We launched it in the Fall of 2023 as a better means to communicate with our public. The App links to our Facebook page and has the capability to link to other social media platforms. The App has push notifications to immediately notify App subscribers of emergency alerts. As they say, “We have an App for that”! Please go out and download our free App!
- The Department continues to work as a partner on the exceedingly long, careful process 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 are hopeful for settling on a solution in 2024.

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MOBILE APP





SCAN
to download

Download on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play

Built by:



THEPOLICEAPP.COM
CUSTOM POLICE APPS

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.

- 2023 saw the completion of the planned new installation on a yearlong wait for a new whole building generator to replace the original one presently on site. All monies were saved from our operational budget from year to year in a long-term plan to address that need. The total cost of replacement was \$41,800.00. The money was expended from our Capital Equipment account where each year fund balance monies are looked at and apportioned to that account for future needs.
- As a follow up to the removing and replacing of our 25-year-old shingles on the Police Department building in 2022, we had the roofing company replace all the fascia material on the building. We replaced this in 2023 as it was identified in 2022, however the material was not available and subject to the slow supply and demand economy. The cost of the fascia on the building on the roof lines cost \$3,306.00. Once completed, we paid for same out of more of our planned savings monies.
- In the late fall 2023, I priced out the remaining items for upgrade of the building and grounds. This is the fact that our cosmetic landscaping pieces are rotting around the stones around the building and generator area. The pricing of this was more than I expected and thus, we needed to carry this over as a 2024 project to look at in the spring 2024.
- One of our three garage doors had to be replaced and new paint was applied to all garage doors, trim and back service door.
- This year, two circulation fans for the heat/air conditioning needed replacing in the Chief's and Lieutenant's offices and were necessary as they had completely stopped working, resulting in the offices not receiving proper circulation to cool or heat the spaces.
- All faucet fixtures were replaced in the men's and women's locker rooms as they were not serviceable by parts due to the age of the fixtures.

Community Partnerships Activities and Collaboration

- This year, GTPD and ACT-NOW have partnered to award two graduating Seniors of the Roscommon High School \$1000.00 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 fourteen volunteers that cleaned up nineteen bags of miscellaneous trash from both sides of County Road 100 from Pioneer Hill to Hillsdale Drive in Gerrish Township.
- We held our 25th ACT-NOW Annual meeting and Picnic at the Gerrish Township Community Park Marina and hosted fifty residents that attended.
- We hosted our 14th Annual Golf Outing and fundraiser at the Redwood Golf Course which netted \$7,738.66 towards our continued benevolent activities yearly in the Township. This was an increase from the 2022 event.

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- We hosted a bowling tournament at Fred's of Roscommon where we raised a total of \$3,496.71 towards our continued benevolent activities yearly in the Township. This was an increase from the 2022 event.
- This year's Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Michigan Special Olympics raised \$2,780.00 toward the project for our local and state athletes. This event also experienced an increase from the 2022 event.
- We once again hosted our 15th Annual Trunk or Treat on Halloween on the grounds at the Gerrish Township Municipal Center. Over 850 people visited the event this year with thirty-six decorated trunks judged for three main prizes and ten random prizes for the trunk participants awarded. This year we refreshed some of the blow-up decorations and thus the event had a total cost (no income) of \$2,941.95 to our ACT-NOW group.



- Our 15th Annual “Kids Helping Kids” Foster Christmas program was delivered again in partnership with several youth and adult group partners. This year we spent \$7,897.99 on the event to accommodate all the foster children and their foster families for Christmas 2023. We supported sixty-one foster children and eighteen foster families. Costs were markedly up as more kids were in foster care and the inflationary costs of serving the program through gift purchasing.
- Additionally, we delivered our 22nd Annual Shop-With-A-Cop program providing Christmas for five full families with eight children and eight adults served with an expense of \$2,354.92. We experienced very low participation in applying families compared to years past and the families that did apply had fewer totals of adults and children participating.
- 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 is now being handled online through the State of Michigan. The Officer simply logs in to the site and provides the required information. These are used to notify the schools that the 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 collected 161.8 pounds for the 2023 calendar year that were discarded in our Drug Drop Box.
- Lt Muszynski personally assisted the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in the disposal of their 17 County Cooperative by being one of the two Officers to take the truck and trailer with the total amount of drugs collected to the Grand Rapids Disposal site for incineration. To make the system function, police departments donate a person to make the trip to ensure the integrity of the disposal. This year, we supplied Lt Muszynski.
- Gerrish Township Police and Gerrish Township Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers assisted the Roscommon Food Partnership/Roscommon Christian Ministries in delivering their monthly Food Distribution held once a month at the Roscommon Are Public Schools Bus garage and campus. We provide traffic safety and control for the event and in 2023 served 2774 families and 6393 individuals with a total of 213,711 pounds of food delivered and distributed to the community.

Chief Representation in the Community

- I continued to serve as the 911 Technical Advisory Committee Chairperson for Roscommon County, a seat I have had since 2001 representing the three Township Police Departments in Roscommon County.
- I continued 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 serve on the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Legislative Committee as an at-large appointment by the Association. This group analyzes all Law Enforcement legislation to take a position for the organization and lobby 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 continue to be one of three Law Enforcement Administrators selected to sit with the Roscommon County Emergency Operations Center in

case of an activation in the County. The other two are the County Sheriff and Post Commander of Post #72 for the MSP.

- 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 third 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 once again 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 the 7th Region Homeland Security umbrella agency. We started a new 20-hour basic CERT class to bring in five more members to the group. The classes are held and instructed in the Gerrish Township Police Training room.
- I have attached reports of highlights of GTPD/ACT-NOW collaboration and our listed partners for 2023. (See Attached)

Noted Training

This year, our Department recorded a total of 782 hours of training in assorted topics during the year either in-person or on-line. 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) on a weekly basis.
- The Department also converted its entire Field Training Program for new Officer training into a digital format with the use of the Virtual Academy platform.
- Lt Muszynski attended and completed a Command Level 1 training which was a blended learning environment over five months to acclimate the Lieutenant in many management topics to further his growth in learning management strategies.
- Officer Ellis attended the required Datamaster DMT training.
- Chief Hill and Lt Muszynski 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.

- **Sgt LaBonte was assigned and completed Leadership and Career Development Concepts and Image Development and Reputation Management courses in Virtual Academy focusing on leadership roles in public service.**
- **School Resource Officer John Wybraniec attended a Behavioral Threat Assessment Training (BTAM) along with school officials as he is a member of the district team to assess threats as they relate to the Roscommon Area Public Schools.**
- **Lt Muszynski and Sgt Norm LaBonte attended a class in “Maneuvering Successfully in the Political Environment” through the Virtual Academy platform.**
- **Lt Muszynski attended a Virtual Academy training entitled “Difficult Conversations.” The class trains administrators in dealing with employees during challenging times and the ability to have those conversations.**
- **Chief Hill and School Resource Officer John Wybraniec attended an MCOLES Active Violence Training as required to address the plan and moving parts to the Active Violence Incident.**
- **The entire Department attended the two required pre-requisite courses including operator and calibration of the Preliminary Breath Test instruments. In addition, the entire Department was trained on the new Intoxilyzer 9000 breath test instrument as this is a statewide change to replace the retired Datamaster units.**
- **The entire Department completed Emergency Vehicle Operations as required.**
- **Lt Muszynski attended a State required Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) Local Agency Security Officer (LASO) training. This is a required yearly training to maintain our LEIN records.**
- **Officer Ellis attended and completed the required Incident Command training course of ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-700, and ICS-800 as required of a new Officer.**
- **School Resource Officer (SRO) John Wybraniec attended the school track of courses at the Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference.**
- **The Department held our Spring 2023 MCOLES Firearm Range and Classroom Qualification as required.**
- **School Resource Officer (SRO) John Wybraniec attended the “T.E.A.M. (Training Educating And Mentoring) training held at the Michigan State Police Training Academy to assist with his SRO role.**
- **Chief Hill attended a refresher course in Child Death Review Training as same represents the Department on the County Child Death Review Team.**
- **Officer Ellis and Officer Taylor attended a new partner orientation training to familiarize themselves with the services and operations of the Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center.**

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- Officer Ellis, Officer Taylor, and Officer Stachurski attended an “Autism Awareness for First Responders” course through Virtual Academy and all Officers attended a training course on “Communication and Intrinsic Bias” as required through Virtual Academy.
- Lt Muszynski and Administrative Clerk Julie Hill attended the Fall Conference of the Law Enforcement Records Management Association (LERMA). They attended sessions on FOIA requests, body worn camera records, Court Set Asides pursuant to the Michigan Clean Slate Act of 2020, and current record retention schedules.
- The Department completed the “CJIS Online Security and Privacy Training” mandated by the State of Michigan.
- School Resource Officer (SRO) John Wybraniec attended a class on “Mental Health Training for Juveniles.”
- Officer Stachurski received training in Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE).
- Officers were trained on the newly acquired and carried Trama Bleed Kits which have been placed in each patrol unit. All items were reviewed in the



kit as well as practical hands-on application was conducted.

- All Officers completed and passed their LEIN Operator Certification tests as required.
- Officer Ellis received training to become a certified Evidence Technician to collect evidence at scenes. This was a week-long instruction held at Delta Community College and taught by subject matter experts.
- Administrative Clerk Julie Hill completed her American Heart Association Instructor renewal as required.
- Sgt LaBonte completed Accreditation Manager Training to assist the Department in its endeavor to become an Accredited Agency through the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.
- New to the Department this year, Officer Cole attended the Michigan Radar Speed Measurement Operator certification course as required.

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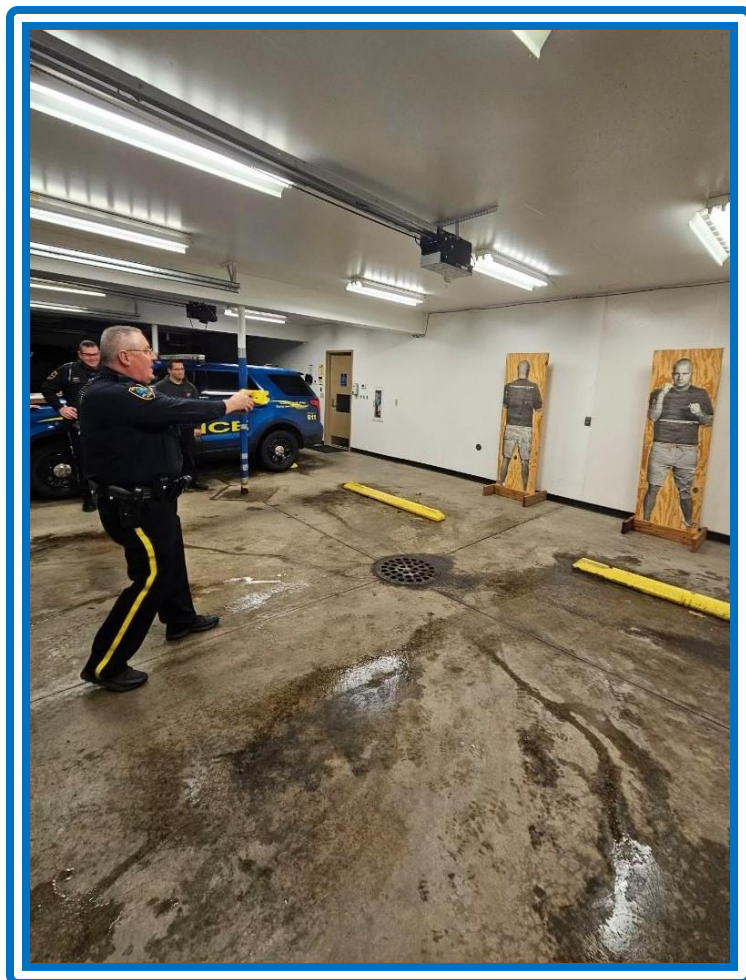
- Lt Muszynski completed the MCOLES Information Tracking Network course to be an Administrative Operator in the system.
- All Officers completed the annual training on the Taser operation and the use of Defensive Pepper Spray as required.
- Officers all attended a refresher staff meeting training on PA 56 of 2012 application and Higgins Lake summer issues.

Every year, Department staff must review key policies to ensure that policies and procedures are understood, acknowledged and followed. Below is a list of 2023 Policy Reviews:

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- CERT Policy
- Carrying & Administering Opioid Antagonists
- Serving of Search Warrants
- School Resource Officer Policy (SRO)
- School Resource Officer (SRO) Job Description
- Use of Non-Lethal Force
- Incidents Involving Mentally Ill Subjects
- Pursuit Driving
- Use of Deadly Force & Firearms
- Deployment of Tire Deflating Devices
- Fair & Impartial Policing Policy
- Media Protection Policy
- Use of Defensive Pepper Spray
- Use of Taser Energy Weapons

This year is a noted transition year where training for a succession plan to replace a retiring Chief Hill in 2024 was a primary focus for our command team in hopes of having internal candidates to fill the Chief's role in the Department upon the vacancy. The command team met monthly to identify training needs of potential candidates to prepare for future Administrative roles.



At the end of 2023, the Department applied for Accreditation through the Michigan Association of Chief's of Police (MACP), with a three-year implementation process which will guide the Department in the future as a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance and service by adhering to standards set by the State of Michigan and providing proofs that the standards are being met. Seventy-five percent of the funds for the fees associated with this project came from a Training, Certification and Accreditation Program (TCAP) grant that was awarded through the Michigan Township Participating Plan.

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 2638 calls for service requiring documentation were received for the Police Department in 2023. This is up from 2226 calls for service in the same period in 2022. The activities noted represented an 18% increase in the service model. This number is not an overwhelming surprise as it reflects a full staff with self-initiated field activities. In the previous three- and one-half years, we have been one full-time position short, thus shorting the total amount of hours of activity and production of the position.

- Reported Breaking and Entering residential/commercial properties show a slight decrease in actual numbers in 2023, and we are still down in the overall percentage and still enjoy a 50% reduction from 2022.
- Reported Assaultive Crimes continue to be increased by 8.0% from 2022 statistics.
- Reported Larceny/Theft was up 7% from 2022 statistics. This is not surprising with the state of the economy and inflation occurring.
- DWI and OUID's increased this year by 42%. This does show an overall increase in our traffic presence and self-initiated field activity as we have had a full-time staff and thus more presence on the roads and exposure to driving behaviors.
- Fraud activity statistics are on the rise by 20% from 2022 and usually are associated with cyber frauds or identity theft from internet activities.
- Sexual Assaults/Child Abuse Neglect and adult Criminal Sexual Conduct cases show a 36% increase from 2023 in comparison to 2022. This is not

surprising as overall cases of reporting are up in our schools and we believe it is due to getting mandatory reporters a better understanding of the purpose of reporting and our implementation of a School Resource Officer (SRO) program in our schools in a collaborative effort.

- Malicious Destruction of Property reports have decreased by 66% in 2023. The numbers of complaints are low and thus not alarming alone by the statement.

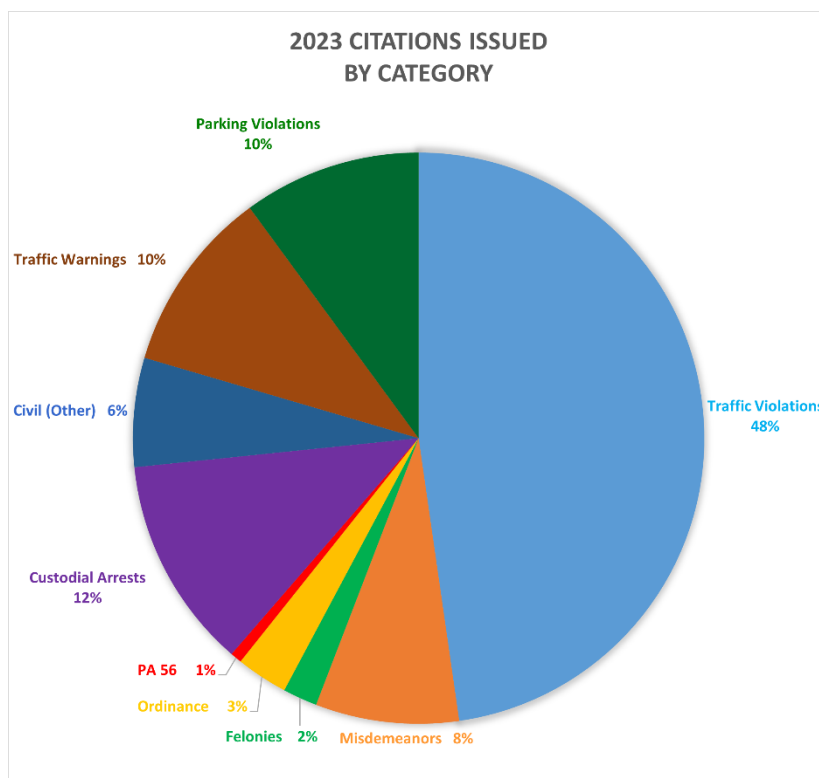
These kinds of reports are generally related to our transient population and random one-time acts.

- Reported Ordinance complaints showed an overall increase. The Department continues a twice a year wave of enforcement to address Ordinance issues that affect the quality of life of the community. The Department managed 127 (up from 116 total complaints in 2022). Once again, our court rate is still extremely low to achieve compliance. The activity is up by 9% which once again reflects our full staff in 2023. Additionally, we have received more citizen reporting about possible Ordinance violations.
- We saw a 16% decrease in accidents policed. The total for 2023 was ninety-seven accidents as opposed to 113 in 2022. Some of this may relate to more visibility with being fully staffed and the additional shifts that it brings.

The Department issued 198 Citations in 2023. Notable categories with charges are as follows (see Pie Chart):

- Traffic Violations-147
- Misdemeanor Violations-25
- Felony Citation/Pended Warrants- 6
- Civil Infraction Non-Traffic (Justice Reform)-19
- Ordinance Violations-9
- Public Act 56 Violations-2
- Custodial Arrests-37
- Written Verbal Traffic Warnings-32
- Parking Violations-31

The Department's seasonal House Check program yielded 1068 checks of individual residences/businesses that sign-up each year for unoccupied

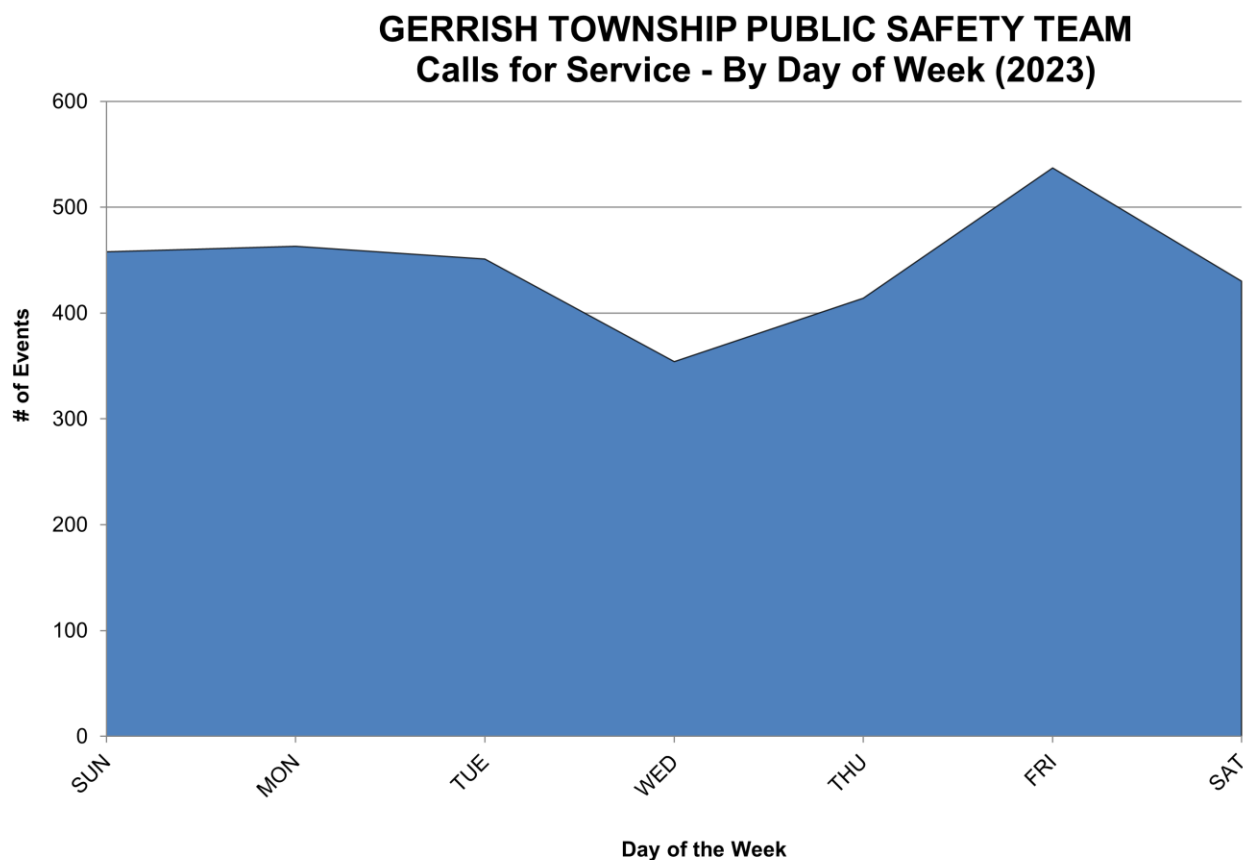


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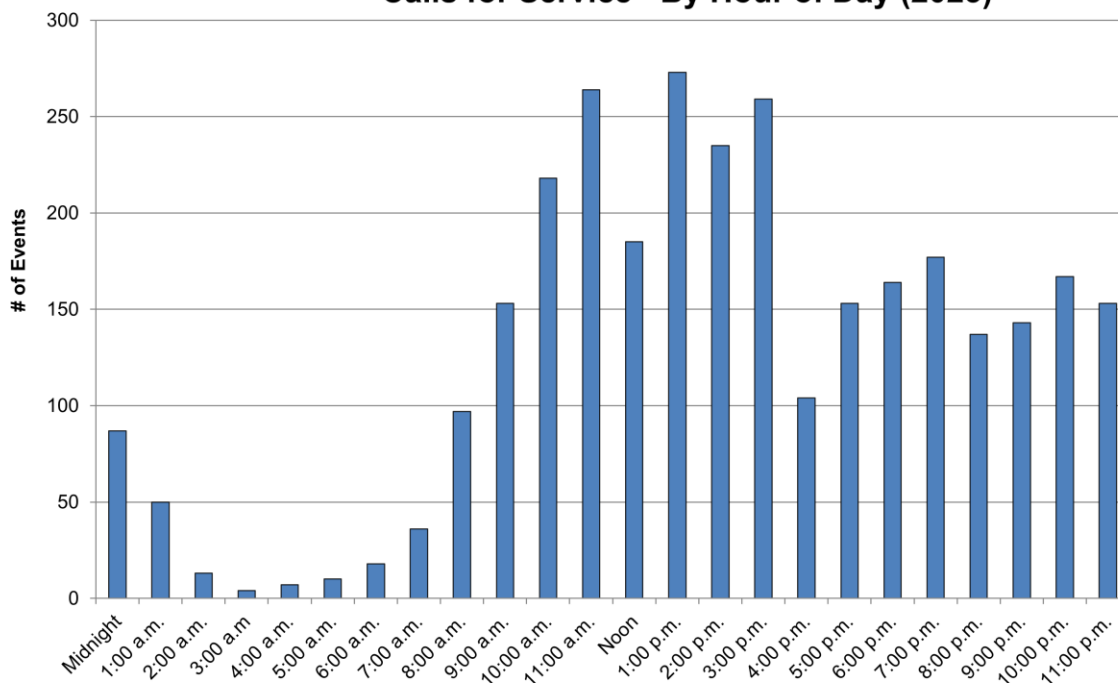
residence checks during various periods throughout the year. These also include frequent checks of the storage units located in the Township. These showed an increase of 10% in actual checks due to once again being fully staffed and thus more boots on the ground doing the checks.

DAY	# EVENTS
SUN	458
MON	463
TUE	451
WED	354
THU	414
FRI	537
SAT	430

Gerrish Township Public Safety Team (PD and Fire/EMS) generated various responses to 3107 Events/Calls for Service per Central Dispatch CAD statistics. Fridays are noted to be our busiest days by call volume in 2023 as opposed to Sundays in 2022. In 2023 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. received the greatest number of calls. (See Charts Below)



**GERRISH TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM
Calls for Service - By Hour of Day (2023)**



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. 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. This is an on-going process to address these increased demands of an unkind society. 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, this will be my last Annual Report that I will author on behalf of our talented Police Department as this year will see my 42-year Law Enforcement career come to an end with retirement. I have nothing but fond memories and respect for my Officers in the job they do every day, and I am confident that they will continue to do so. Additionally, I thank my many mentors that helped shape my thought process along the way. To the community, I thank you all for the heartfelt support that I have received over the years. Not many can say that they served an entire career in one location. I am proud of that. Finally, I appreciate the boards I have had the pleasure of serving. Their confidence in me has always been felt. I hope you all please continue to support the goals, objectives and plans for our community needs each year as well as supporting my successor. Cheers to a Happy New Year and prayers for a healthy and safe Country in 2024.

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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”

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- 04/22/23 Bowling Tournament Fundraiser at Fred’s of Roscommon
(Raised \$3,496.71)
- 05/01/23 Awarded two \$1,000.00 Scholarships to RHS Seniors Katie
Ross and Aleia Smith
- 05/17/23 Spring Road Clean-Up (MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program)
14 Volunteers collected 12 Bags of Trash
- 07/17/23 Held the 24th Annual Meeting & Picnic outdoors at the Gerrish
Twp. Marina with 50 guests in attendance
- 08/12/23 14th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser at the Redwood Golf
Course (Raised \$7,738.66)
- 09/12/23 Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for MI Special Olympics
(Raised \$2,780.00)
- 09/20/23 Fall Road Clean-Up (MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program)
11 Volunteers collected 7 Bags of Trash
- 10/31/23 15th Annual Trunk or Treat with Gerrish Twp. Police Dept. at
the Gerrish Twp. Municipal Complex (Spent \$2,941.95)
- 12/01/23 15th Annual “Kids Helping Kids” Foster Christmas Program
Supported 61 foster children and 18 foster families
(Spent \$7,897.99)
- 12/18/23 22nd Annual Shop-With-A-Cop Program
Supported 5 local families including 8 children and 8 adults
(Spent \$2,354.92)

CERT Volunteers assisted the Roscommon Area Christian Ministries Team and the Gerrish Twp. Police Department with monthly Food Distributions servicing 2,774 families and 6,393 individuals. Distributed 213,711 pounds of food in 2023.

May-October Season “Scrap Metal Project” (Raised \$3,129.72)
Since we began the Scrap Metal Project in 2008, we have raised \$35,474.04.

(OVER)

December donation \$500.00 to the RHS Project Graduation Program.

Home Energy Assistance to local residents (\$541.40)

Made annual donations/supported the following groups/organizations:

- Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center
- Gerrish Township CERT Team & Crawford CERT Team
- 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
- Roscommon Co. Sheriff's Auxiliary Bowling Fundraiser
- GTPD "Coffee with a Cop" Events



**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) \$10,290.00 *

Fourteen 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 \$67,046.00 *

Currently planning for our 16th Annual program that furnishes Christmas gifts for approximately 50-60 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 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 \$26,000.00 *

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 \$86,871.00 *

2024 will mark the 23rd 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 168 families, 279 adults and 583 children. Our community group gathers to wrap all the gifts and the officers deliver the gifts a few days before Christmas.

TRUNK OR TREAT \$28,5297.00 *

2024 will be the 16th 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 36 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, however, went back to in-person event in 2022 & 2023.

GERRISH TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY FUND \$17,636.00 *

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. This fund also provides Neighborhood Watch signs and recently started an “AED Refurbishment Project” to update older AEDs and donated them to community businesses.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUND \$23,974.00 *

This fund provides citizens with heating and electrical 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 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 to raise money for all 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 two hundred 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.

[2]

*Denotes amount donated since
program/project inception
TOTAL \$260,346.00
Updated 01/10/2024