

# G.A.P.S. NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

GERRISH ALTERNATIVE POLICING STRATEGIES "COMMUNITY WITH POLICE...CARING AND SHARING TOGETHER"



**Santa & Mrs. Claus**  
**stopped by Fred's during**  
**the ACT NOW Bowling**  
**Fundraiser on November**  
**26th. THANK YOU**  
**Santa...the kids really**  
**enjoyed your visit and**  
**pictures of Rudolph!**

## 2016 SHOP-WITH-A-COP "Wrap Party"

December 19th @ 5:00 p.m.  
Gerrish Twp. Police Dept.

Mark this event on your calendar and come help ACT NOW and the Gerrish Officers wrap the gifts for the 2016 Shop-With-A-Cop recipient families. If you would like to donate wrapping paper, ribbons, bows, etc. you can drop these items off at any time at the police department. After all the gifts are wrapped and sorted for delivery, please stay and enjoy pizza and pop!

If you would like to make a donation to the 2016 Shop-With-A-Cop Program, you can drop those off at the police department also or mail checks payable to ACT-NOW to 3075 E. Higgins Lake Drive, Roscommon, MI 48653.

This year mark's the 15th Annual Shop-With-A-Cop Program and since its inception in 2002 we have provided gifts for 107 families consisting of 179 adults and 409 children. Thank You for your Support!!

## 2016 ACT NOW "Getaway Package" Raffle WINNERS...

Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets to support ACT NOW! The following winners were drawn on Nov. 21st:

### 1st Prize - Water Park Resort Package WINNER

**JODI VALENTINO, Roscommon**

### 2nd Prize - Casino Package WINNER

**JOHN SMITH, Warren**

### 3rd Prize - \$250 Cash WINNER

**MYLENE KLEIN, Roscommon**

488 of the 600 tickets printed were sold and ACT NOW raised \$3,550 from this fundraising event!

Thank you also to all of the Gerrish Twp. Police Officers and ACT NOW Executive Board Members for selling tickets.

SHARON ZACNY received a \$250 cash award for selling the most tickets.

CONGRATS TO ALL!!

## BASIC CERT CLASS

Gerrish Police Dept. will be hosting a 6 week Basic CERT class that will run on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. beginning Dec. 7, 2016 with a final written and practical exercise on Jan. 25, 2017. The class dates will be as follows:

12/07/16	12/14/16	01/04/17
01/11/17	01/18/17	01/25/17

If you are interested in becoming a CERT member and would like to sign up for this class, please contact Chief Brian Hill at 821-5207 Ext. 287 or Officer Shannon Fick at 821-5207 Ext. 289. Class size is limited so please call to register. Gerrish Twp. CERT team currently consists of 34 volunteer members that assist our local and state emergency services during wide spread emergencies and large community events.

For more information go to [www.gerrishpolice.org](http://www.gerrishpolice.org) and click on the **CERT** tab.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

### DECEMBER 1st

**1:00 p.m. ACT NOW Exec. Board**

**Meeting @ Gerrish Twp. Police Dept.**

### DECEMBER 19th

**5:00 p.m. SHOP WITH A COP "Wrap**

**Party" @ Gerrish Twp. Police Dept.**

**Pizza & Pop Served Afterwards**



### **Kids Helping Kids at Christmas**

Did you know that there are approximately 50 children in the foster care system in Roscommon County and the only assistance those families receive from the State at Christmas time is a \$25 gift card per child?

In 2009, a small group of community members with assistance from our local Department of Health & Human Services partnered with youth groups from the local schools, churches and organizations to raise money to put on a Christmas Program for these foster kids and their families.

Volunteers prepare and serve a wonderful holiday meal, shop and wrap gifts for all the children and act as "elves" to help Santa and Mrs. Claus distribute the gifts.

Due to the privacy laws with the State foster care system, the volunteers are very quiet about this program that successfully goes off without a hitch each year. This program is not the same as the Shop-With-A-Cop program and donations are always accepted through the Gerrish Twp. Police Dept. or the Roscommon County DHHS office.

This is one of the annual community projects that is supported by ACT-NOW.

### **Festive Christmas Facts...**

- ✧ Alabama was the first state to declare Christmas as a legal holiday in 1836 and Oklahoma was the last in 1907.
- ✧ "Jingle Bells" was originally written for a Thanksgiving celebration and was the first song to be sung in space on December 16, 1965 by astronauts Stafford and Schirra.
- ✧ Saint Nicholas Day (Dec. 6) was the traditional day for giving gifts to children and Santa Claus is the American pronunciation of Sinter Klaas (Dutch for Saint Nicholas).
- ✧ The world's biggest Christmas gift is the Statue of Liberty given to the US by the French in 1886.
- ✧ Hallmark was the first to introduce Christmas cards in 1915 and Toys for Tots held its first toy drive in 1947.
- ✧ On average it takes 7-15 years to grow a Christmas tree and Franklin Pierce was the first president to place a Christmas tree in the White House in 1853 and the first "National Christmas Tree" in Washington DC was lit in 1923 by President Calvin Coolidge. The only year it was not lit was in 1979 (except for the top ornament) to honor the American hostages in Iran.
- ✧ Christmas trees have been sold in the US since 1950.

**From All of Us at the Gerrish Township Police Department, ACT NOW and the C.E.R.T. team...**

**May you and your loved ones have a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!!**

