

G.A.P.S. NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2015

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



POLICE OFFICER POSITION OPENING

January 3rd was Officer Matt Schall's last day with the Gerrish Twp. Police as he has accepted a full time position with the Cadillac City Police Department. We wish Matt and his family all of the best in the future and will miss him as part of the team. However, his leaving has left a vacancy on the department for a full-time road patrol officer. The department is currently taking applications through January 23rd and then a screening/testing/interviewing process will begin. If you know of anyone interested in applying for this position they can pick up an application packet at the police department or contact Sgt. Greg Patchin at (989) 821-5207 Ext. 286 or email him at sgt.patchin@gerrishtownship.org.

Happy
New Year

SNOW BIRDS...

Don't forget to fill out your Unoccupied Residence Check forms so that the Gerrish Officers can keep an eye on your house while you are enjoying the sunshine and warmth in the southern parts of the country. You can fill out the form on the website or in person at the dept. We currently have about 60 checks on file and are happy to provide this service to our residents. Please remember to stop your mail deliveries while you are gone and also remember not to have packages sent to your residence if you are traveling or out of town.

NEW CERT MEMBERS

Congratulations to the eight new Gerrish Township CERT members who completed a 20 hour basic training course including a final written test and a mock disaster scenario practical test. On December 21, 2014 five teens and three adults received completion certificates:

Hailey Eanes
Michaela Peer
Blake Erickson
Kerrigan Fitzpatrick
Taylor Holtcamp
Tom Gross
John Ellis
Steve Morris

Steve Morris was already part of the Gerrish CERT team but chose to re-certify with this course. Hailey Eanes is the Roscommon High School senior who took on starting up a TERT (Teen Emergency Response Team) as her Senior Project. She worked with Chief Hill, Officer LaBonte and CERT Coordinator Sharon Zacny and played an integral part in developing this nationally recognized program for teens in our area. Thank you to all the instructors, coordinators, current CERT members and proctors who helped make this course a success! Congratulations to these dedicated new members for their volunteer service to our community, county and state.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

JANUARY 12th

1:00 p.m. ACT NOW Executive Board Meeting

@ *Gerrish Township Police Department*

FEBRUARY 13th & 14th

Higgins Lake-Roscommon WinterFest

Various activities and locations around the Lake daily on Friday and Saturday



If you have not already checked out the police departments new website, please take the time and do so. It has a fresh new look with a lot more information available for the community, including current posts on announcements, meetings and activities that are happening. Along with keeping up with social media and the age of technology, the department has also developed a Facebook page as another avenue of keeping the public informed.



Our website is www.gerrishpolice.org and our Facebook page is "Gerrish Township Police" so go out there and LIKE US and invite your Facebook friends to like us also!

Besides department news there are also useful tools on the website such as House Check and Wellbeing Check forms, ACT-NOW and C.E.R.T. information, Local and Useful Links and contact information. You can even submit a tip to your G.A.P. Officer and view the G.A.P.S. Newsletters and G.A.P. Reports to see what is happening in your neighborhood and throughout the community.



ACT NOW EXECUTIVE BOARD will be holding their annual planning meeting in February and will set the community meeting/topic agenda for 2015. If you have a topic or know of a speaker that the community would benefit from please let an ACT NOW Board Member know and we will do our best to accommodate your requests. ACT NOW had a very successful 2014 and we look forward to a new year of working with the dedicated and special group of people who volunteer in our community and serve with us as we continue to fulfill ACT NOW's mission!

Winter Weather Preparedness

PART II ~ Caught in a Winter Storm

OUTSIDE

Try to find shelter, cover exposed body parts and stay as dry as possible. If no shelter, build a windbreak, lean-to or snow cave for protection from wind. Build a fire for heat and to attract attention, place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat. Try to avoid melting snow for drinking water as this will lower your body temp.

IN A VEHICLE

Stay in vehicle, make sure exhaust pipe is not blocked and run your motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat. Open window a little for fresh air and to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Tie a colored cloth (preferably red) to your antenna or door and turn on your dome light at night when running engine. If possible raise hood to indicate you need help. From time to time, move arms, legs, fingers and toes vigorously to keep blood circulating and to keep warm. You will become quickly disoriented in wind-driven snow and cold if you venture out of your vehicle so stay inside vehicle and utilize your vehicle's winter storm survival kit.