



G.A.P.S. Newsletter

Gerrish Alternative Policing Strategies

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

APRIL 2025



Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) and law enforcement agencies across the the U.S. want to make everyone aware of the importance of safe driving by following "Eyes on the Road, Hands on the Wheel, Mind on the Drive."

It is illegal to manually use a cell phone or other mobile electronic device while operating a vehicle on Michigan roads. Even if the device is mounted on your dashboard or connected to your vehicle's built-in system, you cannot use your hands to operate it beyond a single touch. Under Michigan's Hands-Free Law you cannot make or answer a telephone or video call, send or read a text or email message, watch or record a video, access or read or post to social media, browse or use the Internet or enter information into a GPS or navigation system.

You can use Bluetooth hands-free technology within the vehicle as long as you do not manually use the system more than a single touch. Penalties can include monetary fines and/or community service hours and subsequent violations increases the fines. If you get three violations within a 3-year period you will have to complete a driving-improvement course. Currently the fine in Roscommon County is \$235.00.

Some helpful tips are silencing your phone, put it away, or ask a passenger to operate devices. Avoid eating, drinking, smoking and reading while driving. Avoid personal grooming while driving, keep music at a reasonable level and avoid using headphones or earbuds. Always pull over and safely park if you need to use your phone or GPS system. If something falls out of reach, wait until you are safely parked to retrieve it. Focus your attention on the drive, keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road!

Easter History & Fun Facts

-  EASTER was named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre who was celebrated during the Spring Equinox.
-  The Easter Bunny symbol made its way to America during the 1700s by German immigrants.
-  An egg hunt is the most popular way to celebrate Easter and PAAS is the most popular egg dyeing kit.
-  Florida held the largest Easter egg hunt in the U.S. in 2007 with 9,753 participants locating 501,000 eggs.
-  Ham is a traditional Easter meal staple...before there was refrigeration hams were cured during the winter months and thawed by springtime.
-  Cadbury Creme Eggs were invented in 1923 and sold as Fry's Creme Eggs, the name changed in 1971.
-  The largest chocolate egg was 34 feet tall and weighed almost 16,000 pounds produced in Italy in 2011.
-  The largest Easter parade is held in New York City every year along the iconic 5th Avenue.
-  In Australia, Easter takes place in Autumn as the Southern Hemisphere experiences opposite seasons.
-  The red jelly bean is the most popular flavor since 2003.
-  In 2024, Americans spent over \$22 billion on Easter food, clothing, candy, and gifts.
-  Easter lilies signify the true meaning of the holiday symbolizing Christ's resurrection.

UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS:

APRIL 4th

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

APRIL 12th

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

APRIL 15th

Scrap Metal Project Starts
Trailer will be Placed Behind the Police Department

APRIL 20th

Happy Easter!



APRIL 26th

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

BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The ACT NOW & GTPD Annual Bowling Tournament Fundraiser will be held on April 12, 2025 at Fred's of Roscommon. Bowling will begin at Noon with registration starting at 11:30 am.

We already have all 8 teams pre-registered! If you would like to be a lane sponsor for \$100, your name and logo will be placed on a sign that will hang under the score boards on the alleys or if you would like to donate a gift for our prize raffle, please contact Julie at the Gerrish Twp. Police Department.

We will be holding a large 50/50 Raffle and prize raffle at the event. You do not have to bowl to participate in these drawings, however, you do need to be present to win. So come on out and join the fun...See you at the lanes!



We will begin our seasonal scrap metal collection on April 15th (weather permitting). Please drop metal items only off to the trailer that will be located behind the Gerrish Police Department. All funds raised from this project will support ACT NOW and GTPD community programs and projects.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



STORM SPOTTER TRAINING

Roscommon County Emergency Management will be hosting a SKYWARN Storm Spotter Training class on May 12, 2025 at the Gerrish Township Hall from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. This is a free public training presented by the National Weather Service and will include:

- Basics of Thunderstorm Development
- Basic Severe Weather Safety
- Fundamentals of Storm Structure
- Identifying Severe Weather Features
- Information to Report
- How to Report Information

This program began in the 1970s and SKYWARN storm spotters form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather as in an average year the U.S. experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

Mark your calendars and attend this very informative training class.

genasys

Keeping Roscommon County Alerted in Emergency Situations

Sign up for alerts now at roscommon.genasys.com/portal

The Code Red Emergency Alert System has been replaced by Genasys for Roscommon County Emergency Alerts. Anyone can sign up for alerts at roscommon.genasys.com/portal for free. Enter your current contact information and during the next emergency, officials will use the Genasys ALERT notification system to quickly notify residents. Early notification is key to saving lives and property during disasters. SIGN UP FOR ALERTS NOW.
Be prepared before an emergency strikes!