



# GERRISH TOWNSHIP FIRE AND EMS

## DECEMBER 2022 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

"Chili represents the three stages of matter: solid, liquid and eventually gas." *John Goodman*

"Next to jazz there is nothing that lifts the spirit and strengthens the soul more than a good bowl of chili." *Harry James*

### CHILI COOKOFF!

At our first training/staff meeting on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> we will have a short meeting but more importantly we are planning a **Chili** cookoff and families are invited to participate. As the new year and winter come on, we thought that **Chili** would hit the spot and we could see what the department **Chili** chefs have to offer. We will have prizes and we're thinking the winning **Chili** could be submitted into the Winter Fest **Chili** Cookoff and hopefully GTFD will bring the trophy home. Information about the contest will be posted a little later this month but I wanted to get you thinking about **Chili**.

So, the challenge has been laid down – who has the best **Chili**? Who can challenge the chief's **Chili**? Who can take their **Chili** to the Winter Fest and make us proud? The association has prizes and if I don't win, I will have something special for the winning **Chili** chef. And just in case I haven't said **Chili** enough I'll say it again, **Chili** on January 5<sup>th</sup> be there and bring your family.

### NEW FULL-TIME FOLKS AND SOME FRIENDS STEPPING AWAY

Great news! We have two new full-time folks. Neal Dopp and Michael Stempien (Thor). Neal will be filling the vacant Paramedic/Firefighter position and Thor will be filling the new EMT/Firefighter position. They have both been working here part-time and paid-on-call so everyone should already know them but please congratulate them when you see them. They will both start on the schedule beginning the pay period December 25, 2022.

Sad news, both Jake Figley and Jen Patchin have decided to hang up their helmets. Jen has been a Firefighter with us since 2016 and has helped with many events and activities. Jake has been an EMT/Firefighter with us since 1989 and has been an officer for many years. We will plan a day when we can recognize them both for their service and they are always welcome to be a part of our activities and events.

### ARPA AND AFG GRANT

The department has been awarded several grants recently. A few months back we applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to purchase a new LUCAS for the second ambulance and we have been awarded \$15,000. Brandon is now getting quotes and will be purchasing that soon. The ARPA grants were approved from the township and we will be receiving the following awards: Replacement Radios - \$9,217.42, New Thermal-Imaging Cameras - \$5,800.00, Improvements to the Fire/Rescue Boat - \$14,473.80, and Purchase a Safety Education trailer - \$13,600.00. We will be working on these projects over the next few months. Good job by all involved helping to complete these grants.

### SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Recently we had to have repairs done to the rear axle of Tanker 224. While walking past it a couple of weeks ago I noticed a few drops of oil near the rear running board of the truck. Looking under it I saw the entire rear of the truck was covered with oil. Ended up that the bearings where the drive shaft enters the rear axle were going bad, the friction was heating up the oil causing it to blow past the seal. If we had continued to drive the truck it would have had a catastrophic failure that may have even caused an accident. The repairs costed a little over \$7000 but it could have been much worse. So please if you see something unusual like the oil where it shouldn't be let us know so we can investigate and get it fixed properly. Thank you.



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### SAFETY EDUCATION TRAILER PROJECT

We've recently found a replacement trailer to the old safety education trailer. We found one on-line at a dealer downstate that we think will work well for us. It's a 25-foot toy hauler with an open layout so that we can teach kitchen safety, fire safety and escape plans. <https://www.bishs.com/product/used-2013-forest-river-rv-cherokee-grey-wolf-251r-1959203-28> We're working with Grayling and Richfield FDs to plan the updates needed and make it work for us. We also have previous grant funding of a little over \$9,000 to invest in improvements. We could use help over the winter making the improvement so if you have any interest or ideas and want to help Mike Bentley is leading the project.

### TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES

Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> - Medical	Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> – Christmas Dinner
Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Medical	Dec 29 <sup>th</sup> - TBD Fire topic
Jan 5 <sup>th</sup> – Staff Mtg and Chili Cookoff	Jan 12 <sup>th</sup> – TBD Medical
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> – TBD Fire	Jan 27 <sup>th</sup> – TBD Medical
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Dinner, Staff Meeting, <b>Annual Safety Refresher</b>	Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> – TBD Fire

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner
- Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> Stuff the Ambulance
- We are looking for ideas for training topics for both EMS and Fire for next years schedule. We want training to be something you look forward to so your ideas are important to us. I plan to have next years schedule done soon.

### EVENTS AND COMMITTEES

As mentioned above Christmas Dinner and Stuff the Ambulance are this month. I'm sorry I won't be able to be at either as I have a commitment to teach a class out of state for the week that was rescheduled from October. These are great events and the dinner is an opportunity for our families to gather, celebrate the holiday, and be thankful for everything and everyone in our lives. Stuff the Ambulance allows us to support our community and help others during the holiday season.

We have formed a public image committee that will be looking at ideas to help educate our community about the services we provide. Many people do not know that they have advanced life support available in our township and that we have the ability to respond relatively quickly because we have crews on duty. There are a few members helping out already but if you have ideas and want to help, please let Kristi know as she is chairing it.

### SAFETY

With the holidays comes a change in schedules, the entertaining of guests, and perhaps most of all: a change in diet. Not only will there be more food, there will be more *kinds* of food, in some cases food that your pets won't encounter at any other time of year. Naturally, not all foods are created equal, and your pets won't process some foods as well as humans do. Here's a handy guide on foods to avoid and foods you can let your pets indulge in alongside you. <https://www.myhappypets.com/general-health/article/eat-this-not-that-holiday-foods-your-pets-can-and-cant-eat> and <https://www.familyveterinaryclinic.com/holiday-foods-to-avoid-feeding-pets.pml>



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