



Gibraltar News

June 2012

It's a busy election year!!

Upcoming 2012 Election Dates:

June 5

August 14

November 6

Town of Gibraltar Recycling Center

Hours: May—

October

1st & 3rd Saturday
8AM—Noon



Gibraltar
Town Board

Town Board Chair:
Brian Merkel

Town Supervisors:
Richard Skare
Steve Sohns
Brian Hackbarth
Karl Stubenvoll

Fish Creek Parks and Lands

This spring, much of the committee's budget has been spent removing trees that were taken down or severely damaged in last year's storms. We lost many trees in Fish Creek Park, Sunset Park and most notably, Noble Square Park. It was unfortunate to lose so many trees in such a short period of time at Noble Square. The Parks and Land Committee is excited to hear that the Gibraltar Historical Society has received several donations for new trees. We look forward to working with them on planting these new trees very soon.

In addition to new trees, the Noble Square gardens have been thinned and mulched to give the property a more stately appearance. New grass is sprouting in the areas where trees were removed. The grounds are coming along nicely, thanks to the work and support of our volunteers and staff.

This year, many of the other parks are seeing improvements as well. This spring, we've been grinding stumps, re-mulching and

planting flower beds. We also had park benches and signs repainted.

We are always looking for volunteers to help control invasive species and weed and water throughout town. To learn more ways to help beautify our town, do not hesitate to call.

Thank You!



Greetings from the Fish Creek Town Dock

The Dock opened for the season on May 15th. We would like to welcome everyone back and look forward to a great summer 2012. Over the winter, we installed wood boards along the entire length of the outside of our main dock. We think our transient boaters will find this to be a much easier tie-up. We also made some improvements in our restroom facilities. Dock Master Brian Holan and the rest of our excellent staff have everything open and operating.

Once the season gets into full swing, our hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. everyday. However, our fuel dock closes at 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you, *The Fish Creek Harbor Commission*

Countywide Bicycle, Pedestrian and Recreational Facilities Plan Underway

Door County has begun work on a Bicycle, Pedestrian and Recreational Facilities Plan. The plan will examine existing bicycling and walking facilities and opportunities throughout the county, and will make recommendations to improve those conditions. Recommendations will focus on the "Five E's" of bicycle and pedestrian planning: *Engineering, Encouragement, Education, Enforcement and Evaluation.*

Public information meetings for the plan will be held August 21 at 6:30pm at the Gibraltar Community Center and August 22 at 6:30pm at the Nasewaupee Town Hall. Questions or comments about the plan should be directed to Kevin Luecke of the Wisconsin Bike Fed at kevin.luecke@wisconsinbikefed.org or 608-251-4456.

The Gibraltar Fire Department

Submitted by: Chris Hecht

For twenty plus years I have had the privilege of working alongside the men and women of the Gibraltar Fire Department, this interaction has covered a multitude of Fire and EMS responses from the minor to the most severe. I have always been amazed at their ability, dedication and care they provide to the residents and guests of the Town of Gibraltar; as well as, the surrounding communities. Never did I consider that at some time I might be asked to be the Chief of this Department.

Much to my surprise in late December of 2011, I was asked to consider being the interim Chief of Gibraltar Fire and Rescue. Following some discussion with the Gibraltar Town Board I agreed to accept this position on a limited term basis.

As part of the discussion with the Town officials, I have been asked to help make some administrative changes within the Department and explore how the Department serves the community. As my position is limited in term; my goals also include working with individuals from within the Department, who may want to ascend to the position of

Chief. We may also look into the possible option of working with other Towns and Villages to consider some form of consolidation.

Gibraltar Fire and Rescue is very fortunate to have many talented and dedicated members with a wide base of knowledge and skills. With the requirements and needs of the Fire Department constantly changing we are adapting and making use of each member's skills and abilities the best way possible. The ultimate goal is to get more people involved.

One of the larger changes that is currently in the discussion phase is the return of the Fire Inspections to the Fire Department. Currently the State of Wisconsin requires, by law, that all Fire Departments perform inspections at all places of employment and public buildings, or to contract these requirements to an outside provider. In the past the Town of Gibraltar, along with several other local municipalities have opted to contract for this inspection service. While these inspections appear to meet the letter of the law; there is some concern they are not meeting the intent of the law, or the needs of the community.

The intent of fire inspections and a fire inspection program is to primarily provide for the safety of the public and employees of the business, but also to improve the safety of the fire fighters in the event of an emergency.

A Fire Department is not only responsible to perform the fire inspection but also make sure the noted violations are resolved.

It is the intent of the Fire Department and the Town of Gibraltar to begin discussions on how to meet the needs of the community and improve the safety of our buildings. This process may include additional training for our members; as well as, the use of resources from our neighboring Fire Departments. The process of bringing a community into compliance with the applicable codes is not one that happens quickly, or without much discussion. As we collectively explore this process we hope that this is an opportunity to build relationships and understandings while improving all of our safety.

The Fire Department is available to perform courtesy inspections of public, private and residential occupancies in the Township upon request. We have performed several of these inspections to date and found the business owners involved, grateful for the interaction and appreciative of the recommendations.

As always we would encourage anyone with comments, questions or concerns to contact the Fire Department at any time to discuss this or any other Fire – EMS, or safety related issue.

Schmeckle Reserve wants



What's Unique about Gibraltar? Submitted by: Beth Hagen

to know....wait a minute **who or what is Schmeckle Reserve?** Schmeckle Reserve is the consultant that Door County Coastal Byway (DCCB) has contracted to develop an Interpretive Master Plan for our scenic byway. The Door County Coastal Byway was designated a Wisconsin byway in 2010. The vision of the DCCB project is to enhance the byway traveler experience while preserving the character of the communities and the natural resources of the Niagara Escarpment. An interpretive master plan will guide communities on how to identify themes and sub-themes for each community's cultural and natural history, how best to tell their own story through different interpretive media, and link all the DCCB communities through strategically placed kiosks in the seven byway communities and five additional sites from partnering organizations to expand the byway travelers' experience from one community to the next.

DCCB intrinsic qualities linked through an interpretive master plan for byway travelers include: scenic vistas of Lake Michigan; the Bay of Green Bay; the Niagara Escarpment bluffs; dense forests; agricultural lands; quaint shore-side towns and villages with their cultural history of fishing, cherry orchards, and maritime stories; three state parks; ten

county parks and several lighthouses. The interpretive master plan and kiosk project is part of the ten year Door County Coastal Byway Corridor Management Plan. The interpretive master plan will guide future development of interpretive media all along the Door County Coastal Byway. The kiosks will introduce byway travelers to the DCCB and local community, assist them to experience all of the DCCB communities, plus encourage byway travelers to come back at different times of the year.

The "Where and When" of "We Need You." The Gibraltar community meeting will be held on Monday June 11th at 7:00 p.m. in Gibraltar Town Center Meeting Room. The purpose of this meeting is to gather information that will guide the development of the Interpretive Master Plan. The meeting will introduce you to Schmeckle Reserve Interpreters consultant team and provide a brief overview of the proc-

esses and products that these consultants will provide as well as examples from other National Scenic Byway projects the team has worked on. A 15 minute PowerPoint presentation will be made by Schmeckle.

An approximately one hour "focus group" question and answer session will explore such things as:

- What makes our town unique? What is its "Sense of Place"?
- What are the "can't miss" attractions here?
- What resources are available to assist the consultants in the development of the plan and interpretive media?

It is important that as many people as possible become part of the process, whether you are young or are part of our living history we need your input. Also if you know of those willing to speak with the representatives in regards to the old days let us know additional contacts and interviews will be scheduled over the next several months.



The Gibraltar Historical Association is looking for volunteers to help water, weed and mulch!!

Early Season Invasives



Garlic mustard is a cool-season biennial herb that ranges from 12 to 48 inches in height as an adult flowering plant. Leaves and stems emit the distinctive odor of onion or garlic when crushed (particularly in spring and early summer), and help distinguish the plant from all other woodland mustard plants. In May, this plant will produce white flowers.

Garlic Mustard is a rapidly spreading woodland weed that is displacing native woodland wildflowers.



Calendar of Events

Heritage Days
June 7 - 10th

Summer Festival &
Fireworks
July 7th

Water Testing
July 30



**TOWN OF
GIBRALTAR**

PO Box 850
Fish Creek, WI 54212

Phone: 920-868-1714
E-mail:
clerk@townofgibraltar.
us

We are on the Web
www.townofgibraltar.com

The Town of Gibraltar is teaming up with the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education to offer its residents a chance to participate in a well water testing program. Residents who wish to participate will pay \$99 for an extensive analysis of their water. Testing includes bacteria and nitrate, as well as total hardness, alkalinity, pH, chloride, arsenic, lead, copper, zinc, iron, manganese, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium and sulfate. Participants will need to pick up their bottle the week of July 24th. Then on Monday, July 30th they will collect their well water sample and return it back to the Town Office the same day. Individual test results will be mailed to participants. Additionally, the University's water quality specialists will conduct a public meeting to discuss how to interpret the results; as well as, the overall water quality in the Town of Gibraltar. Interested residents should call the Town of Gibraltar for details and registration at 920-868-1714.

The data from the samples is retained by U.W. Stevens Point and may be shared with the Town of Gibraltar for educational purposes. Any data shared with the Town becomes part of the public record.

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