

Spring 2018

Gibraltar News



FULL-TIME FIRE CHIEF WILL ENHANCE COVERAGE, EFFICIENCY

The search for Gibraltar’s full-time fire chief is a reminder of how highly diverse, skilled, and vital this role is for maintaining efficient and responsive fire and rescue services within a community.

As part of Gibraltar Fire & Rescue’s five-year plan, the department has been evaluating the need for a full-time fire chief. Recently, an active search for qualified candidates to fill this vacancy began.

The addition of a full-time fire chief is a growing trend across many municipalities—and for valid reasons. Although the volunteer, paid-on-call fire department model is efficient and has served many communities well, including Gibraltar, there are notable and cost-saving benefits to having the leadership of a full-time fire chief. This is especially relevant as the number of new volunteers coming in struggles to keep pace with the department’s growing responsibilities.

The Town of Gibraltar is a complex area that presents unique demands and challenges to fire and rescue volunteers. Not only is the town home to Gibraltar Area Schools, Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport, Door Community Auditorium, Northern Door YMCA, and Chambers and Strawberry Islands, it also contains nearly 200 businesses, multiple farms, as well as year-round and seasonal residences that cause large fluctuations in the town’s population, response need, and risk.

Currently, a team of approximately 20 volunteer firefighters and Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs), as well as the Town police officers, manage and respond to all fire and rescue calls within Gibraltar, as well as calls within the Mid-Door area of Baileys Harbor and Ephraim.

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TOWN BOARD

CHAIRMAN:
Richard Skare

SUPERVISORS:
Steve Sohns
Dwayne Daubner
Barb McKesson
Bill Johnson

TOWN CENTER INFO

🕒 Mon-Fri 10 am—3 pm

📍 4097 Main Street
PO Box 850
Fish Creek, WI 54212

☎ 920-868-1714

✉ clerk@townofgibraltar.us

🌐 www.townofgibraltar.com



(Fire Chief, continued from front)

As is the case with most volunteer fire and rescue organizations, many of these individuals have full- or part-time jobs that, despite the individuals' dedication to the department, can limit availability. Additionally, as current members approach retirement, trends reported by the National Volunteer Fire Council show the number of volunteers among the younger generations will not be enough to fill the vacancies.

This holds true in Gibraltar as well. While recruitment is and always will be a priority of Gibraltar Fire & Rescue, the current reality across the field is departments are struggling to find the bandwidth and resources necessary to respond to calls *and* handle the mandatory day-to-day requirements of managing a fire department, especially during daytime hours.

Regardless of the size of a fire department—on-call demand volunteer or career—there are mandatory responsibilities that must be completed, responsibilities too complex and too time-demanding to be handled long-term on a part-time, volunteer-only basis, such as (but not limited to):

- Coordinating emergency management
- Acting as a liaison with neighboring fire departments with current auto-aid agreements
- Developing/coordinating programs to recruit and retain volunteers
- Developing and delivering training programs
- Properly documenting department activities and retaining records
- Preparing grant applications
- Providing public fire education programs to all age groups

“At the heart of all these benefits, however, is the overarching goal to provide the Town of Gibraltar with increased coverage and safety.”

Hiring a full-time fire chief brings cost-savings benefits to the town, as well. For example, having a full-time fire chief would eliminate the current practice and expense of contracting out fire inspection services. It would also allow for developing pre-plans for all inspectable properties.

Other cost-saving duties that would fall under a full-time fire chief include developing and maintaining the department's budgets, developing and maintaining department policies and operating guidelines for increased efficiency, and increasing the lifespan of the fire apparatus and equipment by ensuring they are properly and regularly maintained. At the heart of all these benefits, however, is the overarching goal to provide the Town of Gibraltar with increased coverage and safety.

The Town received a number of applicants for the position, from which the Town Board narrowed their final selections to begin the interview process. For the current members of the department, this news is encouraging and exciting, and highlights the department's forward-thinking vision and commitment to the Town of Gibraltar.

SUMMER FUN AT THE LIBRARY

Summer in Fish Creek offers plenty of fun in the sun. But if you're looking to beat the heat—or get out of the rain—be sure to check the list of fun events scheduled at the Fish Creek Library.

POP-UP MOVIE MONDAYS (starting Monday, June 18)—If it's raining (and it's a Monday), stop by the library at 2 pm for Movie Mondays. Movie to be decided that day.

BITTERSWEET BOOKIES (2nd Monday of the month)—Join us at 7 pm to talk about the month's book selection. A new book is chosen each month.

PLASTICS IN THE GREAT LAKES (adult program)—Presented by Anne Moser, Senior Special Librarian from the UW-Madison Wisconsin Water Library, this program looks at the plastic and garbage in the Great Lakes and what we can do about it. Read a little, explore the science, and brainstorm an action plan. For more information, visit doorcountylibrary.org/water.

CHILDREN'S STORIES & CRAFTS WITH MS. MARY ANN (Wednesdays 11:30 am, July 11-August 1)—Children can explore different topics through interactive stories and crafts.

For more information visit doorcountylibrary.org/summer or call the Fish Creek Library at 920-868-3471.

TOWN PROJECT UPDATE: BOAT TRAILER PARKING LOT

Progress continues with the boat trailer parking lot project. While the recent activity may give the appearance that work on this project first began in recent months, the Town’s efforts to create an improved, more accessible public parking area goes back to the early 1990s when the Town originally purchased the parcels of land on which Fish Creek Park and the current boat trailer parking lot—and future expanded lot area—are located.

Boat Trailer Parking Lot Project Timeline

1990

1990s—At the time of purchase, the parcel of land now known as Fish Creek Park was purchased, in part, with stewardship grants. Also purchased at this time, using Town funds, was a 7-acre parcel of land designated for a boat trailer parking lot. In 1998, a portion of that land was cleared, using some DNR funds, to create the current boat trailer parking lot. The remaining area was left untouched, with the intention to clear it at a later date when the Town needed additional boat trailer and public parking space.

2000

2010

2015—Coinciding with the boat trailer parking lot project was discussion about enhancing the Town’s waterfront and beachfront.

Over the last two years, multiple open discussions of both projects generated comments about parking availability, accessibility, and traffic management, prompting the Town to revisit the parking lot project. The Town hired a consultant, Kufrin Consulting, and Baudhuin Engineering to draft a new layout for the boat trailer parking lot.

2011—The Town was presented with and reviewed a complex plan to expand the current boat trailer parking lot into car parking. The Town Board accepted the overall plan, however, they did not care for the specific design layouts presented to them at that time and the plan was never enacted.

March 2018—In early March, the trees were cleared on the section of the parcel to be used for the expanded boat trailer parking lot. While the Town did not need a permit to cut the trees, the Town was cited for not having the required permits to begin removing the stumps and debris that resulted from the tree cutting. Work stopped on the project until the Town received the necessary permits. The Town has since acquired these permits.

December 2017—At the regular Town Board Meeting on December 5, 2017, the Town Board unanimously approved the plan presented by Kufrin that features space for 115 cars, 22 cars for Fish Creek Park-use only, 48 trailer-only spaces, 12 truck and trailer spaces, plus an area for future use to include 12 additional truck and trailer spaces. Obtaining additional bids for tree/debris removal would not be necessary as the Town would be working with the County to clear the area.

Baudhin Engineering gave the Town a price for the necessary permits with the understanding that the necessary permits would be applied for. According to the Town’s discussions with the County regarding project guidelines and permit requirements:

- A permit is not required to cut the trees
- 20% of the 27 acres (about 5 acres) could be cut on the Fish Creek Park parcel
- Up to 100% of the Village-owned property could be cut (the Town cut less than 2 acres)
- Because the parcel is over an acre, removing any stumps and debris *after* the tree cutting is considered a land disturbance; the *removal* of the stumps and debris does require a permit; a storm water retention pond is also necessary and also requires a permit
- No infrastructure would be constructed on the parcel at this time

The process to acquire the necessary permits was scheduled to begin.

Going forward—The conditional use permit is to be issued by the end of June. At that time the process of developing a landscape plan for the storm water retention pond area will begin. Community input about the landscape plan will be a vital part of these discussions and is encouraged.

A lighting plan for this public space will also be necessary. The Town of Gibraltar will use “dark sky” technology to ensure the area is safe, accessible, and yet still aesthetically pleasing with minimal light pollution.

Construction of the parking lot infrastructure (i.e. retention pond and landscape, walkways, drainage, lighting, etc.) could begin during the fall of 2018, with the paving of the parking areas to be done in conjunction with the Hwy 42 project in 2019.

FIND US ONLINE!



Exciting changes are coming to the Town of Gibraltar website, as well as the town's online presence.

We are working hard to make it easier and more convenient for residents and visitors to find important information, access updates on current town projects, get answers to commonly asked questions, and more!

In the meantime, did you know you can access permit applications and frequently used forms, as well as pdf documents of complete town ordinances, meeting agendas and minutes from the website? You can even subscribe to receive email and text alerts when new agendas and event notices are posted to the website. Simply click on the "Subscribe" tab at the top of the website's homepage and fill in the appropriate information.

Be sure to check the town website's often (www.townofgibraltar.com) for future updates. If you have ideas or suggestions about how we can improve the town website and communication efforts, send us a message at clerk@townofgibraltar.us.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG AVIATORS

Submitted By: Gary Chaudoir
(Friends of Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport)

One of the primary focuses of the Friends of Ephraim/Gibraltar Airport group is introducing opportunities in aviation to local high school students. Working with Gibraltar High School, student candidates interested in exploring flying lessons are identified. The Friends of Ephraim/Gibraltar Airport then underwrites a substantial portion of the cost of lessons through an accredited flight school in Green Bay.

Previous scholarship recipients of the week-long EAA Air Academy workshops have benefited greatly from their experiences and attribute a large part of their aviation enthusiasm to early

participation and exposure. One student alum is nearing completion of a degree in Aerospace Engineering at Notre Dame and is also an Air Force ROTC cadet. Another is enrolled in a flight management curriculum at the University of Dubuque, Iowa with a career goal of becoming an airport manager. A third student is working to complete his pilot's license to facilitate his field biology research.

Careers in aviation offer tremendous opportunities, so we are pleased to help students explore the possibilities, realize their dreams, and find their niche in the world of aviation. For more information, interested students may contact their school advisor or the Friends group directly at 854-4825.

GIBRALTAR MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT: MULTIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES, ONE MAIN GOAL

Submitted By: Patrick Stranz
(Maintenance Supervisor)

As a team of three, the town Maintenance Department performs a wide range of tasks to help maintain the quality of life residents and visitors of Gibraltar enjoy on a daily basis.

From cleaning public restrooms to restoring the town's walkways and roadways after the snowstorm of the century, Maintenance Supervisor Patrick Stranz and Maintenance Specialists John Fairchild and Kurt Linczmaier are responsible for servicing all town-owned buildings and properties. This includes the town parks, Town Center, Old Town Hall, town dock, Chamber's Island Light House, fire station, and (soon) the new Fish Creek Beach House.

With multiple tasks under their care, the team is proactive in strategizing short-term and long-term plans to keep these facilities and properties functioning and in good repair.

In addition to their many routine maintenance tasks, the team's primary responsibility and goal is providing an enjoyable and safe environment for the Town's citizens and many visitors. For this reason, they are continually looking for ways to expand their knowledge and skills by staying on top of the latest continuing education and training opportunities. They actively participate in courses for OSHA, road safety, signage, inspections, equipment certifications, underground gas tank certifications, and other safety programs in conjunction with the local fire department.

The next time you see the guys out and about in the community, take a moment to honk, wave, or say hello.



The Gibraltar Maintenance Team: John Fairchild, Patrick Stranz, and Kurt Linczmaier

INVASIVE SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: JAPANESE BARBERRY

**Submitted by: Bonnie Ansley
(Parks and Lands Committee)**

With its bright red color, dense foliage, and low-growing characteristics, the Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and related cultivars are sometimes sold as landscape and ornamental shrubs in commercial plant nurseries.

You'll recognize the Japanese Barberry as a dense, spiny shrub. Its appeal is due, in part, to its shade and drought tolerance, and low-growing height. On average, the Japanese Barberry grows 2 to 3 feet tall, but can grow up to 6 feet in height. The plant flowers in May, developing bright red, oblong, egg-shaped berries from August through the winter, and has small, oval green leaves that can turn reddish brown in the fall.

The reason the Japanese Barberry is listed as an invasive species is due to how quickly it spreads, primarily through seeds via birds. At this point, not all cultivars are classified as invasive, but studies are still being done to determine which cultivars pose the most risk, mostly due to this aggressive seed production.

Like many non-native shrubs, the Japanese Barberry leafs out early, retains its leaves late into the fall and forms dense thickets, shading out native plants. It also alters soil pH, nitrogen levels, and biological activity in the soil.

White-tailed deer avoid browsing barberry, preferring to feed on native plants, giving barberry a competitive advantage. There are also studies that link higher instances of Lyme Disease in areas with Barberry thickets, which can be a humid breeding ground for deer ticks.

To control the spread of Japanese Barberry, plants can be pulled out or dug up. It is easiest to do this in early spring. Be sure to remove all roots and watch for re-sprouts. Cutting without using an herbicide will result in re-sprouting. If you are not able to remove the entire plant, mow or cut larger plants before seed set. For additional information and resources:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/JapaneseBarberry.html>

<http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/JapaneseBarberryBCP.pdf>



SPRING CLEANUP: GARBAGE & RECYCLING DROP-OFF

“Spring” and “cleaning” go hand in hand, making this a good time for a reminder about where to drop off trash and recyclables. In Gibraltar, the recycling drop-off site is located behind the new town shop at 3478 Cty F. This free service is available the first and third Saturday of the month (May—October) from 9 am to 12 pm. (From November—April, the site is open the first Saturday of the month, from 9 am to 12 pm.)

Going Garbage now offers expanded hours at their trash and recycling drop-off site (10564 Old Stage Road, Sister Bay). The site is open Monday through Friday (8 am to 3 pm) and Saturday (8 am to 12 pm) to residents and non-residents. They accept non-hazardous, solid waste and a wide variety of recyclable items. For assistance or additional information, call Going Garbage at 920-854-2114.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!



Unsure if a plant is an invasive species? Looking for an alternative to replace an invasive plant? Have the answer in the palm of your hand with these invasive species apps available on your smartphone or device!

Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Plants of the Midwest | iOS

Available through the App Store, this app focuses on plant species that are used ornamentally and have become invasive in at least part of the Midwest.

Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDS) | iOS and Android

This invasive species early detection and warning system app for the Great Lakes region lets users add their own invasive species findings. Findings are then verified and combined with the reports from other users, and used to send customized early detection alerts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Concerts in the Park

June 12—August 14

Gibraltar Talks Series:

Lautenbach's Farm

June 21 (7 pm @ Old Town Hall)

Hairpin Run

July 4

Summer Fest & Fireworks

July 7

Gibraltar Talks Series:

Bird Migration

July 12 (7 pm @ Old Town Hall)

Art After Dark

July 25

**CHAMBERS ISLAND
LIGHTHOUSE TURNS 150!**



The Chambers Island Lighthouse turns 150 years old this year. Photos from Gibraltar Historical Association show the lighthouse in its early years and now.

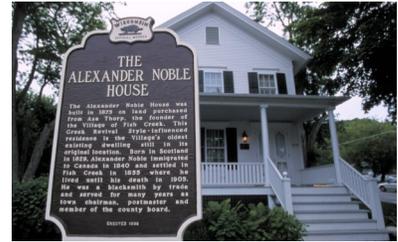


“A HOUSE IN MOURNING” PRESENTED A SECOND SEASON

**Submitted by: Laurie Buske
(Gibraltar Historical Association)**

“The silent and grim reaper, Death has again invaded our ranks and another of the craft has been summoned to that shore from whose bourne no traveler ever returns.”

This dramatic opening is quoted from Alexander Noble’s eulogy, one of the great finds when cleaning and restoring the Alexander Noble House in the late 1980’s. The fascination with Victorian funerals—and especially that of one whom was of great importance to our town—is the reason Gibraltar Historical Association will once again present “A House in Mourning” as the 2018 season exhibit.



Mystery of the unknown piques the curiosity of young and old alike, inviting them to cross the threshold of a home mourning the loss of its owner. Come and see the coffin, cooling table, hair wreath, and mourning clothing of the time. Learn about phrases of the past, many that are familiar to us today, and their original meanings. The Noble House Museum and exhibit are open Tuesdays–Saturdays 10 am–3 pm, May 26 and 27, June 1 and 2, and June 9 through October 17. For additional information contact noblehousefc@gmail.com.

Town of Gibraltar
PO Box 850
Fish Creek, WI 54212

920-868-1714
clerk@townofgibraltar.us

Office Hours:
10 am – 3 pm
(Monday – Friday)



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U S POSTAGE PAID
FISH CREEK WI 54212
PERMIT NO. 5

BOXHOLDER

Fish Creek Watershed Plan Goals

#1 To prevent degradation of surface and groundwater quality in Fish Creek and its watershed

#2 To protect and improve the creek's fish as well as the wildlife habitat

#3 To make Fish Creek accessible to residents and visitors

“The Fish Creek Watershed Plan promotes a healthy stream ecosystem that supports the environmental and economic interests of our community.”

THE FISH CREEK WATERSHED PLAN: RESTORING OUR TOWN’S NAMESAKE

Submitted By: Linda Merline (Fish Creek Watershed Plan Volunteer Coordinator)

In the 1830s, Increase Claflin had a trading post in Little Sturgeon. The Menominee people often traded there and talked about a creek where there was an abundance of fish. They called this creek that emptied into Green Bay Ma-Go-She-Ka-ning, which meant “trout fishing”.

In 1844, Claflin moved his family to a spot just north of the mouth of the creek and did, indeed, find it to be full of fish. Since then, many settlers and visitors have followed in his footsteps seeking the beauty and abundance of nature in this place those early settlers called Fish Creek.

Fast forward nearly 200 years. A lack of fish in the creek and growing concern for maintaining clean ground water within the community and harbor spurred action to restore the town’s namesake. The Town of Gibraltar held two public meetings to find out what concerns and dreams people had for the creek, which revealed an overwhelming amount of concern from those who remembered the creek when it was full of fish.



The Town of Gibraltar held two public meetings to find out what concerns and dreams people had for the creek, which revealed an overwhelming amount of concern from those who remembered the creek when it was full of fish.

In addition to the lack of fish in the creek, community members expressed

concern about the barriers keeping fish from migrating up the creek to spawn. These concerns, combined with funding from a DNR River Planning Grant and help from U.W. Stevens Point, Center for Watershed Studies, formed the building blocks of what would become a plan for the creek. On October 4, 2017 the Town Board officially adopted the plan for the restoration and protection of Fish Creek and its watershed.

MOVING FORWARD

In early 2018, the Town of Gibraltar applied for and received a DNR River Management Grant to obtain designs for moving fish past the culvert and dam, and restoring a meander that was lost when the channel of the creek in Fish



Assisting fish to move upstream to spawn

(Continued on back)

(continued from front)

Creek Park was straightened. The Planning Commission will oversee the grant work and the overall implementation of the plan. The Park & Lands Committee will carry out the removal of invasive species and their replacement with native plants along the creek in Fish Creek Park. Parks & Lands will also address the problem of dying ash trees that line the creek corridor in the park, trees that provide shade to the creek and keep the water cool for fish and wildlife. The trees will need to be replaced in order to maintain a healthy and thriving ecosystem.

This is an exciting opportunity to restore the creek that gave the town its name. Whether you call the town your home year round or for a season, we encourage everyone who loves and has an interest in the creek to consider how you might join the efforts to bring Fish Creek back to life.

To view the full Fish Creek Watershed Plan go to:
www.townofgibraltar.com/fish-creek-watershed-plan/

FISH CREEK IN BLOOM

Photos submitted By: Laurie Buske

Spring flowers may have seemed unlikely back in the middle of April. Jump ahead one quick month, and the once snow-covered streets and parks of Fish Creek are now lined with the colorful blooms of spring.



Summer Safety Tips

Gibraltar Police Department

As summer approaches, the Gibraltar Police Department reminds residents and business owners to think "safety first" with the following tips:

- For business owners, leave the back interior lights on to deter break-ins and allow police to monitor any suspicious activity
- Make sure all building doors and windows are closed and locked at the end of the business day
- For residents who will be out of town for an extended period of time, the Gibraltar police will do extra patrols at no charge. Stop in the Town Office to fill out a Property Security Check or House Watch form or download the forms from the town website at: www.townofgibraltar.com/government/forms-permits/