



Gibraltar Town Board

Chairman:

Brian Merkel

Supervisors:

Richard Skare

Steven Sohns

Brian Hackbarth

Karl Stubenvoll

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December 2012

Gibraltar News

Town of Gibraltar

FISH CREEK HARBOR

SUBMITTED BY: DAVE HARRIS, FISH CREEK HARBOR COMMISSION

There is still activity at the town dock even though we have closed for the season. Because of the extremely low water levels our marina, along with many others on the Great Lakes, has become or will be very difficult to transit. Death's Door Marine, Inc. will be starting to dredge this week (December 3rd). They will be removing approximately 1100 cubic yards or an area 150' X 150' to bring the channel to an average depth of 7 feet to our fuel dock. They will also be deepening slightly the area near our east ramp as well as repairing our west (and busiest) ramp.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is anticipating all-time record low water levels for Lakes Huron and Michigan (considered one lake because they're joined) in early 2013. In a report released last Friday (11/30/12) the Corp projected Huron and Michigan will break levels set in March, 1964 - 576.05 feet above sea level. Lakes Michigan and Huron are 28 inches below normal respectively for November. This downward trend has lasted more than a decade.

Because we are not permitted to dredge after March 15th the Harbor Commission and Gibraltar Town Board thought it prudent to do so now as to insure that we will be able to open for business in the spring.

I would be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns that anyone may have; please feel free to contact me at 868-1714.

PLAN COMMISSION TERM APPOINTMENTS

Town of Gibraltar Planning Commission still has an empty seat...

The Plan Commission is a group of local citizens that are appointed by the Town Board and meet to discuss future development and land use. They also conduct public hearings regarding petitions for zoning amendments, variances and conditional uses. The Town of Gibraltar has two terms expiring January 1, 2013 and one term that expired June 30, 2012.

Terms for the Plan Commission members are three years. Persons interested shall be a qualified elector of the municipality for at least three years. For questions please contact the Town of Gibraltar Office at 920-868-1714. Send a letter in-

terest by December 26, 2012 to: Town of Gibraltar
Plan Commission Appointment
P O Box 850
Fish Creek, WI 54212



Calling all Photographers!!

Do you have pictures you'd like to share? We are always looking for photography to use in our newsletter and on the websites. Please email to: clerk@townofgibraltar.us

Coming Soon!!

Fish Creek Town Dock Website

Spring 2013!

Spring Election 2013

The next election for the Town of Gibraltar is on April 2, 2013. Two Town Board Supervisors: Richard Skare and Steven Sohns and Town Chairman Brian Merkel are up for re-election. In order for a candidate's name to be placed on the ballot they must complete and submit a Campaign Registration Statement (form GAB-1) Declaration of Candidacy (form GAB-162) Campaign Finance Report (form GAB-2L) and Nomination Papers (form GAB-169). Nomination papers can not be circulated before December 1st, 2012. Town Officers are required to have 20-100 signatures. All forms must be submitted to the clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. January 2nd, 2013. Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) forms can be obtained at <http://gab.wi.gov/forms> or the Town of Gibraltar Office.

Should a primary be necessary, the primary will be held on February 19, 2013.

GIBRALTAR FIRE AND RESCUE

BY: FIRE CHIEF CHRIS HECHT

I am often asked, "What can I do to help the Fire Department help me?" The answer I often give is "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". While a pound of cure is not quite accurate, in the case of the Fire Department, there are many things you can do to help us help you.

Some of the more important things you might want to consider:

Driveways and access to your homes - Many of us are used to driving small to mid-sized cars and don't realize how small our driveways are or have become. In many cases Fire Trucks and even Ambulances have difficulty accessing you or a family member in a time of need. Please remember, even if your driveway seemed wide when it was constructed, trees and shrubs often fill in the openings, constricting them in the process. The Town of Gibraltar has a very comprehensive driveway ordinance in place for new driveways, please consider this ordinance while you upgrade and maintain your driveway. The Fire and EMS personnel serving the Town of Gibraltar are available to advise you on our ability to get to your home in your time of need.

Fire Numbers/Addresses - One of the largest responder complaints is a missing, incorrect or obscured fire number or address sign. A sign that is not clearly visible from the road will cause a response delay by potentially confusing those responding to an emergency. Please take a moment to make sure your fire number is clearly posted at the end of your driveway and visible from the road. If you share a driveway with multiple homes, it may be necessary to post your number in multiple locations, to clearly indicate the correct driveway.

Smoke Detectors - Smoke Detectors continue to be your best pro-

tection in the event of a home fire. We suggest a minimum of one detector per floor and one detector in each sleeping area of your home. Remember to change the battery every six months and to replace your detectors every 8 to 10 years. Gibraltar Fire and Rescue on request, will help you determine how many and where you should install detectors and will change batteries on existing detectors if you are unable to.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors - Carbon Monoxide is the leading cause of preventable poisoning in the United States. Carbon Monoxide detectors provide an early warning system of the presence of this colorless, odorless and tasteless gas. Wisconsin now requires all residential homes and any place where people sleep to be equipped with these life saving devices. Again the Fire Department is available to help you determine what the best detectors are and the proper location for them in your home.

In other Fire Department news, we can report the following:

Beginning January 1, 2013, the Fire Department will take over the inspection of all commercial and public buildings in the town. Previously these inspections were performed by a private contract service.

The Fire Department's not-for-profit association has been approved. Our first major fund raising letter was sent out earlier this fall. So far, successfully raised funds to purchase a four gas detector and to significantly contribute to the pur-

chase of a new Thermal Imaging camera. The support the community has shown our association has been both rewarding and gratifying and we thank you for that overwhelming support.

The Department recently hosted a very well received open house at the Fire station. Over 200 people stopped by to find out more about the department and ask questions. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

The Town and the Fire Department continue to participate with other Northern Door Municipalities in discussions about the possible future formation of a fire district. This discussion has been very informative and will continue.

As winter approaches we ask that you consider these simple safety items:

- Keep your furnace and other heating appliances in good working order.
- Change your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries and check their manufacturing date.
- Clean your chimney if you burn wood.
- Check the availability and condition of flash lights
- Keep a battery powered radio available in the event of a power outage.

The Department would like to thank the community for their ongoing support. Please do not hesitate to call for assistance, as often times a small problem is much easier to solve than a large one.



PARKS AND LANDS

BY: LAURIE BUSKE

What a beautiful summer and fall season it has been in our small town. Many projects have been accomplished. All our park signs and large welcome signs have been repaired and painted. More plants and bulbs have been added to our pocket gardens taking into mind drought friendly plants that will endure our drought like conditions during the summer. Our maintenance crew has been busy pruning our shrubs and revitalizing many that have grown too large. They also continue to spruce up our

mulched areas keeping our parks looking tidy and helping to retain moisture as well. Special notice to Noble Square, which has added 3 new trees to replace the one's lost in the 2011 wind storm. They are a beautiful addition: a River Frost Birch, Elm and Sugar Maple trees, to reflect those of the past. All trees were donated from local citizens who want to give back to our community. The Gibraltar Historical Association and the Town continue to manicure the grounds, remove invasive species and fail-

ing trees; to allow the other ones to thrive and not be starved of nutrients and water. This group was also able to coordinate efforts to acquire 3 new burning bushes for spring plantings. Parks and Lands continue to pay attention to invasive species and is working with the Town to remove Jack Pines that are springing up in Fish Creek Park. Watch for more info on Invasives in our spring newsletter. Many more projects are on our agenda to continue to improve and work smart on our Parks.

TOWN OF GIBRALTAR WATER TEST RESULTS

Reflections on Last Summer's Well Water Testing Opportunity...

Safe drinking water is something that many people commonly take for granted. While community water systems are regulated to ensure that water quality meets drinking water standards, private well owners must assume the responsibility of testing their own wells and interpreting the results.

This past summer, 40 residents of the Town of Gibraltar voluntarily participated in a Drinking Water Testing Program sponsored by the Town and the Door County Environmental Council in conjunction with UW-Extension and UW-Stevens Point. While overall results from the program were encouraging, some households did detect problems that often occur in private wells. The two most common concerns that were found in the testing event were coliform bacteria and nitrate-nitrogen. While none of the 40 samples contained e

coli bacteria, 18% did detect coli form bacteria a possible indicator of unsanitary conditions with the well water system. In addition, none of the 40 samples came back unsafe for nitrate, but 7% percent of the samples did detect elevated levels of this contaminant an indication that local land-use activities are impacting water quality in some of the wells that were tested.

Although water may look clean and taste good, the only way to know that it is safe to drink is to have it tested. All well owners are encouraged to test for basic concerns like coli form bacteria and nitrate on a fairly regular basis, or any time water suddenly changes taste, color or odor. Arsenic testing is recommended for all wells at least once. Some additional tests to consider, depending on where a well is located, include 1) pesticides if you live in an area where these chemicals are applied or stored; 2) lead and copper if these materials are in

household plumbing; 3) volatile organic compounds (solvents, gasoline, or fuel oil) if you suspect there may have been contamination nearby. When testing your well water always send water samples to certified testing labs to ensure the most accurate results.

If you are interested in learning more about well water quality in your area, you can access information for Door County by using the Center for Watershed Science and Education's well water quality viewer online at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed/Pages/wellwaterviewer.aspx> You can also visit the Town's website for the results and information on this year's testing.

For more information on the testing program or questions about groundwater and wells please contact Kevin Masarik, groundwater education specialist for UW-Extension at 715-346-4276 or email him at kmasarik@uwsp.edu.



Police Committee

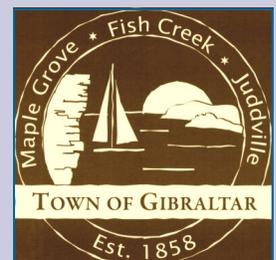
Term Appointment

A term for one member of the Town of Gibraltar Police Committee expires as of November 30, 2012. Terms for the Police Committee are three years; this term appointment will begin January 2, 2013. For questions please contact the Town Office at 920-868-1714. Send a letter of interest by December 26, 2012 to:

Town of Gibraltar
Police Committee
Appointment

PO Box 850

Fish Creek, WI 54212



Town of Gibraltar

PO Box 850
Fish Creek, WI 54212

Tel: (920)868-1714
Email: clerk@townofgibraltar.us

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We are on the Web!
www.townofgibraltar.us

*Fish Creek
Winter Festival
February 1—3, 2013*

BOXHOLDER

Season's Greetings from Gibraltar Historical Association

Christmas is just around the corner and Noble Square has been tucked away for another season. Thank you so much to everyone who helped make 2012 a successful year. The tree stands ready to be lit, so we invite one and all to the "Tree Lighting" on Sunday, December 16, at 6:00p.m. Sing your favorite Christmas carols around the tree and then walk to the Old Town Hall for supper. Enjoy your community friends and a special visit from Mrs. Claus. (A small fee is being charged for supper).

We are planning for next year, and our special exhibit is "Silken Memories". If you can help us, that would be great. We are looking for wedding gowns, shoes, head pieces, invitations, gloves, wedding photos . . . anything you think guests would like to see regarding weddings at the turn of the century on. We plan on having a

display that would include weddings up to the 1950's, so if you have anything, we would love to use it over next summer. Thanks so much!

Finally, the township of Gibraltar and Fish Creek is a wonderful place to live and raise your family. Enjoy all that it has to offer over the holidays and into the quiet months of winter. Relax, rejuvenate, and share your blessings!
Happy New Year!

