

Town of Gibraltar

Gibraltar News

Happy Holidays!

From the Town of Gibraltar Elected Officials and Staff

A Note from the Gibraltar Fire Rescue Department

Submitted by Captain Greg Swain

As the seasons change, the members of Gibraltar Fire Rescue want to remind you that it is time to make sure you and your family are prepared for whatever mother nature may deliver. As seen in the windstorm a few weeks ago, you need to be prepared with dependable supplies such as food, water, warmth, and medication. It is suggested to have a supply kit that provides at least 72 hours of comfort. Over the days following the storm, we saw our community come together and assist not only each other, but also helping those visiting. During the recent wind storm, that left a good portion of Door County without power, the

Gibraltar Fire Department opened its station as an emergency weather shelter. Many took advantage of the warm showers, internet access, news updates, drinking water and hot coffee provided by the Gibraltar Fire Department. Toiletries were graciously donated by the Homestead Suites of Fish Creek. In case of severe weather listen to local radio stations to get updates on emergency weather shelters in your area. Gibraltar Fire Rescue would like to thank every one for their assistance.

With winter's heating season here, please take a few moments to make sure that your smoke and CO detectors are working and have

new batteries. Also, it is important that your furnaces are maintained and professionally serviced regularly. Improperly maintained furnaces not only cost you money, but can be very dangerous. If you have a fireplace, please have your chimney cleaned and checked. The majority of calls responded to in winter are directly related to malfunctioning heating systems and fireplaces. If your CO or smoke detectors sound, as soon as possible, get outside and dial 911. If your CO alarm sounds Gibraltar Fire Rescue has the equipment to determine if it is a false alarm. Always dial 911 when you suspect something is out of the ordinary.

See Fire Rescue, page 3

Inside this issue:

Changes to Election Laws	2
Voter Registration Changes	2
2012 Spring Primary Election	2
Prescription Drug Discount Card	3
2012 Budget	3
Invasives	4

GHA Holiday Tree Lighting

Submitted by Barb McKesson

Sunday, December 18, 2011, is the date for this year's GHA Christmas Tree Lighting. Starting at 6:00 PM, songsters will gather outside the Noble House where the lighting of this years Christmas Tree will take place and the songs begin. Then with voices singing forth in the spirit of the season, a leisurely stroll to the Old Town Hall will

lead to refreshments; a light supper of chili, cider, hot chocolate and cookies.

Meet Mrs. Claus and help decorate an old fashioned Christmas Tree. See you there!



Changes to Wisconsin Election Laws

VOTING QUESTIONS

Voter public access
<http://vpa.wi.gov>

Government Accountability Board
<http://gab.wi.gov>

Door County Clerk's Office (920) 746-2200

Town of Gibraltar Clerk's office (920) 868-1714

Starting in 2012, voters will be required to show a photo ID in order to receive a ballot and vote. Your photo ID does not need to reflect a current address. You do not need to show a photo ID to register to vote. If you are eligible to vote but do not have a Wisconsin ID card, you may obtain a free ID for purposes of voting. You will need to complete a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) application. Check the box on the application

to indicate that you are applying for an ID and check the box indicating you need the ID for voting purposes. To learn more about how to obtain a free Wisconsin ID card, please visit the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/apply/idcard.html> **Changes to Absentee Voting** Absentee voting in the Municipal Clerk's Office begins two weeks before an election. Absentee voting

ends at the close of business the Friday before the election. Absentee voters in the Clerk's Office must present the same photo ID required at the polls. Regular absentee voters requesting their ballot by mail must provide a copy of their photo ID with their absentee ballot request. Once a photo ID is provided, the voter no longer has to provide proof of ID with any absentee ballots, until they re-register (their name or address changes).

Voter Registration Changes

In the past voters only had to reside at their residents for 10 days in order to vote. Now you must reside at your address for 28 consecutive days to be eligible to vote. You may no longer use a corroborating witness as proof of residence. Voters must provide proof of residence in order to vote. The following constitute acceptable Proof-of-

Residence, (if the document contains your current name and address) utility bill, bank statement, Wisconsin ID, paycheck, government document, or lease. You must register with your municipal clerk more than 20 days before the election.

Voters must sign or make their mark on the poll book in order to obtain a ballot. The poll book now

contains a signature block for each voter. Voters unable to sign the poll book due to a disability are exempt from this requirement. If this applies to you, simply tell the election Officials that you are unable to sign due to a disability. Election Officials will write "exempt" in your signature block.



2012 Spring Primary Election is on February 21, 2012.
Spring Election is April 3, 2012.

2012 Spring Primary Election

The next election for the Town of Gibraltar is on February 21st, 2012. It is a primary election for non-partisan local officials. Two Town Board Supervisors are up for re-election, Brian Hackbarth and Karl Stubenvoll. 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, 2011. Town Officers are required to have 20-100 sig-

natures. All forms must be submitted to the clerk's office no later than 5:00 p.m. January 3rd, 2012. Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) forms can be obtained at <http://gab.wi.gov/forms> or the Town of Gibraltar Office.

Prescription Drug Costs Getting You Down?

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has teamed up with CVS Caremark to provide discounts on prescription drugs. How it works: The NACo Prescription Discount Card program helps residents save money on their prescription medications any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. The free cards are distributed in the sponsoring county and may be used at any participating retail pharmacy. Residents can print

the cards from the internet. The cards may be used by all county residents regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. Most chain pharmacies nationwide (Pamida, Walgreens, Wal-mart) and many independ-

ent pharmacies (Bay Pharmacy Health Mart) accept the card in our area. If your pet has been prescribed a medication that is used to treat a human condition, you may receive a discount on the medication by taking the prescription to a participating pharmacy. To print a prescription discount card visit <http://www.rxprintacard.biz/naco/>. It is that simple!

- The NACo Prescription Discount Card program is a useful option with Medicare Part D. For example, the card can be used when a Medicare Part D plan doesn't cover a medication.
- On average participants save 24% on their prescription drugs!

2012 Budget

Along with the change of seasons, in September the Town Board began work on the 2012 budget. Pencils were sharpened as each municipal department was challenged to submit a budget with a 0% increase. Multiple budget hearings were held to trim, tuck and omit with a few "add-in's" here and there to produce a budget package ready for the meeting of the electors.

Finally on November 22nd a special meeting of the electors was held where the 2011 tax levy (collected in 2012) was unanimously approved with an increase limited to .71% over the previous year. A special thank you to all the departments and the town board for their many hours of hard work. If you would like a budget summary it can be obtained at the town office or on

the town website.

Additional taxing entities and their 2011 levies to the Gibraltar Tax Roll:

- Gibraltar Area School** \$2,106,251.47
- Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College** \$1,174,236.80
- State of Wisconsin** \$122,368.23
- County of Door** \$2,517,541.89

Special Note of Interest:

The summer season is winding down in Fish Creek, and the snow-birds are planning to fly south. Part of those plans may be to have your home cared for while you are away. Officer Crowell, the Town of Gibraltar Police Officer, will do security checks on your property. The forms can be obtained at the Town Office or on our web-site: www.townofgibraltar.com. Simply fill out the form with the dates you wish your property to be checked and leave it with Officer Crowell. The form also has an emergency contact line. This way if a problem does arise Officer Crowell can contact the owner.

Fire Rescue from page 1

This fall our department added a new truck to our fleet. The vehicle is a brush truck which has proven to be a huge asset to our community. Within days of receiving this vehicle, it was dispatched to assist at a fire in the Gills Rock area. We were most pleased by its performance and versatility. Since then, the truck has responded on numerous calls

and was a key part of our resources during the wind storm. With a total of 81 fire calls and 128 emergency medical responses, our members have been quite busy over the past year. Gibraltar Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Responders take part in weekly meetings which keep their practical skills, education and certification cur-

rent. We do our best to ensure our community receives the most professional level of service as possible.

Gibraltar Fire Rescue is looking for volunteers! If interested call Chief Jon Stahl at (920) 495-2461.

4097 Highway 42
PO Box 850
Fish Creek WI 54212

Phone: (920) 868-1714
Fax: (920) 868-9425
E-mail: clerk@townofgibraltar.us

STD
US POSTAGE PAID
FISH CREEK WI 54212
PERMIT NO. 5

We are on the web!
townofgibraltar.com

BOXHOLDER

Keeping a Handle on “Invasives”

Submitted by Renny Lea

Winter is generally a time when we put away our gardening tools and wait for the next seed catalog to come along. When planning your garden or considering landscaping changes around your home, it would be wise to inform yourself about which plants are helpful and which are potentially harmful to the natural beauty and diversity of Door County. Walking through the town this past year, I have noticed, for example, a number of Japanese barberry (*berberis thunbergii*) bushes planted around

homes and businesses. This is not surprising, as the bush is attractive to look at. Its tiny leaves turn color in fall and it puts out distinctive elliptical red berries. However, this is the same barberry that invasives teams, notably the “Barberry Pirates” at The Ridges, have been trying to remove from sensitive ecosystems. The problem is that birds ingest those bright red berries and deposit them elsewhere. What’s more, recent research indicates that Japanese barberry changes the soil chemistry in the

environment it inhabits. Another invasive that stood out last summer was dame’s rocket (*hesperis matronalis*). Looking much like purple phlox, but with four rather than five petals which betray it as a member of the mustard family, this plant is not only tolerated, but even prized by some unknowing homeowners. I have even seen it growing alongside annuals in fenced-off show gardens on some properties! This plant is extremely invasive and, having spread into our own backyard, one of which I have firsthand knowledge.

Check out updates from the Door County Invasive Species Team (DCIST) by going to: ridgessanctuary.org If you would like some help or would like to help, please contact the Town Clerk or someone on the Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee.

