

Summer 2019

Gibraltar Town Newsletter

TOWN PROJECTS UPDATE

The increased activity in town is a sure sign that summer has finally arrived in Gibraltar. Soon after local businesses swept (or perhaps, more accurately, shoveled) their front walkways and hung their shingles, eager visitors began exploring all our town has to offer.

But the tourist season isn't the only thing in full swing in Gibraltar. The list of Town projects is moving forward as well.

Fish Creek Beach & Bath House

Construction of the new beach bathhouse is underway. The building is up and the beachfront is beginning to take shape. The new bathhouse will feature four family restrooms, two changing rooms, a foot washing station, and a covered porch area to provide those who love to visit our beach with more comfortable amenities. It is scheduled to open for use this summer.

Hwy 42 Resurfacing Project

As discussed at previous public meetings with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Fish Creek portion of this project is postponed until fall. The updated construction time frame is set to begin October 15, 2019 and end in June 2020. In

an effort to make the project as hassle-free as possible for residents and visitors alike, the project is divided into three stages.

Stage 1

Stage 1 is divided into three phases:

Stage 1: Phase A is scheduled for October 15 - 20

Stage 1: Phase B is scheduled for October 21 - noon October 25

Stage 1: Phase C is scheduled for October 28 - Winter Shutdown 2019

The Stage 1 detour is for *southbound traffic only*. However, from noon October 25 - October 27, WIS Hwy 42 will be open to bi-directional traffic for the Fish Creek Jack O' Lantern Days.

The official detour route for southbound traffic during this time is Cty Hwy F in Fish Creek to Cty Hwy A to Cty Hwy E in Egg Harbor.

Stage 2

Stage 2 is scheduled to begin in early March (as soon as the weather allows work to start) and end prior to Memorial Day 2020.

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TOWN BOARD

CHAIRMAN:

Richard Skare

SUPERVISORS:

Steve Sohns

Barb McKesson

Bill Johnson

Tim Luetngen

TOWN CENTER INFO



Mon-Fri 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



4097 Main Street
PO Box 850
Fish Creek, WI 54212



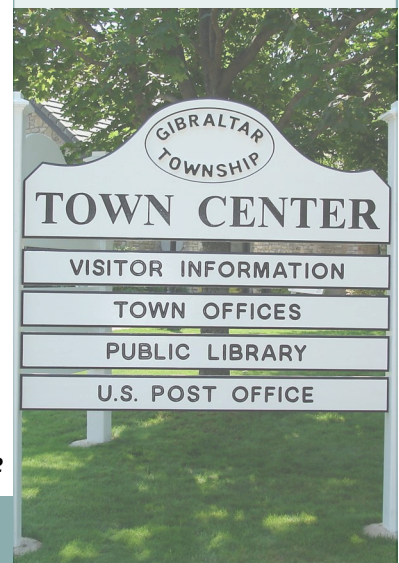
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clerk@townofgibraltar.us



www.townofgibraltar.com



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UPDATED TOWN WEBSITE IS LIVE



If you visited the Town website recently, you may have noticed it looks a little different. This spring, the Town updated its website to make finding and accessing important town-related information easier. The Town website also has a new domain name, www.gibraltarwi.gov.

Some of the new features include:

- FAQ section with answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about the community, town government, town projects, zoning, and other topics of interest.

- forms and permits in fillable pdf format, meaning you can fill out the form directly from your computer, tablet or smart device. Direct links to the documents make them easy to find and access.

- town ordinances and resolutions organized by year and topic for quick searching.

- a news ticker across the top of the homepage for important updates and notices.

- the News & Updates notification service that lets you receive email and/or text notifications when new meeting agendas and town news updates are posted. Signing up is easy. Visit gibraltarwi.gov/subscribe-to-updates/ or call the Town office at 868-1714.

TOWN PROJECTS UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Stage 3

Stage 3 is scheduled to begin Memorial Day and wrap up by the end of June 2020.

Both Stages 2 and 3 will include a hard closure of the section of road that stretches from the top of the hill (north of the intersection of WIS Hwy 42 and Cty Hwy F) until just past the YMCA. For maps, traffic impacts and detours, and other helpful information visit: projects.511wi.gov/wis42recon/.

Boat Trailer Parking Lot

The newly updated boat trailer parking lot is open for business. While there is still some work to be done, the lot is available for use. If parking a boat trailer in the lot, a permit is required. Visit the Town Dock to purchase the required permit.

Uptown Project

There have been several meetings recently to discuss the potential purchase of 195 acres at the top the bluff. These informational sessions discussed the history of the project, introduced potential uses for the property, and allowed for a Q & A between residents and the Town Board about the project.

While the project idea isn't new (it was first brought forth by the electors at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting), it was given new life when the Town Board secured an "Option to Purchase" the property this spring. An "option to purchase" does not mean the Town has purchased or will

purchase the property. However, it does take the property off the market and gives the Town "first dibs" to purchase the property for \$2.15 million. Prior negotiation meetings were held in closed session per Wisconsin State statutes under the Wisconsin Open Meetings Laws.

With the option to purchase secured, the Town Board hosted the first few informational meetings in May. The Town Board brought in experts who have worked on similar municipal projects, gathered community input, answered questions, and began outlining the next steps.

The meetings also spoke to the property's unique qualities (it comes with over 500 permits that never expire) and the Town's Comprehensive Plan goals the project would help achieve (specifically goals related to attainable housing, conservation and preservation efforts, enhanced recreational opportunities, and increased tourism and shoulder season revenue).

All minutes from the previous meetings are available on the Town website under the "Agendas & Minutes" page. Visit gibraltarwi.gov/agendas-minutes/.

Find the latest news and updates for these Town projects and others by visiting the Town Projects page at gibraltarwi.gov/town-projects/. You can also sign up for text or email alerts of important project news, as well as upcoming meeting dates and agendas, through the Town News & Notifications Service. To register, go to gibraltarwi.gov/subscribe-to-updates/ or call the Town Office at (920) 868-1714.

NEW TOWN FACEBOOK PAGE

There's a new communication tool in town. The Town of Gibraltar launched its own Facebook Page in June. Here, community members can find important Town news, project updates, meeting reminders, and more.

The Town Facebook page will not replace the Town website. Instead, the two will act as partners, making the communication process between the Town and the community more transparent and efficient. Follow us at www.facebook.com/TownofGibraltar.



TOWN GOVERNMENT 101: OPEN VS. CLOSED MEETINGS

A strong Town is built on a foundation that involves an engaged and informed electorate. That process includes hosting regular Town meetings, both “open” and “closed” sessions. Here, we break down the definitions and differences between Open Meetings and Closed Meetings and the purpose of each with help from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities website.

What defines a meeting?

A meeting is defined as a gathering of members of a governmental body for the purpose of exercising responsibilities and authority vested in the body.” To determine whether a gathering is a “meeting” the courts apply a purpose test and a numbers test. When both are met, it is considered a meeting.

What is the difference between an “Open Meeting” and a “Closed Meeting”

- An **open meeting** is defined as a meeting of members of a governmental body that the public is allowed to attend. Generally, the governmental body must provide 24-hour advance public notice of the meeting and hold the meeting in a place that is reasonably accessible to the public.
- It is important to note that the open meeting law does not require absolute openness. However, Wisconsin state legislature does state that the “public is entitled to the fullest and most complete information regarding the affairs of government as is compatible with the conduct of governmental business.”
- A **closed meeting**, or closed session, is a meeting of a governmental body that the public is not allowed to attend. Attendance at a closed session is limited to the members of a governmental body, necessary staff (such as the Town Clerk), and any other persons whose presence is necessary for the business at hand.

What are some reasons for holding a “closed” meeting?

- A meeting can only be “closed” if it meets specific requirements outlined in Wisconsin state legislature, for example:
 - considering the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of a public employee;
 - deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties;
 - considering financial, medical, social, personal history and disciplinary data of specific personnel problems, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect on the person’s reputation;
 - conferring with legal counsel with respect to litigation in which the body is involved or is likely to become involved.

How specific does an agenda item have to be to satisfy the open meeting law notice requirement?

- The notice must set forth the time, date, place and subject matter of the meeting “in such form as is reasonably likely to apprise members of the public and the news media thereof.” Wis. Stat. secs. 19.84(1) and (2). The Wisconsin Supreme Court also held that notice of an agenda item must be “reasonably specific.” What is considered “reasonably specific” depends on the circumstances associated with the item and other considerations including:
 - The burden of providing more detailed notice. The public official must consider the amount of time and effort required to assess what information should be included in the notice, keeping in mind that the demands of specificity should not “thwart the efficient administration of governmental business.”
 - The public interest in the subject matter. The public official must consider the number of interested citizens and the intensity of the interest. The greater the public interest, the greater specificity required.
 - The public ability to anticipate the subject matter. If an item involves a “novel” or non-routine matter the public is unlikely to anticipate under more general language, greater specificity is required.

How specific does the meeting notice of a closed session need to be?

- Every public notice of a meeting, whether it is an open or closed meeting, must list the meeting’s date, time, place, and subject matter.
- However, the requirement for public notice of public meetings set forth in sec. 19.84(2) does not require a governmental body to utilize a detailed agenda. For a closed session specifically, the obligation to provide the “best notice which can be given” requires that the notice be as specific as possible without compromising the interests served by the proposed closed session.

Find more answers to your open meeting law questions by visiting the League of Wisconsin Municipalities “Frequently Asked Questions” page at www.lwm-info.org/831/Frequently-Asked-Questions.

EXPLORE THE LIBRARY THIS SUMMER



Beat the heat this summer with fun summer activities at the Fish Creek Library. The theme this summer's is "A Universe of Stories", running from June 1-August 31.

BITTERSWEET BOOKIES

Bittersweet Bookies continues throughout the summer. Check the Door County Library website or call the library for the month's selection.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Keep kids' reading skills sharp and win fun prizes by participating in the library's summer reading program. Participants are encouraged to read 15 minutes a day during the summer (June 1-August 31). Prizes are awarded for 1, 5, and 10 hours of reading.

CHILDREN'S STORIES & CRAFTS WITH MS. MARY ANN (Wed. 11:30 am, July 3 - 31)

Explore different topics through interactive stories and fun crafts. Join Ms. Mary Ann each Wednesday morning in July.

Find more information at doorcountylibrary.org/summer or call the Fish Creek library branch at 920-868-3471.

FISH CREEK TOWN DOCK OPENS FOR SEASON

Submitted By: Dave Harris
(Harbor Commission Chair)

The Fish Creek Town Dock opened for the 2019 season on Friday, May 17. The Town Dock is pleased to announce longtime employee, Chase Austin, was promoted to Dock Master, and that most of last year's staff returned for the 2019 season.

A few updates this year include a new west launch ramp pier with a longer and wider dock. This should help alleviate some of the congestion by allowing more room to tie up while retrieving vehicles and trailers.

The dock also upgraded its fuel dispensing system to allow for faster service and reduced wait time. The dock offers both 89 octane, no-ethanol gasoline and diesel fuel.



Dock hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily with limited hours in September. Hours will be posted at the dock and on the Town Dock website, www.fishcreektowndock.com.

For slip availability or to make reservations, visit www.fishcreektowndock.com or call the Town Dock at (920) 868-3476.

INVASIVE SPECIES: LOOK EARLY

Submitted By: Bonnie Ansley
(Parks & Lands Committee)

Invasive species often reveal themselves by being some of the first to leaf out in spring and the last to go dormant in fall.

Two of the earliest identifiable invasive plants include Honeysuckle (a shrub) and Garlic Mustard (a ground plant). They are also two of the most widely distributed invasive plants in our environment. It's most effective to treat Honeysuckle in the fall, but you can mark the plants earlier in the season for fall removal.

Garlic Mustard is a biennial plant that grows a rosette the first year and a 2- to 4-foot stalk with white flowers in its second year. To identify, tear one of the round textured leaves to discover a distinct smell of garlic. The plants are easily pulled by hand, and is important to do so before the plants set seed.

For help identifying invasive plants on your property, contact Bonnie Ansley with the Town of Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee. There is no better time than now to remove any kind of invasive species plant.



Honeysuckle (left) and Garlic Mustard are two common invasive plants in Gibraltar and easily identified.

SUMMER SAFETY REMINDERS FOR RESIDENTS & VISITORS

Submitted By: Chief Andy Bertges
(Gibraltar Fire & Rescue)

Fire inspectors do not typically inspect residential dwellings. Instead, they focus on commercial structures and public areas. However, Gibraltar residents—both seasonal and year-round—as well as visitors who are renting a property for vacation or employment, are encouraged to take a few key safety precautions.

First, make sure the property is equipped with enough working smoke detectors. The National Fire Protection Association recommends having smoke alarms installed on every level of the home (including the basement), inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

For example, a 2-story, 3-bedroom house requires a minimum of five smoke alarms. Also, if there are fuel

burning appliances, make sure there is a carbon monoxide (CO) detector in the home.

Also consider the following:

- Do you have an escape plan?
- Does your bedroom have a window to escape from? If not, how are you going to get out in the event of a fire?
- Will the smoke detector provide you with enough warning?
- Have you established a household meeting place?
- Where are the fire extinguishers located, and are they working?

Fire safety might not be the first thing on your mind during the summer, but taking a few moments to create a safety plan could be the difference between life and death.

For more important information please visit: www.ready.gov/home-fires.

BE PREPARED FOR A NATURAL DISASTER

When natural disasters such as wildland fires, tornadoes, hurricanes and floods strike, they often do so without warning. While most natural disasters can't be prevented from occurring, it is possible to prepare for them.

1) Make a plan specific to your family's needs and the disasters that may strike in your area. Practice your plan once you have it developed.

2) When practicing evacuation, the 5 -P's of Evacuation:

- **People/Pets**
- **Pills**
- **Papers**
- **Personal healthcare needs**
- **Precious items**

• 3) Home fires may not be a natural disaster, but preparing for them is just as critical. The Emergency Financial First Aid

Kit, offered by FEMA, is a helpful tool to help you organize your financial information and any other important documents into a financial preparedness packet that can be taken with you or stored in a safe location, such as a safe deposit box.

Find more information at www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.



THINK SAFETY THIS BOATING SEASON



Last year, the Gibraltar Fire & Rescue reported two emergency water operations, one of which included the loss of a vessel. Many boating emergencies can be avoided by following safe boating practices including:

- Maintaining and wearing a coast guard approved life jacket.
- Have, maintain, and know how to use emergency equipment (cell phone, flares, maps and fire extinguishers).
- Watch the weather forecast while planning your trip.
- Never operate your boat while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Remember, hypothermia can set in fast should you fall into the water. You may not be able to get yourself out of the water as easily as you may think.

Visit the Wisconsin DNR website for many helpful boating tips: dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/boatSafetyTips.html.

For weather information visit: www.weather.gov/grb/.

FISH CREEK WATERSHED UPDATE

Submitted By: Linda Merline
Fish Creek Watershed Coordinator

Town website under the Plan Commission page
(gibraltarwi.gov/plan-commission/).

In 2018, the Town of Gibraltar was awarded a River Management Grant from the DNR. This grant was used to obtain design concepts for the Hwy 42 culvert and Redmann Dam areas of Fish Creek. Currently, both areas present obstacles to the fish during the spawning season as the fish have to jump over the barriers as they move upstream during periods of lower water. This grant also provided funds for the restoration of the meander in Fish Creek Park. The Town asked the Plan Commission to oversee the work of the grant, as well as begin the work outlined in the Fish Creek Watershed Plan.

The Town Board chose Miller Engineers & Scientists to create three fish passage concept designs for the Hwy 42 culvert and two fish passage concept designs for the dam. Each of the designs illustrated different concepts for assisting the fish to move upstream.

In June, Miller presented the design concepts at a public meeting. At that meeting, the public had the opportunity to view the designs, ask questions and provide input. Following the public meeting, the Town Board selected one design for the culvert and one design for the dam. Those designs, the Box Culvert Converging Baffles design and the Half Mile Dam Structure Modifications design, can be viewed on the

In addition to the grant project, the Plan Commission partnered with the Park & Lands Committee to move forward with reforestation efforts along the corridor of Fish Creek in Fish Creek Park. These efforts include identifying and taking down dead ash trees, planning for the planting of replacement trees, and identifying and protecting existing young trees. The Park & Lands Committee is also working to remove invasive species along the creek corridor in Fish Creek Park, species such as barberry and buckthorn.

The spring concluded with 5th grade classes from Gibraltar Area Schools visiting Fish Creek Park. This collaborative effort of the Plan Commission, Parks & Lands Committee, the school, and community volunteers helped students expand their knowledge of the natural world with "hands on" experiences at the creek. Linda Merline, from the Plan Commission, along with Park & Lands Committee members Tom Thurman, Laurie Buske, and Bonnie Ansley worked with Vinni Chomeau of Friends of Gibraltar to help plan and coordinate activities around topics including macroinvertebrates, reforestation, and invasive species.

Direct any additional questions to Linda Merline at (920) 868-3453 or the Town Office at (920) 868-1714.



The dying ash trees along the creek once provided shade that kept the creek waters cool for fish and other wildlife.



Gibraltar students look for macroinvertebrates in Fish Creek Park.

WEDDING BELLS RING AT THE HISTORIC NOBLE HOUSE

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

It's wedding season at the Alexander Noble House Museum. The Gibraltar Historical Association celebrates wedding gowns, traditions and customs with the return of its "Victorian Wedding Customs & Gowns" exhibit.

Docents lead guests through the rooms of Fish Creek's oldest wood-frame home, each staged with displays and vignettes that showcase wedding headpieces, wedding gifts, and the interesting stories behind wedding customs and traditions, some of which are still practiced today. The main attraction of the exhibit is the collection of breathtaking wedding gowns from the 1850s through the 1950s, including a few new additions from the last time this exhibit was featured.

Along the tour, guests will hear the story of Alexander Noble, his family and their home. Built in 1875, the Historic Noble Home still contains many of the original

furnishings passed down from members of the Noble family.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Sundays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call (920) 868-2091 or email noble-housefc@gmail.com for additional information. Visit their website at www.historicnoble.org.



REFORESTATION OF FISH CREEK PARK

**Submitted by: Tom Thurman
Parks & Lands Committee**

The Town of Gibraltar's Parks and Lands Committee is working on a plan for the reforestation of Fish Creek Park. The efforts currently underway focus on two objectives:

1. Restore the natural beauty of the park due to the loss of approximately 2,000 ash trees as a result of the emerald ash borer; and
2. Provide shading to the creek to lower water temperature and improve fish habitat.



Sewer Line and Sewer Maintenance Tips



**Submitted by:
Fish Creek Sanitary District #1**

Not everything advertised as disposable should be flushed or disposed of in the sewer system. Many of these items can cause major damage, backups or both. However, keeping the sewer system flowing smoothly and preventing clogged sewer lines and backups is easy.

Here is a list of items that *should not* be disposed of into the sewer system:

- "Flushable" or "disposable" wipes and cleaning rags (they do not break down in the sewer system and cause blockages in pipes, pumps, and treatment equipment)
- Personal hygiene products
- Fats, oils or grease that can harden in the sewer pipes causing clogs
- Paint, engine oil, pesticides, or chemicals (some can corrode the sewer, while others complicate the treatment process)

We ask that you keep these tips in mind and do your part to help keep the sewer system free from items that could compromise it from working properly.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

June 25–August 27, 2019

SETTLEMENT SHOPS

FARM MARKET

June–October (10 am–2 pm)

PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

July 21-27, 2019

INSIDE/OUTSIDE SALE

September 27-29, 2019

REFORESTATION OF FISH CREEK PARK (CONTINUED)

To help fund the project, the Parks & Lands Committee will be seeking donations from residents and visitors. While details are still being worked out, donors will have the option of having their names engraved on a “Giving Tree” leaf.

The Giving Tree allows residents and visitors to make a donation toward town beautification projects, reforestation being one of them. In recognition of donations, a personalized message of the donor's choosing will be artfully engraved on a bronze leaf and displayed on the Giving Tree, located in the main hallway of the Town Center. Watch for additional details in the coming weeks.



BOXHOLDER

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



Maple Grove • Fish Creek • Juddville
Est. 1858
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10 am – 3 pm
(Monday – Friday)