

Gibraltar Town News



Happy Holidays 2020



TOWN CENTER INFO

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www.gibraltarwi.gov

Town Chair Report

I hope everyone had a great holiday despite the strange times we are living in. I also hope everyone is enjoying the new holiday lighting throughout the town. The Town is so thankful to all the donors and committee members that made the holiday lighting happen, as well as the Town Maintenance Crew that put up the lights.

The year 2020 was a busy year for the town, the Town Board, the office staff, and myself with all the various projects we had in motion — and then seeing these projects through with COVID-19 on top of it! Still, our new municipal and boat trailer parking lot, highway, new parking lanes, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, sidewalks and streetlight projects were completed, in addition to the new asphalt on the road through Blossomberg Cemetery.

Next, Phase 2 of the Beach Project has begun and is to be completed by June 1 of 2021 (and will include some exciting new additions). Some preliminary planning has begun for the “old” downtown area with storm water management being the starting point.

My hope is next summer we can bring the community together, along with the contractors, and have a Town dedication and ribbon cutting to show off all the new infrastructure and improvements. Until then, I wish everyone a great 2021.

- Steve Sohns
Town Chairman

Gibraltar Lights Up with Holiday Spirit

Smiles and waves from those driving past the new holiday light display affirms our community spirit is alive and well.

Earlier this year, the Holiday Lighting Ad Hoc Committee reached out to the community for support in several ways: donations, volunteers, and town support. We were happily surprised all three areas came forward to help move the Holiday Lighting plan ahead.

The committee is grateful for the donations that came in from near and far, and for all whose support of the project allowed the committee's ideas to become reality. With funding in place, the committee met every week, working to determine sizes and quantities of snowflakes needed and how to retrofit a bracket to our new light pole system.

The Fish Creek Civic Association provided funding to help send out a mailing and order the first several snowflakes. The remaining donations that followed were astounding, enough to complete all three phases of the project this first year.

Shipping times and delays caused some initial concern, but we are happy to report all lights have been installed. A big thank you to the town

maintenance crew who stepped up to make the installation happen. (Thankfully, next will be less involved and time-consuming with the brackets already attached to the poles.)

The town would not look so festive without the numerous volunteers who help put all the pieces in place, whether that was installing 3,000 bulbs, assembling brackets, lubricating brackets, stringing a new LED lighting system on the 25 small trees provided by FCCA, installing freestanding snowflakes, or installing a snowflake attachment to our welcome sign. The committee is appreciative of all who gave of their time.

Our sense of community pride is apparent, and we applaud all who helped make 2020's holiday lighting display a success.

With Gratitude,
Holiday Ad Hoc Committee



Town of Gibraltar
PO Box 850
Fish Creek, WI 54212



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

BOXHOLDER

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE “WINTER BLUES” & COVID-19

Sometimes called the “winter blues”, Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a form of recurrent depression that typically starts in late fall or early winter and resolves in the spring or summer. Signs include poor mood, low energy, excessive sleepiness during the day, craving carbohydrates, over-eating and gaining weight, and social withdrawal.

Unfortunately, this season the COVID-19 pandemic might exacerbate the symptoms of SAD, or vice versa. Many people are experiencing increased tension and anxiety with COVID-19. Additionally, job loss and changes in schooling for families may cause depression symptoms to worsen.

We are all feeling the effects of the pandemic, some more than others. Please know that you are not alone, and that there are resources out there to help you. The following are a few, both local and national agencies, dedicated to emotional support:

- Door County Crisis/Suicide Intervention Hotline: 920-746-2588
- Door County Department of Health and Human Services: 920-746-7155 (After hours, contact Door County Sheriffs Department: 920-746-2400)
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-273-8255

Additionally, here are some tips you can try to help improve your mood:

- Eat a well balanced, healthy diet.
- Get regular physical activity.
- Call on your support system.
- Get outside for some fresh air and sunshine.
- Seek professional help from a medical doctor or a therapist.

Lastly, for those of you in better spirits, please consider reaching out to those who may be struggling or those you haven't heard from in a while.

Thanks for looking out for each other,
Gibraltar Fire-Rescue

TOWN OF GIBRALTAR BECOMES A GREEN TIER LEGACY COMMUNITY

Earlier this year the Town of Gibraltar joined its neighbors, the villages of Egg Harbor and Ephraim, in becoming a Green Tier Legacy Community (GTLC). The GTLC program is a unique partnership of nonprofit organizations and state agencies that is focused on helping communities and counties move toward a sustainable future. This is done through a series of initiatives that promote environmental stewardship, economic growth, public health, and social equity.

What is unique about this program is that GTLC communities and counties independently choose and pursue their own goals. The GTLC organization assists with a framework for organizing, tracking progress, and celebrating the achievement of those goals, along with suggestions for new goals. Added benefits are the availability of the organization's wealth of resources, technical assistance, support from its network of Legacy communities and counties, and a dedicated DNR liaison.

Every year, GTLC communities and counties submit an annual report that shows the goals they have accomplished, the goals they are still working on and any new goals they intend to pursue. These annual reports become another resource, which are available online and posted on each community's website. Gibraltar is currently creating a space on its website dedicated to GTLC.

For more information about Green Tier Legacy Communities visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/GreenTier> or <https://www.1kfriends.org/>. If you have ideas for the Town to consider when setting Green Tier goals for 2021, please call the Town office at 920-868-1714.

READ MORE town updates in the **expanded digital version** of the Gibraltar Town Newsletter: Holiday Edition available on the **Town website (www.gibraltarwi.gov)** and **Facebook page (@TownofGibraltar)**. Additional printed copies are available in the Town office.

Happy holidays and best wishes
for a healthy and happy 2021!





DRIVERS WANTED

The Gibraltar Fire & Rescue Department is always looking for highly motivated individuals who are willing to donate their time and effort to help improve the lives of their neighbors throughout our community.

We pride ourselves on delivering the highest quality of service to our citizens by responding to a variety of incidents such as structure fires, brush fires, vehicle fires, water rescues, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents, emergency medical services and other emergencies.

- Junior (under 18 years old)
- Firefighter
- Emergency Medical Responder
- Special Operations (may participate in as many of the groups listed below as the member would like):
 - Rope Rescue
 - Confined Space
 - Boat Operations
- Groups currently being developed:
 - Land and Water Based Search and Rescue
 - Water Rescue
- Support Team
 - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
 - Chaplain Service (Critical incident support)
 - Fire Fighter Rehab

Those interested in joining our team can find more information on our website at **Fire & Rescue – Town of Gibraltar** (gibraltarwi.gov) or send an email to Fire Chief Andy Bertges at: abertges@townofgibraltar.us.



From Our “Family” to Yours: A Holiday Letter from Gibraltar Fire and Rescue

Dear friends and neighbors,

It's been an interesting year for the Gibraltar Fire & Rescue family, as I am sure it has been for yours. COVID-19 hit us mid-March and will continue into the new year.

Though the pandemic has impacted the way we operate, it did not hinder our response or our effectiveness in providing the community with Emergency Services. This was due to the vigilance of our fire department family and help from the Door County Public Health department in guiding us in protecting ourselves and creating policy and procedures in how we train and respond to calls.

Though facilities were closed and classes canceled, many in our department received several new certifications. As is customary in a holiday letter, we wanted to take a moment to share this past year's achievements for our fire and rescue “family”.

- * Robert completed EMT-Basic certification.
- * Jeff finished his Emergency Medical Responder course.
- * Danny finished his Drivers Operator certification. He is also entry level certified and will be working on his national certification in the new year.
- * Beth is continuing her effort in Search and Rescue training and will be a great leader once we get the program off the ground. She is also our Public Information Officer (PIO) and has done an amazing job this past year keeping the community informed and sending out safety bulletins.
- * Steve saw a need of paramedics in the county and is pursuing training and certifications for this position.
- * Ward, spunky as ever, is such the hard worker, continuing fundraising efforts with Gibraltar Fire & Rescue Association (a 501.c3).

Speaking of fundraising, with help from our very caring and generous community, we were able to purchase brand new extrication and stabilization equipment to use on motor vehicle accidents.

This new equipment replaces our outdated, under-powered

equipment. Today's vehicles are so strong that we were not able to cut through some of the materials to extricate patients. What's great is that it was built in Wisconsin and uses Milwaukee M28 batteries, interchangeable with our other tools carried on the Rescue.

Another addition was a rescue tripod. It's a pretty cool piece of equipment. Simply put, its like an erector set that helps us get patients out of or our folks down holes, shafts or over the edge of a building or cliff safely. It's going to be a valuable addition to our department and the Northern Door Rope Rescue Team.

Andy was able to take courses to become a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainer and manager prior to the outbreak. We hope to bring training, both online and in person to folks interested in helping their family and friends during a disaster in early 2021. This all stemmed from the wonderful work done by Al on Chambers Island. He has helped our second station bring the level of response and quality of care to a new level. It can take us a while to traverse the waters help our brothers and sister on the island in an emergency situation, so having quality personnel there is paramount. We want to develop that very same level of support here on the mainland.

As you know, we are a tight knit family, when one of our members suffers a tragedy, we all feel it. We have had a few this year and our hearts go out to the members that are suffering. We hope you know you are not alone and we hurt with you. And that goes to you all, the community family we serve. If you need help, we are only a phone call away (911).

Happy holidays,

Gibraltar Fire & Rescue Department

P.S. If you have a little time, we sure could use the help. Contact Andy at abertges@townofgibraltar.us.



Some members of the department pose with the new extrication equipment.

A Quiet, but Busy Year at Historic Noble House

All is calm at the Alexander Noble House, but that does not mean GHA wasn't busy in 2020.

The Noble Square holiday tree was lit on Saturday, December 5th, similar to past years. We missed hearing Gibraltar Choirs' young voices singing our holiday favorites, followed by hot cocoa at the Blue Horse and a story read by Mrs. Claus, but we still managed to find ways to celebrate in spite of COVID-19. It was a magical moment as our tree filled with lights warmed the corner of Main Street with holiday piano music playing in the background.

A few fun things happened in 2020. Perhaps the one that generated the most stories was when GHA offered the old wooden street signs for sale. Many people connected to Gibraltar were happy to have one of their very own and share sweet stories of wanting one for over ten years, living on a particular road when it was still dirt, and buying the signs as gifts.

We also had another successful wreath sale, which helped pay for the beautiful tree and boughs that decorated the Noble House. This year's particular favorite offering was the kissing balls. Thank you to all who participated in the sale!

Our behind-the-scenes work in 2020 was enjoyable and busy. It included working with Peninsula Players and providing them with information about their beginnings, marketing the increasingly popular walking tour, interacting with followers on our Facebook page, and, of course, helping those who reach out to us about their ancestors connect the dots as best we can.

Sending warm wishes for a happy new year,

Gibraltar Historical Association



New Gazebo Planned for Noble Square

The "Digger" DeGroot Memorial Committee is happy to inform you that they successfully reached the fundraising amount needed for a gazebo at Noble Square.

The structure was ordered in early November and should arrive within the next month. The excavation, concrete slab, and installing power to the location will be the next steps.

The committee wants to thank the community for the great support shown to make this wish a reality. The gazebo will make a welcomed addition to Noble Square and the Town of Gibraltar.

-The "Digger" DeGroot Memorial Committee

MORE SCENES FROM FISH CREEK'S WINTER WONDERLAND...

