



GIBRALTAR

Breeze

01 September, 2023

*Catch the latest in Gibraltar: Fish Creek, Juddville, Maple Grove...
with our dynamic newsletter covering all the town's highlights*



Fish Creek Park Expansion

At a Special Meeting of Electors on July 26, 2023, Town of Gibraltar Electors voted to purchase 118.76 acres for \$1.5 million. The purchase will be entirely paid for by grants and donations. Also included in the vote was a gift of an additional 6.23 acres to expand the park. See article pg 3



Catch The "Breeze" Via Email

Welcome to Town of Gibraltar's Newsletter: the Gibraltar Breeze. You can catch the "Breeze" in March, June, September and December. June and December's newsletters will be available via email only. **Sign up to receive them** here: <https://gibraltarwi.gov/subscribe-to-updates/> and check the "newsletter" box

Fish Creek Library News, August 2023

We're sticking to permanent hours at all of the branches now; you can find us on:

Mondays 9am – 4pm
Tuesdays 9am – 1pm
Wednesdays 12pm – 7pm
Fridays 9am – 1pm

There are happenings every month, including free craft kids for kids and adults, Book Club, Cult Movie Night, plus much more. In September we're doing a presentation on local fossils with the Door County Historical Museum and Peninsula State Park. Check out our Events Calendar for more details, which you can find at the library or at www.doorcountylibrary.org.

Town Chair Report by Steve Sohns

I hope everyone has had a great summer as we start winding down to the fall season. As with every community, Gibraltar has been bustling with tourism and we continue to make, and work, towards improvements for the residents, as well as the visitors.

We have a lot of on-going projects that are being pulled together, those include the future of the "Kinsey" property, finalizing purchase of the Redmann property, the reconstruction of Bluff and Hill street, bringing together a plan for town-wide broadband, and studying the potential for a multi-use trail through the whole Town. All of these projects are made more possible by grants. We are fortunate to have staff that is, and has, been very successful at taking advantage of any grant opportunities available to the Town, so much of the burden is not asked of the Town's taxpayers alone. These grants and the monies are, and will be awarded to some community, so why not Gibraltar?

Did I mention that Gibraltar has a great staff! The Office staff, the Fire & Police Departments and the Maintenance Department are a great group!

Let's not forget our committees and commissions, as well! With changes in people's lives, so come changes to our staff. Earlier this year, a great maintenance staff worker, Bob Bittorf, moved on. Since then, we found a great replacement in Dustin Reinert. And in the last couple weeks our Clerk, Kelly Murre has decided to change paths. On behalf of myself and the Town, I want to thank her for her many years of service to the Town. I am proud to say I was one of the board members that hired her as a deputy clerk many years ago and she exceeded all my expectations and was an intricate part of the Town. The board and staff will be challenged to find her replacement. Thank you, Kelly!

As always, I am here for all of you, should you have any questions or concerns.

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Advancing Public Safety: Gibraltar Police Chief Roesch's Innovative Drone Utilization

In an era characterized by rapid technological advancements, law enforcement agencies around the world are harnessing the power of cutting-edge tools to enhance public safety and efficiency. One remarkable example of this trend can be found in Gibraltar, where Police Chief Roesch has taken a pioneering step by incorporating drones into the department's operations. This innovative approach has yielded significant benefits, as showcased by the recent deployment of a drone to manage an uncontrolled brush fire and to rescue a lost skier.

One of the most impressive applications of the drone technology under Chief Roesch's leadership was its crucial role in monitoring and managing an uncontrolled brush fire on Juddville Road, in close proximity to a drilling and blasting company. The ability of drones to provide real-time aerial views proved invaluable to emergency personnel. By granting them an elevated perspective of the scene, the drone enabled accurate assessments of the fire's extent and potential risks, thereby allowing fire crews to develop an effective containment strategy. The deployment of the drone not only expedited the process of surveying the area for potential dangers but also ensured the safety of first responders by providing them with vital situational awareness.

Moreover, the success story of Gibraltar's drone deployment extends beyond managing fires. Last January, the drone played a pivotal role in the rescue of a lost skier within Peninsula State Park. By deploying the drone, search teams were able to quickly locate the lost skier and guide him to safety.

The incorporation of drones into law enforcement operations introduces a paradigm shift, providing enhanced capabilities that were once unimaginable. Not only do drones offer a cost-effective solution for reconnaissance and surveillance, but they also minimize risk to personnel and maximize efficiency in emergency response situations. As technology continues to evolve, it is clear that law enforcement agencies that embrace such advancements are better equipped to safeguard their communities and respond effectively to a wide range of challenges.

Road Projects Completed

The following roads have been repaved:

- Highland North (Peninsula Park entrance)
- Clark Bluff Circle
- Gibraltar Bluff (Cottage to Orchard)
- Peninsula Players Road
(Hwy 42 to the water)
- Juddville Hill Road

Happy Driving!!!

Visit Fish Creek is your best resource for things to do, special events, restaurants, shops, etc.

Find them here:

<https://visitfishcreek.com/events/>



Pictured above: Clark Bluff Drive

*Photos provided courtesy of Town Administrator,
Travis Thyssen*

Committee Chronicles: Headlines and Announcements

Fish Creek Park – Then and Now (courtesy of Linda Merline)

Then: 25 years ago, in July 1998, the Town of Gibraltar was on the verge of purchasing 27.9 acres that is part of the Fred Welcker property in the center of the community of Fish Creek. The creek and its wetlands, for which the community was named, ran right through the property. The purpose of buying the property was to preserve the land, including the creek and its wetlands, and possibly turn the land into a park.

Now: 25 years later, in July 2023. The Welcker property has since become Fish Creek Park, and the Town of Gibraltar is now on the verge of purchasing 118.76 acres of the Redmann family property to expand the park. A portion of the Redmann property adjoins Fish Creek Park to the south below the bluff and contains an upstream section of the creek and its wetlands. The purchase also extends the park with land located on top of the bluff. A multi-moto trail will connect the park below to the park above the bluff. The purpose of buying the property is the same as 25 years ago, to preserve the land, including the creek and its wetlands, and turn the land into an expansion of Fish Creek Park.

Then: Initial ideas for the land were a park with hiking, biking, and cross country ski trails, but no specific plans had been made yet at the time the property was being purchased.

Now: Initial ideas for the new expansion to Fish Creek Park are to restore fish habitat and create a multi-moto trail that would be part of a longer trail that would connect with Egg Harbor to the south and Ephraim to the north, but no specific plans have been made yet as the Town proceeds with the purchase of the property.

Then: 25 years ago, in an article about the Welcker land purchase in the Door County Advocate, of July 28, 1998, Wallis Parker, the executor of the estate of her uncle, Fred Welcker, commented that the creek had no fish "... it has been barren since changes were made in the highway that would require fish to jump at least a foot while traveling upstream."

Now: 25 years later the Town of Gibraltar has completed the installation of a fish ladder, so instead of jumping, the fish can go up three small steps and have access to the wetlands upstream. The Town used a DNR River Management Grant to fund the creation of the fish ladder.

Now: Watch for opportunities for the public to be involved in decisions on how the new section of Fish Creek Park is used.



Alexander Noble House Museum

"Victorian Weddings, Customs & Courtship"

Open Hours:

Tuesdays- Sundays 10:00 am - 3: 00p.m

Visit the Alexander Noble House Museum and experience the unique wedding celebration taking place every Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00am until 3:00pm. Wedding gowns, headpieces, wedding gifts and more from 1850 - 1959 are on breathtaking display. Ever wonder how certain wedding customs came to be? Or what is the "luckiest" day of the week on which to be married? Now is your chance to find out!

This historically preserved home is the first framed home in Fish Creek. Built in 1875, it contains many original furnishings passed down from the Noble family's descendants.

-courtesy of Laurie Buske

[For more information on the Noble House click here](#)

Town of Gibraltar
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BOXHOLDER

PARKS & LANDS focus is on making our village a pleasant place to relax, view a sunset, or enjoy the water. This year's opportunities allowed us to improve areas on our goal list. The first is the replacement of our little kiddie's playground at the beach; with numerous restrictions, it is now in place and used constantly. Watch for the rubber surface coming this fall from a grant from Destination Door County. We also have three deluxe benches coming to Noble Square, a combination of concrete and recycled plastic should keep them in use for generations to come. Two replacement trees have been placed at Blossomberg Cemetery; it is only with the support of our visitors and community that we can replace the numerous dead ash trees.

Another successful Weed Warriors event helped remove large amounts of Dames Rocket at Fish Creek Park; our efforts from one year to the next are starting to show signs of improvement. Pick up an Invasive Plant Flyer at the town's community board for more information.

We also participated in Gibraltar's Fog program, along with the Watershed team, and students came to learn about our Creek and aid us in planting swamp oak along the Creek's bank to return shade, a part of our reforestation project. Any blue tubes are the new plantings. These same students helped mulch trees throughout our town parks. It was a fun day, and we are sure some future naturalists will be among these dedicated students.

December's loss of our dear Mary Ann Blahnik marked 47 seasons of caring for the **Chamber's Island Lighthouse** property with her husband, Joel. We applaud their dedication to the safekeeping of this remarkable place. We miss Mary Ann's kind spirit and enduring passion for preserving history and making all visitors feel welcome. We also would like to thank Leon & Sharon Zellner, who have agreed to take on the duties and donate numerous hours to keep our Chambers Island Lighthouse open for the season.

-courtesy of Laurie Buske