



GIBRALTAR *Breeze*

15 March, 2024

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

Town Chair Report

by Steve Sohns

Well, as I write this it looks like spring is in the air, but then I'm reminded it's only the beginning of March. A strange winter for sure, but what's good for one is not so good for another. For the winter sports: snowmobiling, skiing, skating, and ice fishing and for the businesses that rely on their financial support, it's not been a good season. For those that plow snow to help pay the bills, it has been a tough season as well. Of course, for those that pay the heating costs, the snow plowing bills or shovel the snow themselves, they may be happy with a more than mild winter. From a Town standpoint, having less snow means less plowing, less equipment wear and tear and lower propane bills for all of the properties, which means a little budget relief and a little more money to put towards important projects or repairs. But let's not forget Spring isn't here yet, we have been fooled before! Take care,

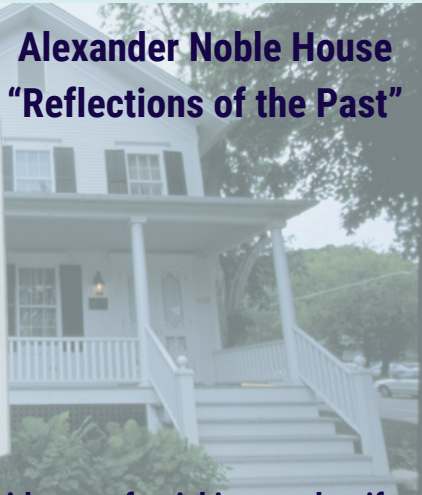
Steve Sohns
Chairman, Town of Gibraltar

Alexander Noble House "Reflections of the Past"

THE ALEXANDER NOBLE HOUSE

The Alexander Noble House was built in 1875 on land purchased from Asa Thorp, the founder of the Village of Fish Creek. This Greek Revival Style-influenced residence is the Village's oldest existing dwelling still in its original location. Born in Scotland in 1829, Alexander Noble immigrated to Canada in 1840 and settled in Fish Creek in 1855 where he lived until his death in 1905. He was a blacksmith by trade and served for many years as town chairman, postmaster and member of the county board.

ERECTED 1998



Enjoy a tour of this 10-room home with many furnishings and artifacts that are original to the house and Noble Family. Come and visit starting Mid-June to Mid October.

Tuesday - Sundays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Contact us at: noblehouse@gmail.com

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 from the Redmann Family of an additional 6.23 acres to expand the park.

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 online only. Sign up to receive them here: <https://gibraltarwi.gov/subscribe-to-updates/> and check the "newsletter" box, or go to our newsletters page and download

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GOAL: \$1,500,000

70% \$1,056,000

ALMOST THERE!

The thermometer is 70% full. Your contribution can put us over the top.

**Make a Difference
Leave a Legacy**

CONTACT US

- clerk@gibraltarwi.gov
- 920-868-1714
- www.gibraltarwi.gov
- PO Box 850, Fish Creek, WI 54212



Fish Creek Park Expansion Land Acquisition

When your legacy is important to you...

Give the gift that lives on

Imagine 125 acres of pristine parkland that will provide Fish Creek residents and visitors a space to relax, play, and immerse themselves in the breathtaking beauty of Gibraltar. This is your opportunity to be a part of something extraordinary.

Join the Movement...Join your Neighbors...Make a Difference

With your generous donation, you can help secure this land for future generations to cherish.

Choose your level of commitment:

Land Guardian - \$250-\$749

Land Patron - \$750-\$1499

Land Supporter - \$1500-\$4999

Conservation Defender - \$5000-\$9999

Conservation Champion - \$10,000 - "Sky's the Limit"!

Your Legacy Matters

Donate Today! Call (920) 868-1714 or visit our website at <https://gibraltarwi.gov/donations/>

Make a Difference. Leave a Legacy.

Sewer Interceptor Project

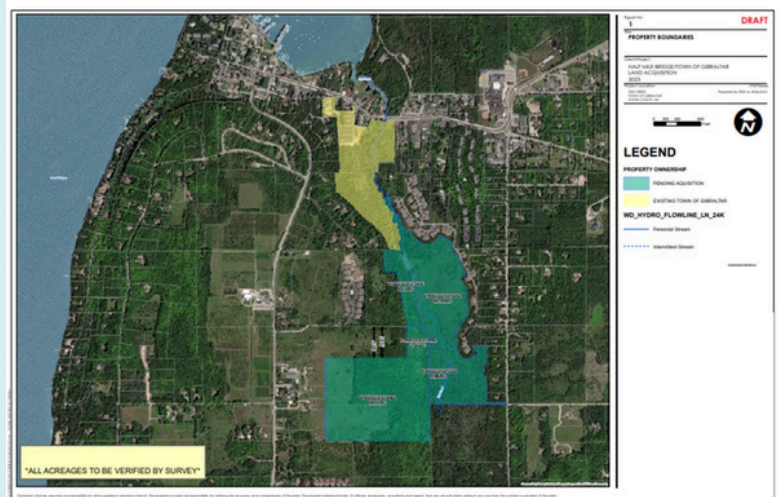
Sewer extension to the Settlement Shops was first introduced in the 1980's by Mr. Redmann. Mr. Redmann had a vision for the development of the upper bluff area. Because of Mr. Redman's efforts, many of the associations that built dwellings installed holding tanks with extensions that would connect to the sewer interceptor if and when it came to fruition.

Over the next 30+ years, the sewer was discussed; costs continued to rise. In recent years, some of the current Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (P.O.W.T.S), were coming to the end of their usable life. Some were leaking or leaching water, polluting the groundwater. The Fish Creek Sanitary District began to pursue the main sewer installation again.

In 2021, the Town of Gibraltar was granted an exemption to the population rule and allowed to create Tax Incremental District #1 (T.I.D. #1). The creation of this district allows collection of incremental taxes to help fund the sewer interceptor.

Over the next 1.5 years, Cedar Engineering (located in Green Bay) designed, performed studies, and pulled the many necessary permits to install the interceptor sewer. The interceptor is designed to connect the existing subdivisions and supply access to new developments. In November, 2023, construction to install the line began.

Currently the sewer is more than half installed and Phase One should be completed in late April, 2024. Developers are building some duplexes and residential homes as well. The Town is actively fundraising to acquire the 125 acre park, which will limit the hundreds of current development permits issued to Mr. Redmann years ago. The sewer interceptor will remove any holding tanks from the upper bluff and secure the groundwater and watershed from possible groundwater contamination.



Above map shows Half Mile Bridge/ Town of Gibraltar Land Acquisition. Pending acquisition shown in jade outline



Photos are of the Hill Street Reconstruction and the new duplexes in the "Gibraltar Forward" Development

Sucker Migration Success in the Waters of Fish Creek

Courtesy of Linda Merline

In 2017 the Fish Creek Watershed's Water Action Volunteers team heard that the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago was launching a research project that would focus on white and longnose suckers. The goal of the research was to learn more about this common migratory fish and to do so, the Shedd was recruiting citizen scientists to help them monitor the suckers annual spring spawning run. They were recruiting volunteers beginning with creeks along the north Chicago shoreline and continuing with sites all up the western shore of Lake Michigan, including Door County and even a couple of sites on Lake Superior. Joining the research project seemed like a great opportunity to work on fulfilling one of the goals in the Town's Fish Creek Watershed Plan that directs the Town to develop an understanding of the fish that spawn in Fish Creek.

So that spring, Dr. Karen Murchie, the Shedd's Director of Freshwater Research, met with our team where Fish Creek flows out of Fish Creek Park, through the culvert under Hwy 42. There's an apron on the downstream side of the culvert, that widens out and then drops about 18" to the creek bed. In the spring, when suckers would come up the creek headed for the wetlands, they would bunch up at the culvert trying to jump the 18" waterfall.

People had long been trying to solve the problem by wading into the creek and lifting the suckers into the culvert, but the Town was working on a long term solution as recommended in their Fish Creek Watershed Plan. In the meantime, the culvert was a good place to count suckers, so Dr Murchie installed a data logger that tracked the temperature and flow of the water. Our job as citizen scientists was to have one of us go to the creek each day for 10 minutes and record the presence or absence of suckers by noting how many there were, along with the time, the weather, and the water level. This same data is recorded at every site in the project and provides the researchers the big picture on when the sucker migration begins, when it reaches its peak, and how long it lasts, along with the conditions that existed before and during the migration.

Since then Dr. Murchie has learned a lot about the ecological importance of these fish and the challenges they face in their migrations to their wetland spawning grounds. This spring she will share the results of her research, so far, at both the Maritime Museum's Door County Medical Center Maritime Speaker Series and as part of Crossroads at Big Creek's Fish Tales Lecture Series. If interested, you can attend the presentations in person or zoom in. You can also find information about her research by going to:

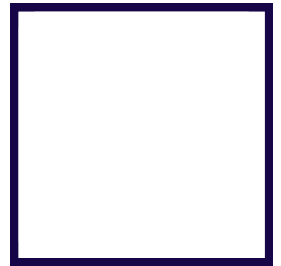
<https://www.sheddaquarium.org/care-and-conservation/shedd-research>

Meanwhile, the Town of Gibraltar's long term solution to getting suckers up into the the Hwy 42 culvert finally came to pass in December 2022, when they used a DNR River Management Grant to install a fish ladder. Now the suckers no longer have to exhaust their energy trying to jump the 18" into the culvert. The fish ladder allows any spring migratory fish like suckers and pike to make three small jumps up the steps and they're on their way to their wetland spawning grounds.

Next time you are in the neighborhood of the Hwy 42 culvert, stop and check out the fish ladder. You might even see some suckers jumping up the steps. If you do, give the Town Office a call, 920-868-1714, so they can let everyone know via the Town's Facebook page.



Town of Gibraltar
PO Box 850
Fish Creek, WI 54212



Explore. Enrich. Enlighten

Discover the World at the
Town of Gibraltar Library

Cult Movie Nights at 5:30 pm:

March 27th
April 24th
May 29th

Bittersweet Bookies Book Club
2nd Wednesdays at 1:30pm
In-Person & On Zoom

FUN! Every Month:

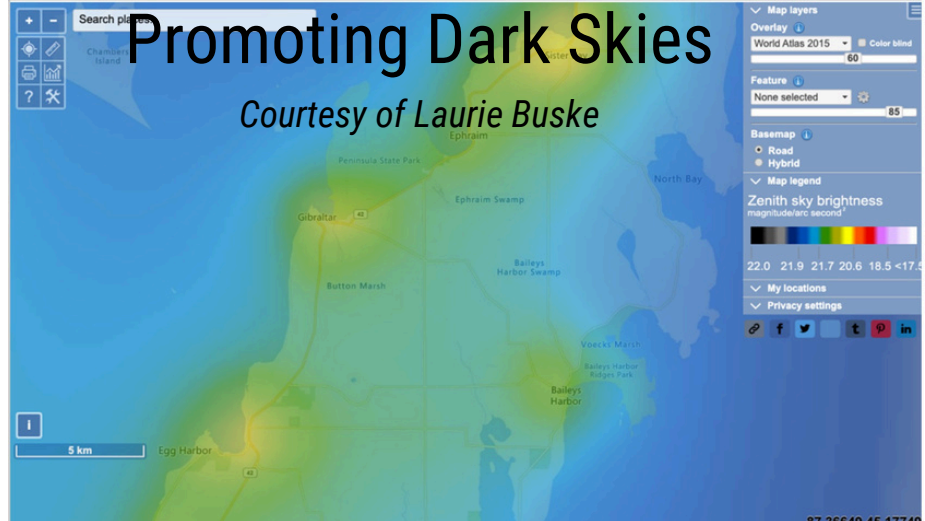
March 20th (5 - 7pm) Free Button Making
April 5th (10:30am) Sensory Friendly Movie
May TBA (11am - 1pm) Adult Clothing Swap
June: TBA Maps and Your World
July: TBA Children's Story Time

Always: FREE Craft Kits



Promoting Dark Skies

Courtesy of Laurie Buske



If you're not careful, it's easy to miss the open beauty of Door County. But if you wait until sundown and head past the crowds of Fish Creek, you'll encounter something extraordinary. **Just look up.** Door County is home to a place where you can enjoy a sight that's become all too rare: the dark sky, filled with gleaming stars. It's time to stop and think about what if it was lost forever?

There's one thing that really ruins a good look at the night sky: pollution. Smoke and light pollution (called skyglow) can quickly put the lights out on a sky that should be filled with glowing stars. So next time you turn every outdoor light you have on and leave it till morning you might not be aware you are taking away the one true thing that sets us apart. **The above map was featured on our facebook page and shows light pollution in Door County.**