



GIBRALTAR *Breeze*

30 September, 2024

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

Town Chair Report

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy Summer while it lasted, as it looks like Fall is here. The seasons seem to keep going by faster every year.

As Fall arrives the Town will be closing on the Redmann property which will allow all of us to enjoy the new park addition. The Town is also preparing to receive bids to have the 3 cottages on the waterfront property repurposed and is coming up with a final disposition for the Main Street House.

The final push to get everyone's right-of-entry agreements in for broadband installation is happening so please get it done; they need to finish engineering the project and start digging. *A reminder: you don't have to take the fiber service but the installation to your home is covered, if you do it now!* It will cost you thousands of dollars to do it later if you change your mind someday.

Lastly, this month brings the dreaded budget preparations as we start looking at what next year's expenses could be and make the hard decisions between what we want and what we need. With all the increased costs, it's a reality we all must face; we can't do as much as we used to without it affecting our taxes. We have a newly formed Ad Hoc Finance Committee that will be going over the budget before the budget goes to the board and ultimately to the electors. Have a great season and I look forward to seeing you at our many Town events in the next few months.

Steve Sohns, Chairman, Town of Gibraltar

Town of Gibraltar Town Board

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ATTENTION

The Town of Gibraltar will be installing fiberoptic cable throughout the Town in 2025. **This is a tax funded improvement.** The fiber will be installed to your home/business. There is no cost to bring the fiber to your home or business during the construction phase. A cost that could be thousands to complete after the contract expires.

Even if you don't need the service, you will be paying the debt. Get your share now by signing up, allowing access to install to your property. Go to: <https://gibraltar.gobertram.com> and sign the Right of Entry agreement. **Deadline to Sign Up is September 30, 2024.**

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

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Unleashing Expertise:

Meet the Canine Search Unit of the Missing/Endangered Response Team (MERT)

When it comes to search and rescue, every second counts. In Door County, the Canine Search and Rescue Unit of the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Team, a crucial component of the Missing/Endangered Response Team (MERT), plays a pivotal role in locating lost individuals, runaways, and other missing persons. Conceived by Town of Gibraltar Fire Chief Andy Bertges and operated through the Door County Department of Emergency Management in coordination with the Sheriff's Office, this specialized unit is a testament to the power of partnership between human handlers and their canine companions.

The Heart of the Team

At the core of the Canine Search Unit are dedicated dogs and their handlers, who undergo rigorous training to prepare for the diverse challenges of search and rescue operations. Currently, the team includes Officer Tina and her loyal canine partner, T.J. Together, they form a core unit within the Door County Sheriff's Department, but they are far from alone. The team is supported by additional skilled handlers and their dogs, all ready to step in and provide assistance when needed.

Training for Excellence

The Canine Search Unit is trained in two primary techniques: trailing and air scenting. Trailing involves following a specific scent trail left by an individual, while air scenting allows the dogs to detect the general presence of a person in the area. The dogs' ability to perform these tasks is honed through intense training. New dogs in the program undergo over ten days of training each month, while experienced and certified dogs maintain their skills with six to ten days of training per month.

Bob, a seasoned handler, provides a glimpse into the world of these dedicated canines. His dog Toby is a veteran of the unit, certified in both wilderness and urban search scenarios by multiple agencies. Toby's extensive experience is invaluable, but Bob's younger dog, Ollie, is quickly making a name for himself. Trained since he was just eight weeks old, Ollie is now eight months old and has just passed his first certification test in human trailing. According to Bob, dogs "grow into" their noses around three to four months of age. Ollie's upcoming certification in Green Castle, Indiana will mark a significant milestone in his promising career.

Weathering the Elements

One of the remarkable aspects of these search dogs is their ability to work in various weather conditions. Rain, for example, can actually enhance their performance. Moisture helps make scents more pronounced, allowing the dogs to track even in challenging environments. Furthermore, the dogs can trace scents from vehicles, as cars leak odors that can attach to surrounding vegetation, allowing the dogs to pick up the trail.

A Lifesaving Partnership

The Canine Search Unit exemplifies the extraordinary bond between humans and dogs. With their specialized skills and rigorous training, these canine teams are not just a backup, but a critical component of the Missing/Endangered Response Team. Their contributions are invaluable in ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals in distress, making them true heroes of Door County's search and rescue efforts.

As the Canine Search Unit continues its mission, they remain a symbol of hope and dedication, proving that with the right training and teamwork, even the most elusive scents can lead to a successful recovery.



Catch The "Breeze" Via Email

You can catch the "Breeze" at the end of the month 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 Find us on facebook:



"Reflections of Our Past"

Gibraltar Historical Association's 2024 Exhibit

So many memories come racing back to our guests, as they view our exhibit...What memories are you making here in the Town of Gibraltar? This season has seen a steady stream of guests. We have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you.

At the beginning of our season, GHA shared a memory that connected pieces of our community: Fred Dennett was a part of Chambers Island. We explored the connection between Chambers Island, Dennett, and the museum. . We thought you might find this photo of a Wisconsin Chair Company rocker interesting; perhaps someone has a similar one?

-Submitted by Laurie Buske, Chairperson GHA

The Gibraltar Historical Association works tirelessly to preserve our local heritage and connect our families. If you have old photos, post cards, maps or advertising, we can scan it and return it to you - you only need to share it briefly with us. By doing so, you enrich our whole community
The rocker pictured here is from the Wisconsin Chair Company. The lumber for it may have come from Chambers Island



From: The Administrator's Desk

Broadband UPDATE

The Town of Gibraltar Town Board has approved an agreement with Bertram Communications to install underground high-speed fiber optic cable to all improved parcels in the town. This service includes bringing fiber to every building (one per parcel). With this agreement, the Town will borrow the funds to complete our end of the contract obligation. State Law doesn't allow municipalities to separate debt individually so everyone who pays taxes in Gibraltar will be paying off the debt through the tax process.

Because of the tax implications, the Town Board and Internet Committee have agreed that there will be no cost to have this service brought to every building and installed into a fiber box on the outside, regardless of where their building sits on the parcel. The Internet Committee has been making efforts to reach every improved parcel owner for permission to bring the fiber to premises. Bringing fiber to the premise does not mean that you need to sign up for the service. The contract with Bertram to install fiber is anticipated to be completed in October of 2025. After that time, anyone who decides that they want the service will need to pay out-of-pocket to have it brought to the premises.

For those who receive the service, the Town has negotiated a price lock for three (3) years and a guarantee not to exceed for another seven (7) years. The service is also guaranteed to provide a minimum speed of 250 MBPS (megabytes per second) to both upload and download.

To find out more about this project or to sign up to have it installed on your property, visit <https://gobertram.com/town-of-gibraltar-sign-up-landing-page/m> or contact Bertram Communications at (920) 351-1023.

Please take note:

NEW Town Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday: 10:00am - 3:00pm Friday 8:00am - Noon

Dock Hours:

for current hours go to: fishcreektowndock.com

Airport Information go to: <https://gibraltarwi.gov/ephraim-gibraltar-airport/>

Visit Fish Creek (visitors center)

check the website: <https://visitfishcreek.com/>

Recycling May through October: 1st and 3rd Saturdays 8:00am - Noon / for more info click: [Recycling](#)

Dates to Note:

9/30: **Final date to sign up for internet (see page 1)**

10/13: Dock closes for the season

10/26 @ 10am: Fire Dept Open House

10/26 @ 10am - 9pm: FC Jack Days

11/12 - Wreath Orders for GHA due

12/7 @ 2pm - 8pm: Hometown Holiday

12/7 @ 5pm: Tree Lighting Noble Sq

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PERMIT NO. 5

BOXHOLDER

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Stay current on Town news. Subscribe to updates: <https://gibraltarwi.gov/subscribe-to-updates/>

Five Years as a Green Tier Legacy Community

From the desk of Linda Merline, Chairperson Plan Commission

As we celebrate our 5 years as a Green Tier Legacy Community, it's good to look back on the path the Town took to get to this day. It began in 2008, when David Boyd and Dick Skare went to a conference on sustainability. The idea was that you needed to start now to maintain and support your business or municipality if you expected it to remain vibrant in the future. Actions you could take toward this end were environmental, social, and economic.

David and Dick brought these ideas back to the Plan Commission and the Commission under the leadership of Tom Birmingham agreed to look into it. Dave and Renny Lea gave a presentation on The Natural Step program that came out of Sweden. They supported something called Eco Municipalities. Some of us attended local classes in the Natural Step to learn more. Some towns like Bayfield, WI lost no time joining up. In Fish Creek, people were skeptical. The conversation continued for a while and then stopped with no action.

Some years later, Beth Hagen, the Town Clerk, heard about a similar idea closer to home. It was called Green Tier, and it was created by several nonprofits along with the Department of Natural Resources. It began as a framework to help businesses work toward sustainability. It soon spread to include municipalities. It offered incentives to encourage your progress, like preferred status when applying for DNR grants and a network of communities that you could go to for information on common goals. I attended a presentation by the DNR in Egg Harbor, and representatives from Ephraim came and presented to the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission took information to, and consulted with, the Building Committee, the Harbor Commission, Park and Lands and the Town Board. Finally on October 2, 2019, the Town became the 28th Green Tier Legacy Community in the State of Wisconsin. The best news is that you can help make our Green Tier Legacy Community even better by sharing your ideas for how to sustain the Town into the future! Join your neighbors in attending the Green Tier Ad Hoc Committee meetings and become a part of the team that sustains our Town.