



GIBRALTAR *Breeze*

30 June, 2025

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



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Discover the Historic Chambers Island Lighthouse

A Hidden Gem in the Town of Gibraltar





Nestled on the northern end of Chambers Island, the Chambers Island Lighthouse has stood as a beacon on the Bay of Green Bay since 1868. Originally built to guide ships through these vital waters, the lighthouse and surrounding 30 acres of land were transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard to the Town of Gibraltar in 1975. Since 1976, this scenic and historically rich site has been proudly maintained as one of Gibraltar's public parks.

Open to the public during the summer season, the lighthouse welcomes visitors from mid-May through September, primarily on weekends when caretakers are present. Whether you're a history buff, nature lover, or boating enthusiast, it's a truly unique experience to explore this remote and peaceful landmark.

Planning a Visit?

If you have your own boat, anchor in North Bay and enjoy a ½-mile walk through the island to reach the lighthouse.

 Prefer a guided option? Join Fish Creek Scenic Boat Tours on the Quo Vadis during Door County Lighthouse Passport Days for a scenic and informative journey from Fish Creek. [Learn more here](#)

 To check if the lighthouse will be open during your visit, feel free to call the caretakers, Leon and Sharon Zellner, in advance at 920-639-2931.

We look forward to welcoming you to this beautiful and historic part of our community. Come explore the Chambers Island Lighthouse Park—a shining piece of Door County's maritime legacy!

Contribute to the lighthouse: <https://gibraltarwi.gov/donations/>
Click on Chambers Island Lighthouse fill in your information.



FLAG RETIREMENT

BOX LOCATED AT:



SISTER BAY FIRE STATION
FISH CREEK FIRE STATION
BAILEYS HARBOR LIBRARY

Town Chair Report

Welcome to summer in Gibraltar (in-between the rain clouds)! The Town has been busy mowing, planting, and managing, for the return of our visitors and part time residents, as well as those that are full timers. A lot is happening in our little Town right now, just as it is at this time every year. I'm reminded often how special and unique our Town is by many visitors and locals, and this reminds me to focus on keeping it this way.

The reason people come to Town of Gibraltar, shop here, stay here, and the reason our Town is popular with both businesses and non-profits is because of our clean, quaint, and non-urban look and feel. A person can feel the stress leaving as they arrive.

I hope everyone takes advantage of the great music events throughout the summer at the Noble House and the Beach. I hope to see you milling around town: shopping or eating at one of our great establishments.

Have a great summer and may the sun shine!

Steve Sohns
Chairman, Town of Gibraltar

Town of Gibraltar Administrator Travis Thyssen Nominated for Governor's Outdoor Industry Award

FISH CREEK, WI – Travis Thyssen, Administrator for the Town of Gibraltar, has been nominated for the prestigious Wisconsin Governor's Outdoor Industry Award in the Trailblazer of the Year category. This award recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to advancing Wisconsin's outdoor recreation industry and raising its profile statewide.

Presented by the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation, the Governor's Outdoor Industry Awards celebrate the work of leaders, innovators, and advocates whose efforts support one of the state's most vital economic and cultural sectors. The 2025 awards ceremony took place at the Wisconsin Executive Residence on June 26, 2025, as part of Great Outdoors Month. Winners will be announced.

Thyssen's nomination comes in recognition of his leadership in one of Gibraltar's most impactful recent conservation efforts: the acquisition and expansion of Fish Creek Park. Under his guidance, the town successfully acquired the 119-acre Redmann property, growing the park to a total of 152 acres of preserved natural space. The project was funded entirely through grants and private donations, including a notable \$249,000 grant from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

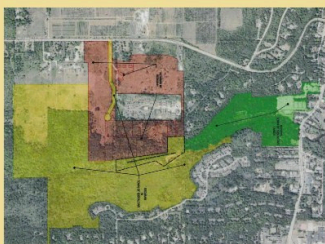
The expansion not only protects vital natural resources but also enhances recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The project aligns closely with the Town of Gibraltar's commitment to sustainable development, outdoor access, and long-term community well-being.

"Travis's vision and leadership have been instrumental in preserving the natural character of Fish Creek while expanding outdoor experiences for all," said a Town official. "His nomination is a reflection of his dedication not just to Gibraltar, but to Wisconsin's broader outdoor future."

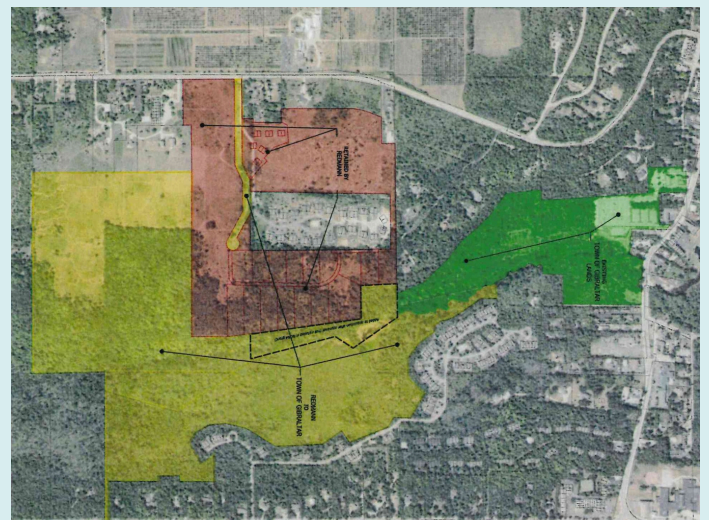
All nominees for this year's Outdoor Industry Awards represent the best of Wisconsin's commitment to its natural spaces and recreational legacy.

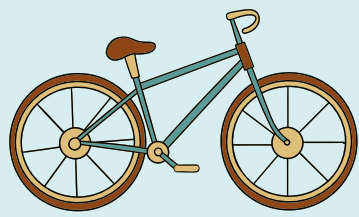
The Town of Gibraltar proudly congratulates Travis Thyssen on this well-deserved honor.

Town of Gibraltar
has added new park land
to our Fish Creek Park.
The map below shows the
new area in yellow
Existing park is in green.



Fish Creek (Ryan Crum, Stantec, February 2024)





BIKE SAFETY RULES 🚲♂️

Stay Smart. Stay Safe. Share the Road.

✅ Follow the Law - You have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers.

- Obey traffic signals.
- Stop at stop signs.
- Ride with traffic, using the rightmost lane for your direction.

🔄 Be Predictable - Let others know what you're doing.

- Ride in a straight line – don't swerve between parked cars.
- Signal your turns clearly.
- Check behind you before turning or changing lanes.

👁️ Be Conspicuous - Help others see you.

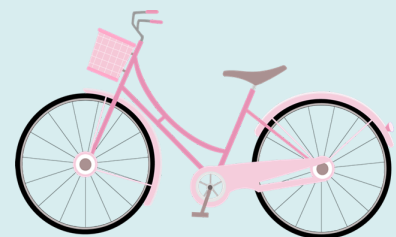
- Wear bright clothing.
- Use a white front light and red rear light with reflectors when visibility is poor.
- Make eye contact with drivers and pedestrians.
- Don't ride on sidewalks – be visible and legal on the road.

🧠 Think Ahead - Expect the unexpected.

- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Ride outside the zone of parked cars to avoid opening doors.
- Stay alert for potholes, debris, and road hazards.

Bike Smart – Ride Safe – Respect the Road

🛑 Your safety starts with your choices.
Let's make the road safe for everyone.



The Sucker Run: A Welcome Sign of Spring

Courtesy of Judith Kalb

Most of us who live year round in Gibraltar Township have our favorite harbingers of spring; the call of the Sandhill Crane, the first hepatica blossoms along Shore Road in Peninsula Park, the disappearance of the dirty pile of snow at the end of the driveway. Thanks to the research of Karen Murchie at the Shedd Aquarium, I now have a new one...counting suckers! And I'm not talking lollipops in the bowl next to the bank teller's window. I'm talking FISH 😊

Though an often maligned fish, suckers actually influence an early part of the food chain providing an array of nutrients to trout and other game fish. The nutrients they provide during spring spawning also feed many insects that then become food for the birds who migrate through and make their home here. This has led Karen to study their patterns and behavior, and to develop a citizen science project involving volunteers around the Great Lakes who monitor numerous creeks in anticipation of their arrival.

Here in Fish Creek, a handful of folks take turns going down to the creek each morning in April and early May. Some of you may have noticed one of us standing on the "bridge" near Fish Creek Park in our polarized glasses peering expectantly into the water.

Pictured above:

The Fish Creek Fish Ladder

Or perhaps doing a little "happy dance", or giving a cheer as we spot our first sucker of the year, or see one of them successfully making its way over the concrete lip of the culvert and heading upstream.

To be honest, there is the occasional damp, cold morning when I have to push myself to gear up for standing around at the Creek for 10 to 15 minutes. And despite the fact that there is often a week or two before we see any sucker action, my morning trip is always rewarded....a pair of snowy egrets or a bald Eagle flying overhead, my first Robin of the year, or a pleasant chat with one of the morning walkers. One morning this year I was in my spot for a good two minutes before I noticed a heron standing in the shadow at the edge of the creek not 30 feet from where I stood. It remained for as long as I did, which was longer than the usual 10 minutes as I was certain it was waiting to catch its breakfast and hoped that meant the suckers were arriving. I didn't see a sucker that morning, but two days later I spotted one. Always a cause for celebration.

As their numbers increase, the fun increases. It can be a challenge to count those suckers! But once one gets accustomed to their shape under the water, the places in the Creek they like to gather, and the splashing they create when spawning, it gets easier.

The town received a grant to install a **fish ladder** that makes the journey easier for most of the fish. Oddly enough, a number of fish still choose to do it the hard way. When the creek is low, as it was this year, they really have to work and it's impressive to watch their effort.

Karen obtained a grant to tag some of the fish from each creek and it turns out some of the tagged fish returned to Fish Creek this year. Her research is providing other valuable information about their patterns and behavior. She gives a few very interesting programs in the county each spring if you'd like to learn more, or perhaps want to join her team.

Our little namesake Creek is a beautiful and fascinating place and its health is important to our environment, especially in light of the increasing impact of development in our town.

Those of us counting suckers are also part of the Fish Creek Watershed Committee which monitors the condition and health of the creek. It, too, is a relatively easy task that involves visiting the creek once a month, May through October, to measure its flow, clarity, temperature; and twice a year an invertebrate study to see what critters are living there. It only requires a few hours of time, though there is a short hike and sometimes a bit of scrambling for a few of us.

We are a very small committee and could use a few more members.

Interested? Please contact the Town at clerk@gibraltarwi.gov or call at 920-868-1714.



Celebrating 150 Years of the Alexander Noble House

Preserving History at the Heart of Fish Creek

This year, we proudly celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Alexander Noble House, a cornerstone of Fish Creek's rich heritage and a true testament to the power of community.

Nearly three decades ago, this historic home was on the verge of being lost to the highest bidder. But thanks to the determination and passion of local residents, the Gibraltar Historical Association (GHA) and supporters banded together to save, restore, and preserve the Noble House. What followed were countless hours dedicated to bringing the home back to its original appearance—an extraordinary example of what collective action can achieve.

Why preserve the Noble House? Because it's a living time capsule. Inside, you'll find original kerosene lamps, chairs, photos, windows, wooden floors, beadboard walls—even a vintage organ. It's a rare opportunity to step inside a home that

has remained largely unchanged since Fish Creek's earliest days. And it's more than just a building—it's the legacy of Alexander Noble, a founding father, town blacksmith, postmaster, and leader in both local and county government.

We are especially grateful for the Town of Gibraltar's continued partnership, including recent work to repair the home's foundation. GHA is also busy restoring worn porch floorboards to ensure the home remains safe and beautiful for years to come.

Preservation is more than repair—it's a commitment to honoring and maintaining the stories, spirit, and structures of our past. The Noble House is not just a building; it's a historical landmark, a community victory, and a symbol of shared heritage.

We invite you to join us in celebrating this incredible milestone—150 years of the Alexander Noble House—and to continue supporting the preservation of this beloved piece of Fish Creek history.



Here's to the next 150 years!

PLEASE NOTE: We welcome visitors at the Alexander Noble House **Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00am-3:00pm**



Family-friendly, special events are held at the Noble House and Noble Square during the summer:

Photo far left: Alpaca Shearing in May

Near left: Circular Sock Knitting Machine on display earlier in June

Photo right: Concerts in Noble Square every Tuesday from 3 - 5pm all summer long!



Protecting the natural beauty and biodiversity of Fish Creek is essential—it's a shared duty we all hold. We kindly ask for your assistance in preventing the spread of invasive species on your property and within our parks. Together, we can make a significant impact!



DAME'S ROCKET

Four Petals Per Flower - Purple, Pink, or White

Tall Growth Clusters: Invasive can grow 2-4 feet



GARLIC MUSTARD

Small white flowers in spring

Garlic Odor

Pull before it seeds- Bag & Trash It



COMMON BUCKTHORN

Twigs often end with a thorn

Buckthorn's shallow root system doesn't hold soil well, leading to erosion and degraded habitat quality.

It prevents the growth of young native trees like oaks and maples, disrupting natural forest succession.



PHRAGMITES

Tall grass, large, purplish-brown flower heads
The thick stands make it difficult for native fish, amphibians, and birds to access wetlands



We Want Your Input! Help Shape Outdoor Recreation in Gibraltar



Take Our Survey

Town of Gibraltar | Fish Creek | Juddville | Chambers Island

Your input is valued!

We are surveying the community in preparation of our first Outdoor Recreation Plan. Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code that applies to you or visit the link below.

Residents



arcg.is/0bmaLy1



Visitors



arcg.is/0HXGuq0

Thank you for your participation!



The Town of Gibraltar is developing its first Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)

—and your voice matters!

Whether you're a resident or a visitor, we'd love to hear your thoughts on our parks, trails, and outdoor activities.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey that applies to you by the end of August:

◆ Resident Survey: arcg.is/0bmaLy1

◆ Visitor Survey: arcg.is/0HXGuq0

Click on the appropriate link above or use the QR code to the left...

Your feedback will help guide the future of outdoor recreation in Gibraltar—thank you for being part of the process!

Join the Movement: Help Keep Fish Creek's Parks Beautiful!

Love nature? Love your community? Become a founding member of our new volunteer team and make a difference in Fish Creek's parks and public lands!

What We Do:

- ✓ Maintain trails, parks, and green spaces
- ✓ Organize community clean-ups and restoration projects
- ✓ Plant trees, native flowers, and support conservation efforts
- ✓ Assist in park events and educational programs

Why Join?

- ♥ Make a direct impact on our environment
- ♥ Connect with like-minded nature lovers
- ♥ Gain hands-on experience in conservation and land stewardship

How to Get Involved:

- 📍 Sign up today! No experience needed—just a love for the outdoors.
- 📍 Join our kick-off event (date TBD) to meet fellow volunteers and learn more!

Ready to roll up your sleeves? Let's work together to keep Fish Creek's parks thriving!

- 📧 [Contact us at lauriesflowers@yahoo.com or call the Town Offices: 920-868-1714
- 📱 Follow us on social media



Summer Sounds in Fish Creek:
Free Live Music at Noble Square & Fish Creek Beach!

**FREE
CONCERTS AT NOBLE
SQUARE**

4167 MAIN STREET
FISH CREEK

TUESDAYS 3-5 PM

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| JUNE 24 | COLIN & FRIENDS |
| JULY 8 | DOC HEIDE & FRIENDS |
| JULY 22 | BIRCH CREEK
AMBASSADORS |
| JULY 29 | CHERRY & JERRY
"150 TH CELEBRATION" |
| AUGUST 5 | BIRCH CREEK
AMBASSADORS |
| AUGUST 19 | CHERRY TONES |
| AUGUST 26 | SPIKE & APRIL |

Gibraltar Historical
Association



FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN FISH CREEK

**FISH
CREEK
BEACH
5PM-7PM**

MAY 23RD
KATRINA DEVILLE &
THE NOBODY FAMOUS

JUNE 6TH
FRANK MALONEY &
THE BIG COUNTRY UNIT

JUNE 20TH
FROG FURR

JULY 4TH
SWITCHBACK

JULY 18TH
ALEX WILSON

AUGUST 1ST
FAMILY NIGHT W/
OMG I'M FAMOUS

AUGUST 15TH
THREE SPRINGS

AUGUST 29TH
LEWIS MURPHY BAND

**ALL CONCERTS
ARE FREE**

**PICNICS ARE
ENCOURAGED**

**FUN FAMILY
NIGHT OUT!**



**FISH
CREEK**
VISITFISHCREEK.COM



**Town of Gibraltar
Committee Chairpersons
Building Committee**

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keweenawkarl@gmail.com

Plan Commission

Linda Merline
lmerline@gibraltarwi.gov

Airport Commission

Marte Franke
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Harbor Commission

Dave Harris
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Parks & Lands

Laurie Buske

Gibraltar Historical Association

Laurie Buske
noblehousefc@gmail.com

Internet Ad Hoc Committee

Dennis Steigenberger
dennis.steigenberger@cedarcorp.com

Finance Committee

Steve Sohns
ssohns@gibraltarwi.gov

Police & Fire Commission

Greg Cote
gcote5064@icloud.com

Encounter. Enrich. Enlighten

Explore the World at the
Fish Creek Public Library

Fish Creek Library Book Club:

**2nd Wednesdays at 5:30pm
at Fish Creek Library**

Bittersweet Bookies Book Club

**1st Wednesdays at 1:00pm
at Write On Door County**

FUN! Every Month:

July 1 at 11am: Brio Set Playtime

July 8 at 11am: Soap Felting Class w/Pioneer Pearl

July 16 (9:30am - 1:30pm) - FC Library at Farmers Market

July 29 at 2pm in Noble Square: Box Parade for 150th

Anniversary of Fish Creek

August 6 at 2pm: Open Door Sanctuary Bird Demonstration

August 13 (9:30am - 1:30pm) FC Library at Farmers Market

Always: FREE Craft Kits

New every month!!!



Catch The "Breeze" Via Email

You can "catch the Breeze" at the end of the Month in

March, June, September and December.

Newsletters can always be found online.

Sign up to receive them here: Newsletters

by checking the "newsletter" box,

or go to our newsletters page and download

If online doesn't work for you,

stop by the town center or the visitors center for a printed copy

Find us on facebook: Town of Gibraltar

CONTACT US



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