



# GIBRALTAR *Breeze*

30 September, 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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# Celebrating History, Music, and Community: GHA's Unforgettable Summer

*From concerts in the square to a once-in-a-lifetime birthday bash, GHA's summer was truly unforgettable.*

The **Gibraltar Historical Association (GHA)** wrapped up an extraordinary summer filled with music, history, and community spirit—truly a season to remember!

## Free Concerts at Noble Square

From June 24 through August 26, Noble Square was the place to be every Tuesday for **free live music**. Performers from near and far filled the air with a diverse range of sounds, creating the perfect backdrop for summer afternoons and evenings in the heart of Fish Creek.

## 150th Anniversary of the Noble House

On July 29, 2025, we celebrated a once-in-a-lifetime milestone: **the 150th birthday of the Alexander Noble House**. The day kicked off with a festive box parade co-hosted with the Gibraltar Library and featured classic cars from the **Cherryland A's Model A Club**. Guests enjoyed lively tunes from **Cherry & Jerry's Ragtime Band** and a heartfelt performance by **Isabella Dippel**, who shared family stories and sang *Amazing Grace*. The celebration wouldn't have been complete without a slice of birthday cake for everyone to enjoy!

## Music on the Porch Day

On August 30, the Fish Creek Gazebo hosted Music on the Porch Day, where the **Ukulele Society of Door County** closed out a morning of cheerful performances, adding yet another harmonious note to the summer.

## Gibraltar Talks: Songs of the Shanty Boys

In September, GHA brought history to life with our Gibraltar Talks event, *A Patchwork of Needles and Leaves*. Baritone, Matthew Christoff, guided guests through the fascinating world of lumber camp life, sharing stories and authentic songs sung by shanty boys of the Upper Midwest—including the roots of the well-known phrase, "I'm a Lumberjack and That's OK."

This summer reminded us of the importance of preserving and sharing our history. Thank you to everyone who attended events, supported our mission, and helped make this season unforgettable!

## 📌 Summer Highlights at a Glance

- ✓ Free Music Tuesdays  
*Noble Square came alive!*
- ✓ 150 Years of the Noble House  
*Parade, cars & cake!*
- ✓ Music on the Porch Day  
*Ukulele fun at the Gazebo*
- ✓ Gibraltar Talks  
*Songs of the Shanty Boys*



## GHA Thanks You!

*Your support helps us keep history alive.*

Visit us at [historicnoble.org](http://historicnoble.org) or email us at [noblehousefc@gmail.com](mailto:noblehousefc@gmail.com)

# Mosquito Control: What You Need to Know

*A Note from the Parks & Lands Committee*

**Municipalities sometimes use Ultra Low Volume (ULV)** applications to reduce mosquito populations. These treatments involve spraying tiny droplets of insecticide from trucks or aircraft, usually after dark when mosquitoes are most active. ULV applications act as a quick “knockdown” with minimal residual effect and, according to research, have only short-lived and minor impacts on most non-target insects.

However, in Wisconsin, ULV treatments are rare. Instead, **many homeowners and pest services use “barrier” or “residual” treatments**, which apply insecticide (often pyrethroids) to vegetation around yards and structures. These treatments can last for weeks and are broad-spectrum, meaning they can affect many other insects—not just mosquitoes.

Studies show potential risks:

- Monarch caterpillars harmed up to 3 weeks after spraying
- Honey bees affected 28 days post-treatment

Because these treatments are often applied monthly, there are concerns for pollinators and other beneficial insects like butterflies, fireflies, moths, and bees. More research is needed to understand the full impact.



## Eco-Friendly Mosquito Tips

### Tip

- ✓ Eliminate Standing Water
- ✓ Use Mosquito-Repelling Plants
- ✓ Install Screens & Fans
- ✓ Choose Natural Repellents
- ✓ Time Outdoor Activities Wisely

### Description

- Dump water from buckets, birdbaths, and flower pots weekly
- Plant basil, lavender, marigolds, or citronella around your yard
- Mosquitoes are weak fliers—fans help keep them away
- Use products with oil of lemon, eucalyptus or picaridin
- Avoid dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active



## Let Nature Be Your Mosquito Control Squad



*Forget the citronella candles—nature’s got some top-notch mosquito bouncers!*

- 🐟 Fish like goldfish, guppies & bass turn mosquito larvae into snacks.
- 🐦 Birds (hello swallows & purple martins!) swoop in for an all-you-can-eat buffet.
- 🦇 Bats clock in for the night shift.
- 🦋 Dragonflies = the “mosquito hawks” of summer.
- 🐸 Frogs, 🐢 turtles & 🕷️ spiders happily join the feast.

*Want to help your backyard dream team?*

*Ditch standing water, add a birdhouse or bat house, and watch nature handle the pests  
—buzz-free and all-natural. 🌿 🐝*





**UWO** UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**OSHKOSH**

# Fall 2025 DOOR COUNTY PRIVATE WELL MONITORING PROGRAM

## TESTING PARAMETERS

- 💧 Total coliforms/*E. coli* (quantification)
- 💧 Nitrate (Nitrate + nitrite as N)

**Cost is only \$30\***

*\*Discounted rate for the first 300 registrants; \$45 for those registering after the first 300 registrants.*

*Optional arsenic, pH, alkalinity, hardness and iron tests available at an additional cost of \$25*

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The University of WI Oshkosh has been offering discounted well water quality testing through this program since 2019. The goal of this program is to provide education about the importance of testing your well water as well as build a database of groundwater quality data in Door County.

## HOW IT WORKS

- RSVP using the link or QR code below by October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Receive sampling kit in mail
- Attend a virtual forum to learn how to sample
- Return your kit October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at designated drop-off locations
- Receive your results & countywide summary of study

**Registration accepted through October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**RSVP online at <https://uwo.sh/doorco-wells-fall25> or using the QR code**

*\*Prepayment using a credit card is accepted when you RSVP online, otherwise mailed checks are accepted made out to UW Oshkosh. Note that sampling kits will not be mailed out until payment is received.*



**Sample drop-off is October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars!**

For more information, contact Jackie Behrens at [eric@uwosh.edu](mailto:eric@uwosh.edu) or (920) 424-3148



# **Staying Safe During Outages: Fire Station Generator Ready**

*"Your safe spot when the lights go out"*

The community's safety is our top priority. The Fire Station has recently installed a new generator to ensure it remains fully powered during storms or other emergencies.

As the community's emergency command center, the Fire Station will continue to serve as a reliable hub when disaster strikes. If a power outage leaves you without electricity, you can come to the Fire Station to:

- Charge essential devices
- Power medical equipment
- Access a safe, powered space until service is restored

This new generator ensures that, no matter the weather, our emergency response operations can continue—and our residents have a place to turn when they need it most.

## **Creek to Cone: A Day of Yes!!!**

*Gibraltar 5<sup>th</sup> graders explore nature, history, and sweet treats in Fish Creek*

In May, the Plan Commission & the Park & Lands Committee, again worked with Friends of Gibraltar Coordinator, Vinnie Hancock, to host an all-day field trip to Fish Creek Park and the Noble House for the 5th grade classes from Gibraltar Elementary School. The students walked down from school, and they participated in a tree planting activity, looked for and identified macro-invertebrates that live in the creek, pulled invasive species, and hiked the park including the new expanded area below the bluff. In addition, they walked to Noble Square and toured the Noble House's new exhibit. The day ended with ice cream cones from Not Licked Yet compliments of Friends of Gibraltar. When asked if they had fun, the answer was a resounding YES! When asked if we should do this field trip for next year's 5th graders, the answer was again a resounding YES!

*Courtesy of Linda Merline, Chairperson, Plan Commission*

## **Fire Prevention Week: October 5–11, 2025**

Each year, Fire Prevention Week is observed during the week of October 9, honoring the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This year's theme is:

*"Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."*

The focus is on raising awareness about the safe use of lithium-ion batteries—common in phones, laptops, e-bikes, and more. Key safety tips include:

- Research products before you buy.
- Always use the manufacturer's cables for charging.
- Follow safety guidelines for charging and disposal to prevent fires or explosions.

The campaign, led by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), emphasizes the importance of proper handling to keep your home and family safe.

👉 For more information and safety tip sheets, visit: [NFPA Fire Safety Resources](#)

*Courtesy of Andy Bertges, Fire Chief, Town of Gibraltar*



**From the Administrator's Desk**



**Above: Islandview before the reconstruction**



**Islandview during construction**



**Above: New culvert placed on Islandview directing the water under the road instead of over it**



**Micro sealing completed on S Highland Rd. 2 miles of roadway sealed and resurfaced adding longevity to the roadway**



**Repaving completed on Islandview Drive**



**Repair of Sugar Bush Road**



**Door County Auditorium Kickoff: The building is currently being closed in; the plan is for completion by next season**



**Infrared patching around town to close up larger potholes**



**Completed fence and graded waterfront property**



**Waterfront property foundations removed and leveled**





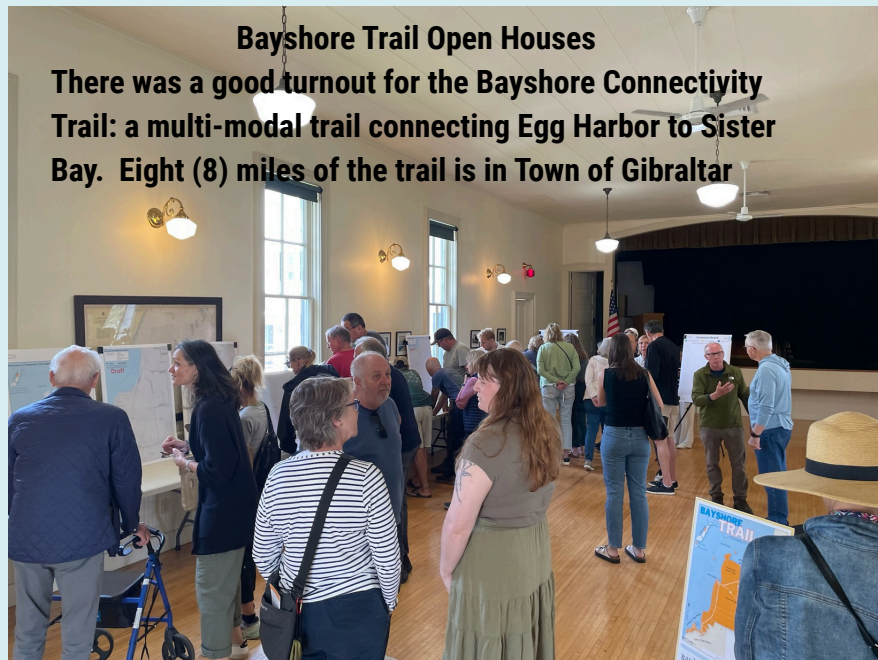
**New solar panels for the lighthouse allowing 100 amp service. Previous service was just 12 volts!**



**Chambers Island Lighthouse was repainted using original 1800's historic colors, all provided courtesy of donors. The Town is grateful for their generosity. Next up, replacing the spires.**



**As approved by the electors: Slab poured for a new municipal storage building on Chambers Island**



### **Bayshore Trail Open Houses**

**There was a good turnout for the Bayshore Connectivity Trail: a multi-modal trail connecting Egg Harbor to Sister Bay. Eight (8) miles of the trail is in Town of Gibraltar**



**One final note from Fire Chief Bertges: Winter is on its way. Be sure to check your smoke detectors and test your batteries.**



# 🌟 Hometown Holiday & Tree Lighting

**December 6** 🌟

Mark your calendars for one of the most magical nights of the year! On Friday, December 6, Fish Creek will glow with holiday spirit as we gather for our annual Hometown Holiday & Tree Lighting Celebration.

## 🎄 Tree Lighting

*Watch the town sparkle as the holiday tree is lit, ushering in the festive season.*

## 🎵 Caroling at the Alexander Noble House

*Raise your voice with neighbors and friends as we sing timeless carols by candlelight.*

## 🛍️ Late-Night Shopping

*Stroll through town and discover holiday treasures from local shops, open late just for you.*

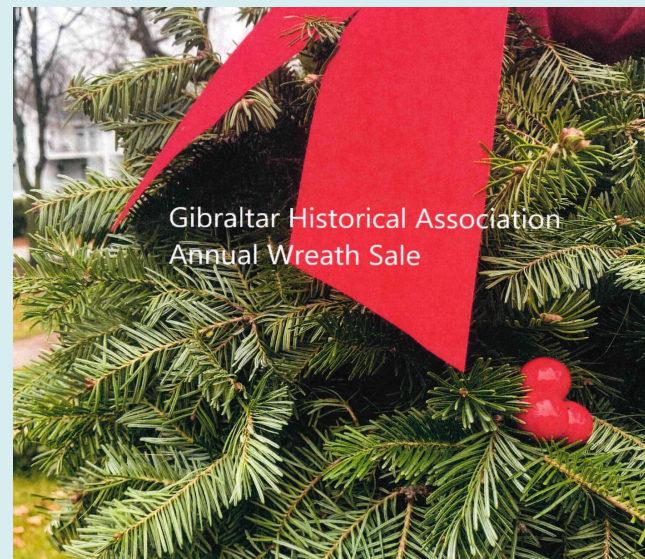
## 🎅 Santa Visits

*Stop by to see Santa, share your holiday wishes, and snap a memory-making photo.*

## 🍪 Milk & Cookies 🥛

*Warm up with sweet treats after the festivities. It's an evening filled with community cheer, twinkling lights, and holiday magic for all ages.*

**Stay tuned—we'll share more details online about Hometown Holiday events you won't want to miss!**



Gibraltar Historical Association  
Annual Wreath Sale

The Holidays are just around the corner . . .

Let us help you!

Watch for our order form coming in October. Our beautiful, fresh evergreen wreaths will be available for pick up before Thanksgiving.



*Jack O' Lantern Days*

🎃 JACK O' LANTERN DAYS RETURNS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25!

GET READY FOR A DAY OF FANG-TASTIC FUN

COSTUME CONTESTS

TOWN-WIDE TRICK-OR-TREATING

THE EVER-POPULAR HAUNTED TRAIL AT FISH CREEK PARK. &



**Watch for our Fire Department  
Open House  
the weekend of October 25th!!!!**

# "Fall & Winter Fun Awaits at the Library!"

*"Craft, read, and celebrate the season with us!"*

**There's something for everyone at the library this fall and winter!**  
**Mark your calendars and join us for free programs, clubs, and creative fun...**

## 🌟 Every Month

- Free Craft Kits – Stop in anytime! We have monthly kits for kids and adults ✂️🎨

## 📖 Book Clubs

- Bittersweet Bookies – 1st Wednesday of each month, 1pm at Write On Door County 📖
- Fish Creek Library Book Club – 2nd Wednesday of each month, 5:30pm at the library
- For details on current reads, visit [www.doorcountylibrary.org](http://www.doorcountylibrary.org).

## Special Events

### 📅 October – Close-Up Magic with David Watkins

Saturday, October 25 • Gibraltar Old Town Hall • Time TBA

Join us during Jack O' Lantern Days for mind-bending tricks and sleight of hand. Fun for kids and adults alike!

### 🔧 November – Beginning Book Repair Workshop

Tuesday, November 18 • 2pm – 5pm

Learn the basics of repairing your beloved collection. Books to practice on are provided. 📖🔧

Sign-up required – call 920-868-3471 to reserve your spot.

### 🎄 December – Holiday Cardmaking

Saturday, December 6 • 3pm – 5pm

Get festive with snacks and cardmaking before the Tree Lighting at Noble Square. 🎄📄

Supplies provided (bring your own stamps) ✂️🎨

### 📅 17 Library Programs at a Glance

- All Month: Free Craft Kits for kids & adults
- Book Clubs:
  - Bittersweet Bookies – 1st Wed, 1pm, Write On Door County
  - Fish Creek Library Book Club – 2nd Wed, 5:30pm, Fish Creek Library
  - Details: [www.doorcountylibrary.org](http://www.doorcountylibrary.org)
- Oct 25: Close-Up Magic with David Watkins – Gibraltar Old Town Hall, time TBA
- Nov 18: Beginning Book Repair Workshop – 2pm–5pm, sign-up required (920-868-3471)
- Dec 6: Holiday Cardmaking – 3pm–5pm, supplies provided, stamps not included



# Parks and Lands Update

The Town of Gibraltar Parks and Lands Committee remains dedicated to providing and maintaining spaces for both residents and visitors to enjoy. Our parks, open areas, two cemeteries, and volleyball courts are located throughout the village, offering opportunities for recreation, reflection, and community use.

## 2025 – Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)

This year, the Committee has undertaken the development of a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) to guide the long-term vision and management of community parks and public spaces.

- **Spring 2025** – A community needs survey was distributed and completed, providing valuable input regarding current and future recreational needs.
- **Fall 2025** – A draft of the CORP will be completed and made available for public review and comment. Community feedback will be incorporated before final adoption.

The CORP will serve as a framework for ensuring that Gibraltar's public spaces remain responsive to community needs and priorities.

## 2025 – Major Projects in Development

Two significant initiatives are currently under discussion and planning:

- **Waterfront Park Development** – Concept planning is underway for a new waterfront park to expand public access and recreational opportunities.
- **Fish Creek Park** – Work is in progress to significantly increase amenities of Fish Creek Park.

**Both projects are being coordinated closely with the Town Board and will emphasize:**

- Sustainability and stewardship of natural resources
- Public education and interpretive opportunities
- Accessibility for all residents and visitors
- Long-term maintenance and best management practices

These efforts are intended to create durable, high-quality public assets that reflect the community's values and priorities.

## Future Initiatives – Community Support and Contributions

The Committee extends its appreciation to all individuals and organizations who have contributed to benches, restoration work, and beautification projects. Community support remains an essential part of maintaining and enhancing Gibraltar's parks and lands.



**Looking ahead**, the Committee plans to add American flags in observance of Memorial Day and Independence Day for the future. Donations are being sought to support this initiative, along with other beautification and restoration projects.

**Those wishing to contribute may do so online at:**

👉 [gibraltarwi.gov/donations](https://gibraltarwi.gov/donations)

*- Update provided courtesy of Parks and Lands Director, Laurie Buske*

# Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport Highlights for 2025

## **ANNUAL EAA YOUNG EAGLES DAY:**

The Summer of 2025 was kicked off with the annual EAA Young Eagles Day conducted by the Friends of the Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport and hosted by the Sturgeon Bay EAA chapter the first Saturday in June. We had 69 kids 8-17 years old take to the skies, some for the first time and probably a life-long memory for all of them. It has become a real community event with aircraft displays by those who have hangars here, the Fire/Rescue and Police, and the Civil Air Patrol Squadron from Sturgeon Bay, along with lunch provided by Alexander's. We had a set flight path with orderly departures and arrivals, lots of communication, and careful planning by all of the pilots and ground support volunteers who make this possible for so many Door County youth.

## **PRIVATE PILOT'S LICENSE SPONSORSHIPS:**

We have also recently approved another northern Door County high school graduate for our Sponsorship program to support them in obtaining their Private Pilot's License. Over the years, the Friends have supported:

- Four local kids attending EAA Camp (two of which are now working in Airport Management and the Air Force),
- Five youth who received flight training (two of which are now Commercial pilots and one just starting), and
- Four who have received yearly Scholarships to support obtaining degrees or certifications in the aviation industry (two pilots as above and one pursuing a career as an Airframe and Powerplant / Electronics expert.)

## **MEMORIAL FUND:**

Earlier this year, a longstanding leader and contributor to this airport, Jon Neville, passed away and the Friends have collected a memorial fund in his honor. From these funds, we have put in a new flagpole and flag and are planning to install a memorial brick patio to remember Jon and others who have brought this Airport to where we are now. Jon and our current Airport Commission chairperson, Marty Franke, were instrumental in making this Airport financially independent for all operations, and the Friends continue to volunteer their time and financial support to this Airport and through it, the broader community.

## **NEW HANGERS:**

Some will notice that we have cleared a lot next to the existing main entrance, and this is where five new hangars will be built to begin to address the longstanding Waiting List for these hangars. Nearly all of the current hangar owners also own homes and businesses here, and the contribution of this Airport to the northern Door County community continues to be significant.

## **AIRPORT MASTER PLAN:**

Since the Airport was opened in 1946, it has provided an alternate form of transportation to and from here for individuals and businesses and continues to be an integral part of the State and Federal transportation network. The Airport continues to receive significant support from the Federal and State governments to continue to provide services to the public, and we have launched the preparation of an Airport Master Plan (with the WI Bureau of Aeronautics) to define needs in the future to keep this Airport a safe and open resource in the future. This is planned to be completed in 2026. One service that is important to all of us is this Airport's role in Door County Emergency Services, with emergency air ambulances (Flight for Life) coming here regularly – there were seven (7) flights in 2024 and six (6) so far in 2025, with the most recent last Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>, just as we completed our monthly Friends meeting!

## **ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:**

Next year will be the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport, and we have decided to combine our Anniversary Celebration with our next EAA Young Eagles Day. We wish to invite everyone from the community to come to this "Open House" and learn more about the history, contributions and future plans, as well as meet those who keep this Airport running as a safe and welcoming destination.



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**Police & Fire Commission**

Greg Cote  
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## Chairman's Letter

Well, even though a heat wave has arrived, signs of Fall are upon us. Weekday traffic has subsided a bit, aside from the County A traffic due to the Highway 57 detour. I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the summer and enjoy a couple of the wonderful music events in the Town.

Islandview blacktopping was completed, and other road repair, crack filling and micro sealing will start in the next month.

As the seasons change the Town Board and staff will start looking at Fall projects, issues that need addressing, and preparing next year's budget. The fall ditch mowing is being completed and tree trimming in the rural areas will begin. Discussions continue with GHA's request to lease and maintain the old Kinsey home, the future street plans for the old downtown, and the Harbor Commission's plans for updating the docks and marina. Over the off season we hope to finalize the plans for the waterfront/marina parking lot and the new park addition, with collaboration from the Parks Committee and Harbor Commission, pulling together the high-level plans that were approved and creating a final construction plan. The Town continues to apply for grants and ask for donations to help fund these projects to help reduce the burden on our Town taxpayers.

The Town Board just returned from our Chambers Island Road & Building review, and we were very impressed with the Lighthouse exterior painting that was done, as well as the new solar panel power system. Thanks to our lighthouse keepers and generous donations, the lighthouse is finally getting the TLC it has needed for a long time. I invite you to go check it out!

Thank you to all those that have donated for various projects in our Town, big or small, they all add up.


Lastly, I mention, the Town Advocacy Committee in Madison, of which I have been a member for the last 2 years, and for which I was elected president in August. Under the Wisconsin Towns Association, the Committee's job is lobbying for increased aid for Towns in Wisconsin, legislation that helps and benefits towns, as well as opposing legislation that hurts the Towns. This Committee was instrumental in the last 2 years in bringing a substantial shared revenue increase, and additional road aid to our town, and all towns in the state. I continue to work to help our little town in every way I can, as many of us do.

Enjoy the Fall colors with your friends and family and stay safe,

***Steve Sohns,***

Chairman, Town of Gibraltar

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## Catch The "Breeze" Via Email

You can "catch the Breeze" at the end of the Month in  
**March, June, September and December.**

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or go to our newsletters page and download

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