

City of Gibraltar Community Newsletter

February 2011 – May 2011

47th Edition

Gibraltar, Michigan 48173

www.cityofgibraltar.net



WideOpenWest – WOW! CABLE

After many years of requests and a great deal of persistence on the part of the City's elected officials, WideOpenWest – WOW! Cable is finally coming to Gibraltar! WOW applied for and was granted a Local Franchise Agreement at the January 24, 2011 Council Meeting. They hope to be signing up customers by early summer. Their service area will cover the entire City, with the exception of Fort Street and Meadowlands Manufactured Home Park along Gibraltar Road.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

April 23, 2011

The Recreation Commission and the Gibraltar Firefighters Association are sponsoring Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at the Community Center. A Pancake Breakfast will be served from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 per person in advance and \$4.00 per person at the door. Children under 5 are free. Tickets will be available beginning February 21, 2011 at the Community Center and City Hall. An Easter Egg Hunt (weather permitting) will begin at 11:30 a.m. There will also be an Easter basket give away, face painting and a lot more fun. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

4th of JULY PARADE and FIREWORKS

July 4, 2011

SPONSORED BY THE GIBRALTAR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

The City of Gibraltar will celebrate the birth of Our Nation on Monday, July 4, 2011 with a parade, activities for the kids and entertainment for the adults. The day will begin with a parade that leaves from City Hall and ends at the Community Center. Events, food and entertainment will occur all day at Hy Dahlka Park behind the Community Center, as well as inside the Community Center. The final event of the day will be the Fireworks Display behind Parsons Elementary School, starting at 10:02 p.m. This year's event is being sponsored by the Gibraltar Downtown Development Authority (DDA), as part of their promotion of the Gibraltar Downtown area. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend this wonderful community event.

- Parade starts at 10:00 A.M. Fireworks start at Dusk.
- Parade Route – Bayview to Davis; Davis to Munro; Munro to Stoefflet; Stoefflet to S. Gibraltar Road; S. Gibraltar Road to Marr; Marr to Navarre; Navarre to the Community Center at 29340 S. Gibraltar Road.
- Fireworks rain date will be Tuesday, July 5, 2011

CITY OF GIBRALTAR WEBSITE

www.cityofgibraltar.net

The City of Gibraltar is continually updating the City website. The City Charter, Code of Ordinances, and a lot of the information that was previously printed in the Community Newsletter is now available on the website. Check it out and let us know how we can make it better. Additional City information is also available through Comcast Cable Channel 12.

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METRO SHORES CREDIT UNION – GIBRALTAR BRANCH

The Metro Shores Credit Union branch at City Hall is open on Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, please call (734) 676-4722 or www.metroshores.org.

PAYMENT DROP BOX AND USPS MAILBOX

The City Hall Payment Drop Box is located in the traffic island across from the Flag Pole in front of City Hall. There is a United States Postal Service mailbox located in front of the Gibraltar Community Center.

Construction Projects

ADA Sidewalk Ramps and Warning Mats

After the month of July, the City will be working on a project to replace various sidewalk ramps to make them compliant with the Federal ADA laws. Ramps along South Gibraltar Road and Middle Gibraltar Road will be replaced and new truncated warning mats will also be installed. This project is being funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Gibraltar Community Center Lights

The lights throughout the Community Center will be replaced in the next few weeks through a grant from the Downriver Community Conference EECBG Project and the DTE Energy Rebate Program. There are also plans to make some aesthetic improvements to the walls and floors after the July 4th festivities. These improvements are being funded by the DDA.

Community News and General Information

Winter Property Tax Bills

The last day to pay the 2010 Winter Property Tax Bills without penalty is February 14, 2011. After this date, a 4% penalty will be added. Taxes are payable at City Hall thru February 28, 2011. After this date, taxes are payable at Wayne County.

Board of Review

The Gibraltar Board of Review will meet to hear appeals for property assessments on Thursday, March 17, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call City Hall at (734) 676-3900 to schedule an appointment. Visit the City of Gibraltar website, www.cityofgibraltar.net, for a link to check your property tax information.

Housing Rehabilitation Program

The City of Gibraltar is pleased to offer the Housing Rehabilitation Program through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This program is designed to assist Gibraltar residents in a low to moderate income range that are in need of eligible home improvements. For more information regarding qualification guidelines and the Program, please contact Denise Sciacca, Rehab Specialist, on Thursday afternoons at (734) 676-3900 or by email at housingrehab@cityofgibraltar.net.

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City Clerk General Information

There is no election scheduled for the spring of 2011. The next election will be a Primary Election scheduled for August 2, 2011.

Water Department General Information

Water Bill Reminder:

When you receive your quarterly water bill, please remember to check your inside water meter reading with the listed numbers of gallons on the bill. The meter should read higher than the billing information. If there are any discrepancies, please notify the Water Department immediately. Discrepancies will be the responsibility of the property owner. Those homes with readable outside remotes should check both the meter and the remote, and both should read the same number. If not, notify the Water Department at (734) 676-3952.

DPW General Information

Garbage and Yard Waste Collection Guidelines

Garbage and Yard Waste is picked up by Waste Management. The Waste Management Customer Service telephone number is 1-800-796-9696. All residential homes will be picked up on Tuesdays.

Holiday Collection Schedule

Memorial Day – Monday, May 30, 2011
COLLECTION DAY IS WEDNESDAY

Yard Waste Collection Schedule

2011 Re-Start Date – April 5, 2011

Chipping:

City chipping service will normally be done once a week. This is subject to change due to emergencies, scheduling, etc. Tree branches for chipping should be left as long as possible, with the larger end of the branch facing towards the road in a neat, uniform pile. **THE CHIPPING SERVICE IS FOR TREES CUT DOWN/TRIMMED BY RESIDENTS THEMSELVES. IF A CONTRACTOR IS HIRED, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHIPPING AND REMOVAL OF ALL DEBRIS.** Property owners should try to cut small branches and limbs into smaller lengths and place them in a yard waste bag. Brush and tree trimmings less than 2” in diameter and tied into bundles not exceeding 4 feet in length and/or 60 pounds in weight can be put out with the Yard Waste for Waste Management to pick up.

For items that will not be picked up by either Waste Management or the City, you may try to contact the Riverview Land Preserve at (734) 281-4262. If you have any questions, please contact the DPW office at (734) 676-3952, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Street Salting

With the limited availability of rock salt, the City will be forced to limit the frequency and areas in which the City streets are salted. The primary focus will be main thoroughfares, intersections and bridges. Please use caution while driving this winter.

Police Department General Information

Animal Reminders:

The '2011' Animal Licenses are still available for purchase at \$8.00 per license. Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets need to be licensed in the City of Gibraltar. Bring proof of rabies vaccination to the Gibraltar Police Department to purchase a license at anytime.

Dogs cannot be allowed to run loose anywhere in Gibraltar, including City Parks. Pets must be on a leash and under your control at all times when away from your property. If you take your animals for a walk, you must also carry a container to pick up after them.

Fire Department General Information

Fire Hydrants and Snow:

When shoveling snow, please keep any accumulation away from fire hydrants in front of your home. This will allow for easy access to the hydrant by the Fire Department should there be a fire in your neighborhood.

Home Fireplaces:

Homeowners with fireplaces should extinguish any active fire before leaving the home or going to bed for the evening.

Senior Citizen Information

Senior Transportation:

The City has a Bus that is wheel chair accessible and is available by appointment to transport our senior residents to doctor appointments and for a weekly shopping trip. This service is available to residents age 60 and older or disabled, in which the resident does not have a vehicle or is unable to drive due to medical reasons. The service for appointments is available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday -- 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (the Driver must be back to City Hall by 3:00 PM) and for grocery shopping on Wednesday. Reservations must be made at least 48 hours in advance, and there is a limit of 2 appointments per person, per week. To schedule an appointment, please call (734) 676-3900.

Gibraltar Historical Museum

The City of Gibraltar is rich with history and it should be documented and kept here in the City for future generations. The Gibraltar Historical Museum is still open for anyone interested in donating or loaning items, articles, pictures or anything pertinent to the history of Gibraltar. The museum is located on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

If you are interested in the history of Gibraltar and want to help preserve its heritage please contact Carol Rodgers at (734) 676-2706. If you would like to join the Historical Commission, contact City Hall at (734) 676-3900 for more information.

Community Center Information/Programs

Step Into Shape: Step into Shape is a low impact exercise class for the 50 plus crowd. Classes are on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, starting at 9:15 a.m. For more information please call (734) 782-1702.

Scrap Booking: Scrap booking classes are being held at the Community Center on Sunday's. For more information, please call Molly at (734) 675-4826.

AA Group: Babbling Brooks AA Group meets at the Community Center on Friday and Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Karate for Kids: Lil Dragon Karate Classes are held on Monday at 5:45 p.m. for boys and girls ages 4 to 6. Youth Martial Arts and Tae Kwon Do classes are also offered on Monday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. for boys and girls ages 8 to 10. For more information, please call (734) 306-6670. Classes are scheduled year around.

Dance Gibraltar: Dance Gibraltar will be teaching dance classes on Thursdays from September through the first semester at the Gibraltar Community Center. The classes are taught by adults and are a great experience for the kids. For more information, please call (734) 362-0880 or (734) 671-1466.

Gymnastics Gymnastic classes are being offered for boys and girls ages 3 to 12. Classes are held on Tuesday nights at the Gibraltar Community Center. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

Elements of Exercise: Elements of Exercise is offering Zumba Fitness and Total Body Conditioning at the Gibraltar Community Center. For more information, please call (734) 362-0880 or (734) 671-1466.

Gibraltar Baseball Association: The Gibraltar Baseball Association is looking for boys and girls between the ages of 8 years old to 12 years old who are interested in playing baseball this spring. Sign up dates are on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 19, 2011 at the Community Center. Please bring a birth certificate or proof of age. Registration fee is \$30.00 per child and \$15.00 for each additional child from the same family. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

Gibraltar Baseball and Softball Travel Teams: The Gibraltar Baseball and Softball Travel Teams are looking for boys who are 13 to 18 years of age, and girls who are 9 to 17 years of age, to play on the travel teams. Sign up dates are every Saturday in March 2011, as well as April 2, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center only. This sign up period will determine whether there are enough players for teams in each division. Applications are available at the Gibraltar Community Center. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

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Miss Gibraltar 2011 Contest:

The Gibraltar Rotary Club has Miss Gibraltar 2011 applications available at City Hall and the Community Center for young women between the ages of 15 and 20. The young women must be Gibraltar residents and must submit an essay entitled "Why I Like Living in Gibraltar". The last day to submit an application is Friday, May 20, 2011. Applications can be turned in at City Hall, the Community Center, or can be mailed to - Rotary Miss Gibraltar Contest, 29340 South Gibraltar Rd, Gibraltar, MI 48173. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winner and the first two runner-ups. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

Upcoming Community Events

Cooke Family Relief Saturday, March 5, 2011

A fundraiser for the Jeff Cooke Family has been scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2011 at the Gibraltar Community Center. There will be a Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and a Spaghetti Luncheon from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 – 16 years and older and \$5.00 – 15 years and younger. There will be 50/50 raffles and gift basket drawings. For questions or to volunteer to help, please contact Karen at (734) 671-8388 or by email at Cookefund@yahoo.com. All proceeds benefit the Jeff Cooke Family Fund. Donations can also be made at any Metro Shores Credit Union Attn: Jeff Cooke Family Fund.

Muskrat Dinner: Saturday, March 19, 2011

The Gibraltar Rotary Club is sponsoring a Muskrat Dinner at the Community Center on Saturday, March 19, 2011. This event helps to raise funds for Rotary Projects in Gibraltar. For ticket information, call (734) 692-0880. **SOLD OUT**

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny: Saturday, April 23, 2011

The Recreation Commission and the Gibraltar Firefighters Association are sponsoring Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at the Community Center. A Pancake Breakfast will be served from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$3.00 per person in advance and \$4.00 per person at the door. Children under 5 are free. Tickets will be available beginning February 21, 2011 at the Community Center and City Hall. An Easter Egg Hunt (weather permitting) will begin at 11:30 a.m. There will also be an Easter basket give away, face painting and a lot more fun. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

Scrap Tire and Electronics Collection: Saturday, April 30, 2011

The Cities of Trenton, Gibraltar, Riverview, Rockwood, the Township of Grosse Ile and the Wayne County Department of Public Services are sponsoring a Scrap Tire and Electronics Collection Day on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Kennedy Ice Arena, 3101 West Road, Trenton, MI 48183. For more information, contact the Gibraltar DPW at (734) 676-3952.

Gibraltar Firefighters Ball: Saturday April 30, 2011

The Gibraltar Firefighters Association is hosting their annual "Firemen's Ball" at the Community Center on Saturday, April 30, 2011. For ticket information, please call (734) 676-3167.

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Boat Smart Classes:

Wednesday, May 4, 2011
Wednesday, May 11, 2011
Wednesday, May 18, 2011
Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The Grosse Ile Power Squadron is offering Boat Smart Classes at the Community Center. The classes are held on Wednesdays in May at 6:00 p.m. These classes are designed to teach safe boating techniques, the buoy system, and Federal and State government boating regulations. There is a \$10.00 fee for class supplies, which is to be paid to the instructor on the first night of class. For more information, please call (734) 379-5610.

Gibraltar Clean-up Day:

Saturday, May 7, 2011

The annual Clean-Up Day will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2011 starting at 9:00 a.m. Litterbags will be provided at the Community Center. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

Pledge of Allegiance Day:

Monday, May 9, 2011

The 20th Annual "Pledge of Allegiance" ceremony will be held at Parsons Elementary School on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

City Wide Garage Sale Weekend:

Friday, May 20, 2011
Saturday, May 21, 2011
Sunday, May 22, 2011

Every resident in Gibraltar considering hosting a garage sale this year is encouraged to schedule it for the weekend of May 20, May 21, and May 22, 2011. The City will prepare a master list of addresses and items available for sale at that particular address. Please stop by City Hall to have your address listed with a brief summary of the items that will be available at your sale. A flyer listing the locations will be available at City Hall on Friday, May 20, 2011, after 8:00 a.m.

Rotary Fishing Tournament:

Sunday, June 12, 2011

The Gibraltar Rotary is sponsoring the 10th Annual Fishing Tournament and Fish Fry on Sunday, June 12, 2011. For more information, please call Bob Saunders at (734) 675-5182.

Looking Ahead . . .

Rotary Golf Outing:

Saturday, July 9, 2011

The Gibraltar Rotary is sponsoring their annual Golf Outing on Saturday, July 9, 2011. For more information, please call Jim Duke at (734) 676-2983.

Car Show:

Sunday, July 17, 2011

The Beautification and Recreation Commission's will be sponsoring the Annual Car Show on Sunday, July 17, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Gibraltar Community Center. If you have a hot rod, a good looking car or just want to look, come on down and be part of the activities. For more information, please call (734) 675-9633.

Antique Boat and Classic Car Show:

Saturday, August 27, 2011

The Gibraltar Rotary Club is sponsoring the Annual Vintage Woodies Classic Wooden Boat and Car Show at the Gibraltar Boat Yard on Saturday, August 27, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A boat raffle will be held during the day.

Flood Information

Flood and storm drain brochures for properties that may be in or near Special Flood Hazard Areas in the City of Gibraltar. Other flood hazard and watershed information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in our information center located in the foyer of the Municipal Complex.

You can also visit the City website, www.cityofgibraltar.net, for a link to the FEMA website. The link can be found on the Home Page under the Watershed heading.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Building Department at (734) 676-3952. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Watershed Information

Storm drains found in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and rivers. When we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and rivers. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and rivers causes algae to grow. Algae can form large blooms and use oxygen that fish need to survive. With 1.5 million homes in Southeast Michigan, all of us need to be aware of the cumulative affects of our lawn care practices.

Here are seven simple steps you can take in your home and yard to protect our lakes and streams.

- 1. Help keep pollution out of storm drains.** Storm drains lead directly to our lakes and streams. Never dump oil, pet waste, leaves, dirty water, or anything down a storm drain. Remember, only rain in the drain.
- 2. Fertilize caringly and sparingly.** Excess fertilizer that gets into storm drains pollutes our lakes by causing large algae blooms and using up oxygen fish need to survive. Sweep excess fertilizer back onto your lawn, use a low or no phosphorus fertilizer, and have your soil tested to see what, if any, fertilizer is needed.
- 3. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil.** Instead of putting hazardous products like antifreeze, motor oil, and pesticides in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, take them to a local hazardous waste collection day.
- 4. Clean up after your pet.** Whether on a walk or in your yard, promptly clean up after your pet. Not only will be you a good neighbor, you will also protect our water from harmful bacteria.
- 5. Practice good car care.** Consider taking your car to a car wash or washing your car on the grass.
- 6. Choose earth friendly landscaping.** Protect your pets, kids, and the environment by using pesticides sparingly. Also, water your lawn only when it needs it and choose plants native to Michigan.
- 7. Save water.** Over watering our lawns can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams. Consider using a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not the driveway. This will help save our lakes and streams and save you money.

For more easy steps on protecting our lakes and streams, visit www.semcog.org.

Remember, our water is our future – and it's ours to protect!

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City of Gibraltar Contact Directory

City of Gibraltar Facilities:

City Hall – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
29450 Munro, Gibraltar, MI 48173
(734) 676-3900

Police / Fire Station - 24 Hours
29450 Munro - (734) 676-1022

DPW & Water Dept. – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(734) 676-3952

Gibraltar Community Center

29340 South Gibraltar Rd.
(734) 671-1466
Available for rent for both small and large parties.

Schools:

Parsons Elementary School – (734) 379-7050
14473 M. Gibraltar Road

Shumate Middle School – (734) 379-7600
30550 W. Jefferson

Carlson High School – (734) 379-7100
30550 W. Jefferson

Gibraltar School Board Office
19370 Vreeland Rd., Woodhaven
(734) 379-6350

City Phone Numbers:

City Clerk, Finances, Assessor	(734) 676-3900
Building & Water Departments	(734) 676-3952
Police/Fire/EMS – Emergencies	9 – 1 – 1
Police/Fire/EMS – Non-Emergency	(734) 676-1022
City Administrator’s Office	(734) 676-9021
Mayor’s Office	(734) 676-7287

City of Gibraltar Officials:

Mayor: James Gorris gorrisj@cityofgibraltar.net

City Council:

Kathleen LaPointe klapointe@cityofgibraltar.net

Scott Ross marscottross@comcast.net

Brian Arp arpb@cityofgibraltar.net

J. Garza jgarzacpa@jgarzacpa.com

Kenneth Boyea rdfireplug@hotmail.com

Patrick Valentine pvalentine@cityofgibraltar.net

City Clerk: Cynthia Lehr
clehr@cityofgibraltar.net

City Administrator: Mark A. Kibby
mkibby@cityofgibraltar.net

Police Chief: Ray Canterbury
rcanterbury@cityofgibraltar.net

Fire Chief: Jim VanCalbergh
jvancalbergh@cityofgibraltar.net

Treasurer: Earl Cancilliari

Finance Director: Barbara Meyer
meyerb@cityofgibraltar.net

Parks & Recreation Director: Gil Talbert
talbertg@cityofgibraltar.net

Assessor: Holly Adams
assessing@cityofgibraltar.net

Rental Inspector: Hal LaPoint
rentalinspections@cityofgibraltar.net

Housing Rehab: Denise Sciacca
housingrehab@cityofgibraltar.net

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City Calendar of Meetings

February 2011

2	Recreation Commission	6:30 p.m.	Community Center
7	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
10	Waterways Commission	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
14	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
15	Planning Commission/DDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
28	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall

March 2011

2	Recreation Commission	6:30 p.m.	Community Center
7	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
10	Waterways Commission	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
14	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
15	Planning Commission/DDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
28	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall

April 2011

4	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
6	Recreation Commission	6:30 p.m.	Community Center
11	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
14	Waterways Commission	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
19	Planning Commission/DDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
25	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall

May 2011

2	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
4	Recreation Commission	6:30 p.m.	Community Center
9	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
12	Waterways Commission	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
17	Planning Commission/DDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
23	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall

Spring Holiday Closings

**The City of Gibraltar wishes everyone to enjoy the Holiday's safely and responsibly.
City Hall and D.P.W. will be closed on the following days due to the Holidays:**

**Friday, April 22, 2011 – Good Friday
Monday, May 30, 2011 – Memorial Day
Monday, July 4, 2011 – Independence Day**

The Police Department remains open 24 hours a day for any emergency in the City.

www.cityofgibraltar.net