

# City of Gibraltar Community Newsletter



October 2008 – January 2009  
Gibraltar, Michigan 48173

40<sup>th</sup> Edition Page 1

The City of Gibraltar Website is [www.cityofgibraltar.net](http://www.cityofgibraltar.net). Additional City information is also available through Comcast Cable Channel 12.

## HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSINGS

The Mayor, Council Members, Clerk, Treasurer and Employees wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

**City Hall and D.P.W. will be closed on the following days due to the Holidays:**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2008 – Veterans Day**  
**Thursday, November 27, 2008 – Thanksgiving Day**  
**Friday, November 28, 2008 – Day after Thanksgiving**  
**Wednesday, December 24, 2008 – Christmas Eve**  
**Thursday, December 25, 2008 – Christmas Day**  
**Friday, December 26, 2008 – Day after Christmas**  
**Wednesday, December 31, 2008 – New Year's Eve**  
**Thursday, January 1, 2009 – New Year's Day**

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

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE & TREE LIGHTING KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 6, 2008

The City of Gibraltar Beautification and Recreation Commissions are sponsoring their annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6, 2008, and would like to have your participation. The Parade will start at the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. The route will run down Munro Street to Stoefflet Street to South Gibraltar Road and north to the Community Center. The Beautification Commission will have the Tree Lighting Ceremony after the Parade. The Kid's Christmas Party, sponsored by the Recreation Commission, will follow the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Forms to participate in the parade are available at the Community Center and City Hall. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

## WINTER PROPERTY TAX BILLS

The 2008 Winter Property Tax Bills will be mailed out by December 1, 2008 and are due no later than February 16, 2009, without penalty. After this date, a 4% penalty will be added. Taxes are payable at City Hall thru February 27, 2009. If you want to claim Property Taxes paid on your income tax return, please pay the bill prior to Monday, December 30, 2008. However, taxes paid on January 2, 2009 will be back dated to December 31, 2008. If your mortgage company pays your taxes for you, they will receive a copy of your tax bill.

## METRO SHORES CREDIT UNION – GIBRALTAR BRANCH

The Metro Shores Credit Union - City Hall branch is open on Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information call (734) 676-4722 or [www.metroshores.org](http://www.metroshores.org).

## PAYMENT DROP BOX

The City Hall Payment Drop Box is located in the traffic island across from the Flag Pole in front of City Hall. This Drop Box can be used to pay water bills, tax bills, and City invoices, as well as to leave correspondences for City Hall business.

### 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 – (734) 676-9550  
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) 692-4000

---

### 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-Emerg.	(734) 676-1022
City Administrator’s Office	(734) 676-9021
Mayor’s Office	(734) 676-7287

### City of Gibraltar Officials:

Mayor:  
Jim Beaubien [heyjimmy@comcast.net](mailto:heyjimmy@comcast.net)

City Council:  
Kathleen LaPointe [klapointe@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:klapointe@cityofgibraltar.net)  
James Gorris [jgorris@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:jgorris@cityofgibraltar.net)  
Ed Manion [emanion@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:emanion@cityofgibraltar.net)  
J. Garza [jgarza@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:jgarza@cityofgibraltar.net)  
Kenneth Boyea [kboyea@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:kboyea@cityofgibraltar.net)  
Scott Ross [ssross@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:ssross@cityofgibraltar.net)

City Clerk: Cynthia Ward  
[cward@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:cward@cityofgibraltar.net)

City Administrator: Mark A. Kibby  
[mkibby@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:mkibby@cityofgibraltar.net)

Police Chief: Ray Canterbury  
[rcanterbury@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:rcanterbury@cityofgibraltar.net)

Fire Chief: Jim VanCalbergh  
[jvancalbergh@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:jvancalbergh@cityofgibraltar.net)

Treasurer: Earl Cancelliari  
[ecancelliari@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:ecancelliari@cityofgibraltar.net)

Finance Director: Barbara Meyer  
[bmeyer@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:bmeyer@cityofgibraltar.net)

Assessor: Sue Iott  
[siott@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:siott@cityofgibraltar.net)

Parks & Recreation Director: Gil Talbert  
[gtalbert@cityofgibraltar.net](mailto:gtalbert@cityofgibraltar.net)

### Churches

St. Victor Catholic Church  
14100 Navarre  
(734) 675-0100

First Congregational  
29885 Bayview  
(734) 676-5266

First Baptist Church  
29321 Fryer  
(734) 676-8110

---

### City Service Groups

Beautification Committee  
(734) 675-9633

Gibraltar Recreation Commission  
(734) 671-1466

Gibraltar Waterways Commission  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.  
at the Gibraltar City Hall

---

Gibraltar Over 50 Club – (734) 692-3119

Gibraltar Firefighters Association  
(734) 676-3167

Gibraltar Duck Hunters Association  
(734) 674-4810

Gibraltar Police Officers Association  
(734) 676-1022

Parsons PTO – (734) 676-9550

\*\*\* All City Service Groups are always looking for people who want to help by volunteering their time. If you wish to volunteer your time to serve on one of our City Commissions, feel free to submit an application at the City Hall and vacancies will be filled as openings occur.

Gibraltar Baseball Association  
(734) 671-1466

Gibraltar Rotary Club – (734) 676-7774

Gibraltar Goodfellows – (734) 676-1022

Girl Scouts – (734) 775-4024  
Cub Scout Pack # 1232 – (313) 218-8661  
Boy Scout Troop # 1232 – (734) 676-3814

### Scouting News

**Gibraltar Neighborhood Girl Scouts.** The Girl Scouts have their own website: <http://www.geocities.com/nsu1gib>. For more information, please call (734) 692-5973.

**Venturing Boy Scouts of America** is a youth program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men who are 14 through 20 years of age. For more information, please call (734) 675-3087.

**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK – Cynthia Ward:**

A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Both Precinct #1 and #2 are at the Gibraltar Community Center on South Gibraltar Road. The following elected offices will be on the November ballot: Presidential, Congressional, Legislative, State Boards, County, Judicial, State Proposals, and a millage proposal from the Wayne County Community College District.

The Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to collect Absentee Ballots. Absentee Ballots must be voted in the Clerk's Office.

**Need to vote Absentee in any upcoming Election?**

If you have one of the following reasons, please call the City Clerk, Cynthia Ward, at 676-3900 to have an absentee voter application mailed to you.

- You are age 60 or older
- Plan to be away from the community on election day
- Physically unable to attend polls without assistance
- Cannot attend polls due to the tenets of your religion
- You have been appointed election inspector in a precinct other than my own
- Confined to jail waiting trial

The last day to register for this election was October 6, 2008.

Photo identification is required to vote in all elections. Be prepared to show your drivers license or other photo identification.

---

**DPW Information**

**Hydrant Flushing**

The Water Department will be flushing Fire Hydrants throughout the month of October and possibly through the middle of November. This can cause the water to appear rusty in color. **THE DISCOLORED WATER IS TEMPORARY.** Because the discolored water could cause damage to your laundry, it has been suggested to do laundry in the evening hours to avoid problems. If needed, run the water until it is clear before using. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause.

**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.

**Certified Property Surveys:**

If you are considering putting in fences, garages, homes, swimming pools, sheds, seawalls, docks, etc., please be aware that you may need to obtain a certified property survey. Please plan ahead and have the survey done early. Mortgage surveys will not be accepted.

**Building/Construction Permits:**

Please obtain a City Permit for work done on or at your home. Homeowners sometimes end up with concerns because they have paid several hundred dollars and they are not happy with the work that has been done. The City only issues permits to licensed and insured contractors. This helps to protect you. Failure to obtain a permit will cost you double permit fees. **Any questions on contractors or if a permit is required should be directed to the Building Department at (734) 676-3952.**

**Home Inspections:**

If you plan on selling your home, please be aware that you will need to have inspections conducted on your home by the Electrical Inspector. Homes may be required to be brought up to current code. Plan ahead to have your home inspected and allow time to have the necessary corrections made before you close on the sale of your home. For homeowners living on waterfront property with a berm, you also need to have a City Berm Inspection. Berm height needs to be at a certain elevation. Check with the Building Department for details.

**Flood Zones 'A' or 'B':**

If you live in Flood Zones 'A' or 'B', and you anticipate new construction or substantial improvement to your home, it is recommended that you apply early for a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Permit. It can take 2 to 3 months for a permit to be issued by the MDEQ.

**GARBAGE AND RUBBISH & YARD WASTE COLLECTION GUIDELINES  
FOR THE CITY OF GIBRALTAR**

These guidelines are for garbage and rubbish collection items that will be picked up by Waste Management, the City of Gibraltar's current refuse contractor. **All residential homes will be picked up on Tuesdays.** Please note: garbage and rubbish collection day will be delayed by one day if a holiday falls on a Monday or a Tuesday. Garbage and rubbish can be placed curbside for pickup after 5:00 p.m. the night before scheduled pickup or not later than 6:00 a.m. the morning of your scheduled pickup. Please remember that if you choose to put your trash out the night before to make sure it is packaged in a manner that will keep any animals from tearing it open. The refuse contractor is not responsible for cleaning up bags that have been torn open by animals. The Waste Management Customer Service telephone number is 1-800-796-9696.

**Holiday Collection Schedule**

No Interruption of Service for October, November, December, and January

**Yard Waste Collection Schedule**

2008 End Date – December 9, 2008

2009 Re-Start Date – April 1, 2009

**GARBAGE/  
RUBBISH**

Garbage means the animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, preparation, and cooking of food. Rubbish includes all combustible and non-combustible waste materials from households, including paper, boxes, baskets, wood, rags, old shoes, leather, cans, household furniture and appliances. It does not include industrial refuse or building refuse, nor does it include tree stumps, abandoned automobiles or vehicle tires.

Appliances that contain freon will be picked up by Waste Management on Tuesdays. However, you must pay a Freon removal fee of \$30.00 in advance. That charge must be paid at City Hall no later than noon on Friday. All doors must be removed from refrigerators and freezers. Carpet must be tied in bundles not exceeding 4 foot lengths and/or 60 pounds in weight.

**BUILDING  
REFUSE**

If waste is from demolition, construction, remodeling, and/or repairs, a small amount shall be accepted by the trash hauler as a normal amount of refuse from a household. Large quantities shall not be regarded as household or yard refuse and shall be removed by the homeowner or contractor doing the work. The amount of household demolition picked up on any given day shall not exceed, in size, two (2) 35-gallon size containers nor weigh more than 60 pounds each.

**CONTAINERS**

Approved containers shall be watertight, metal or plastic containers with handles and tight fitting covers of not more than 35-gallon capacity each or large plastic or paper sacks of approximately 30-gallon capacity designed for the purpose of accumulation of garbage and rubbish.

**YARD WASTE**

Includes grass clippings, leaves, brush, and tree trimmings less than 2” in diameter and tied into bundles not to exceed 4 feet in length and/or 60 pounds in weight. Only these materials are to be included for yard waste collections. Larger limbs can be put out for chipping by the DPW. Once each year, the yard waste may include a discarded natural Christmas tree. **Grass clippings, leaves, brush will be collected by a separate truck on the normal trash pick up day.** Yard waste material can be placed in a 30-gallon “kraft” brown paper yard waste bag (available at local retailers) or loose, in a 35-gallon plastic or metal container weighing no more than 60 pounds when filled. These containers must be clearly labeled “yard waste” or “compost”. **No plastic bags will be accepted.** Yard waste stickers are available at the City Hall offices. Place yard waste away from the solid waste. The Yard waste hauler will not be responsible for any yard waste debris left in a compost can due to moisture or from being compacted too tight.

**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. Property owners should try to cut small branches and limbs and place them in a yard waste bag. 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.

**SPECIAL  
PICKUPS**

Special pick-ups may be provided by the City of Gibraltar only if the items are not picked up by Waste Management because it does not meet their contract obligations. If it is determined that your special pick-up qualifies for pick-up by Waste Management, the City will not pick this up. You will be required to prepare the items as stated under the above categories and store it for your next regular pick-up day. There is a minimum charge of \$50.00 for special pick ups, which will have to be paid prior to scheduling. There may also be some additional charges if it is determined there is more than one load.

**RECYCLING**

Currently, only paper is being recycled. Paper items can be dropped off at the dumpsters provided in the Parsons School parking lot. The school is located at 14473 M. Gibraltar Road at Fryer.

**NOTE:**

For items that will not be picked up by either Waste Management or the City, you may try to contact either the Riverview Land Preserve at (734) 281-4262 or Rockwood Landfill at (737) 379-4624.

**Waste Management Customer Service – 1-800-796-9696**

If you have any questions, please contact the DPW office at (734) 676-3952, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

---

**General City Information**

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection:**

The Wayne County Department of Environment is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at the City of Westland DPS Yard, 37137 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185. For more information, contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at (734) 326-3936.

**Housing Rehabilitation Program:**

The City of Gibraltar is pleased to offer the Housing Rehabilitation Program. This Program is designed to assist Gibraltar residents in a low to moderate income range that are in need of eligible home improvements. The Housing Rehabilitation Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.), under the direction of Wayne County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

We are currently establishing a waiting list. If you would like further information regarding qualification guidelines or would like to know more about the Program, please contact Denise Sciacca, Rehab Specialist on Thursday afternoons at (734) 676-3900.

**Minor Home Repair:**

Assistance with minor home repairs is available to Senior Citizens and low-income residents who qualify. For more information, please call (734) 676-3952.

**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. Both the meter and the remote should read the same number. If not, notify the Water Department at (734) 676-3952.

**Flood Information:** Information concerning the National Flood Insurance Program is available at City Hall.

**American Flag Disposal:** The Gibraltar Community Center has a box for the disposal of old American Flags.

**Used Eyeglasses & Hearing Aids:** There are drop boxes available at City Hall and the Gibraltar Community Center for eyeglasses and hearing aids that are no longer needed.

---

### **Police Department General Information**

**Pistol Purchase Permit:** Anyone interested in a pistol purchase permit needs to make an appointment with Sgt. Dave Hammar. You can contact Sgt. Hammar at the Police Department non-emergency number (734) 676-1022. If he is not available, you can leave your name and phone number and he will return your call as soon as possible.

**Traffic Information:** During the year, we receive complaints about portable basketball backboards and skateboard ramps being used or left on the public street. Section 15-21 of the City Ordinance prohibits obstructing any public street or sidewalk. These items must be removed from the public street and utilized on private driveways or in rear yards only.

According to State of Michigan traffic laws, transportation means such as “Go-Peds” or motorized scooters / skateboards are listed as mopeds. Thus, the operator needs a moped license, helmet, and must obey all traffic signs and signals. The Go-Ped needs to be equipped with a headlight, brake light, and a seat. Violators’ subject themselves to a court ticket and potential fines. See State Law MCL.257.32b, 257.658, 257.685, 257.697, 257.312, 257.801, 257.706.

**Fermi Siren Test:** The Public Safety Department wishes to keep you aware of activities involving our City and the Fermi Nuclear Power Plant located in Monroe County. Our City is located within a 10-mile radius, to the north of the plant. Thus, Gibraltar falls within the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). Wayne County Emergency Management Division is the agency in charge of all emergency planning for the communities in Wayne County that fall within the EPZ, (Gibraltar, Flat Rock, Rockwood, and center/south portions of Brownstown). On the last Wednesday of each month, between 9:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. the Fermi siren is tested. We also test our Emergency Siren located north of the Police Station at the same time. If there were an actual emergency at the Fermi Plant, you would need to tune your radio to either WJR (AM 760) or WWJ (AM 950), for information and/or instructions. Our City also uses the Emergency Siren for other emergencies as they occur.

**“Check Theft ID”:** The Police Department is a partner with a Company called “Check Theft ID”. Their website is [www.checktheftid.com](http://www.checktheftid.com). They list on their website stolen articles along with serial numbers.

**Handgun / Rifle Gun Locks:**

The Police Department has “free” gun locks available to all residents. There is no limit. You can pick up the gun locks at the Gibraltar Police Department anytime.

**Crime Prevention Tips:**

Should you observe suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, please call the Gibraltar Police Department and notify them of your observations. A description of people or vehicles is helpful.

**Curfew Reminder:**

The City has a curfew ordinance (Section #15-5). Children 15 years of age and younger must be home by 10:00 p.m. If 16 years of age, kids must be home by midnight. Parents who allow their kids to violate this ordinance subject themselves to receiving a ticket for allowing their child to violate curfew.

**Animal Reminders:**

The ‘2008’ 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 Station to purchase a license at anytime. Starting in December, the 2009 Domestic Animal Licenses will be available. If purchased before March 1, 2009, the cost is \$5.00 per license.

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 Information**

**Fuel Storage:**

Please be aware that it is illegal to pump gasoline into any portable container that is not red in color. Portable containers over 50 gallons must also be red in color, and they must have HAZMAT markings/placards on them. Please place all portable containers on the ground before refueling.

**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 Lunch Program:**

The Senior Lunch Program is held at the Gibraltar Community Center Monday through Friday. Lunch is at noon for Seniors 60 years and older. Come and enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship. For lunch reservations or information, please call between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at (734) 671-0335.

**Meals on Wheels:**

Meals on Wheels is available for homebound persons 60 years or older. If you would like to have home delivery of a lunch meal from the Gibraltar Senior Nutrition Site, please call (734) 671-0335 between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to see if you qualify.

**The Gibraltar Over 50 Club:**

The Gibraltar Over 50 Club meets on the second and last Friday of every month at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Residents 50 years or older are welcome to join. Come join the fun, social activities, and trip planning. For more information please call (734) 692-3119.

**Senior Travel:**

Through the various City organizations, there are many trips planned for our senior residents, and some are overnights. All the trips are excellent and enjoyable. To get more information about scheduled trips, please contact Sharon Legault at (734) 676-0884. To find out if your organization is eligible to use the City of Gibraltar Bus or to schedule a trip, please contact the City Administrator's Office at (734) 676-9021.

**Senior Transportation:**

The City has a second Bus that is wheel chair accessible that 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.

---

**Community Center Information/Programs**

**Fitness for Kids:**

Condition your child's body and mind with sport conditioning. Classes are held on Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. for ages 4 to 18. Classes are divided into age groups and each class is 45 minutes long. For more information, please call (313) 770-6110.

**Step Into Shape:**

Step into Shape is a low impact exercise class for the 50 plus crowd. For more information please call (734) 782-1702.

**Karate for Kids:**

Lil Dragon Karate Classes are held on Monday at 5:45 p.m. for boys and girls ages 4 to 6. For more information, please call (734) 306-6670. Classes are scheduled year around.

Tang So Do Karate is also offered for persons 7 years and older. These classes are held on Monday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

**Scrap Booking:**

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

**Family Swim:**

The Gibraltar Parks and Recreation will be sponsoring senior and family swim hours at the Carlson High School swimming pool on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The program will run from October 22, 2008 through December 17, 2008. The cost is \$1.00 per person.

**Teen Center:**

The Teen Center, located in the basement of City Hall, is open Friday and Saturday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It is open only to Gibraltar youths between the ages of 12 and 16. We are looking for interested adults for a paid Supervision position that is necessary to keep the Teen Center open. If interested, please call the Parks and Recreation Director at (734) 671-1466 or City Hall. The Teen Center is also available to rent for parties and special occasions.

**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.

---

**Gibraltar Historical Commission**

**Gibraltar Historical Museum**

The Gibraltar Historical Museum is run by the Gibraltar Historical Commission. The museum is located on the Second Floor of City Hall and is temporarily open by appointment only. The Historical Commission's mission is to identify, collect, preserve, promote and exhibit all historical items that support our heritage in the City of Gibraltar. The Historical Commission and Museum can be reached by email at [gibraltarhs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gibraltarhs@sbcglobal.net).

**Volunteers Needed:**

Volunteers from Gibraltar are needed to help clip newspaper articles, obituaries, etc. (newspapers are provided) and can be done anywhere. This volunteer would be at museum to greet visitors and answer phones, perform basic filing, and miscellaneous activities. People are also needed to help with the special fundraisers throughout the year. Contact Debbie Davenport at (734) 692-8901 or (734) 676-3900 and leave a message.

**Commission Meeting:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
City Hall, Second Floor

**Museum Membership:**

Support our Community History! Join the Museum as a Member--\$5 individual and \$10 Family, \$25 Corporate/Group yearly fees. The membership will provide a newsletter every three months and invitations to exhibits before they open to the public. It also provides your sponsorship of the educational programs we will provide to the community free of charge. Please show your support and request a membership form today. Contact the museum at (734) 676-3900 and leave your name, address, and phone number and we will drop one off or mail it to your home.

## **Upcoming Community Events**

**Gibraltar Fire Department  
Annual Open House:**  
**Saturday, October 11, 2008**

The Gibraltar Fire Department will be holding their Annual Open House on Saturday, October 11, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Fire Truck rides will be available.

**St. Victor's Craft Sale:**  
**Sunday, October 19, 2008**

St. Victor's Annual Craft Sale will be held at the Gibraltar Community Center on Sunday, October 19, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information or to reserve a table, please call (734) 676-0966.

**Family Swim:**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2008**

The Gibraltar Parks and Recreation will be sponsoring senior and family swim hours at the Carlson High School swimming pool on Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The program will run from October 22, 2008 through December 17, 2008. The cost is \$1.00 per person.

**Father & Daughter Dance:**  
**Saturday, October 25, 2008**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Father and Daughter dance will be held at the Gibraltar Community Center on Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$7.00 per couple and sign-up forms will be available at City Hall and the Gibraltar Community Center. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

**EBay Class**  
**Wednesday, October 29, 2008**

The Rockwood Post Office and the US Postal Service is sponsoring a free EBay Class at the Gibraltar Community Center on Wednesday, October 29, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The class will teach you about EBay, how to use it, and "What to know" and "What to do" when selling items on EBay.

**Humbug Marsh  
Ribbon Cutting:**  
**Friday, October 31, 2008**

The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Environmental Education Shelter and a celebration of the Education Triangle at Humbug Marsh on Friday, October 31, 2008. The ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m., with a reception to follow and an open house in Humbug Marsh is from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Becca Sowder at (734) 692-7672.

**Kids Halloween Party:**  
**Friday, October 31, 2008**

Halloween is Friday, October 31, 2008 and the recommended "Trick or Treat" hours are between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. at the Gibraltar Community Center, the Gibraltar Rotary Club is sponsoring a Halloween Party for everyone with entertainment and a costume judging contest.

**Youth Basketball:**  
**Monday, November 3, 2008**

Youth Basketball Program registration will be held on Monday, November 3, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Carlson High School and the Brownstown Recreation Department. The program is for boys and girls in 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades. For more information please call (734) 675-0920.

**General Election Day:  
Tuesday, November 4, 2008**

A General Election will be on Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Both Precinct #1 and #2 are at the Gibraltar Community Center. For more information, please call (734) 676-3900.

**Senior Health Screening:  
Thursday, November 6, 2008**

The Medical Team will be having their Health Screening for Seniors will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Gibraltar Community Center. You do not need to make an appointment. Please bring your Medicare ID card, the name of your Physician and your medical history. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

**Teen Center:  
Friday, November 7, 2008  
Saturday, November 8, 2008**

The Teen Center, located in the basement of City Hall, is open Friday and Saturday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning November 7, 2008. The center is open only to Gibraltar youths between the ages of 12 and 16. We are looking for interested adults for a paid Supervision position that is necessary to keep the Teen Center open. If interested, please call the Parks and Recreation Director at (734) 671-1466 or City Hall. The Teen Center is also available to rent for parties and special occasions. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

**Household Hazardous  
Waste Collection:  
Saturday, November 8, 2008**

The Wayne County Department of Environment is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will be held at the City of Westland DPS Yard, 37137 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185. For more information, contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at (734) 326-3936.

**Fall Luncheon:  
Saturday, November 8, 2008**

The First Congregational Church of Gibraltar is having their annual Fall Luncheon on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 29885 Bayview. For more information, please call (734) 676-5266.

**Scouting For Food:  
Saturday, November 8, 2008**

The Gibraltar Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts Scouting for Food Can – Do Pickup Day will be on Saturday, November 8, 2008. For more information please call (734) 676-3814. Bags will be passed out in the week before the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Pancake Breakfast:  
Sunday, November 9, 2008**

The Gibraltar Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast will be held at the Gibraltar Community Center on Sunday, November 9, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Veterans Day Service:  
Sunday, November 9, 2008**

The Gibraltar Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be having a Veterans Day Service at 12:00 p.m. at the Gibraltar Veterans Memorial Monument on Sunday, November 9, 2008. Please remember all of our family members and friends who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

**Christmas Parade**  
**Tree Lighting**  
**Kids Christmas Party:**  
**Saturday, December 6, 2008**

The City of Gibraltar Beautification and Recreation Commissions are sponsoring the annual Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting and Kid's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 6, 2008. The Parade will start at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Kid's Christmas Party. Forms for parade participation are available at the Community Center and City Hall. For more information, please call (734) 671-1466.

**"Gibraltar Night Out":**  
**Saturday, January 17, 2009**

The Gibraltar Rotary Club's Annual "Gibraltar Night Out" will be held at the Gibraltar Community Center on Saturday, January 17, 2009 starting at 6:00 p.m. The event includes a catered dinner and a reverse raffle. The revenue from this event goes toward the funding of many services and programs that the Rotary Club sponsors and provides in the City of Gibraltar. Tickets will be available at City Hall.

**Gibraltar's Birthday**  
**Celebration:**  
**Saturday, March 14, 2008**

Come help the City celebrate its birthday on Saturday, March 14, 2009 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The festivities will be held at the Gibraltar Community Center. More details will be available in the next newsletter, the News Herald, and on the City's website.

---

**Gibraltar Rotary Club**

**Gibraltar Rotary Club:**

The Gibraltar Rotary Club meets every Wednesday morning at the Mirage Restaurant at 7:30 a.m. Dues are \$30.00 per month, which helps to cover the cost of breakfast. Membership is open to anyone wishing to assist with service projects in support of our community. For more information, please call (734) 676-7774.

**Brick Walk:**

The Gibraltar Rotary Club continues to take reservations for an engraved brick for a "Brick Walk" at the Municipal Complex on Munro Street. The cost is \$100 per brick. You can have individual names or family names engraved. A paver request form is available at City Hall. Stop by the Flag Pole at City Hall to see the engraved bricks already installed.

**Community Service:**

The Gibraltar Rotary Club supports our community. Here are some of the Rotary Club's activities for this past year: \$500 to Senior Recreation, \$1750 for Beautification Benches, \$2500 for Trees, \$600 towards a new Stage, \$250 to Goodfellows, \$400 for Little League Uniforms, \$200 to Girl's Softball, \$500 to Boy Scouts, \$300 to Girl Scouts, \$200 to Carlson Rowing, \$217 to Recreation, \$100 to Carlson Hockey, \$100 to Parsons School, \$500 to the Downriver Council of the Arts, \$125 to Carlson Baseball and \$3000 for Gibraltar Resident's College Scholarships. The Gibraltar Rotary Club wishes to thank everyone that participates in and supports our fundraising activities.

## **News You Can Use**

### **DON'T LOSE YOUR HOME TO FORCLOSURE THERE IS HELP AVAILABLE**

It is no secret that a number of our residents and fellow Michiganders are facing some economic challenges that are affecting their ability to maintain their quality of life. More and more individuals and families are finding it increasingly difficult to make their mortgage payments resulting in possible foreclosure. The most unfortunate thing is that many do not realize that they don't have to lose their homes. In many cases, there are programs available designed to assist homeowners in getting back on track. If you are facing foreclosure, there is help available

#### **Information on Foreclosures**

*What is Foreclosure?* [http://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,1607,7-141-45866\\_47905-177816--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,1607,7-141-45866_47905-177816--,00.html)

*Foreclosure Q & A:* <http://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,1607,7-141-45866-177818--,00.html>

#### **Tips to Avoid Foreclosure**

##### **1. Don't ignore the problem.**

The further behind you become, the harder it will be to reinstate your loan and the more likely that you will lose your house.

##### **2. Contact your lender as soon as you realize that you have a problem.**

Lenders do not want your house. They have options to help borrowers through difficult financial times.

##### **3. Open and respond to all mail from your lender.**

The first notices you receive will offer good information about foreclosure prevention options that can help you weather financial problems. Later mail may include important notices of pending legal action. Failure to open the mail will not be an excuse in foreclosure court.

##### **4. Know your mortgage rights.**

Find your loan documents and read them so you know what your lender may do if you can't make your payments. Learn about the foreclosure laws and timeframes by contacting the Michigan State Housing Development Authority at 517-373-8370.

##### **5. Understand foreclosure prevention options.**

Valuable information about foreclosure prevention (also called loss mitigation) options can be found at [www.fha.gov/foreclosure/index.cfm](http://www.fha.gov/foreclosure/index.cfm).

##### **6. Contact a HUD-approved housing counselor.**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds free or low-cost housing counseling nationwide. Housing counselors can help you understand the law and your options, organize your finances, and represent you in negotiations with your lender if you need this assistance. To find a HUD-approved housing counselor near you, go to [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) or call (800) 569-4287 or TTY (800) 877-8339.

### **7. Prioritize your spending.**

After healthcare, keeping your house should be your first priority. Review your finances and see where you can cut spending in order to make your mortgage payment. Look for optional expenses that you can eliminate such as cable TV, memberships, or entertainment.

### **8. Use your assets.**

Do you have assets such as a second car, jewelry, or whole life insurance policy that you can sell for cash to help reinstate your loan? Can anyone in your household get an extra job to bring in additional income? Even if these efforts don't significantly increase your available cash or your income, they demonstrate to your lender that you are willing to make sacrifices to keep your home.

### **9. Avoid foreclosure prevention companies.**

You don't need to pay fees for foreclosure prevention help, use that money to pay the mortgage instead. Many for-profit companies will contact you promising to negotiate with your lender. While these may be legitimate businesses, they often charge a hefty fee (often two or three month's mortgage payments). Contact your lender or a HUD-approved housing counselor to find out about free help that they can provide.

### **10. Don't lose your house to foreclosure recovery scams.**

If any firm claims they can stop your foreclosure immediately if you sign a document appointing them to act on your behalf, you may well be signing over the title to your property and becoming a renter in your own home! Never sign a legal document without reading and understanding all the terms and getting professional advice from an attorney, a trusted real estate professional, or a HUD approved housing counselor. (Source: <http://www.hud.gov/foreclosure/>)

## **How to Keep Your Home**

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority also provides useful information to homeowners at: [http://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,1607,7-141-45866\\_47905-177797--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,1607,7-141-45866_47905-177797--,00.html)

## **Looking for Help?**

### **Beware of Scams!**

Home lending and foreclosure scams are costing Michigan residents dollars and often their homes. Those who are particularly vulnerable citizens and those with low incomes or poor credit. Don't allow your family to fall victim to one of these scams—educate yourself.



thousands of  
are senior  
yourself and

Scams come in many forms. State Attorney General Mike Cox has outlined many of these scams designed to strip you of your money and in many cases your home. To find out more go to: [http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-17337\\_17291-134533--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,1607,7-164-17337_17291-134533--,00.html)

Be very cautious of any claim that promises to lower your monthly mortgage payment while also promising that in a short time you can own your home free and clear of debt. Further, con artists will seek you out. If you find yourself in foreclosure proceedings and receiving solicitations at your home via telephone, letter, home visits, etc., it is most likely these are attempts by scam artists to take advantage of your situation.

Complaints may be filed with the Attorney General's Office at:

Consumer Protection Division  
P.O. Box 30213  
Lansing, MI 48909

517-373-1140  
Fax: 517-241-3771  
Toll Free: 877-765-8388  
[www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag) (online complaint form)

### **Assistance is Available**

#### **Michigan State Housing Development Authority**

*"Save the Dream"* ([http://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,1607,7-141-45866\\_47905-177801--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,1607,7-141-45866_47905-177801--,00.html))

Helps connect homeowners with Home Ownership Counselors

#### **MSHDA Home Ownership Counselor Directory**

<http://www.mshda.info/counseling/search/index.jsp>

866-946-7432

#### **National Foundation for Credit Counseling**

Homeowner Housing and Credit Counseling

<http://www.nfcc.org/>

800-388-2227

#### **Federal Housing Administration**

<http://www.fha.gov/>

Provides certain sub-prime borrowers refinancing opportunities

1-800-CALL-FHA

#### **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

For further information on foreclosures and to locate a Home Ownership Counselor

<http://www.hud.gov/foreclosure/>

#### **HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agencies**

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm?webListAction=search&searchstate=MI>

888-995-HOPE

#### **"How to Avoid Foreclosure" Publication**

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/hudclips/forms/files/pa426h.pdf>

## 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](http://www.semcog.org).

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



## Think Green<sup>®</sup> From Home

From Home is a RECYCLE BY MAIL program for fluorescent compact bulbs and dry cell household batteries.

Think Green

Energy Star Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) consume 75 percent less electricity than incandescent bulbs and last 10 times longer. One CFL can save \$30 in energy costs over its lifetime, reduce coal consumption by 200 pounds, and prevent more than 400 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

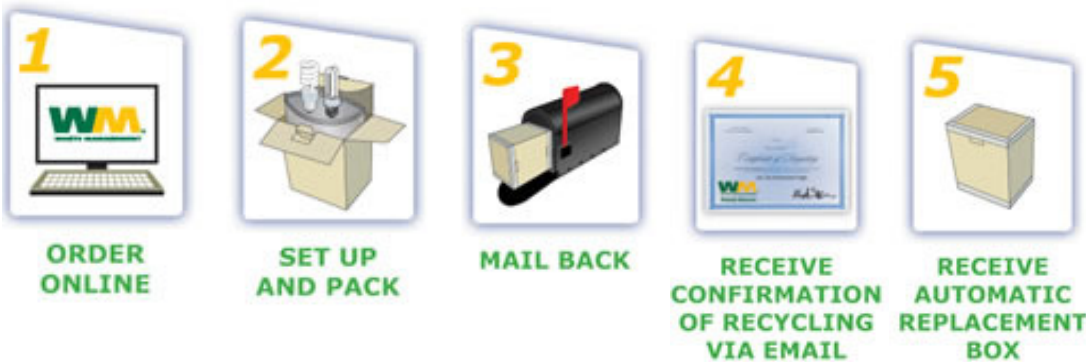
But sustainability is about more than using energy efficient products. It is also responsibility to prevent waste of useful materials and to reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing. For instance, producing aluminum cans from recycled cans consumes 95% less energy than making that same material from raw materials.



also carries a significant environmental impact of aluminum cans compared to raw materials.

By recycling CFLs and batteries we reclaim the glass, metals, and plastics used to produce them. But recycling also provides an added benefit, as these products contain heavy metals or other toxins that can contaminate the environment if disposed of in a landfill.

To purchase your Think Green From Home mail in boxes, go to [thinkgreenfromhome.com](http://thinkgreenfromhome.com)



## City Calendar of Meetings

### October 2008

1	Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.	Community Center
6	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
8	Waterways Commission	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
13	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
21	Planning Commission/DDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
27	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
28	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.	City Hall

### November 2008

3	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
5	Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.	Community Center
10	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
12	Waterways Commission	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
18	Planning Commission/DDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
24	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
25	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.	City Hall

### December 2008

1	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
3	Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.	Community Center
8	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
10	Waterways Commission	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
16	Planning Commission/DDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
22	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
30	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.	City Hall

### January 2009

5	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
7	Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.	Community Center
12	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
14	Waterways Commission	5:30 p.m.	City Hall
20	Planning Commission/DDA	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
26	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
27	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.	City Hall

### February 2009

2	Beautification Commission	7:00 p.m.	City Hall
4	Recreation Commission	7:00 p.m.	Community Center
9	City Council	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
11	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
24	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 p.m.	City Hall