

City of Gibraltar Community Newsletter

June 2012 – September 2012

50th Edition

Gibraltar, Michigan 48173

www.cityofgibraltar.net



DDA APPROVES CONVERSION TO LED TECHNOLOGY ON DISTRICT STREET LIGHTS

At their recent May 2012 meeting, the Gibraltar Downtown District Authority Board approved a contract with Rauhorn Electric, 17171 – 23 Mile Road Macomb, MI for the retrofit of approximately sixty-one existing street lights in the DDA district. The conversion of the lights to LED fixtures is anticipated to bring a 70% savings on energy bills associated with the lights. The total cost for the project is \$30,344 and is anticipated to pay for itself in reductions in energy bills within the first three years of installing the LED product. Funding for the installation will come from DDA district funds. The City is also pursuing available grants through DTE energy that could assist in the cost of installing the product further reducing the time it takes experience a return on the initial investment. Additional advantages the LED product has over traditional lighting systems includes:

- 88% of the light generated by the LED fixture is directed within a 0-90 degree zone around the light posts
- Lifetime of the fixture is 70,000 hours as compared to 18,000 hours experienced from a traditional high pressure sodium bulb
- Product is *Dark Skies Friendly* certified

For more information on the LED fixtures to be installed (LEDOS-LED Bulb) please view the manufactures website at <http://www.ledoscorp.com/Street-Light.html> or contact the City of Gibraltar at 743-676-3900.

GIBRALTAR MUNICIPAL COMPLEX PARK TO RECEIVE A FACELIFT COURTESY OF WAYNE COUNTY PARKS GRANT

The City of Gibraltar will soon be bidding a project to perform a “face lift” on the Municipal Complex Park at Bayview and Munro Ave. The proposed project will primarily be funded through a grant from Wayne County. The project scope will be to install a new swing set, install drainage in the park, replace and expand existing safety areas, install low maintenance rubber mulch, and construct new safety area borders. The final scope of the project will be determined by the results of the bidding process as compared to available funding. If you are a potential bidder for the project, please keep an eye on the News Herald for the notice to bid or contact the City Administrator at 734-676-9021 for more information.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION JUST AROUND THE CORNER

July 4, 2012

SPONSORED BY THE GIBRALTAR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

The City of Gibraltar will celebrate the birth of Our Nation on Wednesday, July 4, 2012 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

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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 10:02 p.m.
- Parade Route – Bayview to Davis; Davis to Munro; Munro to Stoeplet; Stoeplet 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 Thursday, July 5, 2012

BUILDING DEPARTMENT TRANSFERRED TO CITY OF TRENTON

As a reminder, Effective July 1, 2011, the duties of the Gibraltar Building Department were transferred to the City of Trenton. All building department permit requests and inspections will be handled by the City of Trenton's Engineering and Building Department. This shared services agreement was done as a cost-saving measure, as it coincided with the retirement of a long-time employee, and an effort to improve efficiencies and improve service to the residents. The City of Trenton Engineering and Building Department offices are located at 2800 Third Street, Trenton, MI 48183. Their phone number is (734) 675-8251.

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.

City Assessor

The City of Gibraltar Assessor, WCA Assessing, has assigned Holly Adams to provide service to the City. The Assessor's office hours are on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and she can also be reached by email at assessing@cityofgibraltar.net.

Construction Projects

Concrete Street Sectioning

Starting later this summer the City will be continuing the process of replacing various concrete street sections. Although funding is limited, small sections of concrete are scheduled to be replaced on some of the concrete residential roads including Marr Street, Navarre Street, and Young Drive. Please take note to drive with extra caution while construction crews are working in these areas. The City apologizes for any inconvenience these repairs may cause our residents.

DDA FAÇADE IMPROVEMENTS

At their recent May 2012 meeting, the Downtown Development Authority approved a proposal by Sonoco gas station and convenience store to assist in the funding of façade improvements to their facility at 20913

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Gibraltar Rd. The façade improvement program provides financial assistance to businesses located within the DDA district. This financial assistance is intended to improve the look of buildings within the district. Funding for the improvements are available as a result of a common funding tool utilized for brownfield and downtown districts statewide called tax increment financing (TIF). A TIF allows for the capture of tax revenue from properties within a defined area above a baseline established when the district is created. These “captured taxes” are then reinvested into the district to further improve property values and aid in the development of the district. In the case of Sonoco, improvements include a facelift to their primary business sign and improvements to the buildings siding.

Community News and General Information

Summer Property Tax Bills

The 2012 Summer Property Tax Bills will be mailed out by June 29, 2012 and are due no later than August 31, 2012, without penalty. After this date, a 4% penalty will be added. Taxes are payable at City Hall thru February 28th, 2013. Starting March 1, 2013 real property tax must be paid at Wayne County, 400 Monroe Street #320, Detroit MI 48226. If your mortgage company pays the taxes for you, they will receive a copy of your tax bill. If you have delinquent water bills, these balances will be placed on your taxes with the summer billing.

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.

City Clerk General Information

A Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012. 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 Clerk’s Office will be open on Saturday, August 4, 2012 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 Lehr, at (734) 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 your own

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- Confined to jail waiting trial

You must be registered to vote at least 30 days prior to an election. The last day to register is July 9, 2012. You can register at City Hall or at any Secretary of State Office. You need to re-register only if you move or change your name. You can re-register to vote while at the Secretary of State Office or stop in at City Hall to re-register. When you change your address on your license, the Secretary of State will cancel your old voter registration.

Photo identification is required to vote in all elections. Be prepared to show your drivers license or other photo identification. All registered voters recently received new voter's cards due to your U.S. Congressional State Senate and County Commissions districts changing.

Water Department General Information

Water Bill Reminder:

When you receive your quarterly water bill, please remember to check your water meter reading with the listed numbers of gallons on the bill. Your meter should read higher than the billing information. If there are any discrepancies, please notify the Water Department immediately at (734) 676-3952. Discrepancies are the responsibility of the property owner.

As a reminder, your quarterly water bills are mailed out at the end of January, April, July, and October. Water bills are then due by the 10th of the following month. Water bills are payable at City Hall, 29450 Munro Avenue, Gibraltar, MI 48173.

Hydrant Flushing

The Water Department will be flushing Fire Hydrants during the later summer months and into September and October. 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.

Check for Water Leaks

- A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water usage. It is likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month. [US EPA Water Sense website]
- To be sure that you do not have a water leak somewhere in your home, go dry for two hours. Turn off all appliances that use water and do not use any water for the two hours – no toilets, sinks or faucets – inside or outside. Check your meter reading before and after the two hours. If the meter reading changes even a little bit, you probably have a leak and each fixture in your home should be checked.

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- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl before you flush, you have a leak.

A continuous leak at 60 psi water pressure from a hole the size shown below would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown.

<u>Diameter of Stream</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
● 1/4"	1,181,500
● 3/16"	666,000
● 1/8"	296,000
• 1/16"	74,000

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

Labor Day – Monday, September 3, 2012
COLLECTION DAY IS *Wednesday*

Yard Waste Collection Schedule

2012 End Date – *December 6, 2012*

For items that will not be picked up by Waste Management, 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.

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 tyed into

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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.

Police Department General Information

Animal Reminders:

The '2012' 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

Fireworks Safety:

Effective January 1, 2012 Michigan residents are now able to purchase and use all types of consumer grade fireworks within the state of Michigan. Previous to the legislative action taken in 2011 fireworks in the state that were projectile in nature or explosive were banned. With the legalization of these products additional safety precautions should be taken to insure safety. They are as follows:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.

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- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- *List courtesy of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission*

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.

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 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.

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.

Gibraltar Historical Museum Now Open!

The Gibraltar Historical Museum is located on the 2nd floor of City Hall. The Museum is open the first Sunday of every month from 2-4 p.m. Anyone interested in donating or loaning items, articles, pictures or anything pertinent to the history of Gibraltar should contact City Clerk Cindy Lehr at (734) 676-3900.

Community Center Information/Programs

Children's T-Ball

Tee Ball sign-up is ongoing, the season starts on June 19th and ends on July 19th. Sign in sheets are at the community center. Cost is \$25.00 per child.

Speed and Agility Camp

The 2012 Speed and Agility Camp is happening at the community center park starting on Monday July 9th and ending on Friday, July 13th. The cost for the program is \$75 per athlete. For more information please call 313-363-9121.

Gymnastics

Gymnastics will start a week long camp at the community center. The cost of the program is \$50 per child. The program runs from June 18th to the 24th.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross will be having a Blood Drive on Thursday, June 21st from 1 pm to 5 pm at the community center. Your donation could save a life so please donate to this worthy cause.

Yoga:

Yoga classes are being offered on Wednesday evenings at the Community Center. For more information, please call (734) 676-3900.

Youth Karate:

Youth Karate is held at the community center on Monday nights. The summer schedule has yet to be formulated to please check back with the instructor ((734) 306-6670) during the summer months to inquire as to the dates/times classes will be held.

Adult Karate:

Adult Karate classes are held on Monday and Thursday nights at the community center starting at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the instructor ((734) 306-6670) to review availability during the summer months as classes fill up quick.

Square Dance Classes:

Classes are held at the Community Center – Sunday May 20th, Sunday June 24th, Sunday July 1st, and Sunday August 26th. Classes are for both beginners and advanced students. Come and enjoy the dancing. For more information please contact the Recreation Department at (734) 671-1466

Live Entertainment:

Sunday, August 19th Sherman Arnold, Buddy Holley, and Patsy Cline will be performing at the Community Center. These very talented people will also be

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joined with others and is sure to be quite the event. For more information please contact the Recreation Department at (734) 671-1466

Car Show:

The Beautification and Recreation Commission will be hosting their Annual Car Show on Sunday, July 22nd. Come and bring your favorite car and enjoy the day from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

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.

Father/Daughter Dance:

Saturday October 13th, for more information please contact the Recreation Department at (734) 671-1466.

Rentals:

The Gil Talbert Community Center is open for rentals in both the small and large hall. If you are planning a graduation party or wedding for the 2013 season, now is the time to reserve it. Call (734) 671-1466 for reservations.

Upcoming Community Events

Fishing Tournament:

June 9th presented by the Gibraltar/Rockwood Rotary. It is the 11th annual fishing tournament and the entrance fee is \$30. Fishing begins at 7:00 a.m. and a fish fry follows weigh in. For more information contact (734) 676-7774.

Golf Tournament:

July 7th presented by the Gibraltar/Rockwood Rotary. For more information contact (734) 676-7774

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.

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.

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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, please 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. – 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 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
Water Department	(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:

Dave Riser	riserd@yahoo.com
Jim Amos	jkamos@comcast.net
Brian Arp	arpb@cityofgibraltar.net
Robert Saunders	bub.saunders@comcast.net
Kenneth Boyea	rdfireplug@hotmail.com
Patrick Valentine	pvalentine@cityofgibraltar.net

City Clerk: Cynthia Lehr
clehr@cityofgibraltar.net

City Administrator: Derek M. Thiel
dthiel@cityofgibraltar.net

Police Chief: Ray Canterbury
rcanterbury@cityofgibraltar.net

Fire Chief: Jim VanCalbergh
jvancalbergh@cityofgibraltar.net

Treasurer: Scott Denison

Finance Director: Barbara Meyer
meyerb@cityofgibraltar.net

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

Assessor: Holly Adams
assessing@cityofgibraltar.net

Housing Rehab: Denise Sciacca
housingrehab@cityofgibraltar.net

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City Calendar of Meetings

<u>City Council</u>			<u>2nd & 4th Monday</u>	<u>6:30 p.m.</u>	<u>City Hall</u>
June 11	June 25	July 9	July 23	August 13	August 27

September 10	September 24	October 8	October 22	November 12	November 26
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<u>Beautification Commission</u>			<u>1st Monday</u>	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<u>City Hall</u>
July 2	August 6	September 4	October 1		

<u>Recreation Commission</u>			<u>1st Wednesday</u>	<u>6:30 p.m.</u>	<u>Comm. Center</u>
July 5	August 1	September 5	October 3		

<u>Waterways Commission</u>			<u>2nd Thursday</u>	<u>5:30 p.m.</u>	<u>City Hall</u>
June 14	July 12	August 9	September 13		

<u>Planning Commission/DDA</u>			<u>3rd Tuesday</u>	<u>6:30 p.m.</u>	<u>City Hall</u>
June 19	July 17	August 21	September 18		

Summer 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:

Wednesday July 4, 2012 – Independence Day
Monday, September 3, 2012 – Labor Day

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

CITY OF GIBRALTAR WEBSITE

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.

www.cityofgibraltar.net