

ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

NEIGHBORS HAVE FUN AT GNA's MARCH GATHERING!

It's been a year of social distancing and waving from afar, and our neighbors are truly missing each other. So, we made arrangements with our friends at the American Legion to use their space for hosting an informal "coffee klatch" get-together on Saturday morning, March 6th. Folks wore masks and strived to be mindful of keeping a safe distance outside of their normal 'pods.' More than a dozen folks attended and neighbors had such a great time catching up over a cup of coffee and a sweet bite to eat! *We hope to do this again soon!*

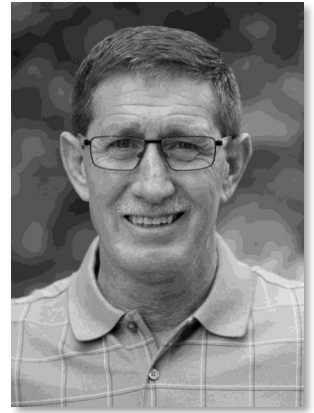
MANY thanks to the American Legion for letting us use their newly-refreshed space! And in case you didn't know, the bar area is now **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** Great deals on drinks and food, with dart and pool leagues and much more! Be sure to drop in and check it out if you haven't already!!



PRESIDENT'S POST

Hello Neighbors!

Spring has Sprung! It has been a long cold spell but the weather is breaking and it is so nice to see so many of you out walking and working in your yards. As you traverse the neighborhood be sure to watch your step as some of our sidewalks are unlevel surfaces. Perhaps on your walks you have noticed the damage to the track at Kirn Park? Once again, someone has driven on it while the frost was coming out of the ground. We have achieved so much with the city on making improvements to this wonderful green space and I plan to reach out to the Parks Department to address this issue.



Plans are in the works for another Gibraltar Neighborhood Clean up! Last year was a big success. We had our dumpster filled up in just a few hours. So, this year the GNA Board has decided to apply for extra funding (or, dip in to our own coffers) to increase the amount of dumpsters and days of availability. We also decided to move it from May to September. Be sure to watch in future issues of the newsletter for details on the specific dates and locations in the fall.

On a personal note, I had surgery on my neck and it has limited so many of the things I enjoy doing around the house. I really don't have a lot of news to share because my activity level has been so limited. In fact, I truly regretted missing the March gathering and am hopeful we can do more of those in the near future.

Sincerely,
Steve Gorman, GNA President



Wed., May 5th



Sun., May 9th



National Rescue Dog Day
Thurs., May 20th



SONG FOR BEN & KATE

Have you had the chance to get to know your neighbor Turner Morgan? He is full of surprising talents, one of which is he's a musician! Turner shared with me a song he wrote for our Gibraltar friends Ben and Kate Brewer, who recently moved due to Ben's being re-assigned overseas. I think I'm glad I wasn't there when he played and sang this for them... I woulda bawled!

BEN & KATE

While you pack your books
Let me play you a record
The one when we moved here in June
I'll raise my glass
To these nights that we've had
Drinking in the light of the moon


As old man Roland chats up the post man
The Walters spin a story or two
Cory, love, she's got your sugar...
Cup of wine and bourbon too
So when you're in Kiev
Remember, take it easy

Do they sit on the porch
In northern Ukraine
Counting the weeds in the lawn?
Chewing the fat
While the dog barks out back
At shadows from the light of the dawn

I will miss your funny impressions
The way you can pull off a hat
I've never been a man to sport one
But I think I'll buy one like that
So when I'm on my street
I can keep you with me

While you pack your books
Let me play you a record
A lovely bittersweet tune
I'm no good at goodbyes
They get in my eyes
Let's leave it at "I'll see you soon."

--- Turner Morgan



**General Dodge House
Annual Plant Sale**

Presented by the General's Ladies

June 5th, 9:00am to Noon

**On the Front Porch of the
Historic General Dodge House**

Come one and all to the Annual Plant Sale at the General Dodge House. You'll find some amazing deals. (Hint: Arrive early before all the best plants are sold.) If you would like to make a donation of plants from your garden, leftover seedlings or an extra plant or two from the store, please call 712-322-2406.

Thank you and happy gardening!

WHAT ELSE IS GOIN' ON?

FRIDAYS from 5:00-8:00 pm

PACE Studio Artists at the Hoff Center

The Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center hosts open studio hours for incredible artists every Friday. In addition to the 3rd-floor studios and patio, grab a drink at McCormick's 1894 and to check out all the art throughout the building, with unparalleled views from the 4th floor Nelson Gallery. Don't be shy, ask for a tour!

May 22, 9:00-4:00 pm // Vendor Fair

At Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 1228 S. Main St. Shop from a variety of local maker, artisans and craft vendors! The fair is being held to support and bring awareness to the ReStore.

May 22-23, 10:00-6:00 pm

Midlands Renaissance Revel

Ditmars Orchard, CB

*Jousting, artisans, performances, food and more!
\$25 per carload in advance, \$30 at the gate.*



Hey Gibraltar, Let's Get Organized! *by Steve Gorman*

Aren't you tired of looking at that old pile of scrap materials left over from the last home improvement project? Why keep those old parts that no longer go to anything? Could you use more room in the attic? Are you sick and tired of stepping around that junk in the garage to get into your car? **Get organized!**



This fall you will have a uniquely-GNA neighborhood opportunity to do just that. Be ready to ask friends and family to help you gather up those unwanted items and get them to the dumpsters **available to you at NO COST!** Watch this newsletter in August for specific dates and locations, and for the list of items that will be allowed in the dumpsters. *Stay tuned!*

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GIBRALTAR SPRING WORD SEARCH

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pussywillow	front porch
daffodils	forsythia
sunshine	bunnies
breeze	growth
blooming	flowers
gloves	lilacs
kites	rain
rototiller	sprouting
sunshine	renewing
yardwork	renewal
crocus	green
anemone	tulips
garden	robins

The Answer Key is on page 9!



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Why It's So Important to Celebrate a Birthday



Is it important to celebrate your birthday, even if you're alone?

Absolutely, especially during the pandemic. This is a tough time and many of us have forgotten to celebrate anything, but we need those small wins. They mark where we are in our lifetime, but they're also a perfect opportunity to just say "yay" for yourself.

What if you aren't celebrating your birthday?

You have to have something to look forward to or you'll be miserable. We just got through last year, you know? If you don't celebrate for a second, then how do you counteract all the potential burdens in life?

What are some good ways to celebrate your birthday alone?

Bake a cake for yourself. Have a spa day. Take the day off work, get on Zoom with people, dance with your dog or cat. When was the last time you made yourself something crafty, like something to hang on your wall? If you aren't crafty, then maybe make your favorite meal and enjoy it with your favorite movie.

CELEBRATE YOU!



READING & SOCIALIZING!

GNA's Book Club is a fun, social gathering where we get together and share a bit of news, an adult beverage or two, and discuss our latest book. We always have a blast when we get together, so consider making this part of your neighborhood involvement!

For more info on when & where, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600. We'd love to see you at our next book club (wine club? heehee) meeting!

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Kyle & Dan McGinn, Attorneys and Gibraltar Neighborhood Residents



SPRING HOME MAINTENANCE PROJECTS



EXTERIOR: The checklist starts at the roof and works its way down to the ground. Focus on wood which is susceptible to wood rot and holes/gaps that might allow water to get behind your home's siding. You'll want to check to see if wood is "spongy or soft to the touch" indicating repairs/replacement is needed.

Roof – check for missing or loose materials. Check around the chimney, skylights and vents for leaks. Look along the eaves for evidence of ice dams.

Check fascia (vertical) & soffits (horizontal) around your roof's edge. Make sure they're tight as they play a role in keeping water from entering your home.

Gutters – clean once a year and twice a year if your home has significant tree coverage. Many houses have different needs on each side of the house, so clean as needed.

Siding & paint – check for cracks, gaps and peeling paint. Repair/replace caulking if you find any gaps. Wood trim often needs more frequent painting as it's there to protect the wood, not just to make your house pretty.

Doors & windows – repair screens, install/swap screens for storm doors/windows. Replace weather stripping as needed.

Window sills and kick boards below exterior doors are the most vulnerable wood rot features, so check them carefully.

Mailboxes, fencing, etc. – repair damage done during snow removal or winter storms.

Deck – clean, repair and stain. Stain wears better than paint and it's easier to maintain because it doesn't peel.

Grill – clean outdoor grill, lawn mower and other tools used outdoors. Check to insure they're working properly before they're needed.

Exterior faucets – turn water on and check faucets for leaks. Be prepared to shut water off quickly as burst pipes are often buried inside house walls.

Foundation plantings (shrubs) surrounding the house need trimming to make sure the wood behind them can dry out.

INTERIOR: Sure you can do indoor home maintenance throughout the year but will you? Once you get this list done, you can enjoy the summer without any guilty feelings. Your most important role is to insure things get done so call your local handyman if you aren't able to do these chores yourself.

Attic – check your insulation for moisture and replace as needed. Be sure to find where the water is coming from and fix that too. You might need more ventilation to get rid of moisture and sometimes it's as simple as rearranging boxes to allow air to circulate.

Bathrooms – check caulking around tubs, showers, sinks and toilets, replacing as needed. Check grout too and repair to prevent water damage or mold.

A/Cs – install window A/Cs so you're ready for the warm weather. Get your HVAC system tuned (duct work too) to insure it's operating efficiently. Change filters too.

Safety – check batteries for smoke and carbon dioxide detectors. Spring is a fun time to hold a family fire drill.

Ceiling fans – clean (lots of dust on top) and check to insure fans are operating properly. Yes, you can use fans year round to save on your energy bill.

Appliances – clean refrigerator coils (older refrigerators only), your stove exhaust hood and dryer vents.

Basement – check walls and floor for dampness. If you find any humidity, find out where it's coming and make repairs. Test your sump pump to insure it's functioning properly before spring rain.

Hot Water Heater – once a year, drain and clean out deposits on the bottom. Check the anode rod (find a youtube video on how to do this) and replace to avoid a mess.

Dehumidifiers – clean periodically and make sure they're working properly.

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Pomegranate Margaritas

Use a large pitcher to combine ingredients



- 1 can limeade
- 1 can tequila
- 1/2 can triple sec
- 3/4 can pomegranate liqueur
- Add water to your taste

Rim glass with lime juice, then dip in a mix of chili powder, sugar and a hint of cayenne pepper— Mix to your liking.

Cheers & Enjoy!

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8:00-6:00 Mon-Fri + 9:00-noon Saturday (drive-up)

THANK YOU to these folks who have joined the GNA for 2021!

*Those listed were known to have paid dues **at the time of publishing**. Any errors are completely unintentional. If you notice an error/omission, please contact GNA Treasurer Tom Emmett!*

Yes!! You're on the list!



Dave & Amy Adams

Darwin & Christine Baker

Bettina Bente

Kathie Brandt

Paulette Brandt

David & Anna Brooks

Nate Brown & Tom Emmett

Dick & Ardeth Christie

Harold Compton

Kate Cross

Brandon & Erika Dickerson

The Dodge House

Dennis Fellhauer & Brian Wedemeier

Chad & Kate Gaul

Teresa Gerjevic

Steve & Chris Gorman

Michele Graham

Gordon Hitchcock

Steve & Cathy Jayjack

Barney & Brenda Johnson

Bob Jordan & Joan Minikus

Chris & Jill Kates

Mary Madison

Adrienne McElderry

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Patricia Murphy

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Dan & Patti Salvo-McGinn

Jeff & Karen Tucker

Pam Vosler

Mathew Walker

Patrice Watson

Carol Wood

Jaime & Sarah Young

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If you own a business, provide a service, have an event or sell a product, would you like to get the word out to **OVER 200 HOUSEHOLDS** in the Gibraltar Neighborhood?
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Ad Space Sizes available: 1/4 sheet or 1/2 sheet

1/4 sheet one-time insertion: **\$10** — OR — 1/4 sheet “6-pack” (whole year): **\$50**

1/2 sheet one-time insertion: **\$15** — OR — 1/2 sheet “6-pack” (whole year): **\$75**

English Muffin Toasting Bread, from Brian Wedemeier (and King Arthur Baking Co.)

This yeasty, coarse-textured bread makes the best toast ever, a perfect partner to fresh summer jam or preserves. A purely mix-it-slap-in-the-pan-bake-and-eat-it loaf, it's earned a place of honor in the King Arthur test kitchen Hall of Fame.

PREP	BAKE	TOTAL	YIELD
8 mins	22 to 27 mins	1hr 15 mins	1 loaf

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon instant yeast
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or olive oil
- cornmeal, to sprinkle in pan



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Whisk together the flour, sugar, salt, baking soda, and instant yeast in a large mixing bowl, or the bowl of a stand mixer.
2. Combine the milk, water, and oil in a separate, microwave-safe bowl, and heat to between 120°F and 130°F. Be sure to stir the liquid well before measuring its temperature; you want an accurate reading. If you don't have a thermometer, the liquid will feel quite hot (hotter than lukewarm), but not so hot that it would be uncomfortable as bath water.
3. Pour the hot liquid over the dry ingredients in the mixing bowl and mix until thoroughly combined.
4. Using an electric beater, or stand mixer with beater attachment, beat at high speed for 1 minute; the dough will be smooth and very soft. If you don't have an electric mixer, beat by hand for 2 to 3 minutes, or until the dough is smooth and starting to become elastic.
5. Lightly grease an 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" loaf pan, and sprinkle the bottom and sides with cornmeal.
6. Scoop the soft dough into the pan, leveling it in the pan as much as possible.
7. Cover the pan, and let the dough rise till it's just barely crowned over the rim of the pan. When you look at the rim of the pan from eye level, you should see the dough, but it shouldn't be more than, say, 1/4" over the rim. This will take about 45 minutes to 1 hour, if you heated the liquid to the correct temperature and your kitchen isn't very cold. (See notes from Brian, below.) While the dough is rising, preheat the oven to 400°F.
8. Remove the cover, and bake the bread for 22 to 27 minutes, till it's golden brown and its interior temperature is 190°F.
9. Remove the bread from the oven, and after 5 minutes turn it out of the pan onto a rack to cool. Let the bread cool completely before slicing.

Add'l Tips from Brian: *I have made several batches of this thru quarantine and have modified to my liking. These are just suggestions, try the original recipe and then create your own version! This also makes excellent french toast!!* Double the amount of yeast to create lots of texture air bubbles to the finished crumb. Add 2-3 tablespoons of butter to the milk & water mixture and pay attention to the temperature! IT MUST NOT BE ABOVE 130 DEGREES—but at least 120 DEGREES—it does make a difference. Dough should be very sticky after mixing, I let it rest in bowl 5 minutes then mix on medium high for 30 sec to 1 minute to add more gluten to the bread, again more air = better crumb in my opinion. Evenly spread dough in a coated pan, spray plastic wrap with cooking spray, cover pan loosely and let rise for at least an hour or 1 1/2 to 2 inches above pan rim. At times, for some reason, it can fall when putting in the oven. Brush melted butter over top the last 10-15 minutes of baking.

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Become a Gibraltar Neighborhood Association Member!! Yearly dues are \$25 *per household* and are tax deductible with our 501c3 status! In order to be eligible to vote for board members or receive priority preference for improvement projects, you must be a paid association member.

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- Quarterly social events Fundraisers Business meetings
 Other _____

Please tell us what *issues* are important to you:

- Getting to know my neighbors Preserving our brick streets Historic preservation
 Better lighting in our Neighborhood More social events Crime / Safety
 Other _____