



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

SAVING A PIECE OF HISTORY??

Hey Neighbors — If you are reading this, a few things are fairly certain: 1.) You can read (sorry, couldn't help myself). 2.) You live in the Gibraltar Neighborhood. 3.) You give a darn or two about the goings-on in our little corner of the world.



If the above are true, I could use your help and - at the very least - your input on a housing project on Bluff Street. Neighborhoods around the world face their own unique challenges... I feel one of ours is balancing the preservation of architecture/historic nature and homeownership, with the increasing need for density and housing options for families looking to set roots in our town.

The 712 Initiative and Habitat for Humanity of CB have recently purchased the historic "Double House" (the historic label for duplex/townhome) at 219 Bluff St. This gorgeous home has unfortunately been vacant as far as I can remember - at least as long as since Abby and I moved here 9-ish years ago. The good news is we have two organizations that give a dang about what happens to this property - the "bad" news is we're going to need your input, and potentially, your voice and support if we want to see this historic double home (built in 1887!!!) restored to its former glory.



Here are the condensed "just add water" versions of the situation:

1. 219 Bluff St. is currently a 5/6-plex that has been vacant for nearly a decade.
2. The 712 Initiative and Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs understand our neighborhood values, its history, integrity, and desire to see older homes (especially those that have been butchered) brought back to their original nature (within reason) - and provide an ownership opportunity for families looking to set roots.
3. The 712 and Habitat would like to restore this property back to a "Double House," fully renovate it, split the parcel (down the middle), and sell to two families (own, NOT rent).
4. This area is currently zoned R1 - preventing any renovation other than a single dwelling unit (even though this historic DOUBLE house was built in 1887). Understandably, this section of our neighborhood was zoned "down" to prevent future big homes from being butchered... however this specific property is a UNIQUE case and will need support.

...Continued on Page 3



PRESIDENT'S POST

March 2023



Greetings Neighbors!

It is such a great honor to become your newest Gibraltar Neighborhood Association (GNA) President. After living in the Gibraltar Neighborhood for the past 8 years, I am very blessed and thankful for all of YOU who have become like a family in this journey. We have a GREAT bunch of residents who I'm very proud to call my neighbors. I am very passionate about the organizations that I donate my heart, talent, time, and dollars to. The smallest investment can make HUGE changes on many platforms for the betterment of the community.

Here's a brief "about me" bio to introduce myself, and give you a view of "our journey to Gibraltar"...

I'm an IOWA boy at heart, (Iowa State Cyclone fan), born and raised in NE Iowa, growing up in a rural town of Sumner. I grew up on an acreage raising pigs, calves, chickens, and many other pets. We always had a huge garden with veggies and flowers, which is still my therapy and my escape from it all.

I went to college for portrait photography and ended up owning a photo studio with my parents; we purchased it 1997 (I'd been working there since 1988), and it closed in 2010 when my parents retired due to health issues. From there I moved to Des Moines, starting over at 40-ish, and happily finding my passion for flowers & food. I started as a floral designer at Hy-vee, and also worked many positions at restaurants and country clubs.

In the Fall of 2014, I was invited to a Pumpkin Carving Party at Gordon Hitchcock's home (a fellow GNA member) at Bluff & Willow. I was in awe of the homes in the neighborhood. That weekend I met my life-long partner, my hubby Dennis Fellhauer, who also was in CB visiting family that weekend and who also knew Gordon. Dennis was living in the St. Louis area, near his home town, after being a 30 year Chicago resident.

In January of 2015, we moved to CB and lived with Dennis' niece until we found our spot on Bluff Street. Gibraltar was the desirable neighborhood we looked at and wanted to reside in. We put in many offers, and in May of 2017 we purchased the smallest home on our block (527 Bluff St.). It fits us; we are the home's 3rd owners and love it; we are so happy with our choice. It's not so much the house - it's the people in the neighborhood who makes it feel like home. Over the years we have been able to meet so many neighbors, who now feel more like family. Gibraltar is a HUGE ASSET to CB; our neighborhood reminds me of my hometown.

Dennis & I both work for Hy-vee, the West Broadway location. I'm in the Floral department and Dennis is in Wine & Spirits. We are Dog Dads and have three Australian Shepherds: Levi, Wrangler, and Calvin. During the warmer months you will find us out in the property gardening, having a cocktail, or making too much food for two people... we are foodies! If you see us out in the yard please stop by and say Hi.

I am asking you as neighbors **to become more involved in any way that you can**. IF you haven't participated in any of our neighborhood events, join us and see what it's like. Not sure about being a member of our Neighborhood Association? You are missing out on a great network of people. It's reasonably priced to become a member (only \$25/yr). So I ask you to become a member, get involved, volunteer, and be a voice of what is important to you and what's happening in your neighborhood! Also I want to hear your questions, concerns, frustrations, etc. Just drop us an email at NeighborhoodGibraltar@gmail.com.

We have a great bunch of experienced volunteers & newbies on our Board. I am very excited about what's in store for GNA in 2023. Ideas we are exploring this year are safety, revitalization, beautification, rebranding & updating logos, social media platforms, and more GNA events. One of my personal goals is to get Gibraltar back on the list of Top 10 Neighborhoods in the USA. **GNA: Greatest Neighborhood Around!**

Brian Wedemeier
President, Gibraltar Neighborhood Association

SAVING A PIECE OF HISTORY continued...

5. We would need neighborhood voice and support to the zoning board to (POTENTIALLY - not guaranteed) allow these two organizations to renovate this property back into a townhome.

6. If we cannot convince the zoning board and Community Development, these two organizations will have option: A.) knock down the property to build new zone compliant, or B.) sell to a 3rd party (outcome not guaranteed or renovate to one unit (not \$\$\$ viable).

I can tell you that neither of these organizations make money in their housing endeavors. They take it on the chin every time in order to preserve the integrity of neighborhoods and offer opportunities for families looking to buy their first home. If you have an opinion one way or another, please let me (us) know what you think. Even more, if you'd be willing to lend your support for this renovation, please let me know: 533clark@gmail.com or 7123103102

In other news, I'll be stepping down from President to an "at-large" role here on the GNA board. Between a career change and a 4 year old these duties are best left to someone not constantly burning the midnight oil. The good news is that Brian W. will be taking the reins - you might know him from his work with the pantry and practically single-handedly organizing last year's quarter auction. You're in good hands folks - and he's already barking orders (lol) he's born for this and we're lucky to have him! I'm looking at him now and he's gesturing to "wrap it up" - so I guess this is it folks. See you around the neighborhood - looking forward to seeing all your lovely faces on front porches as we head into Spring.

Always in service,
Turner



SEE THE SIGHTS! By Jill Kates

We are so blessed with local attractions! There are many things to do in the Council Bluffs area!! Have you considered other attractions within the beautiful state of Iowa? I was researching day trips and came across this article from attraction-sofamerica.com. How many have you been to?

1. Iowa State Capitol
2. Amana Colonies
3. Blank Park Zoo
4. Greater Des Moines Botanical Center
5. Lost Island Water Park in Waterloo
6. National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque
7. Pikes Peak State Park in McGregor
8. Okoboji
9. Field of Dreams in Dyersville
10. Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend
11. National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids
12. Buffalo Bill Museum in LeClaire
13. 13. Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch
14. Adventureland Park I'm Altoona
15. Maquoketa Caves State Park
16. Pappajohn Sculpture Park in Des Moines
17. Ledges State Park in Madrid
18. American Gothic House & Center in Eldon
19. Bruce more Estate in Cedar Rapids
20. Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad.

Treasury Report as of 3-1-23

Deposits since last report: \$738.61

Expenses since last report: \$210.00

Membership renewals: 17

Ad renewals: 3

Treasury balance: \$15,986.75

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Adams, GNA Treasurer



Hello, I'm Dennis Fellhauer, a Gibraltar resident and GNA member (oh, and Brian's Partner in Life). This is my 7th season as a member of the River City Mixed Chorus. Since high school I have always been involved in theater and the musical arts.

RCMC is an LGBTQ+ choir with over 125 voices, creating music as one. RCMC hosts two concerts per season, plus other community involvement performances across the Midwest. Currently, we are promoting our 2023 season with our "Big Gay Lottery" raffle ticket fundraiser sales. This fundraiser ensures we have the resources to support our cause with beautiful music, education, and a safe place for LGBTQ+ musicians. I'm hoping you might support our Chorus through the purchase of raffle tickets? If so, I will stop by your home to drop them off (a great opportunity to meet more Gibraltar residents!!).

Our upcoming Summer Concert is celebrating our 40 year anniversary, with an amazing lineup of musical selections. This concert will include some favorites hits from the 70s & 80s. I am very thankful to those of you who have supported me over the years, either by attending a concert or event, by purchasing a raffle ticket, or bidding on our raffle baskets at our events. Truly, I thank you for all your support.

I am so excited for our summer concert at the Holland Center! Please check out RCMC.org for concert tickets and more information. AND, if you would like your chance to win \$100 or more in the Big Gay Lottery, please contact me personally — cash, checks, and Venmo accepted. *Thanks and hope to see you at our concert!*

Dennis Fellhauer || 773-206-3394 || dolphinishes@gmail.com



**52 WEEKLY DRAWINGS + 6 BONUS DRAWINGS
58 CHANCES TO WIN + \$7000 IN PRIZES
YOU CAN WIN EVERY WEEK OF THE YEAR!**



Looking to get healthier but not sure what to do?
CHECK OUT JAZZERCISE! We are having a Friends & Family Free Weekend at Jazzercise. What a great chance to come and try it out!

310 W. Broadway, Suite 102 (just around the corner!)

Friday, March 17
5:15 am or 8:30 am

Saturday, March 18
7:30 am or 8:30 am

Sunday, March 19
8:30 am

Monday, March 20
5:15 am or 8:30 am or 4:35 pm or 5:40 pm

If you have questions or would like to attend WITH someone, call Gibraltar resident Jill Kates at 712-828-1537.

APRIL DATES to KNOW

- 4/1—April Fool's Day
- 4/2—World Autism Awareness Day
- 4/4—Nat'l Hug a Person Day
- 4/5—Deep Dish Pizza Day
- 4/6—Nat'l Walking Day
- 4/7—Nat'l Beer Day
- 4/9—Easter
- 4/11—Nat'l Pet Day
- 4/17—Nat'l Haiku Poetry Day
- 4/18—TAXES DUE
- 4/22—Earth Day
- 4/28—Arbor Day
- 4/29—Independent Bookstore Day





YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING SPOT!

716 South 4th Street (Rainbow American Legion Bldg)

Lunch & Dinner Specials || Happy Hour Drink Specials
Serving Breakfast 7-9:00 on Saturday & Sunday

Just in time for Lent: Friday Night Specials!

Hand-dipped battered fish & fries: \$6.00

Grilled shrimp tacos & fries: \$7.50

Delicious Food Served Daily:

Check out our awesome pizzas, including the Dill Pickle pizza! Crispy onion rings, soups, burgers, sandwiches, and so much more.

Full Bar with fun, creative drink specials!

Darts, Billiards, and FUN!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!



ATTENTION: BUSINESS OWNERS, ARTISTS, ETC.

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?

If so, consider an affordable ad in the Rock Talk newsletter!

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**

We'll throw in the ad setup for free!! Contact Cory at coryp241@yahoo.com for more info!

Your Gibraltar Neighborhood Partner!

*Working together to make our community
a great place to live.*

Hy-Vee West Broadway

2323 West Broadway, C.B.

712-328-9792 (store)

712-329-0905 (floral)



Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for some new faces, fresh blood, new ideas.... Basically, we're hoping to get you to be more active where you live... **GNA!** (**G**reatest **N**eighborhood **A**round.) This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends... while donating your time, talents, and resources to benefit the neighborhood we all call home!

We are looking for helpers in the areas listed below; these are *supportive* positions. IF you are reluctant, don't be! We have a lot of *experienced* GNA folks (probably your neighbor) who are always willing to help guide the next generation of Gibraltar volunteers! **We need help with:**

- Welcome Bags
- Events & Social Gatherings
- Fundraising & Advertising
- Social Media & Tech Platforms
- Rock Talk Content & Delivery

If any of these topics are in your wheelhouse, or you have questions or need more info —please contact any of the GNA Board Members, or email us at neighborhoodgibraltar@gmail.com.



THE **712**
INITIATIVE

thank you!

to the 712 Initiative for printing our Rock Talk newsletter! You are a **BIG** part of helping our neighborhood stay informed and connected!

Please join GNA's monthly Book Club!! We gather once a month and talk about the book we have read! Books are picked by a majority vote. We love to read all kinds of books! For the month of October we read *The Wives*, by Tarryn Fisher. The months of August and September we read *Great Circle*, by Maggie Shipstead. A few members listen to the books from Libby Audio Books. We are blessed to have a fabulous public library in which we have that option. We also take turns hosting the Book Club or we meet at a local restaurant. We love new members!! **For more info** on when & where, contact Patti Hannan at 712-323-8600.



Our Savior's LUTHERAN CHURCH



Welcoming all to share God's grace and love.

Saturday 5:30pm • Sunday 10:30am (Sunday School @ 9:30)

church: 600 Bluff Street • office: 313 Story Street • ph: (712) 322-6655
email: office@OurSaviorsCB.org • www.OurSaviorsCB.org
facebook: Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Council Bluffs



Availa Bank

Member
FDIC

Our name says it all.
We're AVAILABLE.

We're happy to serve the
Gibraltar Neighborhood!

Downtown: 117 Pearl Street • 322-1700

8:30-4:00 Monday – Friday (lobby)

8:00-5:00 Monday – Friday (drive-up)

7:00-7:00 Mon-Fri + 8:00-noon Saturday (ITM)

Mall: 1751 Madison Avenue • 322-3300

8:30-4:00 Monday – Friday (lobby)

8:00-5:00 Mon-Fri + 9:00-noon Saturday (drive-up)

7:00-7:00 Mon-Fri + 8:00-noon Saturday (ITM)

THANK YOU to these folks who have joined the GNA for 2023!

*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 Dave Adams!*

Dave & Amy Adams

Marci Anderson

Darwin & Christie Baker

Jordan & Trisha Beccard

Trudy Beno

Bettina Bente

Kathie Brandt

Nate Brown & Tom Emmett

Jason & Brook Craig

Bud & Susie Dew

Brandon & Erika Dickerson

The Dodge House

Dennis Fellhauer & Brian Wedemeier

Teresa Gerjevic

John Gibbs

Steve & Chris Gorman

Michele Graham

JD's Garage

Steve & Cathy Jayjack

Barney & Brenda Johnson

Chris & Jill Kates

Mary Madison

Steve & Deedee McCormick

Kyle & Lyndze McGinn

Terry & Nancy Mulvania

Patricia Murphy

Cory Peters

Dan & Kate Shea

Mindy Smith

Jeff & Karen Tucker

Pam Vosler

Matt & Lori Walker

Patrice Watson



PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH YOUR ANNUAL DUES!!

Our accomplishments would not be possible without YOU!

Your neighborhood expert!

Hey Neighbors!

My name is Klaire Cross and I'm your neighborhood real estate agent. I would love to assist you in buying, selling and investing. Give me a call today for a free home market analysis!



Klaire Cross

402.206.4589

KLAIRE.CROSS@BHHSAMB.COM

 @KLAIRECROSS  @KLAIRE.CROSS



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Ambassador Real Estate

The Home Hunters Group PLC
REAL ESTATE & AUCTION SERVICE



UPCOMING GIBRALTAR EVENTS!!

All GNA Board Meetings are open to any paid member. This is an opportunity to have your voice heard with issues that are important to you and your family.

TBD May or June - Spring Clean-up and neighborhood wide garage sale. Watch Gibraltar's Facebook page and Rock Talk for updates.

May 22 - Board Meeting

7:00 pm (527 Bluff St) Brian Wedemeier's home Planning meeting for Summer Picnic, and other topics to be discussed.

June 24 - GNA Summer Picnic at the south end of Clark Avenue. Join us for fellowship, food and fun for all ages!

Sept 18 - Board Meeting

7:00 pm (location TBD)
Planning for Quarter Auction, and other topics will be discussed.

October date TBD — Quarter Auction

IT'S A BLAST and a must attend event!

January 2024 - HOLIDAY PARTY

We are looking for a host for this event, where you'd host 30-50 of your neighbors who stop by for food, drinks, fellowship and laughs! It's not as daunting as it sounds! We will help any newbie hosts with all the details.

***** Also watch for our popular "**POP-UP**" events in the upcoming weeks and months ahead. *Do you have a Pop-up theme event idea?* If so, please email us! New Hosts & Themes are always welcome!
NeighborhoodGibraltar@gmail.com

THE 712 INITIATIVE

Learn more about the ongoing revitalization and restoration efforts being undertaken by the 712!! Lots of stuff going on with community betterment and involvement! Learn more by visiting our website: <https://the712initiative.org>

SHAMROCK SHUFFLE

- SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023
- THE 100 BLOCK
A St. Patrick's Day themed 5K through the historic downtown Council Bluffs area

SHOE DRIVE

- APRIL
- COMMUNITY-WIDE
Save your shoes from the landfill! Donate them to one of our many local drop off site.

CELEBRATE CB

- MAY 8 - 14, 2023
- BAYLISS PARK
A celebration of Council Bluffs community!

CLEAN SWEEP

- SECOND TUESDAY IN MAY
- BAYLISS PARK
City-wide spring cleaning!

FARMERS MARKET COUNCIL BLUFFS

- THURSDAYS, MAY - SEPTEMBER
- 1ST AVENUE & BAYLISS PARK
The place to be for locally sourced farm-fresh foods and homegrown fun!



GNA Board Meeting MINUTES || January 30, 2023

1. New Business

Turner is stepping down as President and Brian was asked to accept the remainder of his term. Trisha made a motion to appoint Brian Wedemeier, Jill made a second motion. Brian was appointed President.

Turner requested to be Member at Large. Jill made the motion, Trisha second. Turner was appointed Member at Large.

2. Old News

Neighborhood clean up was very successful. Quarter auction was up in donations; down in profits. Brian made a motion for no more than 30 -35 items total. Trisha made the second motion. Voted: All in favor.

3. GNA Flags/Banners

The business that made the GNA yard signs is out of business. Metal signage is an option. We need to come up with a design. Jerry w/Eco Group may be helpful. We want to incorporate Ken Madison's art work. Jill made a motion for Brian and Cory to do research on the metal sign. Dave made a second motion. Voted: All in favor.

Grant funds (IA West through Habitat for Humanity) \$2,000 to anyone active. The idea to use the money toward replacing missing Gibraltar utility pole banners. Another idea, in the future a sign that says "Slow Down." Maybe research speed signs, safety items, or temporary road bumps.

4. Welcome Bags

Ideas were discussed for contents of bags. GNA postcards, pens, or magnet w/resources. Trisha made a motion and Brian made the second motion. Voted: All in favor for Magnet, postcard, and pens for the Welcome bags. Discussion about having the neighborhood kids paint rocks for the Welcome Bags. Brian made a motion. Jill made the second motion. Voted: All in favor

5. Events/Socials

March 11, 2023 — 8am-noon Coffee. Brian made a motion to buy 3 doz donuts from Mad Ox. Turner made the second motion. Voted: All in favor.

June 24, 2023 — Brian made a motion to move the summer picnic to 6/24, Dave made the second motion. Voted: All in favor.

6. Other Business

Discussed having a GNA Neighborhood Garage Sale. Have a sale and have kids paint rocks at the same time.

Spring Clean-up day -- Trailhead clean up (lots of trash); Garage Sale; Dumpsters for clean up; rock painting for kids.

Mary and Brian discussing planting flowers around the Trailhead.

Brian made a motion to work more with Preserve Council Bluffs to see what they need. Turner made a second motion. Voted: All in Favor.

7. Tabled Issues

Cory's nephew is an App Developer. It's possible to create a GNA App that would push notifications for upcoming events. Upfront costs then a yearly cost.

8. Next meeting: March 11 at the coffee.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Kates, Secretary

JD's Service & Repair

Your friendly, honest neighborhood auto repair shop!

501 South 4th Street

712.322.6841

JDsServiceAndRepair.com



facebook: JD's Service & Repair



Call for
a FREE
estimate!

***Automotive repair services for both
foreign and domestic trucks and autos!***



WHERE FITNESS & FUN *Come to Party!*



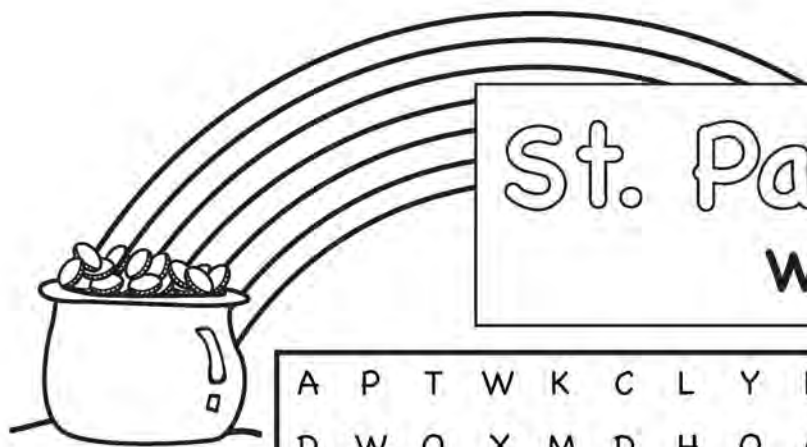
Come in and dance with us!

- 22 classes each week in studio and online.
- Each class is 55-60 minutes and includes cardio dancing, stretching and strength training to give you a full body workout.
- High and low impact moves in each class. You go at your own pace.
- 6 instructors to keep your workout new and different every time.
- New music and new routines every 10 weeks to keep it fresh and new.
- You won't get bored dancing with us!
- Classes are live in our studio or you can join us online from home.

Stop in a try a class for \$15 or get a membership for unlimited classes for only \$59 a month! Classes are held at various times, 7 days a week!

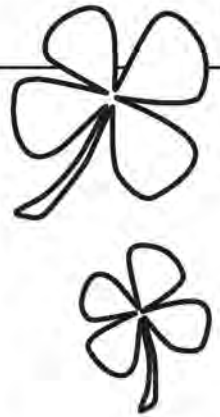
For more information, call or text Tara at 402-680-6906
or email us: jazzercisecbkrew@gmail.com.

301 West Broadway, Suite 102, Council Bluffs



St. Patrick's Day

Word Search!



Can you find these Saint Patrick's Day words?

They can be forward, backward, diagonal, or up and down.



Saint
Patrick
Green
Luck
Rainbow

March
Shamrock
Jig
Parade

Pot
Gold
Leprechaun
Irish
Snakes



GNA Contacts:

Brian Wedemeier, President
515-205-7515

Dave Adams, Treasurer
402-250-8360

Jill Kates, Secretary
712-828-1537

Mary Madison, Member at Large
712-323-8073

Trisha Beccard, Member at Large
tbeccard@gmail.com

Turner Morgan, Member at Large
712-310-3102

Cory Peters, Newsletter Editor
402-681-8344

*Newsletter
copies are
furnished
courtesy of:*

THE **7** **1** **2**
INITIATIVE

THANK YOU!

YOUR Gibraltar
Neighborhood:



KEEP INFORMED three ways!!

Visit Gibraltar's website online at: www.GibraltarNA.org

— AND —

LIKE us on Facebook (search "Gibraltar Neighborhood Association").

— AND —

Register TODAY on GNA's "Nextdoor" social networking website:
www.nextdoor.com. You can share news, updates, inquiries, refer
business people or services, get the latest GNA news and much more!

It's FREE & open to folks within Gibraltar boundaries!!

Gibraltar Neighborhood Association: Membership Registration Form

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.

Make checks payable to & mail to: Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 1971, Co. Bluffs, IA 51502-1971

— OR — pay online at: www.GibraltarNA.org >> click on the "Donate" tab (you can pay via PayPal or via Credit Card)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Please tell us what's important to you in *connecting with your neighbors*:

- 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 _____