



ROCK•TALK

the newsletter of
The Gibraltar Neighborhood Association, Inc.

Gibraltar Holiday Get-Together!



WHERE: 527 Clark Ave. (Bud & Susie Dew's Lovely Home)

WHEN: SATURDAY, January 3, 2026 // 6:00pm to 10:00pm



The Dews go **all out** with gorgeous holiday decorations, and they have a great space for this event — lots of room for socializing, a bar area, and an amazing kitchen that's always filled with a big variety of food options... **THAT'S** where you come in!

Please bring an appetizer, snack, side dish, or sweet treat to share with the group. We will also be having a fun **“White Elephant” gift exchange**. Please bring a gift to be included in the exchange. It's been awhile since we included this at our Holiday Event.

GNA will provide: 1-turkey, 1-pork/beef sandwiches, 2-festive punches/cocktails, & 1 non-alcoholic beverage. BYOB wine or spirits to share plus any mixers.

Please RSVP to BRIAN 515-205-7515 via text by Dec. 27 with how many will be attending in your group. If you have any questions please reach out to Brian as well.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and make plans to come celebrate with your neighbors! **SEE YOU THEN!**



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!

PRESIDENT'S POST

December 2025

Happy Holidays to everyone! I can't believe how fast this year has flown by. It seems the older I get, the faster it goes. Now that the snow has arrived it really seems like the holidays are in full swing and we may indeed have a WHITE CHRISTMAS 2025.

Make sure you check out the list of 2026 GNA events, our board is very excited for the next year. We are continuing some events, and adding new events as well. We will be sending out email and Facebook posts for more details, and of course including info in our upcoming Rock Talk issues.

I am also proud to announce our **GNA membership has exceeded 50 households!** That's amazing, and it says a lot about building strong relationship with our neighbors, and folks wanting to be connected.

I personally invite NEW RESIDENTS & MEMBERS to our **GNA Holiday Party Jan. 3rd!** Make sure you RSVP!! This is a neighborhood favorite, always a great time, and perfect time to meet your neighbors.

We will also be taking nominations/volunteers for new board positions for the 2026-2028 terms. So if you would like to throw your name in the ring please let me know!

This holiday season, please don't forget to support our local food banks with your donations. The Story Street Panty in our neighborhood would take any pantry items or financial donations— anything you can give would be greatly appreciated.

We also have some amazing small business owners and artists right here in our neighborhood. From art, jewelry, photography, or a relaxing massage, check out and support our Gibraltar Folks. If you have items or services you would like to offer, please post on your Facebook page and "Check-in" for the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association.

As we are in full swing and just days away from Dec. 25, remember to take some time for yourself. Don't let the hustle and bustle get you overwhelmed and in panic mode! Step back and look at the entire picture: your faith, family, friends, and of course the food! Try not to get caught in the rabbit hole of social media, looking at everything holiday! Take a few deep breaths, step away from the situation, think positive thoughts, (maybe a shot of relief or sip of wine), regroup, and carry on. It will all be over soon!

Dennis & I wish all of you a wonderful and safe holiday season, and thank you for all the amazing memories of 2025! We love our neighborhood, and are proud to call Gibraltar home sweet home!

Thanks for your time, and being a part of GNA- Greatest Neighborhood Around!

Brian W.
President





WE NEED YOU to Get Involved!

YOU want a neighborhood that's attractive and safe... YOU want a neighborhood that's active and engaged... YOU want to experience a feeling of community and connectedness... YOU NEED TO GET INVOLVED!

You are invited to make a difference by being more involved with the Gibraltar Neighborhood Association. **Nominations will be held for the GNA Board at our neighborhood holiday party on January 3!** (see details on page 1)

Consider running, won't you? Current board members will provide guidance in your new position. It's not a large time commitment and it is more fun than work. Meet more of your wonderful neighbors and work with City & Civic leaders and other neighborhoods!

We have a planning meeting every other month where we make decisions about events and issues that impact the neighborhood. In the past, the Board has planned numerous holiday parties, our quarter auction fundraiser, luminarias at Christmastime, writing articles for the newsletter, the clean-up and beautification of our Fairmount Park Trail Head at the top of 9th Ave, litter pick up, dumpster days, etc...

HELP KEEP GIBRALTAR ACTIVE, INVOLVED, AND PROGRESSIVE! Join the Board!

Dodge House News



Holiday Eye Candy — Experience the Tradition!

Late November through the end of December, visit the Dodge and Bereshiem homes and experience all of the wonderment contained in these two historic beauties, each festooned and adorned with holiday finery.

It truly is a sight to behold!

Standard admission fees apply.



YOUR HOMETOWN REALTOR®



MIKE YOWELL

Cell: 402-619-6331

Office: 712-328-5008

myowell@npdodge.com



LICENSED IN IOWA AND NEBRASKA

Trust me to help you sell your current home or buy ANY home out there, listed by ANY agent, ANY company, on EITHER side of the river!



We are RESIDENTS of GIBRALTAR • Bonded & Insured • Woman-Owned • Affordable • Iowa TSB Certified

SNOW REMOVAL FOR OUR GIBRALTAR NEIGHBORS:

\$40 for ROWS and path to your front door • \$50 to clear a single driveway

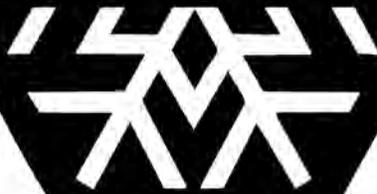
\$60 for double driveway or corner houses • \$10 to add salt

Call us for special inquiries or needs!

Call or Text

Kelli & Coty to
make an appointment:
402-320-9886

#Mow & Snow LLC



**Our Easy
Payment
Options:**

Cash or Check

Venmo: @MOWandSNOW-LLC

Paypal: @MowAndSnow402

Cashapp: \$HashtagMowAndSnow



Refer 3 new customers and get one service FREE!

JD's Service & Repair

*Your friendly,
honest
neighborhood
auto repair
shop!*



501 South 4th St.

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!***

RECAP: QUARTER AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Thanks to all of you who donated to and attended our Annual Quarter Auction. We had a full house at the 4th Street Bar & Legion, raising over \$700 for GNA's general fund. A great mix and selection of baskets & items were up for bid — a little bit of everything for anyone & everyone.

Special thanks to Aaron Jerome and his staff at 4th Street, and Willow Pettit and Gavin Christensen for being our "Vanna Whites" (showing and distributing the auction items).

We are already collecting donations for next year! So if you get a gift this holiday and you're not lovin' it, put a post-it on it and save for next year's GNA Quarter Auction donation!

THANK YOU to our INCREDIBLE PRIZE DONORS!!



2026 DUES are DUE!

Your Gibraltar Neighborhood Association dues are payable in January – the form is on [last page](#) of newsletter.

OR save yourself a stamp and pay via our website's "donate" tab at GibraltarNA.org.

Your annual dues help fund short- and long-term projects like:

- > Quarterly Neighborhood Social Events
- > Neighborhood Identification Pole Banners
- > Neighborhood Cleanup Day
- > Beautification Projects like 9th St. Trailhead
- > Printing & Mailing of Newsletters
- > Yard Flags, and much more!

Help keep Gibraltar moving in a positive direction by support through annual dues.

THANK YOU to all those who have supported our neighborhood in the past— we couldn't do it without you!



A BIG "HOORAY" to GNA's Super-Heroes!

Many thanks to our hard-working newsletter delivery & distribution team! Without YOU, it would be too costly to put the newsletter in the hands of all of our residents!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!



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)

Bennett Ave.: 237 Bennett 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)

GNA Board Meeting Minutes, November 25, 2025

- 1. Roll Call:** In attendance: Dave, Brian, Josh, Adrienne, Jill
- 2. Treasurer Report:** Current balance is \$11,950.01. Membership: we currently have 54 households that are paid GNA members.
- 3. Old Business:**

Cory has compiled all our missing banners or lacking brackets and a list of detailed locations. Some banners will be moved to more visible spots.

Trick or Treat- GNA had 17 houses respond to hand out candy Oct 31.

OSL church had 8 different stations, snacks, food for Trunk or Treat. Between 75-100 people visited. Hy-Vee donated candy to the event. GNA has been invited to join next year.

Dumpster days was a success -- next year maybe have curbside pick-up.
- 4. New Business:**

Holiday Party 2026: Jan 3, 2026 6-10 pm @ Bud and Susie Dew's house, 527 Clark.

Adrienne made a motion to donate \$150 toward the Holiday Party to cover meat and festive drinks. Second was made by Dave. All in favor.

GNA Board Elections -- nominations at Holiday Party, vote in Spring.

Selected dates for the Easter Event -- March 28, 2026.

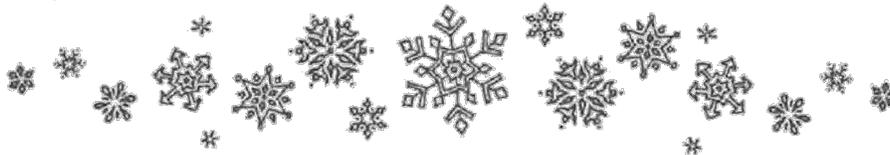
Selected dates for Spring Dumpster Day -- April 18-19, 2026.

Selected dates for the GNA picnic — June 13, 2026.

Discussion about hosting a Pancake Breakfast with OSL Church.
- 5. Adjourned:**

Brian make a motion at 7:45 to adjourn, seconded by Jill. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted,
Jill Kates, GNA Secretary



SAVE LIVES: CHANGE BATTERIES NOW!

Fire officials advise when you set your clocks back for Daylight Savings Time to also change the batteries in your smoke & carbon monoxide detectors (so if you forgot to do this, do it NOW). Detectors over 10 years old should be replaced with a new unit. A code stamped on the back of a detector should indicate the manufacture date.

The Council Bluffs Fire Department, with the generous support of several businesses, organizations, foundations and individual donors, founded Project Alex after fires claimed the lives of two children in 2010. Project Alex provides dual sensor smoke detectors in the hope of preventing any further loss of life in fires.

- On duty Fire Department personnel check each home they respond to for working detectors. If none are present or the smoke detectors need replaced, new detectors are installed before those personnel leave.
- They also replace batteries and leave fire safety information with the homes occupants, all in the hope of making the residents and our community safer.

To request a detector check or installation, contact the Fire Department at (712) 328-4646. If you need a smoke detector or new battery and cannot afford one, the fire department will schedule a time to have personnel come to your house and install new batteries or new detectors at no charge to the residents. Now is a good time to check your fire extinguisher, too.



Welcoming all to share God's grace and love.

Our Savior's LUTHERAN CHURCH



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



JAZZERCISE®
Council Bluffs

*The most fun you can
have sweating it out!*

Blending dance with HIIT training, kickboxing, strength training and stretching into one 55-minute session can burn up to 800 calories.

- 16 classes each week starting at various times from early mornings to evenings and Saturday mornings.
- High and low impact moves that meet all fitness goals.
- All ages, all sizes, all fitness levels are welcome.
- Professional instructors that show you the moves and do them with you.
- We sweat together and create our happiest and healthiest selves through movement.

Come in and try a class for \$20 or become a member and get unlimited classes for only \$59 a month!

Get more information online at www.jazzercise.com or on Facebook: Jazzercise (Council Bluffs).

Located at 301 W Broadway Ste 102 in Council Bluffs, IA

Questions? Call or text Tara at 402-680-6906 or email jazzerciseCBkrew@gmail.com

GNA EVENTS 2026

These are just a FEW of the amazing events our board is excited to announce for the coming year...

Jan 3: Holiday Party, 6:00-10:00pm
at Bud & Susie Dew's, 527 Clark Ave.

Feb/Mar date and location TBD:
Pancake Breakfast & GNA Elections

Mar 28: Easter Egg Hunt Event, 9:00am-10:30 am
at The Dodge House

April date TBD: Spring Dumpster Day,
hopefully offering curbside pickup

June 13: GNA Picnic, 4:00-7:00pm
held at the end/top of Clark Ave,

Sept/Oct TBD: Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser.

Oct date TBD: Halloween Trunk & Treat with Our Savior
Lutheran Church

BE SURE to add these to your calendar! (Possibly more to come!) Watch future Rock Talks editions, Facebook, and GNA emails for updates and more information.

KEEP These Phone Numbers Handy!



Non-emergency number:
712-328-5737

Community PAR officers:

Sgt. Dale Schmitz: 712-890-5216

PO Josh Porter: 712-890-5207

Det. Powels: 712-890-5208

Officer investigating all incidents in the neighborhood:

Detective Jon Meyer: 712-890-5201
criminal investigations

NOTE: These are all "Desk Numbers" for the CBPD—they no longer provide cell phone contact numbers.

IF YOU SEE ANYTHING that seems suspicious, call 9-1-1, since the non-emergency response might take 30-45 minutes for an officer response.

Be Alert. Be Aware. Thanks!



RECAP: HALLOWEEN FUN in GIBRALTAR

Halloween seems like a gazillion years ago, but we wanted to share some photos and details from the great Trunk or Treat event at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on October 28. Originally scheduled to be held in the parking lot, inclement weather pushed the event inside and church volunteers did an incredible job getting tables set up for the TRUNK-ers, with EIGHT stations filled with treats, prizes, candy, and crafts — along with a great Photo Booth! They also provided snacks and hot dogs for all the youngsters and their families. This was GNA's first time participating in this event of about 75-100 neighbors and church members joining in the Halloween Fun. It's was great to see a few GNA youth in attendance! The church is already planning for next year's event to be bigger and better!

On Halloween night, Brian W. reported that they didn't see all that much foot traffic at their home on Bluff Street. However, Cory P. reported that her house on 5th Ave. had about TWICE as many trick-or-treaters as normal. Our neighbors put out some amazing decorations and displays, bringing smiles to all of us. Hope you had a great Halloween!



I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

by Tom Emmett

"I'll be home for Christmas..."

Have you ever heard a more melancholy Christmas song? Written in 1942 to honor our young soldiers who had just entered the fray of the Second World War, and who could only dream of coming home, the song became a huge hit after Bing Crosby recorded it in October 1943. Distanced by duty to their country, "home" became relegated to having hope of returning to home and hearth next year or as soon as possible. It is an experience and sentiment shared by every deployed member of the armed forces and their families throughout the life of our Republic.

Half a century prior, General Grenville Dodge, Council Bluffs' most famous citizen and builder of a home that now draws visitors from near and far, would have understood the longing expressed in the song. He, too, had missed many Christmases and other important dates.

Dodge put family second to duties he considered sacred: to help restore the Union as a general during the Civil War, and to unite the country as chief engineer of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Not being "home" for Christmas for many years had taken its toll. He and his wife, Ruth Anne, while always faithful, cordial, and connected by mail and telegraph, lived separate lives. His middle daughter, Ella, had married and begun her own separate life back east, and he found himself increasingly alienated from his youngest daughter, Anne.

Only his eldest daughter, Lettie, understood things from her father's perspective. His brother, Nathan P. Dodge, also sympathized. "That is the price of duty," Nate wrote, attempting to bring some comfort along with harsh truth. By 1902, Dodge felt torn: He took great pride in his accomplishments, but regretted the price he, and his family, had paid.

Now 71 years old and facing the twilight days of life, Dodge wants more than anything to "be home for Christmas." After all, for several years now, he has been Council Bluffs' very own Santa Claus. He provides food and presents for hundreds of children every season. In 1902, he would bring Christmas cheer to over 400 local children, and that number would grow annually until his death weeks after Christmas in 1916.

But in 1902, he couldn't make it home for Christmas. Once again, duty called. He was honor-bound to participate in the funeral of Julia Grant, widow of the great Civil War general and former president of the United States, Ulysses S Grant. "I have had to lay to rest during this last week a dear friend, the wife of General U.S. Grant, whom I have known since 1862. We laid her beside the body of her distinguished husband."

Nearly a decade earlier, Dodge had dedicated Grant's Tomb in New York City. He saw to every detail and the dedication parade was the largest civic gathering in the United States to date. Soon his commitment to the Grant family would be complete.

Not only had Dodge been a dedicated subordinate to Grant during the Civil War, but their relationship continued to mature. Dodge's fondest memories of his friend were their walks in Washington DC, New York, and Paris. Dodge also ensured that Grant's son, Frederick, was promoted to general. He gifted the family money during financially hard times. Now, he mourned the passing of Grant's wife, Julia.

He wrote his regrets to his brother, Nathan P. Dodge to be shared with everyone at home in Council Bluffs:

"My Dear Brother...the Christmas day draws near when the soldiers, their children, and grandchildren will assemble to receive their Christmas greeting, and I hope it will be a pleasant one." It would be pleasant, indeed, for every child. They received a pound of provisions of items, that in our day we take for granted, but back then it was a pound of pure joy. On December 30, 1902, it was recorded in the Daily Nonpareil that "A Christmas gift was presented to every person who was qualified to receive it, consisting of a pound of fine mixed candy, figs, a pint of nuts, an orange, and apples. The presents were neatly tied in sacks and were distributed after the close of an interesting and meritorious program. A picture of General Dodge was also given to each child."

Dodge's generosity over a century ago stands as a reminder that even when we cannot be "home" for the holidays, the importance of holding family and friends close in our hearts never diminishes. That sentiment proved so powerful during World War II that "I'll Be Home for Christmas" immediately became a Christmas standard, its words still evoking tears and deep emotions within us.

Christmas Eve will find me,
Where the love light gleams,
I'll be home for Christmas,
If only in my dreams.



Treasury Report as of 11-17-25

Deposits: \$1,761.78 (Dues and Quarter Auction Profit)

Expenses: \$1,680.57 (GNA Website, Holiday Party & Easter Egg Hunt Expenses, GNA bank checks, Garage Sale Ad, Dumpster Rental, Quarter Auction Quarters and Change)

Membership Renewals: 10

Ending Balance: \$11,950.01

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Adams, GNA Treasurer

Happy New Year

FELIZ AÑO Nuevo

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 NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING SPOT!

716 So. 4th Street (Rainbow American Legion Bldg)

Mon-Friday open at 3pm, Kitchen open 5-9pm (Fridays 'til 10pm) || Saturday open at 10am, Kitchen open 5-10pm
Sunday open at 8am, Kitchen open 8am-2pm and 5pm-9pm

Great Food, Great Folks, Great Fun!

Delicious Food Served Daily:

Check out our awesome grilled sandwiches, crispy onion rings, soups, gizzards, daily specials, burgers, and so much more. Plus, breakfast served on Sunday!

**Full Bar with tasty, creative drink specials!
Darts, Billiards, and FUN!**



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

THANK YOU to these folks who have joined the GNA for 2025!

*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

Darwin & Christie Baker

Kathy Bennett & Bob Johnson

Trudy Beno

David & Anna Brooks

Nate Brown & Tom Emmett

Andrew Burkey & Daniella Engel

Buck & Teri Christensen

Dick & Ardeth Christie

Jason & Brook Craig

Kate Cross

Bud & Susie Dew

Brandon & Erika Dickerson

John & Rita Doidge

Dennis Fellhauer & Brian Wedemeier

Teresa Gerjevic

John Gibbs

Steve & Chris Gorman

Coty Graham & Kelli Kyle

Rich & Patti Hannan

Gordon Hitchcock & Zack Mardquardt

Craig & Bryana Jackson

Steve & Cathy Jayjack

Barney & Brenda Johnson

Chris & Jill Kates

Zach & Misty Korner

Sam & Ryan Larson

Mark & Nikki Licklitter

Mary Madison

Steve & DeeDee McCormick

Adrienne McElderry

Alan & Karen Meilike

Ray Menard & Mary Classen

Linda Meyer

Chris & Lynn Miles

Patricia (Pat) Murphy

Greg & Kendra Nelson

Ronda Nelson

Cole & Riley Pedersen

Cory Peters

Sue Peters

Josh Pettit & Lindsay Besco

Erik & Megan Pleshek

Morgan & Kimber Post

Corey & Lisa Radke

Dan & Patti Salvo-McGinn

Karen Tucker

Pam Vosler

Matt & Lori Walker

Dan Watson & Susan Murphy

Patrice Watson

Jennifer Williams

Carol Wood

Jo Youngs



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

Our accomplishments would not be possible without YOU!

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)

HyVee®

GNA Contacts:

Brian Wedemeier,
President
527 Bluff Street
515-205-7515

Dave Adams, Treasurer
402-250-8360

Jill Kates, Secretary
712-828-1537

Members At Large

Josh Pettit
402-306-5487

Erik Pleshek
402-301-7496

Tom Emmett
402-346-6734

Adrienne McElderry
402-650-2127

Cory Peters, Newsletter Editor
402-681-8344

John Gibbs, Social Media
402-909-1463

*Newsletter
copies are
furnished
courtesy of:*



THE 712 INITIATIVE

THANK YOU!

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 _____