

PENINSULA pulse

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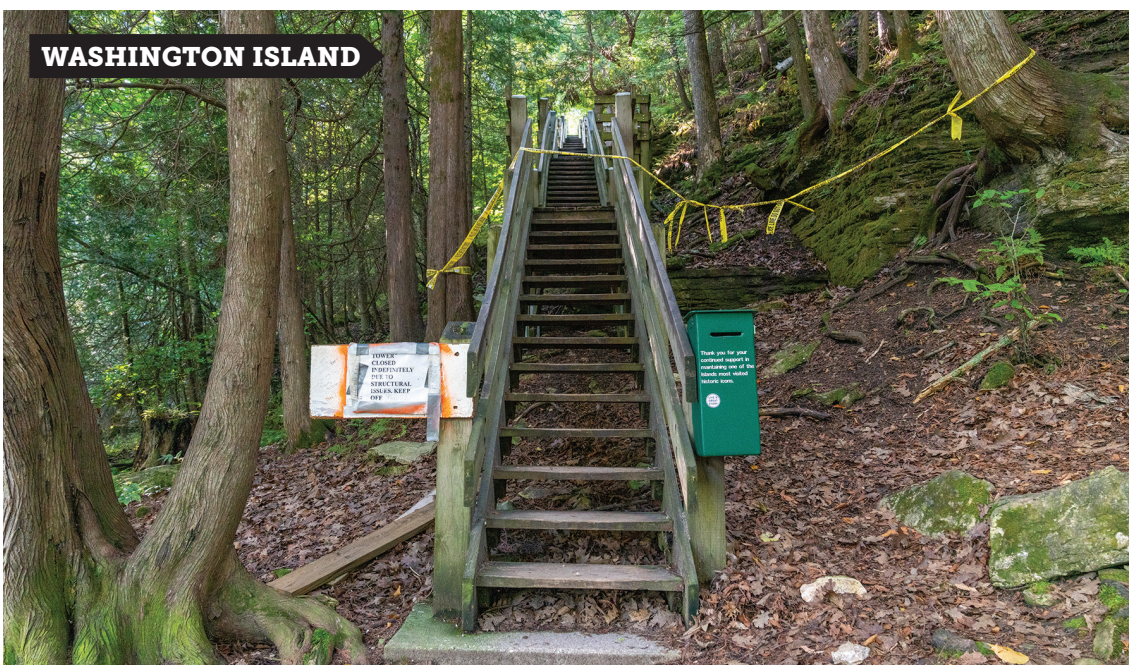
on the cover Autumn finale. Like the smoky-gold remnants of autumn's doused blaze, the American tamarack is one of Door County's last trees to color to fall perfection. The most northern-growing conifer in North America (it thrives to the Arctic Circle in the light of the midnight sun) is also Wisconsin's only deciduous conifer, with needles that change color and drop from the tree in November. Photo by Ryan Miller.



What's happening around Door this week?
Check it: this issue's calendar of events.

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Washington Island Residents Vote to Repair Island Tower

by DEBRA FITZGERALD
debra.fitz@ppulse.com

The Mountain Park Lookout Tower on Washington Island moved closer to repair Tuesday night.

Town electors – island residents who are 18 or older – gathered for a special meeting and voted 61-24 to purchase one acre of land connected with the tower for \$15,000. By a 60-25 vote, electors also authorized the borrowing of \$273,100 to fix the closed tower, estimated at \$100,000, with the rest going to the repair of five miles of roads. The town intends to borrow the money for both authorizations at a term not to exceed 10 years and 3% interest.

Voters had already authorized the town in April to buy 60.75 acres of land where the tower is located for \$236,925.

“We think that this is one of our gems, one of our assets,” said Hans Lux, chair of the Washington Island Town Board.

But the purchase isn't straightforward. The tower is connected to three different parcels owned by three different people – a situation the town discovered in 1995.

“So they entered into an agreement with [the property owner, Julie Nelson] for the town to pay the real estate taxes for the use of that tower,” Lux said.

The one-acre that residents agreed to purchase Tuesday night was the land upon which the stairs that lead to the tower site are located. Lux said

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DOOR COUNTY

ELECTION 2022

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

Candidate Filing Period Opens Dec. 1

The most local of local races take place in April 2022

by DEBRA FITZGERALD
debra.fitz@ppulse.com

It's not too early to be thinking of spring for those who want to serve in a local-government post. The candidate filing period for the spring election opens Dec. 1: the first day when candidates may circulate papers. The deadline to file those candidacy papers is Jan. 4, 2022.

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LIBERTY GROVE

Liberty Grove May Add Garbage-Collection Services

by MYLES DANNHAUSEN JR.
myles@ppulse.com

Liberty Grove is investigating the feasibility of offering garbage and recycling services to residents through the town.

Supervisor Janet Johnson said the service could not only save residents money on waste-collection services, but also address a long-standing problem of residents who are illegally dumping garbage at town parks and in private dumpsters.

“Over the years, we have tried to put garbage collection in our parks,” Johnson said. “We’ve tried different methods to have garbage cans located throughout the town. People are throwing personal trash in dumpsters.”

Town Administrator Bud Kalms said people have dumped mattresses, furniture and other large items on town properties. Though some illegal dumping may be sourced to visitors, Kalms said local residents are also to blame. When town officials have rummaged through the dumped trash bags, they’ve found mail

and receipts indicating that the trash came from local residents.

Johnson is leading the research on the project, which may include a town survey as was conducted several years ago.

“Once we get information together, we would put it out to waste companies for bid and see if it would work,” Johnson said.

Townwide service for garbage and recycling in other communities costs between \$11 and \$16 per month, compared to about \$25 per month for garbage pickup alone when contracted

individually. The Town of Gardner implemented townwide garbage collection in September at a rate of \$11.80 per month through GLF Environmental. In the Town of Forestville, all properties with a livable home and approved sanitation system are charged \$16 per residence per month for garbage and recycling pickup through Going Garbage.

Kalms said some residents have objected to adding the service through the town because they don't use a service now – and not all those without garbage

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