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# The Sheboygan Press

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## Fountain Park restaurant, motel to be demolished



The exterior of the Inn of Sheboygan as seen Jan. 24 in Sheboygan. The former Fountain Park Restaurant and Inn of Sheboygan are set to be demolished to make way for a Marriott hotel. GARY C. KLEIN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

**Alex Garner**  
Sheboygan Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

SHEBOYGAN – The former Fountain Park Restaurant and Inn of Sheboygan are set to be demolished to make way for a Marriott hotel.

The Common Council Sept. 15 approved demolition and site restoration for properties at 930 N. Eighth St. and 922 N. Eighth St. Scott’s Excavating Inc. in Sheboygan Falls won the bid for

\$253,800, according to the agreement.

Demolition of the 66-year-old buildings could begin around Oct. 6.

A pre-demolition inspection found asbestos in areas like electrical panels and roofing materials, and lead-based paint in limited areas like restroom flooring that will need to be abated before demolition.

A Tax Incremental District 21 development agreement with Waterside Hospitality, LLC, for a 104-room Marriott hotel was approved at the end of July.

The hotel will have 11 rooms on the first floor; 34 rooms on the second and third floors; and 25 rooms on the fourth floor.

The project also includes a 5,000-square-foot distillery on the first floor and a 4,800-square-foot rooftop restaurant.

Construction could start early next year, with a possible opening in September 2027.

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## Shooting suspect found dead in jail

**Brandon Reid**  
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SHEBOYGAN – The 65-year-old man charged in the Sept. 5 shooting of three people at a Sheboygan business has died while in custody at Sheboygan County Detention Center.

Sheboygan County Sheriff’s Office confirmed in a news release Sept. 15 that the suspect, Pao Lee, was found unresponsive in a shower of the housing unit Sept. 14 while a correctional officer was conducting a security check.

The sheriff’s office said Lee was removed from the shower, and despite the correctional staff’s efforts, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The Sheboygan County Medical Examiner was contacted along with the Fond du Lac County Sheriff’s Office to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident, the sheriff’s office said.

The investigation is open and the sheriff’s office said no further details would be released until both the medical examiner and the Fond du Lac County Sheriff’s Office have completed their investigation.

Online court records show charges against Lee were dismissed after his death. He had been charged with attempted first-degree intentional homicide and first-degree reckless injury.

Lee was arrested after police responded to a “critical incident” involving a gun at a business on South Business Drive near Wilson Avenue at 11:50 a.m. Sept. 5. Lee was taken into custody after three people, including a young child, were injured during “a disturbance involving a gun at a local business,” police said.

Those injured in the incident were transported to medical facilities for treatment.

Contact Brandon Reid at breid@gannett.com.

## Festival Foods sold to St. Louis-based grocery chain

**Jeff Bollier**  
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A St. Louis-based grocery chain will expand into Wisconsin with its purchase of Festival Foods and a chain of nine more small-market grocery stores.

The family that runs Schnucks Markets announced in a Sept. 16 news release that 1939 Group Inc., its newly-formed holding company, will buy all outstanding shares of Skogen’s Festival Foods and Hometown Grocers Inc., and take over operation of 51 Wisconsin grocery stores. The purchase includes shares held by Festival’s employee stock ownership plan.

Terms of the sale were not disclosed.

Festival Foods operates 42 stores across Wisconsin. Hometown Grocers Inc. owns nine small-market grocery stores that include Super Ron’s Food Center in Pulaski, Sentry Foods in Wit-

tenberg, Thompson’s County Market in Oconto and Lakewood SuperValu in Lakewood.

The sale is expected to close in October and once complete, the holding company will own and operate 164 grocery stores in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. The trio of companies will employ a combined 19,000 people. Schnucks Markets CEO Todd Schnuck will become chair and CEO of 1939 Group Inc. once the deal is complete.

“Schnucks, Skogen’s Festival Foods and Hometown Grocers share a strikingly similar set of core values, tracing our success to decades of consistently focusing on the communities we serve, the values we share and the ongoing quest for excellence in grocery retail,” Schnuck said in the news release. “With this combination, we’re welcoming more than 8,000 associates to our

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Festival Foods CEO Mark Skogen will be the last of three generations in the business. His grandparents opened the first store in 1946. USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

