Lake Winona dredging

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Winona State University

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Winonans must decide how to pay for dredging Lake Winona

Continued from page 1A

point, too deep for curleyleaf pondweed to grow.

Curlyleaf pondweed is an exotic species that dominates most of the lake in early summer and grows so thick that it makes motorboating almost impossible. It also gives the lake its brown, scummy appearance as it produces seedheads that float to the surface, and promotes the growth of blue-green algae, which smells bad when it dies and decomposes.

Then, when the weeds die in early July, their decomposition uses

behind the permanent dike and a pumping station keeps it constantly drained, federal regulators would not allow it to be filled unless the city paid $100,000 to create another wetland elsewhere.

Now that the city has paid the mitigation fee, all it needs are permits for dredging Lake Winona, a process Bollant said he expects to complete soon. The first hurdle was cleared in July, when mandatory testing of the lake bottom found no significant accumulation of pollutants.

But the city is unlikely to ever obtain a permit to fill other area

Donation boxes along the bike path, Sorensen said.

The project shouldn't disrupt summer recreation at the lake too much, according to Bob Bollant, director of public works, because crews will work on one section of the path at a time and will work quickly. New technology in the form of a fiberglass membrane laid under the asphalt will reduce future crackling and buckling, so that the path won't have to be resurfaced again in the near future.

"That project is just going to bring more and more people down there," Sorensen said. "So ultimately we get back to the dredging issue."

City needs donations to help rebuild bike path

by Jerry Daoust

As if dredging the lake weren't enough, next summer the city hopes to reconstruct the much-used asphalt path circling the lake.

The project will cost about $160,000, but the city has only budgeted $60,000 - that's because it hopes to raise $100,000 in donations from the community, according to Eric Sorensen, city manager. Harlan Knight (who was on the team that helped raise money to restore the Princess We-no-nah fountain) will lead the fundraising effort. One possible method of fundraising might be to erect

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Lake dredging

Adding up the cost of the Lake Winona/Riverbend project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td>to clear Riverbend of trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>for grubbing stumps at Riverbend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60,900</td>
<td>for storm sewers at Riverbend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,772,000</td>
<td>for dredging sand from the lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$313,000</td>
<td>for dredging muck from the lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$205,850</td>
<td>for engineering and testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>mobilization costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$3,498,750</strong></td>
<td>Total project cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
local businesses have traditionally opposed a sales tax, fearing it would only encourage residents to shop elsewhere. The Winona Chamber of Commerce, of course, hasn’t done a formal position on a sales tax for the project, said Stephanie Kirkey, executive director of the chamber. But she said she could probably find chamber members on both sides of the issue.

"No one wants to see taxes increased, but if there are wants and desires out there," they have to be realized," she said. "It definitely comes up for discussion, especially if it is on a referendum in 1997."

Fremling said he remains hopeful that the dredging project will be funded through a referendum later this year. He said he was apprised of the fact that this isn’t a project to dredge the lake per se, but that this is a project to build an industrial park for the city, and that if we take the sand from the lake we will accomplish two projects almost for the price of one, he said.

Although using dredge material from Lake Winona isn’t the only option for filling the industrial park, the city would have to pay for other options without receiving the benefit of dredging the lake, according to Judy Bodway, executive secretary for the Winona Port Authority. The hundreds of new jobs and stabilized property taxes resulting from the industrial park would mean the city could spend 350,000 cubic yards of soil and organic ooze would then be pumped out of the 72 acres of Schain Industrial Park (the field north of Homer Road just beyond Mediawerks) and to raise sunken park land around Lake Winona.

After Riverbend was filled with sand, another 125,000 cubic yards of soil and organic ooze would then be used. Fremling pointed out, however, that the cost of this sand is higher than it would be to purchase it from the City of Winona, which has 200,000 yards of sand stored at the lake.

Once the lake is dredged, it would be important to build the industrial park, according to Fremling, because there are few places that would be able to use the material in the lake.

The land at Riverbend would probably be worth about $2 million and would take between five and 10 years to sell. And unlike the development in the industrial park, the industrial park will have little aesthetic impact, since it won’t be visible from the river or the city.

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And that, in turn, means more jobs and an easier tax burden. "If we can develop 72 acres of industrial property, it will mean an increase in our tax base, and what that can do is help spread out the cost of providing services," Bodway said. "So it may not lower taxes, but it may reduce any increases at the time."

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The Cotter girls team saw Marika Belguim-Gabbert score a hat trick against Austin. Her three goals, along with scores by Tiffany Herdina and Simone Cezar, proved to be more than goalkeeper Sara Wiczielrek needed.

The Cotter tennis team proved to be no match for Cotter High School in girls tennis Thursday. The Ramblers easily won 7-0.

The Cotter girls team were the Cardinals top golfer with a individual best 150. Tony Derosa was the Cardinals top golfer with a individual best 150.

Local soccer

Winona High’s emerging swimming star Abbie Foley had another impressive night Thursday in Winona High’s 100-81 victory over Rochester John Marshall. The Winhawks Big Nine record is 7-0.

The Winhawks Big Nine record is 7-1, and 1-2 overall.

Saint Mary’s soccer

Saint Mary’s University continues to roll along in women’s soccer. They won Wednesday’s match with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point 4-0.

Junior Division of Prime Time Girls Basketball

Junior Division of Prime Time Girls Basketball will begin the week of September 17. Junior Division is for girls in grades 3-5 this school year. Practices are held on Tuesdays (mass fundamentals), Thursdays (team) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. League games are played on Saturday mornings.

Senior Division-Grades 6, 7, 8, 9: Begins the week of September 17. Junior Division of Prime Time Girls Basketball is for girls in grades 6, 7, 8, 9 this school year. Practices are held on Tuesdays (mass fundamentals) and Thursdays (team) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. League games are played on Saturday mornings.

YMCA Events

Prime Time Girls Basketball League

Junior Division of Prime Time Girls Basketball is for girls in grades 6, 7, 8. They won Wednesday’s match with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point 4-0.

Nikki Johnson shut out the Pointers with four saves. Offensively the Cardinals were led by Julie Gibe’s two goals. Also scoring for St. Mary’s were Courtney Henges and Kelly Booth.

The Cardinals improve their record to 2-0.

WSHS swimmers shine

Winona High’s first tennis loss of the season would come a bit later this fall. That wasn’t the case, however, as Owatonna defeated the Winhawks Thursday 4-3.

Cotter soccer

It took 23 saves from Brady Bates, but Cotter High School defeated LaCrosse Aquinas Wednesday in boys soccer 1-0.

Cotter had 24 shots-on-goal, but it was Tim Prusha’s score in the first half that was the difference in the game.

The Ramblers record is 7-1.

3 on 3 basketball tourney planned

For further information on any of these programs call Prime Time Girls Basketball League.

Youth Basketball Tournament

The Winona Family YMCA is now accepting registrations for their annual 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament. Divisions offered include boys grades 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, and girls grades 4-5, 6-7, 8-9. Format is pool play with 3 games guaranteed for all teams. Division winners will receive championship t-shirts. Entry fee is $10 per player if post-marked by September 21. All divisions will play Saturday, September 28 at the YMCA. Approximate game times will be 9-noon for grades 4-5, noon-3 p.m. for grades 6-7, and 3-6 p.m. for grades 8-9. Call for information.

Winona Cotter wins in volleyball

The Cotter High volleyball team defeated Cannon Falls Thursday night at St. T’s Tennis and Sports 3-0. Game scores were 15-10, 15-6, and 15-2.

The Ramblers Angie Meier was 26 for 26 in serving, with 10 aces, 21 service points and 11 digs, Megan Jardina had 23 assists and 7 digs, Kate Lindborg scored 11 blocks and 7 kills and Kathleen Jardina had 12 digs and 7 kills.

The Ramblers girls are now 2-0 in the Hiawatha Valley League and 3-1-2 overall.

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Council to vote on Treetops again

by Jean Stockwell

If all goes as planned, Bill Christensen, developer of the proposed "Treetops" housing addition, will be approved to start construction after a lengthy City Council meeting and the necessary permits and approvals.

With the OK from the Planning Commission, city manager Eric Sorensen said Christensen's project should be "off and running, and ready for construction to start" after the Monday night meeting.

The final approval, if granted by council members, will allow Christensen to get started on the first phase of the housing project that will consist of building 15 single-family homes and 16 town homes in clusters of two and three on 38 lots.

Approval of the zoning ordinance in the development would specify areas as conservancy, residential suburban, one-family residential, and one to four-family residential.

Also on the agenda: awarding the contract for the Cottonwood Drive extension project near Shopko, and after nearly five years of negotiating, adopting a contract with the Froedtert Malt Corporation. The contract, if approved, will govern the company's discharge into the city's wastewater treatment plant and its cost.

City manager Eric Sorensen said the company is a major user of the facility, and that fairness to both sides was a concern in the development of the highly technical agreement.

Goodview tax levy down for next year

by Jerome Christenson

Goodview taxpayers may be in for a pleasant surprise when they open their Truth in Taxation statements later this fall. Goodview City Administrator Daryl Zimmer said that most city residents should see a drop in the city's portion of next year's property tax bill. Zimmer said that a reduction in the city levy and growth in the community's tax base will combine to reduce the average resident's property tax bill by 10% - 12%.

The Goodview City Council adopted a total proposed city property tax levy of $661,546, down from 2016's $679,967. Homeowners will see an average 10% - 12% reduction in their property tax bills.

"At one time over 40% of our levy went to debt service," Zimmer said, "now it's down to 29%.

Boy injured in hit and run

by Jean Stockwell

Thomas Wood, 16, of 409 West Fourth St. was taken to Community Memorial Hospital Tuesday night after he was struck by a car at the intersection of Fifth and Walnut streets.

According to the police report, Wood was crossing the street when a vehicle making a turn onto Walnut St. struck Wood and knocked him down. The vehicle reportedly left the scene without stopping.

Wood was taken to the hospital with a leg injury. A hospital spokesperson said Wood was treated for his injuries and was released.

Wood described the vehicle as having purple tail lights.

A 35-year-old Winona man has been charged in Winona District Court with four counts of first degree criminal sexual conduct against a minor child.

According to court records, Timothy Long of 218 St. Charles St. is charged with the felony offenses that allegedly took place between April 1988 and March 1996.

The maximum penalty for each count is 30 years in prison, a $40,000 fine, or both.

Long is scheduled to appear in Winona District Court Oct. 2.

A rural St. Charles man was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester following a car accident in rural Utica Thursday afternoon.

According to a report from the Winona County Sheriff's department, Orrin Vanderplas, 57, received multiple injuries when the vehicle he was driving collided with a fuel truck driven by Russel Plank, 55, of Utica, at the intersection of County Road 33 and Utica Township Road 4.

Vanderplas was listed in critical condition Friday.

September 3 - September 22

Enjoy everything the YWCA has to offer free of charge. Attend any of our classes, use our swimming pool, our new state-of-the-art exercise equipment FREE to you for three weeks.

Check out our affordable memberships, monthly payment plans and quality child care.

(24-hour notice need for childcare, please.)

Pick up a full schedule of events at the YWCA or the Winona Post and Shopper office.

It's more about feeling BETTER than changing who you are.

YWCA
223 Center Street
Winona, MN
454-4345

Winona Senior High's academic top performers were honored at the annual Academic Letter awards presentation Tuesday night. Students earning consistently high marks during each academic year are presented with a W in recognition of their classroom achievements. (Photo by Jerome Christenson)
Dredging Lake Winona: has the time come? $3.5 million needed to dredge the lake
by Jerry Daoust

Lake Winona is the jewel of the area during the warm months, drawing the whole community to its waters: little boys fishing from docks; older couples sitting on benches listening to the Wednesday night band concerts; friends walking and talking the entire 5.5-mile length of the path that encircles it; college students studying on the grass; children feeding ducks bread crumbs. It is the site of uncounted family reunions, softball games, picnics, and chance encounters with friends and neighbors. And even during the frozen winter, all the grumpy old men (and women) venturing out for ice fishing.

"Most of the people in the Winona area think Lake Winona is one of our greatest assets," said Cal Fremling, a retired Winona State University biology professor and for more than three decades a member of the non-profit Lake Winona Committee, the organization that works to maintain and improve the lake. "It's one of the few lakes in southeast Minnesota, and the first one people see when they come into Minnesota from the southeast, and we're the only river city between the Gulf of Mexico and Minneapolis that boasts a 315-acre lake within its city limits.

"When I'm ice fishing on the lake in winter, I talk to the other fishermen, and I'm always surprised at how many come from other cities. I ask them why they come this far and they say that if they bring their kids, they know they're going to catch something.

Now city officials are laying plans to improve the appearance of the lake, as well as its recreational potential, by dredging the lake-bottom, perhaps as early as 1998. What makes the dredging project particularly attractive is the prospect of using the tons of sand and mud from the lake bottom to create the 72-acre Riverbend Industrial Park - a project that's been on hold for more than 20 years due to bureaucratic red tape. This may be the only opportunity for the foreseeable future to dredge the lake, city officials say, because there is no other place besides the industrial park to put the sand and mud that's dug up from the bottom. In other words, if the lake isn't dredged now, it probably won't be dredged at all.

The question is, are city residents willing to pay $3.5 million in sales or property taxes to do it? Contrary to popular belief, dredging the lake isn't essential to its survival - at least not in the immediate future, according to Fremling. "They always want to say it would turn into a swamp or something," he said. "Ultimately, that's true; all lakes are born to die. But that would take a long time."

Sediment is constantly accumulating at the bottom of the lake - much of it grass clippings and leaves that enter through the storm sewer system, as well as dead fish, plants, and plankton. Fremling also said the west basin of the lake is filling due to dirt from grave-digging operations at Woodlawn Cemetery being put in a ditch and washed into the lake. But Clarence Russell, superintendent of the cemetery, said that practice halted last year - dirt from graves is now used to fill low areas in the cemetery, he said, adding that he believes erosion from the bluffs and the Wincrest housing development are the chief sources of erosion into the lake now.

Although Gilmore Creek might be expected to contribute to the filling of the lake, it actually isn't a major problem, since most of its sediment falls out in the man-made settlement basin created in Boller Lake in the 1940s.

The rate that the lake filled up with sediment was much faster prior to the 1940s, when poor agricultural practices led to large amounts of soil washing into it. But since then, the sedimentation process has slowed, so that over the past 50 years, only two feet of new material has accumulated.

So why dredge the lake at all?

"The primary reason we're dredging Lake Winona is to fill Riverbend Industrial Park, but you're also enhancing the lake," said Bob Bollant, director of public works. He would be in charge of the dredging project. "You're digging it deep enough so the weeds won't grow, and that will make it a better lake.

Much of the area of the lake that would be dredged is currently between five and 15 feet deep. After dredging, more than half of the east basin of the lake would be at least sixteen feet deep - too deep for weeds to grow, and more to the

Continued on page 2A

Get your autographed copy of "Growing Up Short" during his book signing on Saturday, Sept. 14 at Midtown Foods Winona Mall

Continued on page 3A
Albert and Grace Cox of Winnipeg, Manitoba, were the 12,000 and 12,001 visitors to the Winona Visitor's Center on Huff Street. They were visiting Winona on the advice of their son as part of the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were presented with a variety of gifts from Winona merchants and manufacturers and treated to entertainment and an overnight stay in Winona. (Photo by Jerome Christenson)

City manager Eric Sorensen said the higher court ruled that the township missed its chance to appeal the annexation order when they did not respond within the 30 day time limit. The only question now, is said, is if the township was legally part of the appeal brought by four township residents, Marvin Seppanen, Thomas Leaf, Lloyd Jacob and Raymond Evenson. The private appeal followed the formation of Citizens for Preserving Rural Minnesota. A group of about 80 individuals said to be in support of the township's appeal.

Sorensen said the question of whether the township was part of the original appeal is going back to District Court in Winona for a ruling. Going by court documents, comments made in court and a legal memorandum, Sorensen said Mike Couri, attorney for the four former township residents filing the original appeal, clearly indicates he carried the load, questioning a ruling made at the District Court level in April concerning the time frame the township had to appeal the annexation order handed down by the State Municipal Board in January of this year.

In a press release, Sorensen said, “it was the township’s position that the annexation order was made by the Government Board that the township could not appeal. Only when the township was reorganized by the District Court would its 30 days for filing an appeal begin to run.”

Friday afternoon Couri said he was unsure about what his clients wanted to do next. He said options are being looked at and that taking the case to the State Supreme Court is one of their options.

No date has been set for the District Court hearing that will take up the question of whether the township was part of the original appeal, but Couri said he anticipates it will happen soon. He added that regardless of the ruling, his client’s case against Winona remains separate.

With another annexation battle behind them, Sorensen said he hopes the city and the township can now get on with the business of being one community.

“This means we jumped through another hoop that was unnecessary,” he said. “I hope that common sense will start to prevail and we can get on with being a community.

The price of waging a court room battle has reached $11,000 for the city. Sorensen said the city doesn’t like spending money on litigation, but will continue to defend itself when necessary.

Blood drive a real success!

From: Loni Baumgartner

The American Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church last Monday was an overwhelming success. Our goal was 85 pints of blood and we collected 111 pints. That was great - thank you to all who donated!

The Winona County Chapter has many volunteers who telephone donors each month to schedule appointments. Because of the tremendous response we received, we were not able to take walk-ins on Monday. If you were one of those individuals who came and we were unable to fit into the schedule, we do apologize and hope you will try again. Please feel free to call the Chapter office (452-4258) the day of a blood drive to ask if we will be able to take walk-ins. The beginning of a drive and right after work are usually our busiest times.

If you were a donor on Monday that had to wait, we truly apologize. Our goal is to get everyone who makes an appointment in and out in under one hour and we will continue to strive towards that standard of excellence.

On average there is only a four day supply of blood nationwide. That is why your donation of blood is so very needed and so truly appreciated. Our next blood drives will be at Community Memorial Hospital on Friday, September 20th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Econo Foods on Monday, September 23rd from 1:30-7:30 p.m. and at Norwest Bank downtown Winona on Wednesday, September 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you wish to make an appointment for any of these drives, please call the Chapter House at 452-4258.
October 4, 1996
Tim Schlagenhaft - DNR 612-345-3365

bullheads -

dredging - Bill Huber - how spend mitigation - Bill Huber would issue permit to dredge. Report from N. Conservation not due until Dec. 1997. We should get a letter of intent from N. C. - DNR must know that it will do a good project (in MN) floodplain.

Bill Huber 612-345-5601

Wetland Conservation Act - The city is the responsible agency (Bollant says my problem)
Tim Enkele 612-331-0756
Nat Guard (about 2 weeks ago)

letter came from Corps saying Bollant - they want no more sediment sampling because PCA is concerned about PCA - water into outlet ditch discharge permit is issued by

Judy Mahan 612-246-7315 - Bollant will call her.
PACA (Bruce Norton) in fax - USACE

City of W. is a regulated part.
Dec 9, '96  Bob Boulevard says
Bill Huber said he'd write permit.
Bob hasn't heard from PCA yet
regarding additional testing,
but expects to hear today.
10/28/96

Call to Tim Schlegendorf - hasn’t heard anything for 6 months.

Corps $100,000

Give to N. Conserv. to acquire floodplain on Zumbro River.

Nancy of N. Conservancy might know.

DNR Div. of Waters permit needed to dredge.

DNR

He will call Bill Huber (DNR hydrology) to learn status of permit - I will call me back.

Call to Bollant

Corps says we need more sediment sampling done - will send direction within 2 weeks.

This is 2 years after we submitted sediment testing results and received no comments.

PCA & DNR must each issue permit.

PCA is concerned with sediment testing.

DNR favors the dredging.