

Village Studying Stormwater District

By Craig Workman

Director of Public Works

“Nothing in the world is more flexible and yielding than water. Yet when it attacks the firm and the strong, none can withstand it, because they have no way to change it. So the flexible overcome the adamant, the yielding overcome the forceful.” This is a quote from Lao Tzu, a Chinese philosopher, who is believed to have lived during the sixth century B.C. Mr. Tzu may have lived over 25 centuries ago, but he has a keen sense for one of the most revered “love-hate relationships” that still exists today.

Water is a miraculous compound. Without it, life as we know it could not exist. With it, we are constantly forced to change our way of thinking and living. Our passion for water is even more evident in Fontana, primarily due to the nearly 100 billion gallons of water that resides in the valley below. In an effort to continue the evolution of our relationship with water, the Fontana Village Board is considering some changes in the way we fund stormwater management projects. Specifically, the board is considering the creation of a Stormwater Utility District. I'll leave the specifics of the utility to another article in this newsletter, but I do want to spend a second reviewing how we got here.

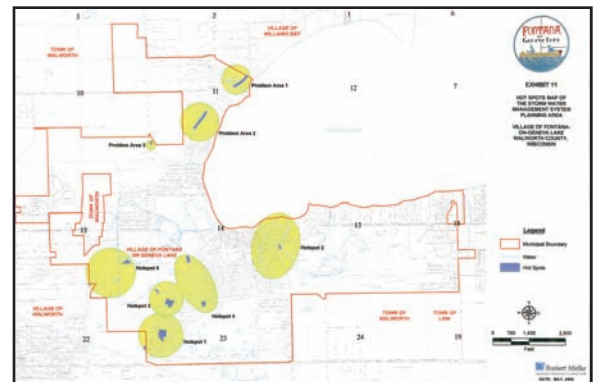
The problem is really quite simple when you break it down -- the amount of impermeable surface has increased dramatically in the past 30 years with little to no consideration of where the increased volume of stormwater runoff will go.

Current engineering practices require a stormwater management plan be designed and approved before platting a new subdivision. However, since the major-

ity of Fontana was platted well over 50 years ago, these practices were not employed when the Village was originally laid out. Like most things in life, water seeks the path of least resistance. In simplified terms, water will take the most direct path to the pond at the bottom of the hill. In Fontana's case, the pond happens to be the most pristine body of water in the Midwest.

Whether it flows through a defined stream, or goes directly through your garage, about 95 percent of the water in Fontana is trying to make it to the lake.

In an attempt to address some of the largest problem areas in the Village, we have created a stormwater advisory committee. The members of the committee have spent the last eight months working with Ruckert-Mielke, the Village engineering firm, on defining these “hot spots,” which are depicted in the following graphic:



When the stormwater advisory committee is done with their work, we will have a village-wide Stormwater Management Plan. The goal of the plan is to identify capital improvement projects and establish stormwater management practices to help control flooding and improve the quality of water making its way to Geneva Lake. Upon completion, I see a refined stormwater management system in Fontana that uses a variety of stormwater management techniques.

Grassy swales can be constructed in many areas throughout the Village to direct runoff downstream while still controlling flows to keep it away from building foundations. Vegetation in the swales can slow the rate of runoff in order to reduce erosion, while promoting infiltration and nutrient consumption. Infiltration and bio-retention structures, such as rain gardens, can be used more broadly. Even something as simple as a rain barrel to collect rooftop runoff can help considerably.

At the end of the day, we may not achieve enlightenment with Lao Tzu, but I'm hopeful that our path will be more clearly defined.



FLOODING problems are created in the Village by undefined drainage systems.



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CDA Completing Streetscape Plan

Three Projects Set for 2009

With the successful completion of the reconstruction and improvement projects on Third Avenue and Kinzie Avenue, the Village of Fontana Community Development Authority is moving forward this year with the **Fontana Boulevard Lighting and Landscaping Project**, the **Joint Pedestrian Path Project** with the Village of Walworth and the **Shabbona Path Project**.

The CDA also recently purchased the business and vacant lot located on the northeast corner of Highway 67 and Fontana Boulevard. The CDA Board will be soliciting developers to work with on a development project similar to the Mill Street Condominium/Commercial development.

The other projects on the approved TID Project Plan have been postponed by the CDA Board because of economic concerns. The plans approved by the CDA and Village Board for commencement in 2009 are all budgeted and there is enough current increment value in the TIF District to cover the borrowing for all the projects completed and/or scheduled to date.

Final plans have been approved and construction bids are being sought for the **Fontana Boulevard Lighting and Landscaping Project**, which is scheduled to commence this fall following Labor Day. The CDA will have the new shorter, street light poles erected along both sides of the boulevard from Highway 67 to the South Lakeshore Drive bridge at Shabbona Drive.

Landscaping and crosswalk work also is included in the project, which is the final portion of the CDA's "streetscape improvement plan."

Bids have been received and the final plans are being considered for the **Joint Pedestrian Path Project** along Highway 67 between the Village of Fontana and the Village of Walworth. The project, which is being

funded in part with a matching fund grant secured from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, will connect Fontana's current pedestrian path that ends at the Fontana Fen to a pedestrian path at the Village of Walworth's White Tail Ridge subdivision. Once completed, the pedestrian path will allow people to walk or ride bicycles from the Village of Fontana to the Village of Walworth without having to travel on Highway 67.

The third project scheduled for 2009 is the development of a permanent walking path in the County Club Estates subdivision from Shabbona Drive to Arrowhead Drive. During the initial planning for the **Shabbona Path Project**, it was realized that there is a significant storm water runoff problem in the area that must be addressed before the path can be developed. The CDA Board reviewed the initial construction estimates and the bids were considered excessive, so other options to control the storm water runoff are being investigated and the project is being rebid. The goal is now to start the project in the fall.

Lakefront Building Study Continues

One other CDA project area that is still in the preliminary planning stages consists of the lakefront marina building, Lake Street and the municipal beach parking lot. Results of a public opinion survey conducted by the Village Blue Ribbon Lakefront Building Committee are available on the Village website at www.villageoffontana.com or hard copies can be picked up at the Village Hall. Copies of the committee's Structural Evaluation Report for the current lakefront building are also available on the website or can be picked up at the Village Hall.

The CDA Board is currently reviewing preliminary conceptual plans prepared by its architectural

f i r m , PDI/Graef. The conceptual plans will then be directed to the Blue Ribbon Lakefront Building Committee for a recommendation. That recommendation will have to be reviewed by the CDA and then forwarded to the



THE FUTURE FONTANA Boulevard streetscape with street lights running down both sides of the street is depicted above in an artist's rendering prepared by PDI.

Village Board for certification. Any proposed project involving the lakefront marina building, Lake Street or the Municipal Beach parking lot will have to be approved in a referendum election.

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*The Village of
Fontana will host
Music in the Park
programs on July 4,
Aug. 1 and Sept. 5,
2009.*

VOF Calendar

July 1, 8, 15 & 29, 2009 - Public Library Craft Day Events at Duck Pond Pavilion at 10:00 am
July 1, 2009 - CDA Board meets at 6:00 pm
July 2, 2009 - Blue Ribbon Lakefront Building Committee meets at 5:00 pm
July 4, 2009 - VOF Music in the Park Program at Reid Park at 4:00 pm
July 4, 2009 - VOF Fireworks Display at Dusk
July 6, 2009 - Village Board meets at 6:00 pm
July 7, 2009 - Public Library Children's Event at Fontana Fen at 10:00 am
July 14, 21 & 28, 2009 - Summer Story Wagon Series Performances at Village Hall at 10:00 am
July 15, 2009 - Park Commission meets at 6:00 pm
July 16 & 20, 2009 - Big Foot Rec. Children's Programs at Mill House Pavilion at 1:30 pm
July 17, 2009 - VOF Assessor Village Hall Office Hours from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
July 22, 2009 - Public Library Summer Reading Program Animal Workshop at Village Hall at 10:30 am
July 22, 2009 - Library Board meets at 10:00 am
July 23, 2009 - Open Book at Village Hall from 3:00 to 5:00 pm
July 25, 2009 - Open Book at Village Hall from 10:00 am to noon
July 25, 2009 - Big Foot Lions Club Lobster Boil/Steak

Fry in Reid Park
July 27, 2009 - Plan Commission meets at 5:30 pm
July 31, 2009 - Second Installment Payment for Property Taxes Due to Walworth County Treasurer
Aug. 1, 2009 - VOF Music in the Park Program at Reid Park at 5:00 pm
Aug. 3, 2009 - Village Board meets at 6:00 pm
Aug. 5, 2009 - CDA Board meets at 6:00 pm
Aug. 14, 2009 - VOF Assessor Village Hall Office Hours from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Aug. 17, 2009 - Board of Review from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Aug. 19, 2009 - Library Board meets at 10:00 am
Aug. 19, 2009 - Park Commission meets at 6:00 pm
Aug. 31, 2009 - Plan Commission meets at 5:30 pm
Sept. 2, 2009 - CDA meets at 6:00 pm
Sept. 5, 2009 - Annual Pig in the Park Pig Roast Fund Raiser/Pirate Ship Dedication Event/Music in the Park all in Reid Park - Great Lakes Naval Band
Sept. 7, 2009 - Village Hall/Library Closed
Sept. 8, 2009 - Village Board/Plan Commission Master Plan Update meeting at 5:00 pm
Sept. 8, 2009 - Village Board meets at 6:00 pm
Sept. 12, 2009 - Annual Triathlon at Lakefront
Sept. 16, 2009 - Library Board meets at 10:00 am
Sept. 16, 2009 - Park Commission meets at 6:00 pm
Sept. 19, 2009 - Van Slyke Creek Clean-Up Event on Abbey Resort Property
Sept. 28, 2009 - Plan Commission meets at 5:30 pm

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