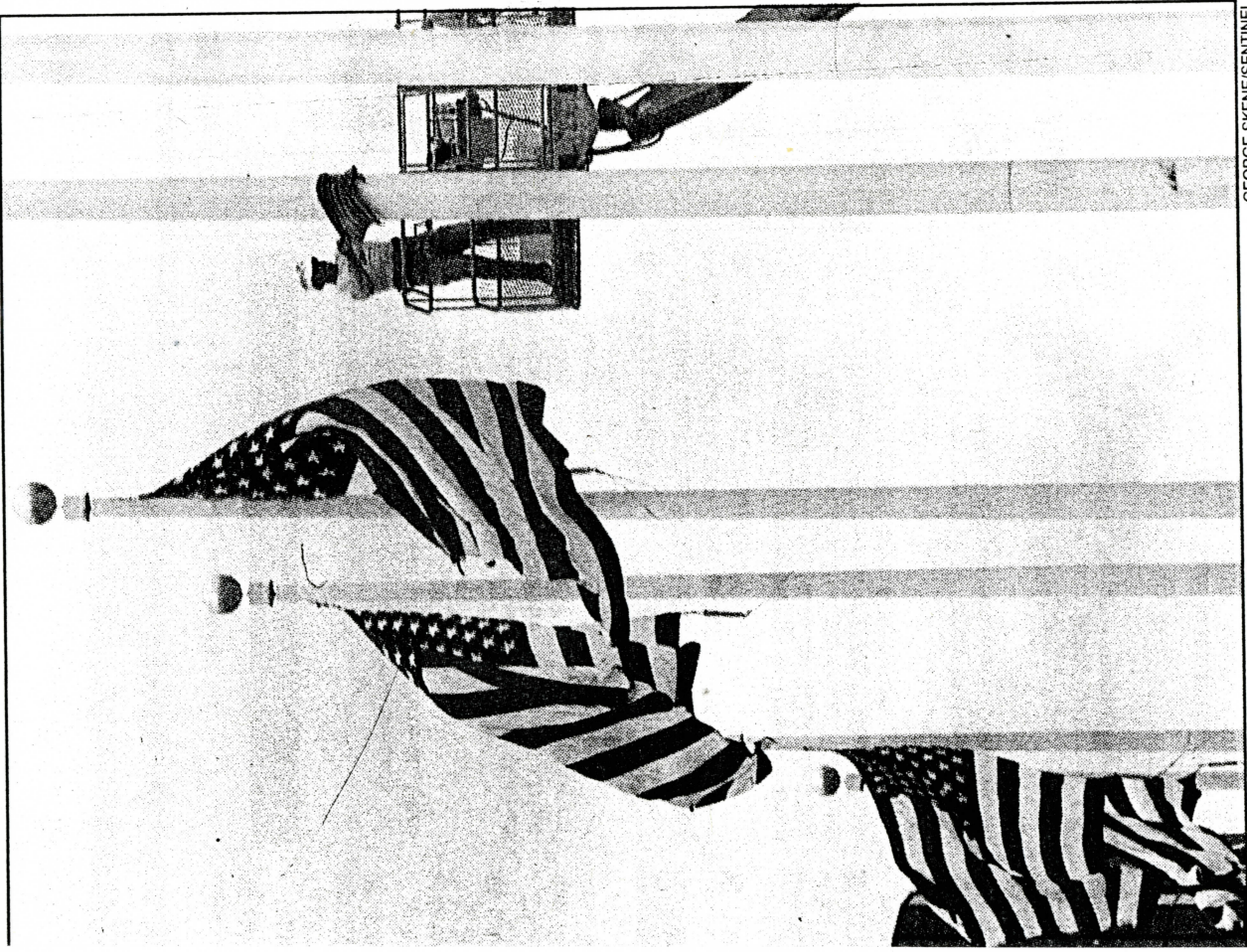




GEORGE SKENE/SENTINEL

Randy
Randy Singer cleans and waxes 1 of 12 0-foot flagpoles at the Orlando Arena. This is the 1st time they he company he owns, Associated have been serviced.

80 foot

Storm water will come clean

Winter Park prepares to treat runoff

Orlando Sent - 5-30-91

☐ A chemical will be added to break up pollutants before they can flow into Lake Osceola from downtown.

By Karen Pankowski

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

WINTER PARK — City officials are getting ready to unleash a super-cleaning chemical that will help make dirty storm water from the city's downtown crystal clear before it's dumped into Lake Osceola.

David Pearce, assistant public works director and stormwater engineer, said the city could treat as much as 30 percent of the stormwater runoff into Lake Osceola with a \$200,000 project that's in the works.

The plan is to mix alum, short for aluminum sulfate, with water collected in one or several large drainage pipes leading to the lake. The chemical will dissolve, breaking up pollutants and excess nutrients and sinking them to the lake bottom.

"It ties them up once, and they'll stay there," Pearce said, explaining that an overload of nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen can cause excess weed and algae growth, which can choke a lake.

"A green lake is a polluted lake," he said, adding that the condition of Lake Osceola is about average, "but we as a city don't want it to deteriorate further."

The city is now negotiating with Envi-

ronmental Research and Design and Lochrane Engineering, which will draw up plans for the project. Construction of a small pump station, probably on the lake's west side, is expected to begin in three to four months, Pearce said.

"This is the best project I know as a stormwater manager to show a cleansing effect," he said, stressing that it will only clean up part of the lake.

This is the first time Winter Park has tried using the chemical, although Orlando used it on the much smaller Lake Dot near the Orlando Arena last year.

The lake appeared a brilliant emerald green after it received a dose of alum, which cleared up the water so much it reflected the color of plants growing on the bottom.

In Winter Park, the alum dosing project, as it is called, is part of the city's long-term plan to eventually treat all polluted stormwater runoff, Pearce said.

Winter Park officials expect to start construction of a special retention pond behind the Winter Park Ninth Grade Center by next month.

A \$600,000 wetland project will use the pond and aquatic plants to absorb many of the pollutants in untreated storm water that would normally flow into Lake Virginia.

Pearce said he hopes next year to try reusing storm water by storing it in an underground tank, pumping it to the ground surface and letting it seep down — which cleans the water naturally.

The water could possibly be used to irrigate the city's golf course and cemeteries, Pearce said.

*Local History Room
Winter Park Library*

*City of Winter Park
Lake Osceola*