

# Starlings nest in the strangest places



**NATURE NOTES**  
**TIM NOWICKI**

**A**s I drove along I-96 near the recently restored and improved intersection of Newburgh Road, I noticed a starling flying across the expressway toward the base of a light pole in the median divider.

I could not tell where the bird went after it landed, but it looked like it was going to go up into the hollow pole.

This suspicion was verified as I approached the very next pole. Flying toward it was another starling which I did see move upward into the pole after landing. It was very coincidental to be driving by and see two birds going to similar locations just moments apart.

These two poles were elevated from the concrete foundation. Large bolts held them in place, but the bottom of the pole was not flat on the concrete. Other poles I passed were flat on the concrete. Just that slight difference was enough of an invitation for these birds to exploit.

It's amazing to me how animals can find such unlikely places. But maybe after their belly is full, they sit and scan the area for anything that would be helpful to them. The scary thing that went through my mind was, how many more of these poles do starlings occupy?

They don't go into these poles to rest, they build a nest inside them. I suspect there is a horizontal support that would support a nest inside. Building a nest inside a metal pole in the middle of an expressway is certainly a safe place to take up residence. No prowling cats are going to happen upon the nest. They would have to run a gaunt-

let first!

Rain cannot dampen the nest. Not a bad place. And look how many potential nesting places there are for the ever adaptable starling? No wonder we are overwhelmed with these birds.

If parents develop a route to the nest entrance that keeps them from kissing a windshield or decorating a grill, they should remain safe. One drawback I can think of is when the young leave the nest. Young birds leaving the nest are not expert flyers yet. If they happen to fly into oncoming traffic upon exiting, they will not have to worry about finding a nest themselves next year.

This is not the first time I've seen starlings using light poles as a nest site. Most of the time they enter near the lamp high above the ground. Several times I've seen where they found a broken shield to the lamp, or a panel had opened allowing access into the covered section. Evidently all those wires and heat do not disturb the birds.

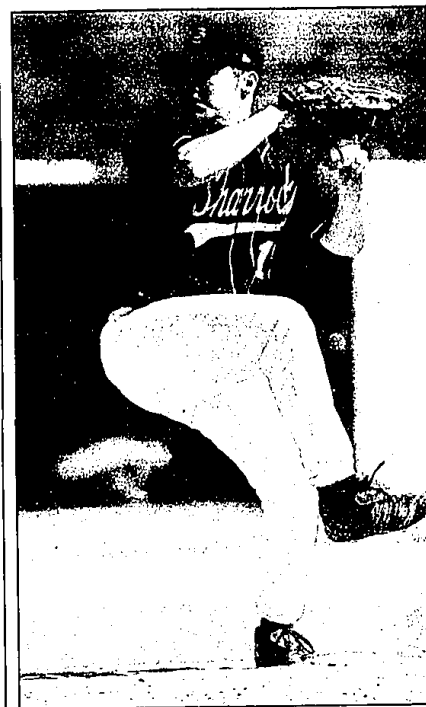
Outside structures have never been designed to prevent birds from entering joints, or junctions. Though early settlers to the U.S. introduced the starling into the country from Europe, our society has perpetuated their population explosion.

Millions of light poles combined with billboards, building drains and over-hangs and joints and connections and thousands of other available openings, have provided endless nesting sites for this bird. Designing structures to eliminate nests of unwanted birds is probably the furthest thing from an engineer's mind, but it would certainly help to reduce their population.

Or, would it put more pressure on the natural cavities that are used by native birds?

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## Title from page C1



**Staff Photo by Joe Jacobelli**  
**Focused:** Catholic Central pitcher Dan Wilks delivers a pitch in the first game of Friday's doubleheader against arch rival Birmingham Brother Rice. Wilks pitched an outstanding game to lead the Shamrocks to a 4-2 win in the opener. CC won the second game 6-5 to clinch the Catholic League Central Division title.

game one, and relief pitcher Ed Conz in game two, to lead the way to the victories. Wilks allowed just one hit in getting the complete-game win in the opener, while Conz was impressive in two innings of relief work in the nightcap.

"I thought if we could get the first win, it would put some pressure on them in the second game," said CC coach John Salter. "Dan did a great job in the first game. His fastball is deceiving and when he gets his curveball over, he can be very effective."

Brother Rice coach Bob Riker said he was disappointed with the way his team competed with CC, particularly in the first game, but said there is time to make up for it from here.

"The way I look at it, we're playing the defending league champs on their field on a nice day, why shouldn't we come out like we want it," Riker said. "I didn't think we were very competitive today, especially in the first game, and that's disappointing as a coach. We didn't step up to the challenge, and CC did, that's why they are CC."

Game two saw both teams hold the momentum and lead at different points. CC's Kyle Crepeau, playing his first game back after suffering a broken jaw, slugged a three-run double in the bottom of the second inning to give the Shamrocks a 4-1 lead.

The Warriors rallied with two runs in the third and fifth innings to take a 5-4 lead. Rice sophomore Doug Pickens sent a double left to score two runs in the third, and two more came in on an unusual play in the fifth.

Sophomore Cody Nolen sent a groundball towards first that looked like it was rolling foul. But the ball stayed fair, and by the time the CC defense reacted, senior Brendan Rosenbergh and junior Matt Petry scored to give the Warriors a 5-4 lead.

The Shamrocks answered in the bottom of the fifth by taking advantage of Rice mistakes. Sophomore Mike Monterey slammed a two-out double to left, and scored on an error off a hit by senior Ryan Rogowski. Freshman Eric Vojtkofsky followed with another hit that turned into an error, allowing

Rogowski to score the game-winning run.

Conz started the sixth inning on the mound and was very impressive, striking out two and forcing a double play to end the game.

"Ed's confidence started with that one-hitter he threw against DelaSalle last week," Salter said.

Brother Rice jumped out to a 2-0 lead in game one with good plate discipline and putting the ball in play. Rosenbergh led off the game with a walk and later scored off an error to put the Warriors on the scoreboard early.

Junior Dan Lentz drew a bases-loaded walk in the top of the third to make it a 2-0 Rice lead. Wilks settled down from the pitching "brilliantly" through the rest of the game.

Starting with the final batter of the third, Wilks recorded nine consecutive outs, notching three strikeouts in that span. The Warriors had just one baserunner out of their final 14 at bats in the first game.

CC scored three runs in the bottom of the third to take the lead for good in the opener. Sophomore Ryan Gallagher and senior Jake Viane delivered back-to-back RBI singles to tie the game. Wilks drew a bases-loaded walk to bring in the third run of the inning.

An RBI single by Rogowski tacked on an insurance run for the Shamrocks in the bottom of the fourth.

"Coming in, we didn't want to give them the first game and have us be in the position to have to win the second," Riker said. "Hopefully we'll mature from this and be able to bounce back. In 1992, we finished fourth in the Catholic League and were able to win the state title."

CC will now host a semifinal game in the CHSL playoffs, most likely against Orchard Lake St. Mary's on Wednesday. Brother Rice will travel to Dearborn Divine Child in the other semifinal. The CHSL championship game will be held at Comerica Park at 12:30 p.m. on May 24.



### CITY OF FARMINGTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW THE 2002-2003 PROPOSED BUDGET

The City Council of the City of Farmington will hold a public hearing at 8:00 p.m. on June 3, 2002, in the Council Chambers in City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan 48335, on the proposed 2002-2003 budget. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The 2002 proposed property tax levy includes 11.267 mills (\$11,267 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value) for city operations and charter limited debt service, 2.293 mills (\$2,293 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value) for unlimited debt service, and 1.5652 mills for road improvements, including debt service, for a total millage rate of 16.1252 mills (\$16,125.22 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value).

The recommended 2002-2003 budget reflects increasing costs of delivering City services. Employee salaries and fringe benefits, goods and services purchased by the City, and financing of the library and court systems, is a major part of the General Fund operating expenditures for 2002-2003.

Public comments, oral or written, are welcome at the hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2002-2003 and the proposed property tax millage rate.

The proposed budget, as summarized below, will be on file in the office of the City Manager for public inspection.

#### CITY OF FARMINGTON - BUDGET SUMMARY - FISCAL YEAR 2002-03

REVENUES	APPROPRIATIONS
<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>	<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>
Local Taxes	General Government
Licenses & Permits	Court
Intergovernmental Revenues	Public Safety
State Shared Revenues	Public Services
Charges For Services	Parks & Recreation
Sales	Library
Fines/Forfeits/Court Costs	Miscellaneous
Investment Income	Insurance & Benefits
Miscellaneous	Interfund Transfers
Transfers From Other Funds	Transfer, Fund Balance
<b>Total General Fund Revenues:</b>	<b>Total General Fund Expenditures:</b>
\$6,751,949.00	\$6,751,949.00
<b>STREET FUNDS</b>	<b>STREET FUNDS</b>
<b>MAJOR STREET FUND:</b>	<b>MAJOR STREET FUND:</b>
State Shared Revenue	Operation & Maintenance
Contracts and Grants	Debt Service
Other Revenue	
Appropriation, Fund Balance	
<b>Total Major Street Fund Revenues:</b>	<b>Total Major Street Fund Expenditures:</b>
\$585,365.00	\$585,365.00
<b>LOCAL STREET FUND:</b>	<b>LOCAL STREET FUND:</b>
State Shared Revenue	Road Improvements
Transfer, Municipal Street Fund	Operation & Maintenance
Other Revenues	Debt Service
Appropriation, Fund Balance	
<b>Total Local Street Fund Revenues:</b>	<b>Total Local Street Fund Expenditures:</b>
\$788,625.00	\$788,625.00
<b>MUNICIPAL STREET FUND:</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL STREET FUND:</b>
Property Taxes	Transfer, Local Street Fund
Investment Income	Transfer, Fund Balance
<b>Total Municipal Street Fund Revenues:</b>	<b>Total Municipal Street Fund Expenditures:</b>
\$550,290.00	\$550,290.00
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>
<b>MUNICIPAL SIDEWALK FUND:</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL SIDEWALK FUND:</b>
Property Taxes	Transfer, Fund Balance
Investment Income	
<b>Total Municipal Sidewalk Fund Revenues:</b>	<b>Total Municipal Sidewalk Fund Expenditures:</b>
\$37,370.00	\$37,370.00
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</b>	<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:</b>
Investment Income	Transfer, Fund Balance
<b>Total Capital Improvement Fund Revenues:</b>	<b>Total Capital Improvement Fund Expenditures:</b>
\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00
<b>DNTN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND:</b>	<b>DNTN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND:</b>
Property Taxes	Operating & Capital Outlay
Special Assessments	Transfer, Fund Balance
Other Revenues	
<b>Total DDA Fund Revenues:</b>	<b>Total DDA Fund Expenditures:</b>
\$311,506.00	\$311,506.00
<b>EMPLOYEE ACCRUED BENEFIT FUND:</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE ACCRUED BENEFIT FUND:</b>
Transfer, General Fund	Transfer, Fund Balance
<b>Total Employee Accrued Bnft. Fund Revenues:</b>	<b>Total Employee Accrued Bnft. Fund Expenditures:</b>
\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED REVENUES:</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGETED APPROPRIATIONS:</b>
\$9,067,105.00	\$9,067,105.00
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION</b>
<b>ENTERPRISE FUNDS</b>	<b>ENTERPRISE FUNDS</b>
<b>WATER &amp; SEWER FUND:</b>	<b>WATER &amp; SEWER FUND:</b>
Water & Sewer Sales	Operations & Maintenance
Service Fees	Trans, Retained Earnings
Miscellaneous Revenues	
<b>Total Operations &amp; Maintenance Revenues:</b>	<b>Total Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenditures:</b>
\$2,910,005.00	\$2,910,005.00
<b>FARMINGTON COMMUNITY THEATRE FUND:</b>	<b>FARMINGTON COMMUNITY THEATRE FUND:</b>
Admissions/Rentals/Concessions	Operations & Maintenance
Other Income	Interest Expense, Bonded Debt
	Transfer, Retained Earnings
<b>Total Operations &amp; Maintenance Revenues:</b>	<b>Total Operations &amp; Maintenance Expenditures:</b>
\$371,970.00	\$371,970.00

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### SPOTLIGHT ON Orthodontics

by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

#### INTERCEPTIVE ORTHODONTICS

In some cases, the orthodontist may suggest interceptive orthodontics, such as when a young jaw is too small to hold permanent teeth without crowding. For instance, the permanent premolars can be extracted as they start to erupt when the patient is 9-12 years old in order to make room for the permanent canines to emerge. This interceptive treatment will pave the way for the remaining unerupted teeth to break through their own space. Interceptive treatment may be called upon even earlier with the use of a habit corrector to prevent malocclusion arising from thumb sucking or tongue thrusting (pushing the tongue against teeth while swallowing). All bad oral habits must be corrected before orthodontic treatment can begin.

Your orthodontist can help you formulate the best way to combat bad oral habits in order to have the smile you've always wanted. At THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP, we would be happy to discuss your options with you. Located at 19850 Middlebelt, we make it convenient for you to see us with day and evening appointments available, and no referral is necessary. Just call our friendly staff at 442-8885 to make an appointment. Look for our next article in two weeks.

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### Arthritis Today

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Livonia, Michigan 48152

Phone: (248) 478-7850

#### WHAT AM I DOING?

What you may say when in the grips of arthritis is: "What am I doing wrong?" When the pain is unrelenting, you can easily fall into an attitude that your troubles are your fault. The facts are that you are not misbehaving nor are living in a way that is bad. The problem is that the medical community does not know why inflammatory arthritis such as rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis occurs or what drives these conditions. Physicians have sufficient experience to realize that tension, lack of sleep, excess drinking, and the like, can make your arthritis worse. However, we know these problems are not why a flare of arthritis takes place.

Putting blame on yourself for a bad turn of your joint pain only makes the problem worse. Inappropriate guilt brings mental strain and depression that contribute to pain and fatigue. Treating active arthritis is a responsibility of physicians; you should bring the change in your condition to our attention. Delay only allows the arthritis to worsen and makes medical intervention more difficult.

The more intense your arthritis becomes, the more you need to be leveraged about it. Medicine's ability to respond continually improves, now is not a time to stay home and cultivate despair. A cool evaluation coupled with a readiness to seek assistance is the standard for today's world.

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