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year, because of major projects during that span. In 1991, the rate jumped from 11.03 to 13.67 mills for sewer improvements; in 1995 it increased to 15.64 mills for road maintenance; in 1998 another 0.1 mills was added for a sidewalk repair program.

"In the past, owners were assessed a cost for such repairs," said Lauhoff, about the latter. "Now it's part of the budget."

The budget, including nearly \$6.2 million for the general fund, was approved by the council at its June 7 meeting, following a public hearing. Only one resident, Bill Liba, commented, noting that he thought the document was in good order.

"It's pretty straightforward this year," said Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Harris about the 1999-2000 budget.

Property taxes account for approximately \$3.3 million of the

general fund budget (64 percent), up slightly from \$3.25 million in 1998. It is estimated that taxable value growth in the city will increase by about 2.6 percent.

There also is a 3.7 percent increase to general fund expenditures. That money will go toward replacing inefficient and outdated equipment, among other targeted purchases.

Tyndale College receives grant

Detroit based McGregor Fund approved a grant of \$200,000 to be paid over two years to support the development of the William Tyndale College Center for the

Natural and Environmental Sciences and new science curriculum, part of the College's New Millennium Capital Campaign.

Auburn Hills-based Daimler-

Chrysler Corporation Fund contributed \$10,000 for the student scholarship portion of the New Millennium Capital Campaign.

"We are delighted to see growing corporate and foundation support of the College's New Millennium Capital Campaign," said James McHann. "There's no doubt our 21st century vision will become reality."



Right here: Neighbor Larry Cullen thankfully heard a mother duck quacking, which led him to find ducklings trapped in a sewer. At right, ducks just seem to migrate to Virginia Dickerman's pool.

Quack Humans come to ducklings' rescue

Every year for the past seven years, a Mr. and Mrs. Duck makes reservations and arrives to raise its newest family in Virginia Dickerman's pool.

"They come every year when my pool cover is on," Dickerman said. The water on the pool cover is just shallow enough for ducklings, she explained.

All has gone well in past years at Dickerman's Farmington pool, but this year the mother and father ducks — named Hansel and Gretel by Dickerman — hit a snag, almost literally.

"The phone rang. Pam Cullen, my next-door neighbor said, 'Don't be surprised if you see a police car in front of your house,'" Dickerman said.

Larry Cullen saw a distressed mama duck — turned

out to be Gretel — around a sewer in the neighborhood street. Gretel fretted as her babies, who were caught in the sewer, peeped in distress.

Cullen worked to remove the sewer lid, as Dickerson ran back to her house for a crowbar and pool scooper.

Just then Farmington Public Safety officer Frank Demers arrived to help. Meanwhile, Cullen used a garden rake to stop the baby ducks from scooting into sewer oblivion. Demers then used the pool scooper and picked up five ducklings and put them down on the pavement.

"I was all smiles when he scooped up five more little ones. The officer tried one more time to see if any were



Armed: Farmington Public Safety officer Frank Demers used a pool scooper to rescue the ducklings.

left to be rescued, but all were following Gretel to safety ... Dickerman said.

She said she is amazed how Gretel found her ducklings in the sewer and quacked until she got a human's attention for help.

"Mother Nature works in mysterious and wondrous ways," Dickerman said.

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rinks back up in mid-July when our hockey camps start."

Once the concrete is fixed, a second contractor will be brought in to re-insulate pipes. Re-insulation costs are not expected to be more than

\$2,500.

"There were pipes that were not insulated properly," said Dave Boyer, Special Services director. "We're going to be addressing that in the future."

When initial problems surfaced a year ago,

the original sub-contractor paid to have a pipe re-insulated, Boyer said.

The building was inspected at the time it opened, City Manager Steve Brock said.

"Whether or not we'd inspect to see if the elbow of a pipe below ground was properly insulated, I'm not certain," Brock said.

The question is: Who is at fault? "There is a lot blame to go around," Brock said. "We haven't assessed that fully yet."

"Certainly, the contractor that did the actual installation of the pipe we believe was in error for not inserting the sleeves, but we believe someone should have been watching that from a construction management standpoint."

Rudolph/Libbe oversaw construction of the arena. A company spokesman said he's unaware there have been any problems recently.

"Awhile back they had a concern over heaving. I know that was addressed at that point in time," said Jeff Schaller, Rudolph/Libbe general manager. "We haven't heard anything since then. That's why this is a surprise."

Ground water may have a role, too. Other repairs planned include drainage tiles being added to the Zamboni area and re-grading outside of the building, Boyer said.

All six soccer fields in Founders Sports Park are being regraded, which Boyer said should also help.

"The water has to go somewhere and it goes towards the ice arena," Boyer said.

Arthritis Today
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FLARES AND FAULT

I commonly encounter the following scenario in the office: a patient in pain with several swollen joints will note that he or she is doing well, then developed the pain and joint changes that made an unexpected office visit necessary.

The patient will tell the story saying: "What did I do wrong?"

To the best understanding of the doctor, the patient did not do anything "wrong". In most arthritis, inflammation is the trigger that sets off the swelling and pain of acute arthritis. What initiates inflammation is one of the unresolved problems in rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, lupus arthritis, and to a large extent gouty arthritis.

The medical community knows that worry can make the arthritis worse, once a flare begins, but that state of mind does not start the flare, nor can mind over matter and a flare. Physicians are knowledgeable enough on joint inflammation to stay clear of any dietary recommendations or prohibitions in treating or preventing arthritis. The one exception is gout, and only then in unusual cases.

Many patients blame "overactivity" or "trying to do too much" as the cause for a flare. In fact, pain in a joint stops one from taking the joint long before sufficient damage and fatigue could bring on a flare.

At present physicians do not know what starts a flare, but we have sufficient understanding to say what is not the cause. Personal error or indiscretion is not the reason for flares. The pain of a swollen joint is bad enough and does not need the addition of a distressed conscience.

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