

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

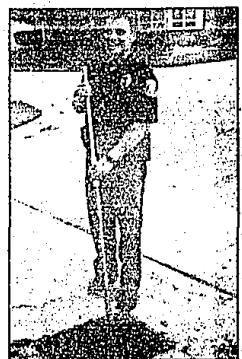


Photo by Virginia Dickerman

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

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 in 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 Dickerman 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

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

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.

Budget from page A1

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 Hartsock about the 1999-2000 budget.

Property taxes account for approximately \$3.3 million of the

general fund budget (54 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.

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 McNamee. "There's no doubt our 21st century vision will become reality."

Arthritis Today
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FLARES AND FAULT

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The patient will end 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 active arthritis. What initiates inflammation is not always clear, but it can be overuse, a fall, a blow, a fracture, or a large strain from poor posture.

The medical question that concerns many patients is "Why do I have arthritis?"

Many patients blame "overuse" or "trying to do too much" as the cause for a flare. In fact, pain is a part of the body's defense system.

All present physicians know that what starts a flare, but we have sufficient understanding to say what is not the cause. Personal error or inattention 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.

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.

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