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MAY, 2023

Volume 18 • Issue 3

DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 8, 2023

7:00 p.m. City Hall

Present: Mayor Glenn Switzer Councilors Ashley Gallagher, Luke La Croix, Grant Modory, Luke Swartwood

Staff: City Engineer Dustin Tipp, Finance Director, Jessi Sturtz, City Administrator/Clerk Jenelle Teppen

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Announcements

• The City office will be closed Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

• Memorial Park Pavilion is now open for reservations by calling City Hall at 507-645-2852.

New rates from May 1 to September 30, 2023 are:

Monday thru Friday:

Half Days: \$80.00 7am-2pm & 3-10pm

Full Days: \$135.00 7am-10pm

Saturday/Sunday:

Full Days only: \$135.00 7am-10pm

Plus a deposit for all reservations: \$150.00

Reservations forms are available online at www.cityofdundas.org

Check City's website for more information

www.cityofdundas.org

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

The Gardens of Castle Rock Announce Good Times @ The Gardens Live Summer Music Series

Northfield, MN: The Gardens of Castle Rock has announced it will be hosting Good Times @ The Gardens at the venue Wednesday evenings in June, July, and August. Good Times @ The Gardens is a live summer music series showcasing local and regional musicians. This event creates the perfect opportunity for guests to hear live music while enjoying the natural environment of The Gardens of Castle Rock. In addition, Eclectic Culinary Concepts, the catering arm of local restaurants like Lucky's 12 Pub, The Clover, Pajarito, Me & Julio,

Yankee Tavern, The Mudd Room & JoJo's Italian will be providing a full bar with local beer and delicious menu items like: wood-fired nachos, chicken Tinga or Korean beef street tacos and fresh salads. Entrance fee into the venue is \$5 and paid upon arriving. Couples who have booked their wedding at The Gardens in 2023 and 2023 receive two complimentary admissions. Event is 16+. If raining, the event moves inside the venue's semipermanent tent. For more information, please visit the Good Times @ The Gardens page on The Garden's website.



List of musicians:

June 7 – Joyann Parker

June 14 – Trevor & Mary with Dan Lowinger

June 28 – Tony Cuchetti

July 5 – Cole Diamond

July 12 – Joshua Schmidt (Chapel of M Night)

July 19 – Trevor & Mary with Dan Lowinger

July 26 – TBD

Aug 2 – Old Country Boys

Aug 9 – Dan Lowinger Four

Aug 16 – James Eugene Russell

Aug 23 – Becky Kapell

Aug 30 – TBD

The Gardens of Castle Rock provides a beautiful setting for outdoor wedding ceremonies, receptions, and special events. Located in the lower south metro, The Gardens is a short distance from the Twin Cities. The Gardens welcomes all!

(continued on page 3)

Mental Health Crisis Team Now Embedded in Rice County

Courtesy of KYMN Radio

The South Central Community Based Initiative, the organization that operates a mental health crisis team serving Rice County, has expanded its physical footprint to better serve those in crisis in the local area.

The SCCBI crisis team has served Rice County, though it is based in Mankato, for several years.

While the services have been very helpful over the years, having a crisis team based more than an hour away is not ideal.

That distance and area residents' need for a quick, in-person response at all times of the day and week led Rice County Adult



Services Manager Megan Thomas to convince SCCBI to open a satellite office in Faribault.

SCCBI operates in a 10-county area, with Rice County on the easternmost edge.

(continued on page 7)

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MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER AND HONOR

Come to the Table

Excuses- we've all heard some remarkable ones over the years- especially if you are in any type of position of authority. We have excuses for being late, for losing homework, for forgetting birthdays, for most everything! I'm not sure if it would be teachers or insurance companies who have heard the most creative excuses- but here is a list compiled by Readers Digest from actual insurance company reports: 10 Bizarre Excuses for a car accident:

- "I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment."
- "The other car collided with mine without giving me warning of its intention."
- "I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him."
- "Going to work at 7:00 this morning I drove out of my driveway straight into a bus. The bus was 5 minutes early."
- "My car was legally parked as it backed into another vehicle."
- "I didn't think the speed limit applied after midnight."
- "Windshield broken. Cause unknown. Probably voodoo."
- "I started to slow down, but the traffic was more stationary than I thought."
- "I knew the dog was possessive about the car, but I would not have asked her to drive it if I thought there was any risk."
- "No one was to blame for the accident, but it would never have happened if the other driver had been alert."

We laugh at these excuses! Sadly, many of us are guilty of having excuses for things that we don't want to do, places or people we don't want to see, and we even have excuses for our lack of growth in our faith. So many excuses—so little time to use them all.

Jesus knew all the excuses. Of course, the excuses used in the 1st century are a bit different than those used today- but people have had excuses for their lack of commitment to God since the beginning. Jesus is teaching the crowds in Luke 14, and he shares a parable addressing some of those excuses and their implications to one's faith and future. Luke 14:15-21

The people of Israel – the Jewish people

had ALL been invited to the great banquet. The master of this banquet wanted to have a huge feast and to have all the places at the table full. He had enough for all those invited.

The servant goes out and lets those that were invited know it's time. But instead of grabbing their coats, or their dates, they give lame excuses. Not even creative or good excuses. The first person says, I bought some land- and I need to look at it. Crazy! Even if he had bought some land- he had probably already looked at it before he purchased it and if he hadn't... that land would have still been in the same place the next day- but this guy just wasn't interested- 'I have more important things to do than go to your banquet. I have my own plans, my own way to live and I'm comfortable just staying put.'

The second guy had just bought some oxen- he had bought 10 oxen and hadn't tried them out... not a very smart farmer! If you are buying animals to work together in your fields- you would make sure they could work in a yoke together before you purchased them. Again, another flimsy excuse that even the servant of the Master saw through. Again, the lure of the things of this life are far more important than God's call to the people of Israel. They are comfortable and they like the way things are- they have no interest in attending the banquet that the man had prepared for them.

Lastly there was a guest whose excuse was that he was recently married and couldn't come. I'm sure that his wife would have joined him in this great feast! But again, this banquet didn't interest him. He had better, more important things to do- or so he thought.

The guests- the people of Israel were very comfortable the way they were. They had no desire to change. Jesus said- I'm here and the feast is ready! But when Jesus came, they rejected Him. They ignored Him, they persecuted Him. They would only attend this banquet on their own terms or not at all. Their possessions and position were more important than answering the call to come to supper.

Are we guilty of putting our plans and our timeline ahead of God's plans for us? When Jesus says, come aside and let's eat- do we say, 'just a minute- I've got to finish this?' Do we put off our faith for a more convenient time? Do we begin to make excuses to why we can't possibly be expected to come right now!

When the servant returns and tells the man

putting on the banquet- they guy is ANGRY!!! He has all this food, all this stuff prepared, and no one is coming. Well, forget those guys... instead go out and invite everyone you see! Invite those people that are the less fortunate, the forgotten, the 'unclean' and unimportant in the eyes of the Pharisees and religious leaders. The master is not satisfied with a partially full banquet hall; he wants every place at the table to be filled.

The servant went out even farther- find anyone you can to come and join the dinner- there is room for anyone that accepts the invitation to come and partake of the banquet. The new guests can hardly believe that they have been included! They accept the invitation and fill the banquet table. This is where we come in- this is referred to as the 'calling of the gentiles- and the church is full of


them!!!

Many come to the banquet- AND there is still room!!!

- The meal is prepared for those that are thankful to be invited.
 - The poor and humble are welcome.
 - The least likely often benefit the most.
 - We- the servants- must be quick and persistent to invite all that we can
 - There is still room for more!
 - One day Christ's house will be filled!
- "God isn't willing that any should perish," 2 Peter 3:9. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved," Romans 10:13.

We are to go and tell. The followers of Jesus are the servants that are to invite those along the road- everyone, everywhere- to this great banquet.

The Table is ready- and you have an invitation- are you coming?



Area Church Directory

The Gospel, the Power of God

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes... — Romans 1:16

You were perplexed to visit Jesus, the ruler of the people. He was an able man to persuade to believe the powerless people that a generous gift. From Christ he was able to send you out into the world, to tell the world of Jesus—our already loved in the parable, he has made a great wonderful message. "I am not ashamed of the gospel..." You are invited to the gospel—the good news of Jesus. He was able to persuade the world, but he was not ashamed of it.

You were not ashamed of the gospel even though he was rejected and despised and was crucified because of it. You were not ashamed because the gospel is "the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" in Christ as Lord and Savior. The gospel is God's power for salvation. And this power is available to all who believe. It doesn't matter what people or what they think. What matters is that they believe.

The love of someone brings in Christ. Hear the power of the gospel!

Love, thank you for going for the gospel, the good news of Jesus, with the power for all who believe. Thank you for your grace and mercy in reaching Jesus to that we can be invited to reach with you... May the Lord bless you, and may the name of Jesus be the fulfillment because of you. In Jesus, Amen.

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Wednesday youth group 6-12: 6:30pm

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507-668-6150 church phone • 651-508-4279 Cell
9:30am Sunday W • kidz; Sunday School & Nursery, Adult Group 8am

CITY LIGHT CHURCH 2140 Hwy. 3 South, Northfield, MN
Pastor Pete Hulse • 507-645-8829 Call for service times

LEF21 CHURCH 2100 Joffe on Roul (just west of Target)
Pastor Brent Eitelberg • 645-7780 lif21@lcf21.com
10:00am W • kidz Exposition

INTERNATIONAL EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 5600 East 110th Street
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9:30am W • kidz; 11:00am Christian Life Center

HOSANNA CHURCH - INTERNATIONAL 205 2nd St S., Duluth
Pastor Dan Swenson • 507-664-9007 • www.hosanna.org
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Wednesday: Middle School Ministry - 10am open at 5:30; programming 6-7:15
High School Ministry - 10am open at 7pm; programming 7:30-9pm

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The Gardens of Castle Rock Announce Good Times @ The Gardens Live Summer Music Series

(continued from page 1)

Couples that are looking to express who they are and share with family and friends in an environment that is grounded in beauty, nature and design. Where personal expressions are manifested in the ability to create an event that is truly unique. An event that is an extension of your values and beliefs found in your relationship.

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MDA Reminds Minnesotans to Use Pesticides and Fertilizers with Care

Spring is here, and many Minnesotans are working on lawns, trees, and gardens. Whether you do it yourself or hire a professional, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) urges the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers on your property by following all label directions.

Pesticide and fertilizer labels specify how to use products safely and effectively. In Minnesota, it is against the law to apply products without following label instructions. The label is the law.

If you hire a professional lawn care service, do your homework. State law requires pesticide applicators to be licensed by the MDA to commercially apply pesticides and fertilizers, including weed and feed products. Applicators must know and understand state and federal regulations regarding all aspects of pesticide and fertilizer handling, application, and disposal to be licensed by the MDA. The following are helpful tips for a safe spring season.

If you do it yourself:

Read and follow all label directions.

Do not apply products in windy or adverse

weather conditions. High wind can cause products to drift and potentially harm people, pets, or plants.

Sweep sidewalks and hard surfaces of any dry or granular product and reapply to the intended area. Pesticides left on these surfaces easily wash into our water supply.

Buy only what you need. Unused products must be stored according to the label, can lose effectiveness over time, and be difficult to dispose of properly. Find a pesticide waste collection site near you to safely dispose of any unused product.

If you hire a professional:

Professionals must be licensed by the MDA and carry their pesticide applicator license with them. Ask to see their license before they start work.

Be cautious of people who claim their products are completely safe, or pressure you to sign a service contract.

Recognize posted warning flags in areas that have been chemically treated.

Applicators are required to provide an application record to you. Review the record, including products used and the amounts applied.

Be sure the applicator sweeps the sidewalks and hard surfaces clean of any dry or granular products.

For information about applicator licenses, call the MDA at 651-201-6615. To report unlicensed applicators, please file a complaint on the MDA website or call 651-201-6333.

Consumers can call the Better Business Bureau at 651-699-1111 and check customer satisfaction histories for lawn care companies.

As you celebrate this important milestone in your life, we extend our warm congratulations and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Way to go!

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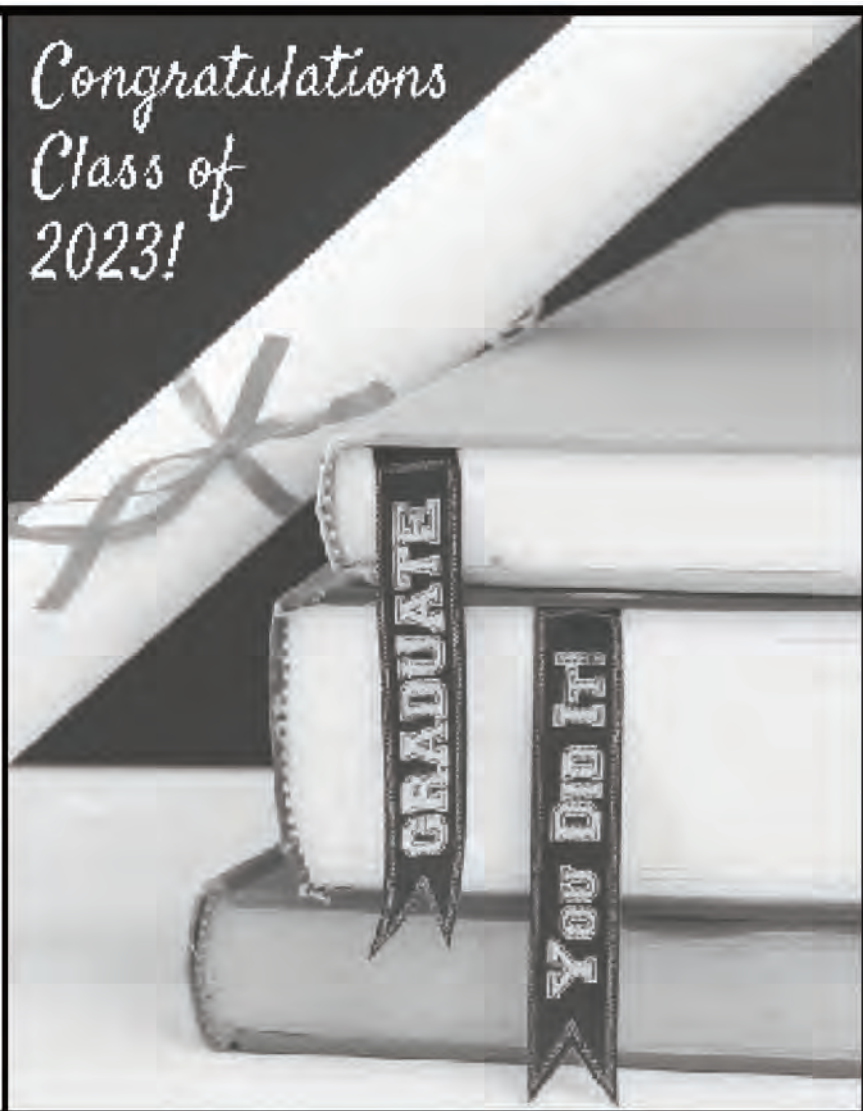
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- A TRAVELER'S PARKSIDE -



*Congratulations
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2023!*



Your Family Farm Can Benefit Southern Minnesota's Future



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

heir to transfer the land to when the time comes, SMIF has a program to help safeguard the family legacy and keep their farmland in production. SMIF's Acres for Good program allows farm families to donate their land as a charitable gift. What makes this model unique is that rather than liquidate the asset as most charities do, SMIF will retain the land and keep it in production by a rental arrangement. This allows retiring farmers the peace of mind that their land will continue to be farmed.

What does it mean to give farmland as a gift? There are three options. You can give a gift during your lifetime and you would get a charitable deduction on income tax. You can wait and give it in your will and it would be released to SMIF upon your passing. Or you can opt for a retained life estate where you keep the right to farm the land until you pass and then it automatically becomes a charitable gift at that point. For those who only want to donate a section of their property, SMIF can accommodate that preference, as well.

As the name suggests, the Acres for Good program is also a way to do good things for your community. The net income stream from the land can be used to support southern Minnesota communities well into the future. Farmers can choose how they want to allocate their gift of land through this program. There are several options.

For example, the benefit can go toward one of SMIF's 31 Community Foundations (Pine Island and Lonsdale are our newest foundations) which invest in their communities through grants and programs.

As president of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) I travel across our region nearly every day visiting people and places in the 20 counties that we serve. Over the 16 years that I have worked at SMIF, I have watched farming practices change and adapt. As someone who comes from a farming family, I know what it is like to feel rooted to the land, and how heartbreaking it is to see productive land used for anything but farming.

Fortunately, for those who do not have an



Or, for a region-wide reach, farmers can allocate their gift toward SMIF's general endowment, or SMIF's specific funds which support youth and entrepreneurs in the region.

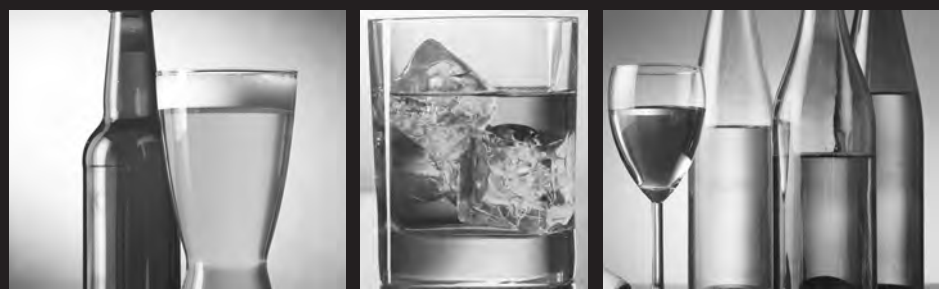
Another option could be setting up a Donor Advised Fund to allocate resources to the donor's specific interests such as a place of worship, an alma mater or a local charity. Whichever avenue, these are all ways to leave a legacy that will make a huge difference in the future of southern Minnesota – and doing it all without having your family farm sold.

Acres for Good is an incredibly unique way

to donate and preserve farmland while also creating an ongoing stream of charitable funds to help out your local community or a cause that is dear to your heart. SMIF is here to help you create your ongoing legacy.

To learn more about the Acres for Good program visit smifoundation.org/acresforgood or contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns, Philanthropy Officer, at 507-214-7023 or alissao@smifoundation.org.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smifoundation.org or 507-455-3215.



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Share the Road with Farm Equipment

Since 2020, there were 391 crashes involving farm equipment in Minnesota, resulting

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in six deaths and 143 injuries. Inattentive driving and speed were the biggest contributing factors in those crashes. It can be frustrating to follow them at what feels like a turtle's pace, but safety should always be a priority. Farm equipment is large and heavy, making it difficult for operators to accelerate, slow down and stop. The equipment makes wide turns and can cross over the center line. Farm vehicles can also create large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles behind them.

Motorists should:

Slow down and use caution when approaching farm equipment.

Watch for debris dropped by farm equipment.

Wait for a safe place to pass.

Drive with headlights on at all times.

Farm equipment operators should:

Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.

Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.

Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.

Please remember to watch for slow-moving farm equipment all summer. Be patient, be kind and share the road.



Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

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Congrats & Hats Off to the Graduates

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Happy Graduation!



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Northfield Agency

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Email: info@northfield.com

Area Students Compete at Envirothon

By Rice SWCD

Over eighty students representing high schools and middle schools from southeastern Minnesota gathered at the Byron Sportsmen & Conservation Club near Byron, Minnesota to test their knowledge of conservation and the environment during the 2023 Envirothon competition.

The Envirothon is an outdoor, hands-on learning competition for high school and middle school students. It centers on five different learning stations, including soils, wildlife, water resources, forestry, and a current environmental issue. Each station consists of a short presentation about the topic by a resource professional, followed by a test taken by the students. Across Minnesota, around 1,000 students participate in the Envirothon every year.

Some test questions were “hands-on” and required students to identify trees, determine soil texture, and analyze resource maps. High school teams also prepared an oral presentation and answered questions from a panel of judges.

For thirty years, the Southeast Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SEMASWCD) has held the competition for a ten-county area in southeastern



Middle school students from the Cannon River STEM School examine a soil profile while answering test questions at the 2023 Area VII Envirothon.

Photo by Senja Viktora, Freeborn SWCD.

Minnesota, with the exception of 2020, when the event was canceled due to Covid-19. In 2021, the event was held virtually.

One middle school team from the Cannon River STEM School represented Rice County at the competition this year. The team finished in fifth place.

In the high school division, Goodhue High School-White team took first place, Goodhue High School-Black team took second place, and Chatfield High School-Gopher 1 team took third place. These three teams advanced to the state competition which was held on May 15th at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls.

The Rice SWCD congratulates all the stu-



The Cannon River STEM School middle school team. From left to right: Skye Bishop, Zoey Kirkham, Maverick Heacock, Kaileb Dienst, Dominic Swedin, Adeline Piper, and 7/8 grade teacher Ann Shannon.

dents from Rice County who took the time and effort to compete in the 2023 Envirothon. The District also thanks teacher Ann Shannon who organized this year’s team from the Cannon River STEM School.

Share Your Good News!
Submit your engagement, wedding or birth announcement.

Email us at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



Honoring Our Graduates

We’d like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2023.

As you celebrate this milestone achievement, please know you have made your community proud.

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A Note of Congratulations

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Students Encouraged to "Plant a Pocket of Prairie"

By Rice SWCD

Staff from the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) visited third-grade classrooms in Faribault to teach the students about the value of micro prairies in urban landscapes. The District partnered with the Faribault Rotary Club, Donahue's Greenhouse, and the Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club to fund the project.

The idea for the project began with Rotarian Dr. Richard Huston. A former Rice SWCD Supervisor, Dr. Huston organized the project and brought the partners together. He received a copy of the children's book "Plant a Pocket of Prairie" from a friend, which planted the "seed" for his idea.

The Faribault Rotary Club purchased copies of the book and donated them to the third-grade classrooms and each school's library. Every third-grade student received a native

prairie plant that they could take home to plant. Donahue's Greenhouse donated the pots and soil. The Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club and the Rice SWCD donated the native plants.

When the trays of native plants arrived, they were planted into pots. Along with District employees, Huston recruited staff from River Bend Nature Center and his friend Emily Nesvold to help transplant the plants.

Nesvold, a retired teacher, also presented to third-grade classrooms, speaking at Roosevelt Elementary, Nerstrand Elementary School, and a Faribault homeschooling group. District Manager, Steve Pahs, presented to Lincoln Elementary, the Cannon River STEM School, and Faribault Lutheran School. District Public Relations & Information Specialist, Teresa DeMars, presented to Jefferson Elementary School and Divine Mercy Catholic School. District Technician Kourtney Hammerschmidt helped to demonstrate how to transplant the plant to students and took pictures of the presentations.

"Native gardening is a passion of mine. It was so much fun to visit third-grade classrooms and show them my 'pocket of prairie,'" said DeMars.

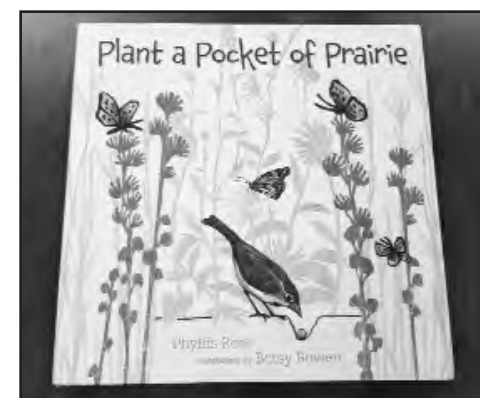
DeMars lives in Faribault, where she planted native prairie plants to attract pollinators at her home. "My little micro prairie is like a jungle. There are many insects that visit during the summer. They are so busy and entertaining to watch," she added.

During the classroom visit, District staff read the book to the third-grade students.

They also showed pictures of how DeMars planted her native garden and videos of pollinators that have visited her plants.

For the native prairie plant, students received a meadow blazing star, which blooms in late summer and is a favorite plant of the Monarch butterfly. Monarchs flock to the plant to feed off its nectar, which provides fuel for their long migration to central Mexico in the fall. Students also received a planting guide that shared information about meadow blazing star and how to care for it. In addition, the planting guide was also translated into Spanish and Somali by Faribault School District staff and shared with parents.

"Most students at this age love butterflies and other insects. They were very engaged and asked great questions about pollinators



and planting the meadow blazing star. It was so rewarding to share in their enthusiasm," said DeMars. "As a District, we hope to expand the project to more schools in the county next year."



Top picture left: Katy Anderegg, Erin Tone, and Matt Johnson (from River Bend Nature Center), Steve Pahs and Richard Peterson (Rice SWCD), Emily Nesvold, and Dr. Richard Huston. Top picture right: Emily Nesvold transplants meadow blazing star into pots. Bottom left picture: Katy Anderegg and Erin Tone place labels onto the pots. Bottom right picture: Dr. Richard Huston stands with the potted soil donated from Donahue's Greenhouse.

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Mental Health Crisis Team Now Embedded in Rice County

(continued from page 1)

The wait for a mobile crisis unit has been lengthy, especially when time is of the essence.

South Central Community Based Initiative applied for and received a \$1 million federal grant to expand its mobile services last year and embedded a team in Rice County on April 1st.

The mobile crisis teams, operated by mental health services provider Horizon Homes, can also ensure individuals receive post-crisis services, help with additional resources including follow ups, check ins and referrals, and work collaboratively with Rice County's Behavioral Health Unit, a team of social

workers embedded with local law enforcement.

Services are offered in English, and a translation service is available as well.

As with all mental health professionals, confidentiality is guaranteed. If an individual has insurance, Horizon Homes will collect that information and bill. If a person does not, Horizon Homes will find other resources to provide the necessary care.

If you or someone you know needs support for a mental health or emotional crisis, call 877-399-3040, call or text the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 988. Visit the South Central Mobile Crisis Team website for more information.

Five Ways to Increase Diversity on Your Land



By Kourtney Hammerschmidt
Rice SWCD

With spring here, I have been thinking about all the birds, bees, and other wildlife and insects that all seem to reappear once again. They all work together to help improve and create the ecosystems that we are all a part of.

With that in mind, I have been coming up with things that I can do to help increase the amount of diversity around my house. I want all of these beneficial insects, pollinators, and other wildlife to stick around and have plenty of good food for them to last through the year.

What are some ways that we can increase the diversity around us? Here are a few things that I have thought of:

1. Plant a diverse mix of pollinator-loving plants in and around your yard to attract pollinators and add diversity to your landscape. Make sure you add some species that bloom throughout the year. Early blooming plants and late blooming plants are especially important as a food source for pollinator-loving insects, as they are migrating to and from our area during those times.

2. Add native grasses to your pollinator garden. While grasses are not as showy as other wildflowers, they are extremely important for a variety of butterfly and bee species. The larvae of some butterflies and moths will eat the leaves of many grass species, while some native bees depend on these grasses for their nesting sites.

3. Plant a tree or shrub on your property. Trees and shrubs provide important food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators throughout the seasons. It can also help ensure that all the tree and shrub species can succeed. If there are a limited amount of tree and shrub species in an area, some diseases can become prevalent and threaten the livelihood of those populations.

4. Plant pollinator strips in your farm fields. If you own agricultural land, consider planting pollinator strips in or around your fields. Not only does it provide amazing habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects, but can also improve local water quality.

5. Implement cover crops into your crop rotation. There are many benefits to utilizing cover crops. These benefits can include decreased erosion issues, reduced nutrient runoff, improve water quality and increase organic matter content. Planting cover crops



A pollinator plot in Forest Township, just east of Circle Lake in Rice County, Minnesota.

can also result in an increase of beneficial insects in your fields. When diverse mixes are used, it can increase the number of these beneficial insects, which might be natural predators to some pests in your fields.

Why should we want to increase the diversity of our landscapes? It can help bring a wide variety of insects and wildlife back into that area. With an increase in the number of species, the risk of diseases can also decrease. They will help increase resiliency, build corridors for a wide variety of insects and animals, and it will help support all the species that will utilize the vegetation. All of the plant species, insects, and wildlife can come together to help create a sustainable, healthy

environment.

In Rice County, there are some funding options out there that can help reduce the cost of implementing these conservation practices. We have trained staff with multiple years of experience and can answer your questions about cost-share programs, cover crops, and native tree/prairie plantings. Give the Rice SWCD a call at 507-332-5408 or stop by our office at 1810 30th St. NW in Faribault. We'd be happy to help!

Kourtney Hammerschmidt is a District Technician with the Rice Soil & Water Conservation District. She assists landowners with buffer implementation and with the district's cover crop/custom interseeding program and tree program. Contact Kourtney with your questions at 507-332-5408.

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DNR Shares Top 10 Tips for Planning a Camping Trip in State Parks, Recreation Areas and Forest Campgrounds

As Minnesotans prepare for the summer camping season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shares tips to help in planning an outdoor adventure.

“We know Minnesotans love being outdoors, and getting outside after a long winter is exciting,” said Ann Pierce, Parks and Trails Division director. “We also know time and knowledge can be barriers in planning a camping trip. We’re working to alleviate this for folks by providing information to help them prepare for a fun experience.”

Book campsites early, and be flexible if you can’t book early

Reservations for campsites in state parks and recreation areas can be made up to 120 days in advance. Reservations are in high demand for holiday weekends and at the most popular parks, like those on the North Shore. If reservations are full, the DNR has three suggestions. First, sign up for the “notify me”

function on the reservation website to get notified by email if there’s a cancellation. Second, consider a camping trip on weekdays instead of the busy weekends if your schedule allows. Third, look for open reservations at less busy parks. Our list of quiet state park getaways on the DNR website opens in a new browser tab provides suggestions for locations more likely to have open reservations.

Looking for flexible camping options? Try camping in a state forest.

If spontaneity is your style, try camping in a state forest where all campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and dispersed camping is allowed. Learn more on the DNR’s state forest camping web page opens in a new browser tab.

Buy a vehicle permit

A permit is required for each vehicle entering state parks and recreation areas. Permits can be purchased online or at park offices during open hours. The cost is \$7 per day or \$35 per year. If you’re camping just one night, a one-day permit will be valid until check-out time. Find details on the Minnesota state park vehicle permit web page opens in a new browser tab. State forests do not require a vehicle permit.

Pack smart

Sometimes it can be hard to figure out what to pack for a camping trip, especially for those who are new to camping. For a good starting point, the DNR has a camping supply checklist opens in a new browser tab.

Check equipment before you leave home

Broken tent poles or a leaky air mattress might ruin a camping trip or make it less comfortable. If your camping gear hasn’t been used in a while or is new, test it at home



before the trip to make sure it works.

Research events to enhance your trip

Events and programs are scheduled at state parks throughout the year, offering a wide range of activities from fishing and birding, to interpretive hikes, to crafting. Visitors of all ages are welcome, and no prior experience is needed. Find event listings on the state parks and trails event calendar opens in a new browser tab.

Check visitor alerts before leaving home

State park and recreation area websites post visitor alerts to communicate important information related to safety, closures, construction projects and other helpful details. Find visitor alerts by choosing a park from the state parks map opens in a new browser tab.

Don’t get lost, navigate with a smartphone

The Avenza Maps app uses GPS location tracking so visitors can stay found, even off the grid. After you download the app and a GeoPDF map, no internet or cell service is needed. DNR maps can be downloaded for free. Get details on the DNR’s GeoPDF web

page opens in a new browser tab.

Watch the weather

Stay in the know by enabling severe weather notifications on your smartphone. Because cell service is not available in all locations within state parks, recreation areas and forests, visitors may want to bring a weather radio to get information about severe weather warnings, watches and advisories.


Document your trip and share your photos

Make sure to bring a camera to document the great memories made on the camping trip, and we’d love for you to share your photos with us. Images submitted may be featured on the Parks and Trails social media accounts. Share photos on the DNR photo sharing web page opens in a new browser tab.

For more information about any of these camping tips, visit www.mndnr.gov opens in a new browser tab or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday).

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**DUNDAS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Switzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC FORUM – No public presentation to the Council

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by LaCroix, second by Swartwood, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried Unanimously (MCU)

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Modory, second by LaCroix, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- Regular Minutes of April 24, 2023;
- Disbursements - \$87,584.44. MCU

REGULAR AGENDA

- First Quarter Report
- Finance Director Jessi Sturtz (Abdo FS) pro-

vided the City Council with a verbal review of the first quarter financial report.

Motion by Swartwood, second by LaCroix to accept the First Quarter Financial Report. MCU

- Consider Accepting Report from City Council Goal Setting Session

City Administrator Teppen briefly summarized the report from the April 6, 2023 Goal Setting Session attended by the City Council and facilitated by Barbara Strandell. The Council established five-year goal areas and two-year priorities. Staff will return to a future meeting with action steps identified in order to achieve those goal and priority areas.

Motion by LaCroix, second by Gallagher to accept Goal Setting Report. MCU

- Review Draft Letter Regarding County Road 1 / Trunk Highway 3 Improvements

Teppen reviewed the draft of a letter to Rice County officials, MN DOT District 6 staff, State Senator Lieske and State Representative Pursell regarding the completion of sidewalks/trails and pedestrian crossings at Hwy 3 and CR 1.

There was no motion, the Council provided comments.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS
AND COMMITTEES**

City Engineer – Dustin Tipp

Tipp reported that quote packages for the dog park fencing and sewer televising will be on the May 22 agenda. He also said that project information and the proposed quote package for the Public Works Cold Storage Building will be reviewed by the Council at the May 22 meeting.

City Administrator/Clerk - Jenelle Teppen

Teppen reported that the Waterford Town Hall move is postponed until a yet to be determined date.

WORK SESSION

- 2024 General Fund Budget Kickoff
- Sturtz provided an overview of the 2024 General Fund Budget process and sought feedback from the City Council.
- 2024 2029 Draft CIP

Teppen reviewed a draft of the Capital Improvement Plan which identifies future capital expenses. The City Council asked that the 2023 items that have not yet been completed are still included in the draft 2024-2029 plan.

ADJOURN

Motion by Gallagher, second by La Croix, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jenelle Teppen, City Administrator/City Clerk

DUNDAS DUKES



2023 SCHEDULE

Wed, May 24	Baseball 365	Home	7:30 p.m.	
Fri, May 26	at Red Wing Aces	Red Wing, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Mon, May 29	at Northfield Knights	Northfield, Minn.	2 p.m.	
Wed, May 31	Burnsville Bobcats	Home	7:30 p.m.	Other Sport Jersey Night
Fri, June 2	Chaska Cubs	Home	7:30 p.m.	Art Fair Night
Sun, June 4	Miesville Mudhens	Home	2 p.m.	Lawn Games Day
Wed, June 7	Eagan Bandits	Home	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Family Fun Night
Fri, June 9	at Cannon Falls Bears	Cannon Falls, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Sun, June 11	at Hampton Cardinals	Hampton, Minn.	2 p.m.	
Wed, June 14	St. Paul Windy's	Home	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Family Fun Night
Fri, June 16	Elko Express	Home	7:30 p.m.	A Night of Races
Sun, June 18	Highland Park Beavers	Home	2 p.m.	Reading Day, Presented by Northfield Public Library
Wed, June 21	Hastings Hawks	Home	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Family Fun Night
Fri, June 23	Hampton Cardinals	Home	7:30 p.m.	Community Service Night // Food Drive
Sat, June 24	Waconia Lakers	Home	5 p.m.	Block Party Night
Sun, June 25	St. Patrick Irish	Home	2 p.m.	Frandsen Bank and Trust Farm Animal and Tractor Day
Wed, June 28	Red Wing Aces	Home	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Family Fun Night
Fri, June 30	at Rochester Royals	Rochester, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Tue, July 4	Northfield Knights	Home	2 p.m.	Armed Services Appreciation Day
Fri, July 7	Minnetonka Millers	Home	7:30 p.m.	Breakfast for Dinner Night
Sun, July 9	at New Market Muskies	New Market, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Wed, July 12	Rochester Royals	Home	7:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Family Fun Night
Fri, July 14	MacStrength Grizzlies	Home	7:30 p.m.	Classic Car Night
Sun, July 16	Metro Knights	Home	2 p.m.	Ice Cream and Beach Day, presented by Frandsen Bank and Trust
Fri, July 21	at St. Patrick	St. Patrick, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Sat, July 22	at Minnetonka	Minnetonka, Minn.	2 p.m.	
Sun, July 23	at Elko Express	Elko, Minn.	2 p.m.	
Wed, July 26	Fairbault Lakers	Home	7:30 p.m.	PJ and Cereal Night
Fri, July 28	at Miesville Mudhens	Miesville, Minn.	7:30 p.m.	
Sun, July 30	New Market Muskies	Home	2 p.m.	Volunteer Appreciation Day
Fri, Aug 4	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 1	TBD	0 p.m.	Best of Three - Game One
Sun, Aug 6	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 2	TBD	2 p.m.	Best of Three - Game Two
Tue, Aug 8	Section 1B Playoffs - Gm 3	TBD	0 p.m.	Best of Three - Game Three (If Necessary)
Fri, Aug 11	Sect. 1B Playoffs - Play back	TBD	0 p.m.	Play back semifinal
Sun, Aug 13	Sect. 1B Playoffs - Play back	TBD	2 p.m.	Play back final

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JULY 2nd: **CHICKEN RANCH DUO** 8:30 PM

JULY 3rd: **THE CHUBS** 8:30 PM

JULY 4th: **BRYAN ANDERSON** 7:00 PM

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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Horse Sense and Character



By Terry Campbell

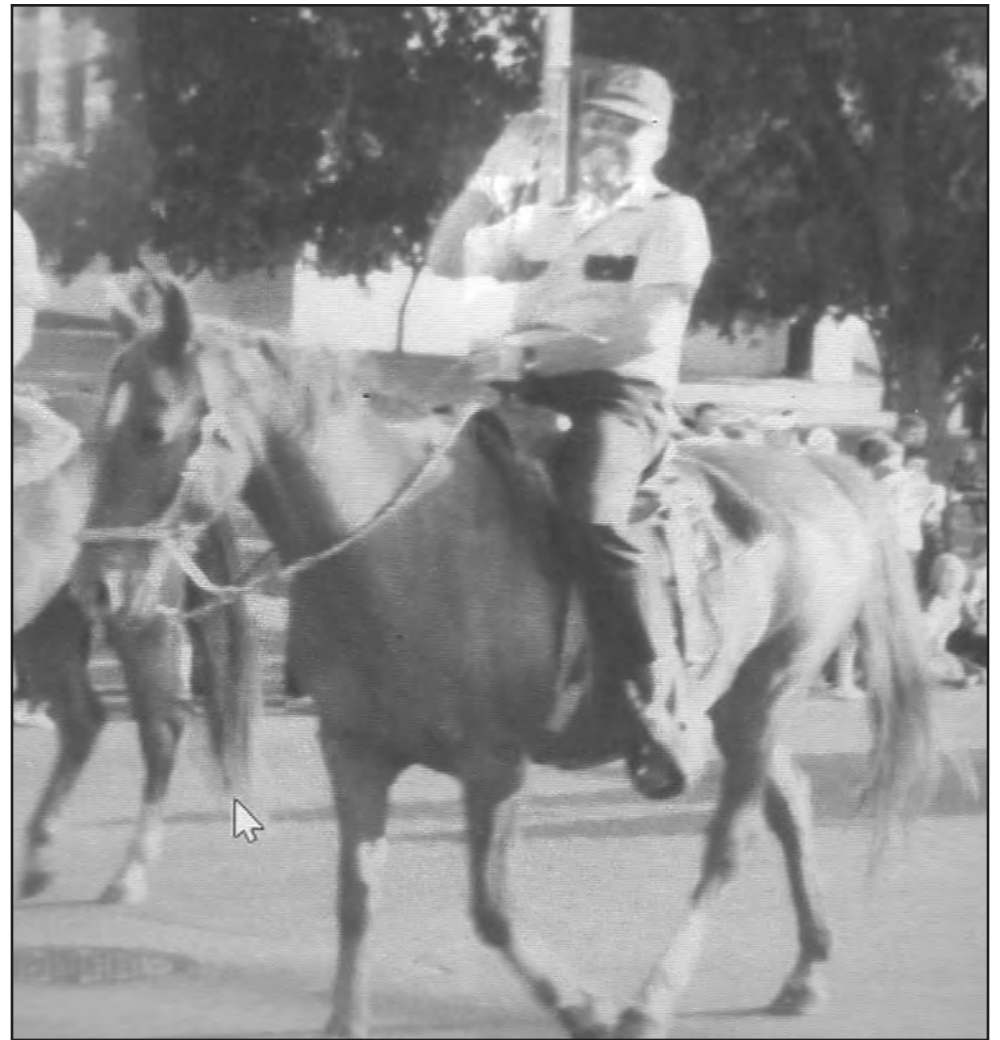
This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

This is a picture of my dad from 1984. I grew up with horses, but my dad did not like them very much. As a young kid he would take me to look at horses. He would wait while I rode them. And he would haul them back to the farm for me. There would be comments about how once cars were invented it was silly to go backwards to horse power. But once he joined the Sheriff's Mounted Posse it became a necessary evil. So, he bought this big Egyptian Arab geld-

ing. Azibelli loved to run and if you gave him his head he would flat out run like the wind. There is something exhilarating about pounding down the road on the back of a powerful horse, feeling as one with the beast, knowing that one miss step would likely be catastrophic. I was young and willing to risk life and limb on the back of this steed, even though I was a quarter horse guy and never much cared for Arabians,, because this horse could run. I don't believe though, that my dad ever rode him at more than a walk.

My dad was very opinionated and stubborn and we butted heads often since I was the same way. He had me with more experience though. Anyone who has owned an Arabian knows what stubborn is. My dad loved a good theological argument with anyone who would engage him. He was certain he could make someone believe in Jesus if he just could talk to them long enough.

One incident I recall had little to do with horses and happened a few years earlier in life. It had to do with an old yellow school bus. As I recall, Dale Blanshan and a couple guys embarked on a cross country trip in a school bus. They were strumming and singing their way out west. They had the same idea my dad had, but they were more musical about it. I was around ten at this time, so my recollection may be a little hazy. At one point the bus broke down a long way from home and they needed funds for repair. My dad went to wire them money but it was a Saturday and the banks were closed. The only place to get cash for the wire transfer was the liquor store. My dad headed into West Concord to the Muni for \$300. The



Dad on Azibelli

guys at the liquor store had no idea who my dad was and questioned why they should let him write a check for cash. One might wonder how my dad could live his whole life in West Concord and there be people who didn't know him, but this was his first trip into the liquor store. If you knew my dad, you would know that too. So while he was trying to procure greenbacks with a check for three young guys on the other side of the USA in a broke down yellow school bus, Al Renner the hardware store owner showed up as a credit reference. When asked if my dad's check was good, Al said, "If Dana writes a check for a million dollars it will be good."

I was a young kid and a million dollars

sounded like a whole lot of money. I was certain that a poor farm family in Dodge County did not have that kind of money. So I wondered why someone would say that, not knowing our financial situation. In fact, I don't believe anyone one I knew could write a check for a million dollars. Over the last fifty years I have pondered this conversation and eventually came to understand it. It wasn't that my dad had a million dollars in his checking account. It was that he had a reputation of being a man of his word and if he said something it was backed up with integrity and truth. And that is worth more than a million dollars.

A Minnesotan: The Problem With Geese



By RosaLin Alcoser

There is nothing I fear more on this earth than geese... well maybe snakes, but geese are the more intimate threat. Because here in Minnesota geese are everywhere.

Geese are at the park, in the parking lot, on the sidewalks, and even standing in the middle of the freeway in some cases- like they own the place.

It started out when I was a small child and the geese would chase me around the park honking. Since I was about the same size as them I guess it made sense that they were going after me.

Thankfully in response to these attacks my sister would chase the geese away from me so that I was not mauled to death by a goose at age six.

However, it did not stop as I got older. To this day geese will still chase me if given

the chance. Now I can out run the geese or avoid them all together.

When I was in community college in Rochester the geese that would hang out on campus would chase me across the campus on an almost daily basis. Which my mother did not believe was happening until she saw me take off running at the sound of 'Honk! Honk!' and a flock of geese start charging at me.

Don't worry I made it to the car before the geese caught up to me and lived to tell the tale.

My fear is not just limited to grease either. It does extend to water brands as a whole. I have also been attacked by ducks and gulls. The only reason the loons, swans and cranes have not gotten to me is because I am not fool enough to go anywhere close to them after the incident with the duck.

A couple years later when I was in University back south I was at the park with some friends. We were sitting on a bench watching the ducks, but not doing anything to the ducks. When a duck walked up to me and bit me on the leg with its serrated beak.

While ducks do not have teeth it does hurt when they bite you with their serrated beaks.

It is because of that duck and many, many geese that I now stay clear of all water birds. As I now live under the belief that if I give them space they just might not try to kill me... or at least not have the opportunity to.

P.S. as I write this two ducks have landed on my patio and taunted me with their serrated beaks.

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