

# The Duck Dilemma of May 1974

By Mitchell M. Schwartz, Village Historian, May 2022

Saturday, May 25, 1974 was a most unusual day on Woodland Road.

On that spring morning, a family of ducks was crossing the street. As the mother, father, and eight ducklings were waddling their way across the street, a cat emerged from the bushes. The excited feline frightened the baby ducklings, and they began to run in a panic – without realizing that they were headed directly towards the municipal storm sewer drain in front of 26 Woodland Road. Seconds later, startled and distracted, the ducklings fell straight into the storm sewer.

Luckily, the baby ducklings were all unharmed, and according to the May 28, 1974 edition of *Newsday*, a police officer from the Nassau County Police Department's Sixth Precinct was passing by the scene. When the officer spotted the ducklings, he called for backup to assist in rescuing them from the sewer. Soon, the additional officers arrived, and four policemen opened the drain to rescue the baby ducks.

According to the article, the situation ended happily when the ducklings were safely placed on the grass in front of the home, and in the words of the article, “as the police blotter indicated, ‘were released in the custody of their parents.’”

The municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) drain in front of 26 Woodland Road. (Photograph courtesy of the author).



Source:

-"Duck, It's a Cat." *Newsday*, 28 May, 1974, p. 26.