



KERBANGGG

Cities' law snaps, crackers pop

Fireworks are causing sparks to fly among police and fire officials in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Taking advantage of a court decision which has rendered ineffective city ordinances which ban the sale and use of fireworks, merchants are selling the pyrotechnical items over the counter.

Officials are searching for a way to circumvent the ruling with varying success.

"There's no enforcement on selling, so far," said Farmington Public Safety Lt. John Santamoro.

"But merchants should be reminded that they could be liable for injuries if they sell to a child," he added.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department has taken a similar stance on the issue.

"The department's policy is to permit the sale of class C fireworks," said Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort.

CLASS C fireworks are those which contain less than two grains of explosive content, according to Van De Voort.

They include Roman candles, sky rockets with sticks, helicopter-type rockets, having less than 20 grains of explosive content. Sparklers are included in the classification, as well.

While the Farmington Hills city attorney has suggested the city still require owners to possess a permit for the fireworks, Van De Voort suspects that tactic will fail.

Farmington police will enforce two city ordinances dealing with noise and nuisance complaints to curtail the setting off of fireworks.

The noise ordinance is geared especially to disruptions between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., but can be invoked at any time in which a resident is disturbed, according to Santamoro.

The nuisance ordinance covers activities which annoy residents or endanger health and comfort, according to Santamoro.

Normal fireworks ordinances are rendered useless by a Federal Court decision which ruled that the two Michigan statutes dealing with the problem were in conflict with each other.

The court in Grand Rapids ruled that the Fireworks Act of March 9, 1976 contradicted the state's Hazardous Substance Act, which was based on Department of Agriculture regulations of 1931, according to Santamoro.

Since most local ordinances are based on the state laws, the court ruling also made those regulations unuseable, according to Santamoro.

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8 candidates meet deadline

(Continued from page 1A)

Hills, and Democrat John P. Campbell, of 23701 Cass, Farmington.

One Farmington Hills man will make a bid for the commission seat for the 18th District. Democrat Anthony Tedesco, of 27065 Arden Park, Farmington Hills, will challenge Democrat Albert A. Keenan, of 6750 Franklin, Birmingham. The two men will face off before challenging incumbent Republican Lillian V. Moffitt, of 6828 Cathedral, Birmingham.

County commissioners hold two-year terms of office.

JUDGE HAND had planned a campaign kickoff party Tuesday evening which turned into a victory party when it was discovered he would run unopposed in the non-partisan election for district judge.

Hand was first elected associate municipal judge in 1964, judge in 1966 and district judge in 1968 and 1974.

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