

# Control Guns At State Level--Suburbs

**AN OBSERVER ROUNDUP**  
Though strict gun control in the suburbs is not an immediate necessity, most Observerland officials think statewide laws governing the use and possession of weapons will be needed in the future.

"That local officials are generally reluctant to impose controls with strict penalties is not surprising since it took Detroit officials until just recently to impose controls despite a soaring homicide rate."

Passed on Sept. 15, Detroit's new ordinance calls for a \$400 minimum fine for illegally carrying a handgun in the city

after Dec. 15 and impose a jail sentence if the gun is loaded. No minimum jail sentence is specified, but the maximum is 90 days.

At the same time as they approved the control ordinance, Detroit city council members rejected a proposal to have the police department issue special purchase cards to obtain ammunition.

**OBSERVERLAND'S** communities have either vague ordinances on guns or no ordinances related to firearms, and most of them maintain that state or federal control is needed.

Officials in Livonia, Farmington Township, Southfield, Westland, Farmington, and Redford Township agree the problems are not as serious in the suburbs as they are in Detroit.

"We don't have the problem here," Mayor Edward McNamara of Livonia said. "Either that, or our people have bad aims."

Livonia does not have an ordinance governing short arms but has an ordinance prohibiting the use and discharge of any and all firearms within the city.

McNamara said the city does not plan to follow Detroit

in strengthening gun laws at this time.

**PLYMOUTH'S** police chief, Timothy Ford, said that local legislation would not be effective, adding that it has to be controlled from the federal level.

In Plymouth, "There's little problem with people carrying guns," he said. "There hasn't been a case in the last four or five months."

Plymouth's only gun ordinance is a standard one against discharging a gun within city limits.

Ford said there are two considerations related to gun

control — whether the judges will enforce laws and if the laws are constitutional based on the "right to bear arms" stated in the Constitution.

"People resort to carrying guns out of fear for their safety," Ford said. "If they can't have guns, they'll have something else — cancer, sword canes and knives."

"I AGREE there should be some type of gun control," Redford Township Police Chief Edwin Gleza said.

"However, gun control is no good unless enforced."

"The trouble today is that the person arrested on a bad check charge is more likely to be convicted than a person using a gun unlawfully."

"Gun prohibition would be the best move, but in its absence, mandatory jail sentence," he said.

"A big problem is that friends and relatives are shooting each other," Gleza continued. "In order to have real impact on suicides and homicides, we have to disarm the man at home."

Redford's supervisor, Bill Robbins, said that England has reduced homicides by effective gun control, adding that it could have the same effect here.

"Gun control is a large first step, but not the complete answer to crime," he said. "How does the little shopkeeper feel if his gun is taken away, leaving him without protection while the criminal who may shoot him in a holdup, still has an illegal weapon?"

**IN WESTLAND**, Mayor Eugene McKinney said that more controls are needed and

## 13 'Canes' Will Sing So Sweetly

In 1968, a girls' ensemble was started at Clarenceville Junior High School entitled the "Candy Canes" and comprised of girls selected from the eighth grade mixed chorus.

This year, 13 girls have been chosen as "Candy Canes." First soprano members are Theresa DeWater, Lora Gault, Cindy Neal and Stacey Sherman; second soprano, Linda Green, Vicki Kozma, Lori LaRoue, Teresa Jones and Jeanne McDowell; alto, Karen Chruschal, Karen Operhall, Patricia Szygiel and Betty Wayne.

The group rehearses after school and sings at various vocal music department concerts and functions as well as at outside engagements. Anyone wishing to have the "Candy Canes" sing for their meetings or social functions may contact Miss Carol Hornung, vocal music director, at Clarenceville Junior High School.

recommended in May that the City Council explore controls that would require identification cards to be issued to gun owners to be used to purchase ammunition, issue a pamphlet explaining local and state laws to persons with gun permits, and require a basic test before permits are issued.

So far, no action has been taken on the recommendations.

Southfield's Mayor Norman Feder said that he favors any measure that would be a deterrent to crime on the street or violent crime.

"I don't know that we in Southfield have the same problem as far as gun use is concerned, but if it develops that the Detroit ordinance appears to have merit, or if it would help Detroit, I certainly would consider recommending such an ordinance here."

Laws and gun use and possession should be statewide, Southfield's police chief Milton Sackett said.

"It does no good piecemeal," he added.

**THE CITY** of Farmington does not have a problem with weapon violations, but Public Safety Director Robert Deadman thinks "the problem of an armed citizenry is becoming a very serious one, and as population doubles, the amount of guns being carried will double also."

"We don't have the problem of weapon violations to the extent that Detroit does," he said. "I'm sure people in the suburban communities are carrying illegal guns, but probably it doesn't come to the attention of the police here as often as in Detroit."

Because gun control is a "metropolitan-wide problem," statewide action should be taken and the public should be made aware that the laws will be enforced, said Deadman.

"We must let the public know our gun laws will be

enforced," he said. "Most violators have the violation reduced to a lesser crime, and the sentence is, normally reduced to probation. He carries a gun, feeling the risk of probation is far less than those risks, real or imaginary, which prompt him to carry a gun."

**AN ORDINANCE** controlling the use of guns for target practice was recently adopted in Farmington Township, but Supervisor Earl Peoples said there isn't a need for any stringent controls in the township.

"We don't have the same crime picture as Detroit," he said. "Most of the people here came for solace and tranquility. Once in awhile a burglar comes by and householder purchases a gun for protection of a home."

"Most people here who carry guns are good citizens and are carrying registered guns; registered with the county sheriff."

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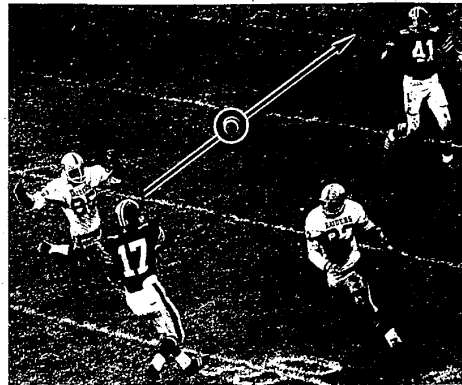
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**CREDIT CARDS WELCOME**



**SHOWDOWN** — Livonia Franklin quarterback John Casey fires a pass toward Mark Newman last weekend as North Farmington defenders Mark Daubenmeyer and Craig Gow (32) rush. Franklin lost its first game of the year 12-7 while North Farmington, the defending state champions, now has a record of 3-1. Franklin is 2-1-1. (Observer photo by Tom Donoghue)

## New Office For Realtor

The grand opening of the Howell office of Ashley & Cox Real Estate runs through Saturday, Oct. 23.

The new branch will be located at 4505 E. Grand River in Howell. It will be open between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekly and on Sunday between 1 and 5 p.m. during the grand opening.

Staffing the branch will be Woody Ashley as manager and Kathy Peters as assistant sales manager. The main office is located at 43043 Grand River in Novi.

## Unusual 'Garage Sale' Set

**LIVONIA**  
The garage sale to beat all garage sales will take place at Wonderland Shopping Center Oct. 14 through 16.

Television personality Bob Hynes will be auctioneer for the event which will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each of the three evenings.

The public is invited to bring in old items which will be displayed and then auctioned off.

The event will be held under a special big tent located at the west end of the shopping center, near Big Boy restaurant.

All transactions will be private. The high bidder of each item will pay the seller directly, who will be present at the time the wares are auctioned.

Some items already pre-registered for the auction include: an oriental hot-chocolate serving set, Dresden chamber pot, oil lamp, cherrywood secretary, hall clothes tree, small oak table and a pedestal bird cage.

## Marcion To Display 'Curl-Ups'

An exhibit of designs by interior designer Angelo Donighia will mark the grand opening of Marcion Studio of Interiors, 33708 Grand River, Farmington, on Thursday, Oct. 14.

The exhibit will be displayed indefinitely until the furnishings are sold, according to Marion Eichner, a partner with Marcelle Rovin in the store.

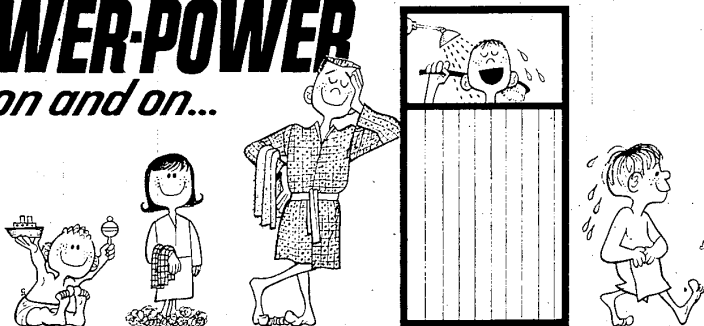
The 20th century-styled studio will be open between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Before being turned into a studio, the Farmington building was a florist.

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