



Letting fly: Gary Zulinski of Aerko International demonstrates the pepper spray.

Spray

from page 1A

said. "When I came into the job, it's one of the things I wanted to do."

"It's a complicated issue. We're a society that is driven by litigation. We got the message that excessive use of force is not going to be tolerated by society. It erodes public confidence and it hurts us in the long run."

Events such as the beatings of Rodney King and Malico Green have magnified the issue.

Departments that use pepper spray say it's successful.

Southfield, along with Farmington Hills, uses it. Generally, there has been a decrease in both excessive force complaints and in workman's compensation claims by officers.

Goss said the use of pepper spray or force is still a delicate balancing act, though.

"The last thing we want to do is give an officer a false sense of security," Goss said. "It's an alternative for an officer. It's not a panacea. I don't want to hear an officer say, 'I'm not going to carry my baton.'"

Other aspects make the aerosol preferable, though.

For one, it helps a smaller officer who may be at a physical disadvantage with a bigger combatant. Also, opposed to using a baton or an other instrument, there's no lasting swelling or bruising.

"From the demonstration, I



STAFF PHOTOS BY GUY WARREN

That sting! Gary Goss, Farmington's director of public safety, doesn't look comfortable after being sprayed.

think it's going to give us such an advantage," Purves said. "... Instead of using a baton, you'll be able to cuff them without incident."

However, a recent incident where a man died after being sprayed has one department in North Carolina reviewing the use of pepper spray.

Angelo Darvel Robinson died July 11 of asphyxia due to a bronchospasm precipitated by pepper spray, according to the autopsy. Robinson was sprayed by Concord police officers after he fought, resisting arrest. He died on the way jail after he was handcuffed and put into a police car. There were other circum-

stances, though. Robinson had an enlarged heart and was overweight, which the medical examiner said may have made him more susceptible to cardiac arrhythmia under conditions of hypoxemia and stress.

It's believed to be the first such incident nationwide.

"There's still a lot of questions," Goss said. "Looking at all the facts, this is still a viable alternative."

Goss said training will be completed in two weeks. Officers will be carrying 4- by 1-inch canisters of the brand Freeze-It, which is a mixture of orthochlorobenzalmalonitrile (CS) and oleoresin capsicum (OC).

Cards

from page 1A

lic School District. The goals, which include such things as being a lifelong learner, a responsible citizen and effective communicator, were developed by the Frameworks Committee.

Critics of outcomes-based education nationwide are disparaging efforts to revamp report cards. They contend competitiveness is forsaken in the attempt to preserve children's self-esteem.

However, Douglas Swiatkowski, who formed the group Parents for a Traditional Education, likes the changes.

The Farmington Hills parent had been critical of the new report cards, saying he favors letter

grades starting at third grade. The district starts letter grading in the sixth grade. "I'm glad teachers' comments were added. My children really enjoy hearing and seeing what the teachers say about them," Swiatkowski said. "I appreciate the response of adding another column. One or two is very vague, at least for my kids. They need something that gives them a little bit more to strive for."

An Elementary Report Card Handbook has been developed for parents. The guide gives a breakdown of each category, describing the learning goals in detail.

The effort culminated two years

of work by the 25-member Elementary Report Card Committee, which included teachers, administrators and parents.

The committee, chaired by Fairview principal Mary Lou Somerville, met 32 times to develop the new report cards.

"It's really risky when people have invested that much time and effort in 32 different meetings, which included parents, and then lay themselves open to a pilot program," Superintendent Michael Flanagan said. "I want to thank them for taking that risk and knowing that there would be a better product as a result of it. "And it is."

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Robert Carter, MD, graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed his residency in family practice medicine at Providence Hospital. He is a member of many local, state and national medical societies.



M. Bethany Clay, MD, is a graduate of Wayne State University. She completed her residency at Providence Hospital and is a specialist in family practice medicine. Dr. Clay is a member of the American Association of Family Practice and the American Medical Association.



Steven Klein, MD, is a 1990 graduate of Wayne State University and completed his residency in family practice medicine at Providence. His special areas of interest are obstetrics and sports medicine.

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