

## YOUR VIEW

### Draconian gun control not working

Once again, frequent columnist Tony Marconi has written a opinion piece on guns with misrepresentations and untruths. He starts out by making the comment on the “extraordinary amount of gun violence plaguing this country,” a comment that at best is a gross generalization. Gun deaths have, in fact, generally gone down in the last few decades with spikes mostly because of murders in places like Chicago, which ironically, had the most restrictive gun laws in the country. This alone is a good example of why draconian gun control does not work.

Mr. Marconi goes on to question the meaning of the Second Amendment. Let me be perfectly clear, it has nothing to do with hunting, home protection, or belonging to a militia. It gives the right to bear arms to the citizens of the United States (providing for obvious restrictions on things like prohibiting felons from possessing them, etc.), and the ruling in *The District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) further establishes this. The statement that this right, “Shall not be infringed” is also clear.

He also references his experience in the Army as some sort of qualification to comment on gun issues. His lack of knowledge on the subject is made clear by the absurd comment that a semi-automatic rifle or an M-60 machine gun would not be suitable for hunting. First off, an M-60 has nothing to do with the conversation for a number of obvious reasons, and secondly, semi-automatic rifles are suitable for hunting certain game like coyotes and feral pigs. Not to mention the numerous other shooting sports and home defense.

Banning semi-automatic rifles is an ignorant knee-jerk reaction, especially since less than 2 percent of murders are committed with an “assault rifle.” In fact, more people are beaten to death than are killed by all long guns combined. As well, banning “high-capacity magazines” (another vague and meaningless term) is also a useless move, as most mass shootings (approximately 80 percent) involve handguns. The

Virginia Tech shooting involved only handguns, with nearly twice as many people killed as in the Parkland shooting.

Mr. Marconi goes on to praise the student activists, but they clearly don’t have a good grasp of the problem or knowledge about guns. I certainly would not heap any praise on David Hogg, who at best, is crude and disrespectful to his elders. The Parkland shooting clearly is the responsibility of Nikolas Cruz, but it clearly could have been prevented if not for the abject failure of the local police, the FBI, and the school system for not making sure that his behavior was appropriately dealt with prior to the shooting. And while any school shooting is a tragedy, the fact is that they just aren’t as common as the news media would have you believe.

Politicians are just starting to deal with the mental health issues that are the cause of many shootings, and that’s where the energy should be put, not on law-abiding citizens.

**John Sanieł-Banrey**  
Ostrander

### Caregiver support group is ‘invaluable’

Caring for my husband can be a lot to handle sometimes. I do the best I can to manage finances, doctor appointments, meals, household chores, and the occasional emergency, but the responsibility can feel overwhelming.

Many of my friends and other family members don’t understand what it’s like to care for a loved one and all of the complicated emotions that come along with it, and until recently, I felt alone in my frustration. That’s why finding the caregiver support group at SourcePoint was so important for me.

Having a space where I can relate to others who are in a similar situation, find community resources, and discuss my concerns has been invaluable to me in my caregiving journey. I’ve found a support system that makes me feel more confident in my caregiving role.

This wonderful service is made possible by our local senior services levy. The levy has to be renewed every five years, and it will be on

the ballot again in May. The support and resources that I and many other caregivers get from this one group far outweighs the small cost of this levy. Please vote “YES” for this important levy and keep the care going.

**Kathy Hazen**  
Powell

### Volunteering a rewarding experience

I have been a volunteer with SourcePoint in Delaware County for 11 years.

I have served in a variety of positions and find Meals on Wheels to be one of the most personally rewarding experiences I’ve ever had. I’ve had the opportunity to see first hand the services SourcePoint provides that allow many senior citizens to remain in their homes as opposed to a type of facility.

Delivering a hot meal to a client from our Meals on Wheels program means so much to those we serve. I have found I get as much out of the interaction with them as they do seeing us come by. It’s a great experience for one and all.

We also provide services such as emergency response systems, rides to medical appointments, health and wellness programs, insurance education, and caregiving support to assist caretakers in their duties with friends and/or family members.

I strongly support the senior services levy and will give it a big “YES” on my May 8 ballot.

Additional reasons to vote yes:

- Tax dollars help seniors remain in their own homes.

- In-home care is much less expensive for taxpayers than an outside facility (\$3,500 versus \$80,000 per year).

- The modest cost of the levy makes sense for our community’s continued growth.

- SourcePoint’s stellar track record for responsibly managing both services and costs.

More information is available at [SaveSeniorServices.org](http://SaveSeniorServices.org).

You can also vote at the Board of Elections or by absentee ballot beginning April 10. Say “YES” to our Senior Services Levy and help our Delaware County seniors.

**Carol Rohde**  
Delaware