



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on November 21, 2016

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Exercising the Right

Repeat Offender

Mlive.com reported on September 21 about two men who broke in to a Jackson, Michigan, home but were stopped by an armed homeowner. Richard Snyder, the homeowner, was home alone when two men broke down his front door. One of the intruders was a 27-year-old who had previously been convicted of home invasion and was actually on parole at the time of the incident. Snyder retrieved a firearm and prepared to defend himself. Court records show that one of the men charged into the house and ran at Snyder, who shot the burglar in the abdomen. At the sound of the shot being fired, the other accomplice ran from the house. The homeowner called 911, and police arrived to discover that the front door was knocked off its hinges. The injured suspect was still at the scene and was taken for medical treatment. He is expected to survive. The other suspect fled but was apprehended near the home by authorities. The investigation revealed that Snyder had been the victim of an earlier break-in, which prompted him to prepare himself with a rifle, but police do not believe the suspects in the current case had anything to do with the prior crime. Michigan state law allows for the use of deadly force to prevent “imminent death or great bodily harm” to oneself or others and there is “no duty to retreat.”

Chill Out

The *Augusta Chronicle* reported out of Augusta, Georgia, on September 12 about an intruder who was fatally shot while trying to enter a house after pushing out an air conditioner that was placed in a window. The resident of the house, 69-year-old Joseph Patterson, told investigators that the suspect tried kicking open the front door before setting his sights on the air conditioning unit. The intruder apparently deduced that it would be easier to enter the house by knocking the air conditioner out of place and climbing through the opening instead of kicking the front door down. As the intruder pushed the air conditioning unit in through the window, Patterson grabbed his handgun and aimed it at the window. When the suspect crawled into the house, Patterson shot him. He died at the scene.

The American Female Gun Owner

The Guardian reported out of Maryland on September 21 about the type of women who might own guns, and featured profiles of various female gun owners. The article reported on a recent survey that found that gun ownership among women is on the rise. The research from a soon-to-be-released landmark study by Northeastern University and the Harvard School of Public Health revealed that of gun owners who only own handguns, “43% are women and nearly a quarter of those women live in urban areas.”

The article featured the women-only gun club “Well Armed Woman,” which has a chapter in central Maryland. Carrie Lightfoot, the founder of the Well Armed Woman franchise, explained to *The Guardian* that “women are the prey and women are generally weaker and there has to be a way to equalize the battlefield.... I really think women are driving the growth [in gun ownership] because it’s now accessible to them in ways it has never been before.”

The Guardian also featured an interview with Jenny Hildebrand, who talked about how she overcame her anxiety about guns and learned to really enjoy shooting. “I felt so good I just wanted to come back,” Hildebrand explained to *The Guardian*, admitting she grew up in a household where guns were



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considered “evil.” Hildebrand eventually bought a shotgun after Baltimore erupted in riots last year. After getting her handgun license, she bought two more firearms and also carries a knife. “Women need to be able to protect themselves no matter what, whether it’s with a gun, with a knife, or their own body,” Hildebrand told *The Guardian*. “I think everybody needs to be able to do that.”

Other female shooters profiled by *The Guardian* were very passionate about the Second Amendment. Andrea Hunt only began shooting a few years ago, but became so engrossed with it that it threatened her marriage to a liberal Englishman. “He’s totally against it. We almost divorced because of that,” Hunt told *The Guardian*. Hunt also explained that gun-grabbing actions from politicians actually motivated her to procure her firearm. “When Governor Martin O’Malley, in conjunction with the Democratic party in Annapolis, decided to ban certain weapons and to make it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to exercise their second amendment right, then I decided to purchase a gun.”

The Guardian also interviewed the leader of Well Armed Woman’s Central Maryland chapter, Stephanie Stockman. “It’s incredibly empowering when you know that when you go out there that you don’t have to worry, you don’t have to be afraid,” Stockman told *The Guardian*. Stockman explained the need for the organization: “I wanted a place where if I didn’t know exactly what I was doing, I could go there and not feel judged — like you do with guys, unfortunately.” She said that the Well Armed Woman club helps women overcome their initial uneasiness, which could be amplified in an all-male setting. “When I first started, I was terrified: they’re going to think I don’t belong,” she said. Stockman is now leading the chapter and owns her own 9mm handgun. Stockman explained that there has been a considerable rise in interest in the club: “No matter where people are living now, they are just deciding that protection is more important altogether.”

The article concluded with an interview of a woman who would only be identified as “Tish.” Tish recently had attended her first meeting with the Well Armed Woman group, where she got advice on numerous topics including concealed-carry holsters. *The Guardian* explained that the sort of camaraderie and female interaction is one of the biggest draws of the club for women. The paper concluded with Tish’s views on why women are increasingly becoming involved in being prepared with armed self-defense: “That tells me there is a perceived increase in vulnerability.”

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