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LOCAL: Police find pot farm in Putnam couple's home

A Putnam Township couple is facing felony charges after undercover officers used a helicopter equipped with heat detecting abilities to find a marijuana grow operation inside the couple's two-story house on Wynn Drive off Darwin Road.

The homeowners — a man, 59, and his wife, 47 — were arrested May 2, but later released pending formal charges, after Oakland County authorities joined Hamburg Township Police and Livingston County agents in a raid at the couple's home, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard announced Friday afternoon. The couple's names were not released, but Bouchard said the man is retired and his wife is a civilian employee of the Ann Arbor Police Department.

During a press conference, Bouchard displayed items seized from the house, including 11 guns and about 30 pounds of packaged potent marijuana, grown by people he called experts at indoor cultivation.

Police also confiscated 44 marijuana plants — described as "mostly of goodsized — as well as grow-operation equipment including six lights, six transformers, 400 pounds of potting soil, numerous planting pots, fertilizer, fans, timers, extra bulbs and a triple beam scale.

Police estimate the street value of the marijuana at more than \$200,000.

Police also seized \$28,170 in cash, are seeking an additional \$28,414 they say the couple has in a savings account and will try to seize the house, worth \$300,000-\$400,000, under drug forfeiture laws, Bouchard said.
