## Borregard from page A1

Borregard presides every first Tuesday over the party's 11th Congressional District meeting at The Leather Bottle Inn, on Farnington Read south of Eight Mile in Livonia. He has a list of 25 people he regularly contacts. The attate organization reports more than 700 Reform Party supporters in the Farmington and

antid.

Titlerest has grown since the 1998 presidential election, he said, and not just among the younger, formerly uninvolved voters credited with putting Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura

Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura ilite office.

"I think what you have coming out of the Ross Perot election is a core group of people who tend to be older and concerned about the Social Security." he said.
"They're concerned about the America they're leaving their grandchildren. The media just kind of ekipa over that."

The local Reform Party has been trying to bring the third party vote together. "Inside Reform Today," a local public access television show, often features candidates and representations.

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tatives not only from the Reform Party, but other smaller groups like the Libertarian and Green

"We're trying to create some avenues for third party unity in the election process," Borregard

explained.
Clearly, however, he has his
own agenda. Borregard's work
on the Reform Party's education
platform has left him with some
strong opinions about the Michigan Educational Assessment
Program (MEAP) tests, as well
as education funding, both of
which he believes have been
overly obliticized.

which he believes have been overly politicized.

"In a lot of our districts, there's a disparity between rich and poor that shouldn't exist in public education," he said. "I think the MEAP test is a politithink the MEAP test is a politi-cal het potato. It's not a good test. The teachers don't like it, the parents don't like it or they don't understand it, and the stu-dents get nothing out of it."

He favors assessments already in place, like the Iowa or Califor-nia basic skills tests. And if offi-cials are going to publish MEAP scores, they should also publish

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information about the test stan-

dard, Borregard said.

The hottest issue between Vagnozzi and Raczkowski has been the tug of war between the state and local governments over "home rule," or local control. Vagnozzi has been an outspoken critic of proposed legislation that overrides ordinances passed by local governments. Raczkowski has been equally outspoken about how those bills have been misinterpreted.

"I'm profoundly for local control as much as possible," Borregard said. "It's the extreme polarity between the two parties that's ripping the fabric of our

society."

He intends to carry his message during the next eight months door to door, and folks can also expect to see him at community events. Borregard's platform also includes the fol-

owing planks:

Opposing a local minimum

E Fighting Oakland's "tax donor" status, attempting to recapture more of the 16 of every 100 tax dollars that go to the

state;
Opposing what he believes are unfair trade relationships that force high-tech jobs out of

Reducing class sizes at all levels to 18:

Expanding cultural arts opportunities, including the establishment of a children's science and arts center; and

Creating a light rail plan for

the region.

## Police defend the use of videotape in robbery case

While defense attorneys in an

While defense attornoys in an attempted robbery case may raise concerns, Farmington Hills police stand firmly behind their use of squad car video cameras. A portion of the tape taken from a Farmington Hills police car camera provided evidence at a preliminary examination for two men suspected of planning to the Howard's Discount Javelry on Grand River Feb. 16. Over the objections of defense attorneys, 47th District Court Judge Fred Harris admitted the evidence and found probable cause to bind Leonard Jerome Vassar and Cassius Rupert King over for trial.

They both face several felony

and Cassius Rupert King over for trial.

They both face several felony charges related to possession of a weapon by a folion and weapons passession during the commission of a felony. In addition, Vassaria ichanged with the ving a concealed weapon in a vehicle, and King is charged with fleeing a police officer.

"I don't know what authority the police have to run around with a camera, listening to people," said Vassar's attorney, Charles Ideoohn, challenging the power of police officers to go preeping, into people ilives.

Harris denied Idlesohn, smotion to suppress the tape, which was supported by King's attorney, Kathleen Solomon. He also ordered the prosecution to make the entire tape available, because only a portion of it had been copied onto the tape viewed in the courtroom.

On Friday, Hills Police Chief

neen copied onto the tape viewed in the courtroom.

On Friday, Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said his department was one of the first in the tricounty area to install video cam-

eras in police cars. Tapes record the officer's full shift and are stored for 90 days, unless they become evidence in a criminal or civil trial, or a complaint against

an officer.

More than 7,000 tapes are stored with the Hills Police

atored with the Hills Police
Department.

"They've been a great asset for
presenting cases in conjunction
with other evidence." Dwyer
said. "I'm a big proponent of incar cameras."

The exam, which lasted about
an hour, included testimony
from Hills officers who were
involved in the chase from
Grand River to Rossevelt en Feb.
16.

16.
Officer Eric Buckberry
launched the pursuit after spotting the green Dodge Neon with
two black male occupants pull
far back into the parking lot at
Pep Boys, two doors down from
Howdrd's.

## Dramatic end

Dramatic end
Responding to questions from
Assistant Prosecutor Hala Jarbou, Buckberry said he had been
given information from detectives about a similar vehicle and
occupants, seen by a neighbor
behind the jewelry store several
weeks earlier. The neighbor said
the men had been acting suspiciously, he testified.
Buckberry festified that when
he activated his patrol car lights
and attempted to stop the Neon,
he suspects sped up. Two Hills
squads followed as the car
turned down Boosevelt, exceeding speeds of \$5 to 60 mph in a
25 mph residential neighborbood.

The taped showed the chase concluded in dramatic fashion. "The very end of Roosevelt was a sheet of ice that day," Buckber-ry said. "He slid and struck a tree."

tree."

Buckberry said the driver fled
the vehicle, but the passenger
was pinned in A short foot pursuit ended in King's arrest, and
Vassar was removed from the
vehicle by other officers.
A. 22-caliber revolver were
recovered at the scene. Buckberry testified the .22 had been

dropped in the snow mar where King exited the vehicle. The tape showed Vassar's hand extended from the passenger side window. The .38 was found on that side of the car, about 150 r 20 feet from the door.

In addition, police found white trash bags, neoprone and ski masks, duct tape and numerous "flocusfis," which police quite often use for mass arrests, Buckberry testified.

Solomon's questions centered around the fact that before officers turned on their lights to stop the car, the driver had committed no traffic violation and there was no be on the lookout," or BOL, alert for a vehicle matching that description.

"Prior to turning your lights on, this vehicle hadn't broken any laws at all," she said.

Idlesohn also pointed out the person who first reported the suspicious wehicle hadn't identified either the car or the two suspects.

"Would you call what you did

suspects.

"Would you call what you did dangerous?" he asked Buckber-

"Would you call what you did angerous" he asked Buckberry.
"Id call what they did dangerous." Buckberry answered.
When Idlesohn asked if Buckberry would call what he did inccessary," the officer replied simply, "Yes.

Recounting the testimony of officers Buckberry and Lawrence Fetherolf, who backed up the pursuit, Judge Harris said he found sufficient evidence to binthe defendants earl for trial.

"Based on what the court has seen, based on what the court has seen, based on what the court has heard, this court finds probale cause to believe these defendants committed the crimes charged," Harris said, continuing bond for both at \$500,000.
Shlomon said her client wondered why the judge set bail co high. When the defendants were arraigned, Magistrate Joan Dudley set bond at \$10,000 or less for each, a move that upset Farmington Hills police.

"Why is it so high? He waant a fast enough driver. If he'd have been a faster driver, it would have been \$1 million," Harris sanaped.



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