

# Trustee criticized as millage opponent

Trustee Janet Callahan came under heavy fire at the Walled Lake Board of Education meeting last Monday for her alleged role in the defeat of the latest millage proposal.

The apparent source of the anger was a letter from Callahan which appeared in recent issues of *The Eclectic* and *The Walled Lake Edition* of the *Novi News*. That letter was subsequently reprinted on a flyer and distributed to residents throughout the district.

The Walled Lake District includes the western half of West Bloomfield and the northwestern portion of Farmington Hills.

Callahan voted in August to set a special election to obtain additional millage.

Callahan stated in her letter that she was withdrawing her support of the millage because "information about the school system that I have requested in writing and by phone many times from Dr. Sheldon, the superintendent, has not been given to me."

SHELDON HAS denied the allegation.

In response to questions from the audience at last week's meeting, Callahan said she had nothing to do with having the letter reprinted on the flyer.

She said she had not given "Citizens for Fair Taxation," the name of the group which distributed the flyer, permission to reprint the letter.

Among the most outspoken critics of Callahan's performance was Barbara Scully, a former school board member who did not seek re-election in June and subsequently was replaced by Callahan.

"When I retired from the board I was hopeful that my replacement would continue to work for the betterment of the district," Scully said.

"In my opinion, it is inconceivable that the board member responsible for this election could withdraw her support. That kind of turnabout is deceitful, dishonest and disloyal."

"How can we trust this new board member's vote in the future?" she asked. "I'm totally disillusioned and disgusted. The citizens elected the new board member and they can remove her."

CALLAHAN RESPONDED that she had nothing to do with the distribution of the flyer.

"I was elected because I promised to be open and honest with the people. It's not my fault I can't get information from this administration," Callahan said.

Additional criticism of Callahan's role in the millage defeat was expressed by Carolyn Baker and Cynthia Campion, co-chairpersons of the committee working for approval of the three-mill proposal in the Nov. 12 special election.

Baker said she considered Callahan's letter a "deliberate attempt to sabotage the millage."

"I deplore the fact that you're on the school board," Baker told Callahan.

Campion said that for Callahan to "turn around six days before the election and withdraw her support of the millage for garbage reasons is just about as low a thing as I've seen from a parent."

"YOU'VE DONE an unconscionable thing to our children," she added.

Superintendent Don Sheldon also criticized Callahan for her allegations that he had denied her access to information.

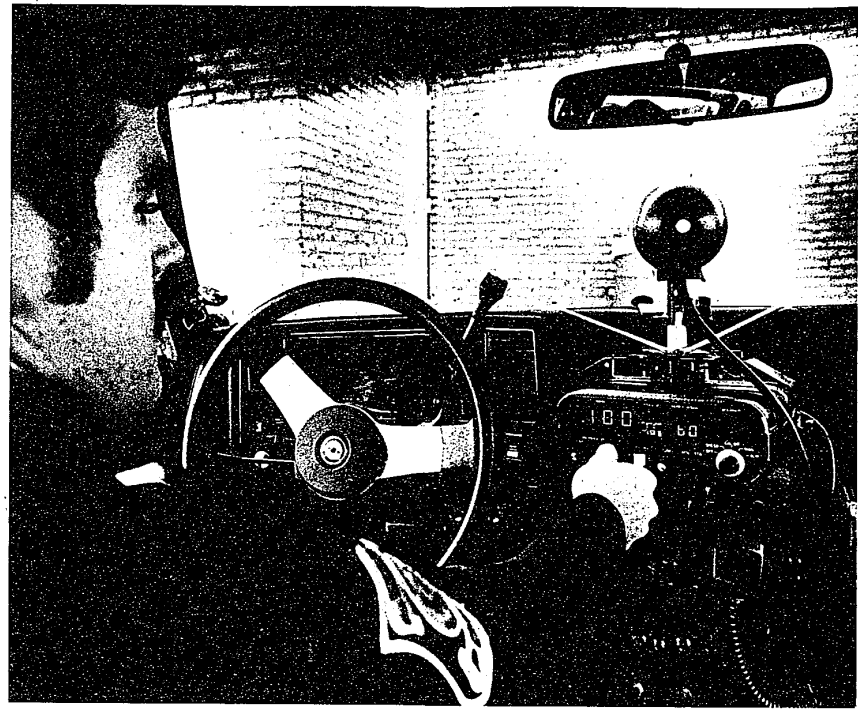
"I'll try to keep my temper in check, but I've listened to this malarkey for the past several minutes. My integrity has been impugned and that's the first time this has happened."

"I know my responsibilities as a professional educator. I do not withhold information from anyone if I consider it a legitimate request. If I don't feel it's a legitimate request, I will seek additional clarification from the person who makes the request or the board of education."

"I believe that most requests have been filled satisfactorily and I still don't know what information I have failed to provide," Sheldon concluded.

Although most comments were critical of Callahan, two residents attending the meeting support her position.

One said he felt it was wrong to chastise Callahan.



Zeroing in on speeders

Farmington Public Safety Officer John Coyle demonstrates the radar mechanism which is used by that department to keep speeders in check and the accident fatality one of the lowest in the state. Only one person has died on Farmington roads so far this year. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Farmington intersection

(Continued from page 1A)

and Farmington Road, checking in at 47,000 cars.

Santomauro said the majority of the accidents in both areas should be attributed to drivers failing to yield or failing to stop.

The statistics also state that drivers between 25 and 34 years old are most frequently involved in accidents.

The only serious accident in Farmington this year took place Nov. 8 at Grand River east of Brittany Hill. Marvin Dennis Gilpatrick was involved in a hit-and-run accident and is in critical condition in Botsford Hospital.

## Cranbrook sets nature walks

Indian crafts and nature walks will be features of this year's children's Thanksgiving workshop at Cranbrook Institute of Science, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 23 and 24.

The one-day sessions, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., are for children ages five through 12. Fee is \$8.

To register, send a check and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to children's workshop, Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills 48013.

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ANSWER 3) the "Spirit Path"

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10 oz. Old Fashioned Tumblers (set of 4)	5.00	3.00	1.00	FREE	6.25
12 oz. Tumblers (set of 4)	5.00	3.00	1.00	FREE	6.25
12 oz. Giant Mugs (set of 4)	7.50	5.50	3.50	FREE	8.50
16 oz. Steins (set of 4)	8.50	6.00	4.00	FREE	9.50
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