

LOCAL HISTORY
LANSING PUBLIC LIBRARY
NEWS ARTICLES
PAMPHLET FILE

For Reference

Not to be taken from this room

Lansing Library board's a race

Four candidates looking to fill three vacancies

(Editor's Note: This is one in a series of profiles on candidates entered in the local April 4 municipal elections).

By CAROLE SEBASTIAN
Times Correspondent

LANSING — The library board has the only contest in the village's April 4 municipal election.

Four candidates are seeking three seats on the Lewis O. Flom Lansing Public Library District board. The terms are for six years.

Incumbent Bonnie Garrison is a 12-year veteran of the board.

A secretary at Heritage Middle School, Garrison, 45, said she has several goals if elected to a third term.

"I want to see our library programs better publicized and to have more of the budget go to increase the library's book collections. But most of all, I want to encourage more people to use the library to see what a beautiful facility they have in Lansing," she said.

"We (the board) would like to do so much more, but unless you see it from behind the scenes it's hard to understand or know how much of the budget must go for repair, maintenance and for salaries — all of which are important," Garrison said.

Terry McKenna is the only other incumbent seeking re-election.

A nine-year veteran of the board, McKenna, 38, said he wants to continue



GARRISON



McKENNA



REICH



WIDDEL

his work on the board because "the library still needs improvement."

"Building maintenance and a leaky roof are top priorities for me — I think there is an adequate number of books but, I feel we can improve our services by bringing in more programs to interest the general public," he said.

McKenna is an orthotist, applying corrective braces to bones. He does biomechanical testings in his Munster office to determine if a person is functioning the correct way.

"Because I have young children I know there is a need to improve services for youngsters and offer a variety of services to bring more people of all ages into the library," he said.

Robert Reich is hoping to replace his wife on the library board.

Although she has served on the board for 12 years, Barbara Reich has decided to go back to school for her masters degree and will no longer have the time to devote to the library board.

Reich, 46, a former teacher, owns Vanguard Tour Service Inc., which caters to group travel with special emphasis on schools.

"I feel there is a need to improve reference material in the library and to work with teachers and principals to learn what their recommendations are," he said.

"We've lived in Lansing for 19 years and I'm surprised how many people have not seen or used the library," Reich said. "It's a beautiful building and we must do more with public relations to get more people, particularly children, interested and into the habit of using the library."

The fourth candidate in this year's

library board race is Janet Widdel, 47, a library clerk/aide at Schrum School in Calumet City.

"I've lived here (Lansing) since I was eight years old and now that my sons are grown and married, I would like to do my civic duty and offer my input to the library board," Widdel said.

"I worked in a library and know what some of the problems are and I feel we really need a junior high section in the public library," she said.

Widdel said junior high and elementary school students have separate areas in the Schrum library.

"I think books in the reference department of Lansing's library should be upgraded and programs for children should be promoted to let the public know more about what's offered (at the library)," she said.