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STAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1991

Library issues aired in election campaign

By Kym Liebler

Lansing is showing a great deal of interest in its library services this year as seven residents mount campaigns for election to three seats on the Lansing Library Board in the spring.

Two of the seats carry full six-year terms, while the third seat is a four-year unexpired term.

All of the candidates proclaim to have the best interests of the 15-year-old library in mind as they outline the issues in the April election.

Making policy changes, overseeing structural modifications, implementing more flexible guidelines for children who use the library and maintaining a diverse book selection are some of the reasons that prompted the candidates to enter the race.

Jean Lefler McCall, a kindergarten teacher at Oak Glen Elementary

School in Lansing, said she is running in support of the current board.

"I like the direction the library is going in. I support the board and would like to be a part of it," she said.

Allowing children greater access to library facilities is a recent change both McCall and fellow candidate Elizabeth Bush are applauding.

Said Bush of the more liberal policy, "It's a big step in the right direction. More things should be done to ensure this freedom of access."

According to McCall and Bush, for a number of years children age 12 and younger were not permitted to enter the adult section of the library without a parent or an adult.

"Some kids who go to the library to work on a book report or on a school project need the resources only the adult section can provide," McCall said.

"I believe many children are mature enough to use the entire library. Changing the policy is a step in the right direction," she added.

Mary Kern, a librarian at the media center at Calvin Coolidge Elementary School in Lansing and another candidate for the board, said a few recent changes made by the board prompted her to join the race.

"For example," said Kern, a patron of the library since 1951, "you used to be able to reserve library books, which I liked. You can't do that anymore. I'd like to bring that service back."

Former Library Director Joanne Jensen, who resigned from the post last April when she discovered she was the only village employee not to receive a 4 percent salary increase, also has decided to seek a seat on the board.

Despite the self-described "tense" circumstances of her resignation, Jensen said she is confident her 24 years of experience with the Lansing Library system particularly qualify her for the position.

"I feel I have a lot to offer the board. I now have the time to give to the board and I'm very familiar with the day-to-day problems at the library," she said.

Although the board voted not to give Jensen a raise, she said she "would not run if I didn't think I could work with them."

Jensen said the library building is in bad condition. "The air conditioning does not work properly and \$89,000 has been spent on ceiling repairs and it still leaks."

Candidate David Przybyl said he is proud of the Lansing Library and would appreciate the opportunity to "make sure it stays that way." But, Przybyl said "There is always room for improvement."

Noreen Nelson, who serves on the Lansing Historical Society Board and is also a candidate for one of the library board seats, would like to see a greater book collection at the library, but is "basically pleased with

City to get a briefing on Deep Library

Continued from Page A-1

The Metropolitan Water Pollution District will unveil plans for the Calumet Tunnel System at a City Council meeting in Calumet City, Ill., Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the City Building, 204 Pualski Road.

The tunnel is expected to solve long-standing problems in the area, as well as a way to combat flooding of waterways, according to City Mayor Robert Stefan.

The communities of Burr Ridge, Dolton, Markham and South Holland as well as a portion of the city of Chicago will benefit from the completed project.

The meeting will begin with a 30-minute video presentation on the project given by MWRD officials. The project's general contractors will also be introduced to the public during the meeting.

"This meeting will give us an over-

view of how the library is run." She entered the race, she said, because she has time to devote to the board. "As long as I have the time to give, I want to do my civic duty." Incumbent board member Robert Reich is seeking the four-year unexpired term he was appointed to last year.

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The project will be divided into two phases. Phase one will consist of construction of structures to intercept combined sewer flows before discharge into dual waterways, vertical drop shafts that will convey the flow to the tunnel system and the actual tunnels to store the water.

Phase two consists of construction

■ See TUNNEL, Page A-2



John Kurzeja of Lansing Sheriff's police office on duty with the U.S. m

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By Myra Guindo
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■ See LIBRARY, Page A-2