

# Library's director gives building, programs new life

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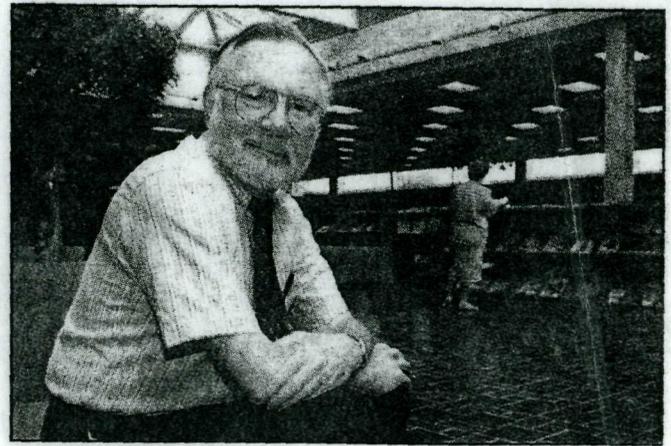
LANSING - A Beethoven symphony soared through the room.

No it's not an orchestra hall, or even a record store. It's Lansing's Lewis O. Flom Public Library's new multimedia computer that can play music as well as give a biography of the composer and other information.

In its 60th anniversary

year, the library at 2750 Indiana Ave. has a lot more than books to open people up to, including its new library director.

William "Bill" Babcock, a resident of Palos Hills, comes to Lansing from the Markham Public Library where he was library director since 1991. He also served at Naperville's Nichols Library, where he was department head and automation specialist.



GREGG GEARHART / THE TIMES

William Babcock, the new director of the Lansing Public Library, has brought change to the library during his short tenure.

Although Babcock has been the new library director for less than a year, his pride in the library is evident as he explains the

transformations the building has undergone.

New programs and changes have occurred to

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make the building more efficient for the staff and for library patrons, he said.

For instance, Babcock had the senior reading section, which includes large print books, moved closer to the front door to limit unnecessary walking for older library visitors. Moreover, the multimedia computer in the children's section lets library visitors view anything they would be able to find in an encyclopedia.

The 20-year-old library building, named for longtime library board member Lewis O. Flom, just received \$180,000 in remodeling work, which included new carpeting and a new telephone system.

The modern atrium on the main floor makes a perfect place to relax, read and enjoy live Ficus trees, ivy, rubber plants and wood sculptures by Leslie Scroggs, which are on loan to the library by the Lansing sculptor. On the outside, the building is decked-out in new green awnings.

A new ceiling in the children's section hides unsightly pipes that distracted from the cheerful and roomy children's area.

"We have open and living areas rather than a mausoleum," Babcock explained with a smile, as youngsters talked above the library-standard whisper.

Currently, there are 22,625 library cards in active use, with 111,000 books, 1,500

## For your information:

■ Lewis O. Flom Public Library

Library hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Books can be renewed by calling the library.

videos, 4,000 audio recordings and 240 magazine and newspaper subscriptions available in the library. And if that isn't enough, the Suburban Library System, which includes 72 public libraries, allows anyone with a library card to obtain additional materials from any of the system's libraries.