



## Holiday effort helps grieving mother

Since her son was killed in a crash with a drunken driver, Theresa Aragon has had a difficult time celebrating Christmas. **Region/A5**

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# officials at odds

## Residents, trustees fear library computer misuse

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LANSING — Village trustees and residents expressed concerns Tuesday that a new Lansing Public Library computer will be used to view and download pornographic material.

Trustees learned Tuesday that the library is allowing one of its recently installed computer to have unfiltered Internet access. After much discussion

and input from residents and parents, the board vowed to develop a resolution that would address the issue.

Mayor Robert West made it clear to the audience that the Library Board is a self-directed governing body separate from the village. However, he said, "The board is confident that the Library Board will make a right and informed decision."

Nevertheless, village officials admitted that this is a touchy situation that

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## Computer

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could have strong legal ramifications.

"Generally speaking, this is a very difficult thing to regulate because of the freedom of the press and freedom of speech (issue)," Dale Anderson, village attorney, said. "We must sometimes endure some of the excesses (that

freedom) creates."

The legal system has seen its fair share of court cases regarding the availability of sexually related material and adult entertainment, but "it is not always clear what constitutes offensiveness," Anderson warned.

Residents were not quite as diplomatic about the subject, as a more frightening prospect to parents is giving their children the potential to access adult-oriented material in a public place, according to resident John Klompmaker.

"If they don't put Hustler on the shelf at the library, why allow it on the Internet?" Klompmaker asked.

Residents also wondered why the Library Board was perceivably being secretive as it did not inform the village on their decision to leave one computer unfiltered.

"I can't get any information from the library (about this) sub-

ject," Klompmaker added.

Library representatives were not available for comment.

In addition to providing the potential to download adult material, many residents feel unfiltered access to the Internet in a public place may compromise the community's high standards, according to resident Henry Doctor.

"The leadership of any community has to make a stand on these issues," Doctor said. "Our leaders need to stand up for what is good in this town for children and families."

This is not the first time the village has addressed the issue of the availability of adult-oriented materials. Last year, the Board of Trustees fought a long but successful battle with a local adult entertainment club that led to an ordinance prohibiting such businesses from operating within village limits.