



MATTHEW HINTON / Journal Staff

Ashley Burt, 8, center, reads "Antarctic Antics: A Book of Penguin Poems" to Thomas Galvin, 8, far left, Jack Alano, 5, and Bridget Alano, 3, Tuesday night at the Lansing Community Library. The children read books while their parents attended a ground-

breaking for the expansion of the library and a talk session to discuss the fund-raising campaign for the last \$50,000 out of the \$350,000 total cost for the library's expansion. Most of the funding has come from grants, state funds and private donations.

## Volunteers break ground for library upgrade

By JENNIE DALEY

Journal Staff

LANSING — The tossing of a little dirt on a cold November night signified a much bigger project at hand. The Lansing Community Library Center hopes to break ground on a complete makeover of its building before the end of the year.

A private event held Nov. 15 signified this intent with a ceremonial ground-breaking.

The gathering was also a celebration of the end of one phase of fund raising and the start of another. With \$300,000 already secured from grants, state funds and private donations, the library is turning to the community for the final \$50,000

Those donations will go toward expanding the library and making it compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. With the changes, library volunteers hope programming, as well as library use, will climb.

"Six years ago, this was an empty building facing an uncertain future," said Marlaine Darfler, chair of the capital campaign committee. "Now we have over 10,000 books and 2,000 patrons ... 'Build it and they will come' never rang more true."

Located in front of the town hall, the brick structure was built in 1929 for use as a schoolhouse. Lansing Town Supervisor Steve Farkas remembers attending first grade there in 1948.

schools' centralized campus, the school building lost its purpose and eventually transitioned into being the town hall.

When town officials moved across the parking lot to a new building in 2000, residents' discussion centered on either keeping the building or tearing it down. Those hoping to start a library won the debate and the facility opened in July of 2000.

While many appreciate having the library in town, volunteers recognize that the space they have now limits them. The renovations will reshape the space so it's better suited for its purpose. Without handicap accessibility, they can't offer programming like book clubs or reading hours for children. Circulation is now

growing the collection is limited.

When the work is completed, all that should change. The building will be reoriented so the entrance faces the town hall, rather than State Route 34B. The first floor will house a circulation area and children's reading room and computer room, along with an expanded two rooms of stacks. The lower floor will be set aside for a multi-purpose room, storage, book processing and some space which hasn't yet been assigned a use.

Library officials hope the next step, after the renovations, will be looking at applying for a state charter. With the charter, the library would become an independent organization funded by town taxpayers.

remainder of the week.  
**RECREATION**  
 Greater Ithaca Activities Center:

**SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**  
 All area schools: Closed  
 and Friday  
 Bolton Point Water Plant: C  
 today and Friday  
 City of Ithaca: Closed toda  
 Friday  
 Town of Ithaca: Closed th  
 Friday  
 Cornell University: Closed t  
 and Friday  
 Ithaca College: Closed today

**TOMPKINS COUNTY  
 JAIL CENSUS**

Population figures reflect the  
 census for **Wednesday, Nov. 23**

<b>ADULT MALES</b>	54
<b>MALES UNDER 19</b>	3
<b>MALES BOARDED OUT</b>	24
<b>ADULT FEMALES</b>	7
<b>FEMALES UNDER 19</b>	0
<b>FEMALES BOARDED OUT</b>	1
<b>TOTAL HEAD COUNT</b>	64

Evening meal planned for  
 tonight: Turkey ham salad  
 sandwiches, pickle, potato  
 salad and banana.

The Tompkins County Jail has a maximum  
 capacity of 73 inmates.

**Library**

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"It's amazing that what started  
 on a grassroots level has turned  
 into this," said Farkas, whose wife  
 Alice has been very active in the  
 library.

Holly Hardie was part of the  
 original grassroots movement, first  
 getting involved years ago when she  
 agreed to help put the first install-  
 ment of books on the shelves.

"Now I help pick out books for  
 the library - it's fun to choose books  
 and have people enjoy them,"  
 Hardie said. "Even with the elec-  
 tronic age we're in, I think, I hope,  
 that books will always be with us."

Brigid Hubberman, executive  
 director of the Family Reading  
 Partnership, was also at the ground  
 breaking.

"Investment in a library is invest-  
 ment in human potential. This vol-  
 unteer effort is really quite an  
 amazing thing," she said.

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**REACQUIR  
 A THIRST**

*for knowledge*

No need to pore over a  
 signature wine list at Risto  
 Combined with a Tuscan-i  
 and complimentary valet p  
 can learn.

*Located at the Statler*  
 Recipient of the Wine



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LAYAWAY

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