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## Lansing library up for a 2nd vote

Center looks to be full-fledged lending facility

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Journal Staff

**LANSING**—After a 32-vote loss in May, the Lansing Community Library Center will bring a nearly identical proposition to Lansing residents to form a

library tax district.

The Lansing Board of Education last week approved a request to hold the vote Dec. 11.

The tax rate would increase by 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value compared with the 17-cent increase proposed in May.

Library Chairwoman Mar-laine Darfler said she realizes the tax burden in Lansing but looks at the library vote as a chance to get tax money back to Lansing. She said the library tax district would be eligible to

### ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The Lansing Community Library Center is classified as a reading room of the Tompkins County Public Library and has access to some of that library's resources. If the vote passes, the center would become part of the Finger Lakes Library System, become eligible for grants and county money, and would have access to all books within the system.

receive money from the county for funding.

"If we become a library, we bring some of local taxes back," Darfler said. "I'm glad we support Groton, Newfield and

Trumansburg, but why don't we support ourselves?"

Darfler attributes the May defeat to some confusion about what was being voted on as well as people seeing an additional

tax on top of the 7 percent school tax levy increase.

For the last seven years, the Lansing library has survived entirely off volunteers, but Darfler said volunteers at the library can't continue to meet user's demands.

"If (the vote) doesn't pass, it certainly won't look like it looks now," Darfler said. "Volunteers feel overwhelmed by the level of expertise they're being asked

See LIBRARY Page 2B

## LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM 1B

(to exhibit.) We don't really know how to run a real professional library."

Without public funds, library hours and resources will be cut, forcing people to visit the Tompkins County Public Library, she added.

The tax would go to funding one full-time staff position to help manage the library. Darfler said volunteers are feeling the burden of running a library without any formal training as demand for library services in Lansing increases.

"People don't want to fund operations. They want to fund projects," Darfler said. "We're basically hitting a wall, and it's hard for some volunteers. The demand for services has skyrocketed, so what's needed we're having a hard time providing."

Using herself as an example, Darfler said that high-speed

Internet isn't offered throughout Lansing but that for roughly \$25 a year, her children access a high-speed connection at the library as well as take advantage of the other services provided.

Darfler said by keeping the tax as low as possible, the library still won't be able to acquire the resources people might want. However, if the vote passes, the library would join the Finger Lakes Library System and library users could borrow books from a variety of libraries in the region.

She said the Tompkins County Public Library will start to charge for book borrowing and other activities in the near future.

The Lansing School Board will vote Oct. 10 on whether or not to approve an advertisement, which by law must be published before the vote.

Darfler said Dec. 11 was the earliest library volunteers can obtain voting machines.

### Tompkins County Jail Census

Population figures reflect census for

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