

Lansing library told yes

12/12/08

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ERICA THUM / Journal Staff

Election Inspectors Betty Cook, left, and Nancy Milligan help sign in Jaquie Kayden and her daughter Ellie Kayden, 18 months, as a line of people waits to vote on forming a tax district for the Lansing Community Library Center on Tuesday at the Lansing Middle School.

Voters turn out to approve tax district, 686-621

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LANSING—Lansing residents voted to turn the Lansing Community Library Center into a member of the Finger Lakes Library System Tuesday, voting 686-621 to create a special tax district and approving a \$105,000 budget.

The same vote failed in May when residents voted down the library tax district by 32 votes. The turnout was close to the same with about 200 fewer voters turning out this time around.

The “yes” vote on the tax district will increase taxes 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is two cents less than the proposal that failed in May. Lansing fundraising committee co-chairwoman Donna Scott said the library tax will make up half a percent of all local taxes paid by Lansing property owners.

The \$105,000 budget is a \$3,000 decrease from the amount budgeted in May and re-

quires a referendum if library officials want to increase the budget.

“It’s really, really exciting,” Scott said. “We’re just thrilled with the outcome. We needed every bit of work we did to win this vote. I want all the people who were worried about taxes who may have voted against this because of that, that we are going to do everything we can to keep the budget the same year after year. We’re going to work hard to be conservative about that because we have other funding sources for the library.”

The money raised by the tax district will fund a full-time position at the library and more library materials. The vote will also allow the library to borrow books from any library in the Finger Lakes Library System.

The vote to approve municipal funding for the library will allow the Lansing library to utilize a possible \$20,000 grant from the Triad Foundation that will pay for the library to digitize its collection, train staff and maintain the



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Barth Mapes was one of many people to vote on a proposal to form a tax district for the Lansing Community Library Center.

See LIBRARY Page 2B

Turn over

erated a dental practice in Tompkins County.

"We provide quality dental care to an under-served population; 40-50 million people do not have a regular pattern of dental care," said Mark Frank, Aspen's manager of marketing communications.

Frank said Dr. Vikramjit Anand of Ithaca, owns the Ithaca practice as well as an Aspen Dental office in Big Flats. Anand will serve as lead dentist in Ithaca. He holds his doctorate in dental science from the New York University College of Dentistry.

Continued on page 1B

1. brilliant Sirius is up in good view, he southeast below Orion.

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LIBRARIES

NCE, DANCE REVOLUTION AND
AR HERO, game night open to
12-17; 6-8 p.m. Tompkins County
c Library, 101 E. Green St., Ithaca.

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LIBRARY

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system for a year. Scott said if the vote failed the grant would not be used.

"This is great," Scott said. "It means we can move forward and talk to the Triad Foundation about the grant to get our library computerized."

Library officials repeatedly stated the library would close for good if the vote had failed.

Resident Bill Miller said he

thinks the library does an excellent job providing materials, particularly to kids, and he thinks it's very important to do that.

"Lansing supports senior citizens, it supports athletics, but there's a group that misses out," he said. "With my assessment, I may pay more than a lot of people, but it's worth it to me."

Liz Nasbinder voted no on the library vote, saying she thought adding the Lansing Community Library Center was duplicating services since the

public has access to the county library and Lansing schools' libraries in the summer.

John Hummel said he's "generally in favor of libraries as a resource," which is why he voted yes. When asked if he was a library user he said he's used the Lansing library on a handful of occasions but will probably begin to use it more if it becomes permanent.

Marty Jones voted no simply because taxes are already too high he said.