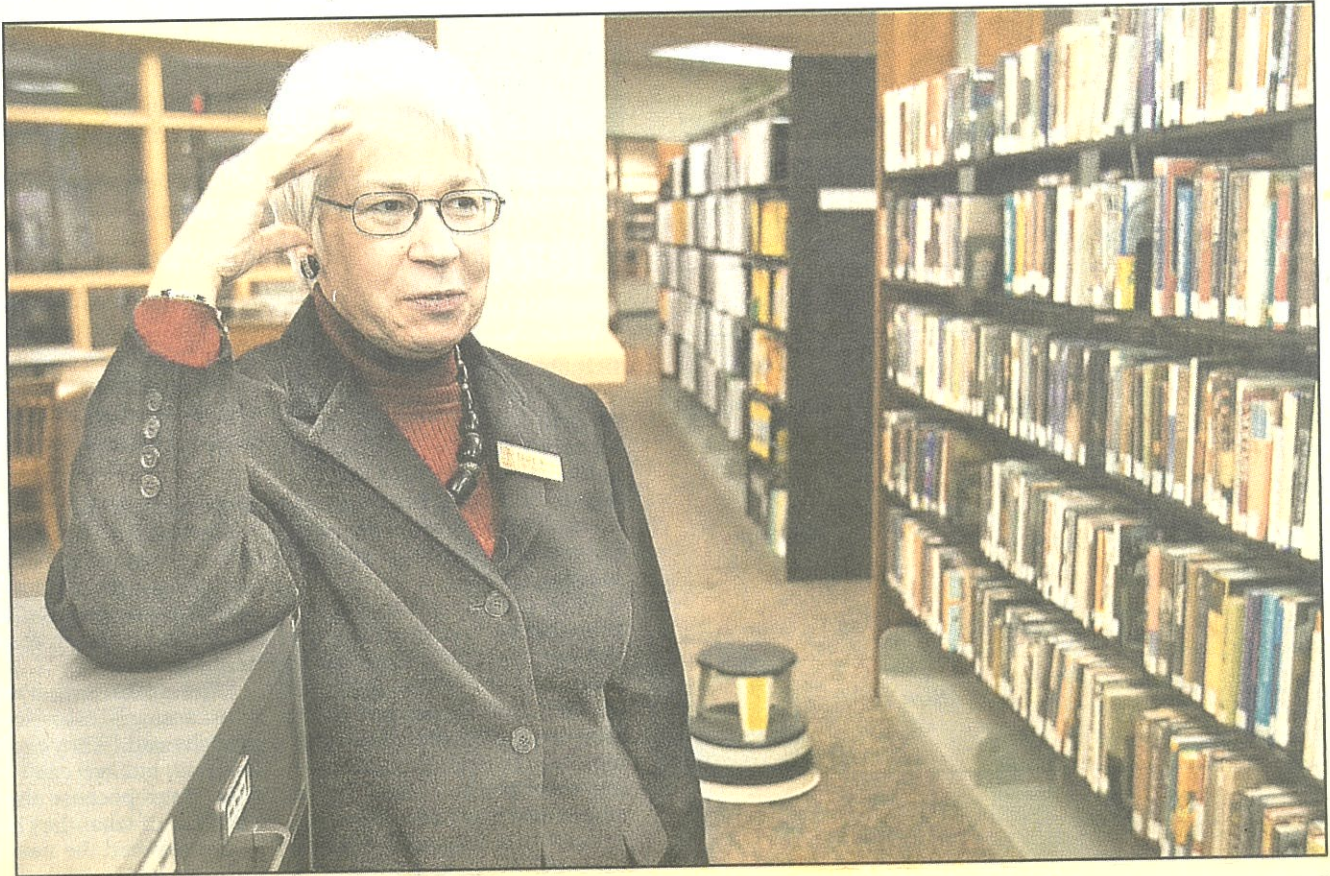


Library looks to recoup fees



SIMON WHEELER / Journal Staff

Janet Steiner, the director of the Tompkins County Public Library, talks about the range of services the library provides and the various public and private funds that support the county library and other libraries in the county.

Non-chartered partner to pay more; Lansing up for vote

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The Caroline Community Library is the only one of three non-chartered libraries in Tompkins County that will pay new fees to the Tompkins County Public Library in order to keep programs such as interlibrary loan and deposit collections.

Tompkins County Public Library Director Janet Steiner said Caroline, Danby and Lansing are the only non-chartered libraries in the county and have received various services from the county library that cost the county about \$14,000 a year combined.

"Those (libraries) are not chartered, they have no paid staff, they have no permanent

source of revenue," she said. "Those three had been supported by our library."

The new fees are the latest move by the county library to try to institute fairer ways of paying for libraries, Steiner said. The current system is made up by a web of payments that are inconsistent for each municipality. That has been something the county library has worked to correct for years.

Caroline will pay \$10 for every deposit collection. Deposit collections are library materials delivered by the county library to the non-chartered libraries. There is also a \$250 delivery fee. It will also pay \$5 per item for interlibrary loan services.

Steiner said Lansing is the only library that doesn't use deposit collections because

FUNDING LIBRARIES

There is no standard way towns pay for public libraries. In Tompkins County there is one county library, four chartered libraries and three non-chartered libraries.

The Tompkins County Public Library is funded by county property taxes and a small portion of sales tax collected by the City of Ithaca.

Charter libraries are funded by the county in all four towns, but additional funding comes from up to three different public sources: The town, the village and/or the school district.

- ▶ Dryden: County, Town and Village support
- ▶ Groton: County, School District support
- ▶ Newfield: County, Town and School District support
- ▶ Trumansburg: County, Town, Village and School District support

Tompkins County Public Library Director Janet Steiner said she would like to see the county underwrite the county library and have each municipality fund its own library to bring consistency to the system.

Two non-chartered libraries, Caroline and Danby, receive some county funding.

of the fundraising volunteers have done.

The Caroline Reading Room went to the town board

earlier this year to ask the town for funding and received it.

See LIBRARY Page 2B



Journal file photo

The Lansing Community Library Center's children's reading room as seen in March. The Lansing community votes today to charter or close the library.

LIBRARY

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Danby has opted not to participate in the services for the year as it re-examines its budget, and Lansing Community Library Center will either become chartered after a vote today or close, said Donna Scott, co-chair of the fundraising committee for Friends of the Lansing Library.

"The town board wanted to keep (library volunteers) happy and keep the public using the library," Town of Caroline Supervisor Don Barber said. "We think it's a good source of community pride and getting people together. In the end, it really comes down to a matter of philosophy and community building and in our town (the library)

LANSING VOTE

Lansing Central School District residents are eligible to vote to form a library tax district for the Lansing Community Library Center from noon to 9 p.m. today at the Lansing Middle School auditorium.

If the vote passes, taxpayers would see a charge of 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is two cents less than the earlier proposal. Supporters of the proposal say the library will close if the vote fails.

is serving that function."

Steiner said the county library is trying to even out the pay structure for the three libraries that provide no service to the county library in return for county services.

"The problem that we have with Lansing is it's one-way sharing," she said. "They can borrow from us, but we can't borrow from them because there's no database of what they own."

Steiner said the new philosophy at the library is "commu-

nities in Tompkins County who wish to offer local library services may do so, but it's expected that the local community will support its own local library."

Friends of the Lansing Library have gotten the library to a second vote after one failed in May. If the vote fails a second time the library would be able to seek funding directly from the town, though it's unlikely the town board would approve funding for a library that's twice voted down by referendum.