

**Citizens for a Fair Ferndale  
Library Board Candidates Forum  
Sunday, October 23, 2011  
3:00 p.m. (arrive by 2:30)  
Ferndale Public Library**

**Library Board Candidates Questionnaire**

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**Why of all Boards and Commissions, are you so committed to the Library Board?**

I became acquainted with our library 10 years ago when our then 6 year old son began participating in the programs the library was offering to children. This was a great experience for him and our now 8 year old participates in programs. The library is a fantastic community resource and a terrific gathering place and I want to help provide that experience to everyone in our community

**What, in your opinion, have been the 3 most exciting new options for library patrons since the opening of our new facility?**

I would say the addition of 40 new computers for patron use - it's great to see so many folks using them. And all of the additional space for sure. The children's area is tremendous, the teens have their own space, there's the beautiful atrium and addition of the community rooms and plenty of space all around the library where you can sit and read. This additional space also gives the the library the opportunity to promote many more programs for users.

**What are the next 2 pressing issues for the library?**

Funding is a constant issue and is even more uncertain now that tax revenues are down - paying off our bond issuance from the reconstruction is going to be challenging. And while it isn't necessarily a separate issue, the funding also affects our materials and programming. In order for our library to be successful, we have to continue to provide up-to-date media and programming to our patrons. So not only do we have to keep our doors open, we need to keep people coming in and out of them.

**Tax revenues are down, and money from all sources is tighter than ever. Are there any services now given or any new services that should be "re-visited" due to needed belt-tightening?**

I suppose that could happen in the future, I can't think of any that I would want to put on the table for reconsideration right now. The library is very fortunate to have the Friends of the Ferndale Library who do fundraising to help keep programs going. The library also has a Development and Fundraising Committee currently exploring multiple fundraising possibilities. With these efforts, everyone is hopeful that services won't be affected.

**How can we get more people to use our library?**

This is an ongoing process - getting more folks to come in and use the library. Since the library opened their doors after the renovation completion, staff indicates they've seen many, many new faces which is fantastic. The Ferndale Public Library has done a terrific job in programming and continues to change things up to attract more patrons - we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated, innovative and dynamic director and staff who are constantly brainstorming and trying new programs to attract folks of all ages.

**Information retrieval, literacy, reading for pleasure are all important and growing more important daily, no matter if you use traditional books, or new technologies such as iPhones/ iPods/ Kindles. What implications does this have for the future of Ferndale Library?**

Keeping an ear to ground and listening to what folks need and want are how we can keep with these ever-changing times. Of course funding affects what we can do but I'm confident in the abilities of our new director and staff to continue listening to our patrons' wants and needs and to continue open communication with the board so we can assist them in their efforts.

**With whom do you envision the Library collaborating closer? Where do you see the need for more communication between the Library and other groups in our community?**

I believe our library and schools could work more closely together - a definite benefit to both. As schools are receiving less money per student, our library is a great resource for them and helps the library in it's effort to bring in more patrons and have more people participate in our programming. I also envision collaboration with local businesses which is something the Development and Fundraising Committee is exploring.

**What makes you the best candidate for the Library Board?**

The library is a fantastic community resource and a terrific gathering place and I want to help provide that experience to everyone in our community. I have experience in this position having served on the board in the past and am dedicated to the library and our fantastic director and staff. I'm fortunate to be able to serve our community as Library Bd. Trustee.