

4/9/09

# Library petitioned to take books off teen list

## Complaints focus on volumes some say have sexually explicit content

By DAVE RANK  
Daily News Staff

A petition with 443 signatures compiled by town of West Bend residents Ginny and Jim Maziarka and their newly formed West Bend Citizens for Safe Libraries (WBCSL) was presented to the West Bend library this week.

The petition asks that books with sexually explicit passages be removed from a teen-oriented list of materials and re-assigned to the adult book section.

In a written statement, the Maziarkas describe the petition as "a formal request for policy changes at the West Bend Community Memorial Library, signed by 443 concerned citizens. The petitions request that the library board take a roll call vote to adopt 5 policies to make the library child-safe and family-friendly."

"... (W)hether a book features explicit straight acts or explicit gay acts, sexually explicit content should not be on the teen shelf in the West Bend Library," Ginny Maziarka wrote in her announcement on the petition. "Books that meet the federal definition of 'harmful to minors' should not be promoted to minors."

Sue Cantrell, assistant director at the West Bend library said they are still deliberating what to do with the Maziarkas' petition.

"We haven't decided that, yet," she said. "We don't know, to tell you the truth. As long as I've been here there's never been a petition presented (to the library). I've been here nine years."

On Feb. 12, the Maziarkas filed a formal request for reconsideration of library materials complaint objecting to all books in the Out of the Closet category listed in the Young Adult section of the library's Web Site.

Since then, the Maziarkas have been quite public and vocal in the media and in blogs they run that books with sexual content should not be made available to children, especially books they feel promote the "gay agenda."

A March 3 meeting of the Library Board at which the complaint was to be discussed was postponed at the request of the West Bend Fire Department

Please see LIBRARY/A7

# Upside TO A DOWN economy

"They're hungry out there."

— Allan Carter  
chairman,  
West Bend  
Public  
Works  
Committee



The city estimated a cost of almost \$137,500 to reconstruct the Walnut Street parking lot. A company won the project with a bid closer to \$100,700.

## 'Hungry' contractors low-ba

By DAVE RANK  
Daily News Staff

There is an upside to a bad economy. West Bend officials were pleasantly surprised this week by the number of bidders with lower-than-expected prices for a trio of public works projects planned to proceed this summer.

"They're hungry out there," said Alderman Allan Carter, chairman of the city's Public Works Committee, when he saw bids to reconstruct the Walnut Street public parking lot downtown.

"Eleven bidders," he said. "Thirty-seven thousand (dollars) under estimate."

Town & Country Underground Utility Construction Inc. of Mayville sub-

mitted the low bid for that project. \$100,651.79, which had been estimated would cost closer to \$137,439, explained Judy Neu, city engineer.

With contingency funds, the project budget will be \$108,000, which the Common Council approved Monday.

That project is expected to be completed by the end of May, Neu said, "so that it is done before the Veterans Avenue reconstruction project begins."

The \$1.48 million Veterans Avenue reconstruction, two blocks away and east of the Milwaukee River, will rebuild the street closer to the river with two lanes instead of the current four.

Two other projects drew multiple bidders and lower-than-expected price tags.

— T.P. Conc \$36,257 to repl at various loc of nine contr work. That pr mated at \$40.4 tency, high the project's b

"We would money availal curb, and extr little more pav essary," she to

— Scott's I bidder for th tract, which trees within streetscapes i

\$22,730 plus \$

## Hospital retrains after parents take

### Dad noticed it was not his son while mom breastfed

babies were briefly mixed up. Lara and Brain Behrendt's baby, born on March 20, was given to the wrong mother, who breast-fed him for a few minutes before the father noticed it

"The staff of the New Life Center and the entire hospital is distressed by this incident."

"We have used this experience to learn from and we have re-committed our organization

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# FROM THE FRONT

## Library: Books protested

because more people were in the City Hall's Common Council Chamber than its 265-person capacity. That meeting had been rescheduled from the library to City Hall to try to accommodate a large crowd.

The library then planned to hold the meeting at Silverbrook Middle School at a later date.

In an exchange of e-mails late in March, Library Director Michael Tyree, following the advice of City Attorney Mary Schanning, told the Maziarkas that public statements they made since filing their original complaint indicated they wanted certain books banned, not the entire category.

That, Tyree said, changed the Maziarkas' objection. So he cancelled the rescheduled meeting with the Library Board and asked the couple to clarify what they were complaining about and file individual requests for reconsideration on each book to which they objected.

Each of those complaints would then go through the usual book reconsideration process involving "two meetings with Library staff before their requests can go before the (Library) Board."

Since then, the Maziarkas have not filed a new complaint, Cantrell said. "They have not submitted any reconsideration forms."

The Maziarkas insist their original complaint, with addendums listing additional books they want removed was clear enough.

On March 26, the Maziarkas held their own information session at Silverbrook attended by between 100 and 150 people where they began collecting signatures for their petition.

The petition asks the board take a roll call vote on the following five issues:

- Reclassify "Youth-Targeted Sexually Explicit Books" into the adult section of the library;

- Visually identify books with sexually explicit content with a parental advisory;

- Restrict "Library-generated Online Sexual Content;"

- Balance "Literature on Controversial Issues."

Specifically, the Maziarkas want to see the library buy books that claim people with homosexual tendencies can be "converted" to a heterosexual lifestyle.

- Require the library to implement technology to protect minors from internet pornography on public computers in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Because West Bend's is the lead library in Washington County, the Maziarkas said they allowed residents from throughout the county to sign the petition.

Tyree has denied the books the Maziarkas criticize are pornographic. He said the books targeted by the couple contain sexual references but are age-appropriate for young adults.

Tyree said the West Bend library uses reviews by the Booklist of the American Library Association, Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal and other long-established, reputable sources to decide which books to purchase.

The Maziarkas through their WBCSL, continue to collect signed petitions, which can be downloaded from <http://wis-sup.blogspot.com> until April 25 and mailed to WBCSL at P.O. Box 380, Jackson, WI 53037.

To reach the Maziarkas for more information, call 1-866-910-2840.

## Priscilla

Priscilla E. Westerman (nee Hartmann), 85, of West Bend died Monday, April 6, 2009, at her residence with her family by her side.

She was born July 23, 1923, in Nenno to the late Emil and Catherine (nee Schellinger) Hartmann and married Cyril Westerman on July 27, St. Peter & Paul Church in Nenno.

Priscilla and Cyril operated the West Bend and Moraine Supper Club. West Bend for many years then worked in the pediatric department at St. Joseph's Community Hospital.

Priscilla retired from her retirement she remained active by caring for the elderly.

She enjoyed her flower and gardening and spent time with her grandchildren.

Priscilla is survived by her husband of 62 years, Cyril Westerman (Nora) of Sliedrecht, and two grandchildren Stefanie Westerman of Washington, D.C., and Robert Westerman (fiancé Jasor West Bend). She is further survived by her brother, Ronald Hartmann of West Bend; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, Beulah Beisbier of West Bend, Joe (Beatrice) Mue of Campbellsport, L.

## Doris E.

Doris E. Freehauf (nee Mattke) 83, of Rockford, Ill., formerly of West Bend and Kewaskum, passed away unexpectedly on April 6, 2009, at St. Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

She was born on May 3, 1925, in Milwaukee to the late Otto and Viola (nee Volkmann) Mattke. On Oct. 18, 1946, she was married to

## Bids: Contractors 'hungry'

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