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Letters to the Editor Dec. 26

Megan Fox

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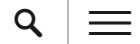
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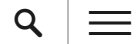
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New library trustees must be courageous

Candidates for the two seats up for election to the Orland Park Public Library Board have all now filed their petitions to be on the ballot next April. This is an important election, because the current OPPL Board has made disastrous decisions that have harmed the public, and new trustees elected in April must have the courage to do what it takes to get the library back on track.

New board members should make the safety of children in the library the No. 1 priority. That starts with permanently closing the access point to child pornography and other unlawful searches that currently exists in the OPPL.

At the August board meeting, Trustee Diane Jennings admitted that child pornography was accessed at this library and that staff had a duty to call the police but did not do that. Why hasn't the OPPL shut down the access point to child porn to prevent this from ever happening again? This is dangerous and can be easily fixed.

The Niles Public Library saw what's been going on at the OPPL and decided to proactively block child pornography and other unlawful searches from ever being available in their library. In November, the Niles Board voted [5-2] in favor of installing filters to block illegal content, such as child porn. The OPPL could do the same but voted 4-2 in August not to block illegal content. That was the same meeting where Jennings

admitted child pornography had been accessed at the OPPL in the past. Why won't they block out child pornography?

The Niles Board also voted to lower the tax levy and strictly monitors its budget and cut waste. This is the opposite of the OPPL, where the levy was just [nearly] quadrupled and thousands of dollars a year are wasted on extravagant spending on food, travel and conferences attended by OPPL staff. Newly elected trustees should make it a priority in April to evaluate whether money spent on food or travel at the OPPL is providing any value to the Orland Park community.

The April election is an important chance for the community to take back the reins of its library. The Niles [library] board is an example of what a huge difference courageous board members can make. Isn't it time to permanently close the access point to child porn and to get all the spending under control at the OPPL?

Megan Fox

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