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Closer look: Barcelona

Eric Skalac

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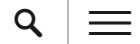
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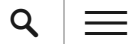
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Closer look: Barcelona

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4/\$11



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Eric Skalac, Assistant Editor

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Though presumed incoming Orland Park Public Library board member Joanna Leafblad does not see Internet access as a focal point for her time on the board, the other incoming board member, Christian Barcelona, certainly does.

"It's great that we can provide Internet access to the public, but computers shouldn't be used for anything illegal or offensive to any other patrons," he said in a recent interview with The Prairie.

In the past year, some patrons have criticized the library for deciding to not add filters to adult-accessed computers that would prevent viewing of pornography and other materials.

Barcelona said he has spoken to "a lot of residents, and it seems most of them just don't want pornography to be accessed from the Internet at the library." He said he does not know what should be done but thinks it is an issue the board will need to reconsider.

"I just think that the way [the library] handled the Internet issue kind of turned into a circus," he said, "I think it could've been handled better."

Barcelona is an engineer at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant in Cicero and said his public service experience and interest in politics make him a good candidate for the library board.

"I think my public service experience makes me a better candidate just on its own," he said.

Barcelona also criticized a 12 percent tax levy in the library's 2015 budget.

"Someone's not doing their job if, all of a sudden, 'Oh, yeah, we have to raise taxes 12 percent,'" he said.

This spring, Barcelona and Leafblad run unopposed for two seats on the library board. Those seats will be vacated in April by Dan Drew and Beth Gierach, who were both appointed to partial terms after other board members resigned.

Leafblad and Barcelona were to have competition from two other candidates but both were disallowed earlier this month after their petitions were found to have had flaws.

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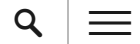
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