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'Veiled threat' alleged

Treasurer may have mailed private papers

By **MARLA MCMACKIN**
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GREILICKVILLE - Kathy Komarek wants to know why her opponent for Elmwood Township treasurer mailed her a "veiled threat" before the election.

Komarek said incumbent treasurer Debbie Street sent her copies of personnel records from Komarek's tenure as a township employee with a handwritten message: "Remember this?"

"I got it Saturday and on Monday we were meeting with the League of Women Voters," said Komarek, who hopes to beat Street in the Aug. 3 primary. "I don't know what her intention was."

Street refused to comment on Komarek's allegation.

Street was elected treasurer in 2000. Komarek served as the deputy clerk and deputy treasurer under Street until March 2002, when she resigned.

Komarek said Street wrote two performance complaint memos against her in February 2002. She said Street mailed copies of them to her.

"I think she was trying to attack me," Komarek said.

Komarek's attorney, Grant Parsons, said he did not know what action he might take.

"If Street has disclosed confidential personnel records, that is a clear violation of Michigan law," he said. "It's a hallmark of Elmwood Township. If there's a low road to take in an election, the township government will take it."

Lawrence LaSusa, a Traverse City attorney who specializes in labor law, said Street could find herself in trouble if she showed the memos to anyone else. The Bullard Plawecki Employee Right to Know Act prohibits an employer or former employer from divulging disciplinary reports without written notice to the employee or former employee.

"I don't think that letter would constitute written notice," he said. "The most pressing concern would be an issue of employee right to privacy and the public disclosure of private fact."