

Grimes And Sytko Appointed To Garwood Board of Ed.

By ANNA GITHENS
Specially Written for The Leader and The Times

GARWOOD - The borough's board of education appointed Raymond Grimes and Anthony Sytko to the board last Wednesday night to fill vacancies on the school board until the school board election in April.

They will fill the seats previously occupied by former Board President Juanita Austin and newly-elected Borough Councilman Victor DeFilippo, both of whom resigned from the board. Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma resigned her seat this past fall. That vacancy was filled by Tracy Shadewald.

According to school officials, the board had originally received letters from five candidates expressing their desire to serve on the board. Three candidates decided to withdraw from consideration for the board positions. The last letter was received the night before the meeting leaving two vacant seats for two potential candidates. The new board members were sworn in at the February 2 meeting.

Mr. Grimes, who previously served three years on the Rahway board of education, has been a resident of Garwood since 1991. He was also a member of the Garwood board back in 1994. He also served as the Clark representative when the send-receive

contract was negotiated with Clark to send Garwood students to Arthur L. Johnson High School.

Mr. Grimes had served as board president and was the building and grounds committee chairman several times. Mr. Grimes informed the board that he came simply to apply for the position, not because he intends to run for a school board seat.

"I love Garwood and I love the Garwood public schools and in a time of need I felt that maybe the board needed someone that had served so you wouldn't have to break someone new in for a short time," Mr. Grimes stated.

Mr. Sytko has lived in Garwood since 1984. He attended Washington Elementary School and Lincoln-Franklin School. He went on to graduate from St. Michael's School in Cranford and Roselle Catholic High School. He attended the College of New Jersey graduating in 2003.

Mr. Sytko said he intends to apply to Seton Hall Law School in the fall. He currently works as a paralegal and an anchorman on a Saturday morning radio show. Mr. Sytko informed the board that he heard of the open position from Councilman Victor DeFilippo, his running mate for Borough Council this past fall on the Republican ticket.

Councilman DeFilippo informed Mr. Sytko that due to his appointment to the council he would have to vacate his seat on the board of education. He recommended that Mr. Sytko apply for the position.

Mr. Sytko stated, "I'm doing this mostly for experience. I'm not entirely sure whether or not I'm going to run for the April elections; I haven't ruled it out. So I guess I'm going to use the first month because I know I have until the end of the month to decide if I'm going to apply for full term."

Mr. Sytko went on to explain that if he does file a nominating petition for the seat in April he would devote himself entirely to the job. The only reason he would not consider running is if there are some time constraint issues.

"I don't like to do anything halfway. If I'm going to do this I'm going to do it entirely. I throw myself into basically everything I do," he said.

This April there will be a total of five open positions on the Garwood BOE election ballot. In addition to the two unexpired terms, the seats of Aunita Austin (resigned), Monty Brown and Gary Maher are also up for reelection this year.

The two unexpired terms and three, full-term three-year seats constitute the most vacancies the board has had on a ballot since 1992.



FILLING UNEXPIRED SEAT...Garwood Board of Education member Anthony Sytko takes the oath of office to complete an existing term of the borough's board of education from Business Administrator Barbara Tudek as Superintendent Dr. Bill Murphy looks on.

Marks, McClintock Endorse Doug Forrester for Governor

SCOTCH PLAINS - Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks and Municipal Chairman William McClintock have announced their support for Doug Forrester's gubernatorial campaign.

Mayor Marks and Mr. McClintock were united in expressing their belief that Mr. Forrester is the only candidate with the experience and leadership to defeat U.S. Senator and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jon Corzine this November.

"I am proud to stand with Chairman McClintock to endorse Doug Forrester," said Mayor Marks. "With his experience in both government and the private sector, Doug is the leader we need to lower taxes and restore integrity to our state government."

"The Democrats in Trenton have failed time and time again to tackle the waste, fraud and abuse that cost us, the taxpayers, millions of dollars every

year," said Mr. McClintock. "Doug has the character, courage, and conviction to restore fiscal sanity to state finances and root out the culture of corruption that has overrun Trenton."

In response to the endorsements Mr. Forrester said, "It is time to change the way Trenton does business. I am extremely grateful to have the support of Mayor Marks and Chairman McClintock. Together we can restore fiscal responsibility to our government and give New Jersey a government as good as its people."

Local Children In Crisis Need Help From Volunteers

By THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ELIZABETH-PLAINFIELD

There are scores of heart wrenching stories. Children who have fallen through the cracks of the overworked Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). Children who, through no fault of their own, have ended up in a situation where the state must oversee their well-being and who, at times, have become victims of their unfortunate circumstances.

Nearly 1,300 children are in foster care in Union County. Workers at DYFS try to ensure the safety of these children. However, they need your assistance. You can help children by volunteering to be a member of a Child Placement Review Board (CPRB).

The CPRB is a community oversight program that reviews the DYFS case plan and makes recommendations to the court. The goal is to ensure that out-of-home placement serves the best interest of the child.

The CPRB provides citizens with the ability to affect positive change in the lives of these children, many of who have been abused and neglected.

Local resident Michael Krasner, a retired English teacher, is the Chairman of the Advisory Council for New Jersey Child Placement Review Volunteers. According to Mr. Krasner, the boards play a crucial role in helping children caught in troubling circumstances find safe and permanent homes.

In addition to reviewing the information provided by DYFS, volunteers interview and take testimony from family members, including foster parents,

birth parents and sometimes children themselves. Mr. Krasner noted that it is rewarding and worthwhile to see a "happy conclusion...children successfully reunited with parents or placed in adoption."

Training is required to serve on a CPRB, which consists of 12 hours and takes place on Saturdays at the Cranford campus of Union County College. The state pays the cost.

The training is headed by childcare experts and Superior Court judges. The training covers areas such as child development, the psychological effects of bonding and separation on children, and the effects and signs of substance abuse and domestic violence.

The CPRBs meet approximately every four weeks in Elizabeth at various times during the day. Parking and security are provided for all volunteers. At each meeting the board generally reviews between 20 to 25 cases.

More volunteers are needed. If you have the time to make a difference in the life of these children, please contact Eric Chait, Office of the Court Administrator, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, N.J. 07207. Mr. Chait can also be reached at (908) 965-2688 or at eric.chait@judiciary.state.nj.us.

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through effective action and leadership. For information or to join, visit www.jlepnj.org or call (908) 709-1177.

WF Farm Subsidies Reported for 1995-2003

WESTFIELD - According to a search of the Farm Subsidy Database at www.ewg.org/farm, the following Westfield residents received farm subsidies totaling \$177,551 during the period of 1995 through 2003.

Martha Raub Burns \$59,761.30; James D Pulliam \$44,162.17; Virginia Simons \$19,150.94; Frank J Wolf \$8,904.90; Spencer E Brown \$7,578.54; J Charles Simons Jr 1995 Trust \$7,321.76; Mary C Johnson \$5,938; Mary Jean Coffelt Estate \$5,575.72; Carolyn Watson \$5,351.52; Mary Hutchins Triestman \$3,431.41; Helen D Pulliam \$2,906; Donn Albright \$1,801; Harlan Moeckler \$1,488; Mary Hutchins Triestman Ltd Ptrsp \$1,222.04; Nicholas Weber \$1,099; John C Simons \$999.24; Robert M Jackson \$851; Melvin Amack \$21; Marilyn Mussell Farm Owner; Robert Hevert Farm Owner; Nancy Hevert Farm Owner; Mark Hutchins Egener Farm Owner; Nancy A Yoder Farm Owner; Susan Y Cogan Farm Owner; Helen S Yoder \$13.

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