

Boyd Named CEO, President Of Goodwill In Southern N.J.

WESTFIELD — Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey/Quaker City's Goodwill's Board of Trustees has appointed Mark Boyd of Westfield to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. Boyd served as labor commissioner under Governor Christine Todd Whitman, where he was credited with replacing costly unemployment offices with a more cost-effective phone call-in system; implementing state-wide One-Stop Career Centers, and securing \$20 million annually from outside entities to launch workplace literacy programs and other educational supports for the hard-core unemployed.

In his new position, Mr. Boyd is responsible for the overall leadership and daily operations of Goodwill, a community-based nonprofit with an operating budget of \$14 million.

His duties include monitoring financial affairs; implementing a comprehensive strategic plan; forging relationships with new funding sources, legislators and the community at large, and overall ensuring that the agency's charitable mission of providing education, job training and employment services that prepare individuals with disabilities and disadvantages for competitive employment is fulfilled.

"With over 20 years of experience working in workforce development,

labor/human resources and legislative affairs, we are confident that Mark has what it takes to carry out Goodwill's aggressive strategic plan for continued growth in Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia," said Frank Giordano, Chairman of Goodwill's Board of Trustees.

Since leaving his state post, Mr. Boyd has served as an independent labor relations consultant and attorney for a variety of different businesses and unions.

Mr. Boyd holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Maine and a law degree from Rutgers University. Currently, he resides in Westfield with his

wife and three sons.

Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey/Quaker City Goodwill is a nonprofit, community-based organization. Its mission is to provide education, job training and employment services that prepare individuals with disabilities and disadvantages for competitive employment in the community. The mass collection and resale of gently-used items in Goodwill's 17 local retail stores generate the funds needed to support these worthwhile programs. Goodwill operates employment training centers in Pennsauken, Stratford, Westampton and Philadelphia.

For more information on Goodwill, please visit www.goodwillnj.org or call (856) 439-0200, ext. 230.



Mark Boyd



HONORED FOR SERVICE... Adjunct Professor at Middlesex County College, Otto Picard of Scotch Plains, is honored for service at Adjunct Development Day in March. Pictured above, Mr. Picard is presented with a watch for 60 semesters of teaching by College President Joann La Perla-Morales.

County Surrogate Cautions Of Changes In Probate Law

COUNTY — Union County Surrogate James S. LaCorte is informing the public about a major change to New Jersey's probate law that could have dramatic effects on many Union County families.

"Recent revisions in the New Jersey Probate Code have created a situation that will make it necessary for many people with a Last Will and Testament to have it reviewed again by their attorneys. For those without wills, the new changes will have the effect of making it mandatory to have a will," Surrogate LaCorte said.

While improving some outdated areas of the old law, the legislation, which went into effect on March 1, has also created new potential inheritance problems for some families, Mr. LaCorte said. One example would occur in the case of long-term separated spouses who have not gone through the actual legal process of a divorce:

A husband and wife separate. Their children assume responsibility for the care of their mother. The separation continues for 15 years, during which time there is no contact between the spouses. The children spend every day tending to their mother's needs. The wife dies without a Last Will and Testament. Under the old Probate code, the children would receive one-half of their mother's estate, minus a

\$50,000 initial credit to the husband. Under the new code, the children receive nothing.

"This is hardly the result the deceased wife would expect or want, but in this and other situations, a Will is now mandatory to avoid this potential hardship," Mr. LaCorte said.

"This is just one example of how the new law will impact people's lives," Mr. LaCorte said. "All levels of a family, from grandparents to parents to siblings to children, will be affected. The rights of creditors have also been dramatically changed."

The probate changes underscore the importance for every adult of having a proper last will and testament. That document can avoid costly legal fees and family discord, Surrogate LaCorte said.

"With a proper Last Will and Testament, probating a will is not a costly process," the Surrogate stated. "The will is a vital legal document. Making sure everything is handled properly can avoid conflict and hardship for family members later," he said.

As the County Surrogate, Mr. LaCorte is responsible for probating wills and appointing executors, administrators, guardians and trustees of decedents' estates, among other constitutionally mandated duties.

Before being elected in 1999, Surrogate LaCorte was an attorney in private practice.

Union County residents with questions about Probate changes or related matters can call the Surrogate's office at (908) 527-4280.

Freeholders Appealing Renna Lawsuit Opinion

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Leader and The Times

COUNTY — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders are expected to take action tonight to provide another \$5,000 in funding for an appeal of a ruling that found the county improperly dismissed a county employee in 2003.

Joe Renna, who twice unsuccessfully ran for freeholder — as an independent in 2003 and as a Republican last year — was eventually fired from the county's Department of Economic Development in 2004. He was employed by the county for three years.

The board's approval of an additional \$5,000 in legal fees will bring the total paid to Garrubbo, Romankow, Rinaldo and Capece of Westfield to \$32,500. Of that, \$10,000 has been charged since September of 2004.

Last September, Mr. Renna described the litigation as an "administrative law proceeding." He has said the county attempted to terminate his employment on four additional occasions after the initial dismissal, which was overturned, and on which the lawsuit was based.

Administrative Law Judge Margaret M. Hayden in Newark handed the decision down last summer. Mr. Renna said he eventually opted to no longer fight the later attempts and was eventually dismissed by the county.

In other business, the board is also expected to authorize the hiring of Geese Police, Inc. of Howell to rid the county's golf courses of geese through the use of Border Collie patrols. The 18-week contract will be for \$5,850.

In answering an inquiry from Freeholder Nancy Ward of Linden, Parks and Recreation Director Charles Sigmund said the Border Collies are used to "harass the geese and attempt to chase them off our properties."

Mr. Sigmund, who said the collies were used with success last fall, are used for one hour a day at each of the county's four public golf courses: Ash Brook in Scotch Plains, Oak Ridge in Clark and Galloping Hill in Union.

"It gets reduced per day as the geese lessen," Mr. Sigmund told the board.

In other business, the board will vote on a resolution to authorize an increase of \$279,743 in the contract to Della Pello Paving, for a total of \$2,658,318. Director of Engineering and Public Works Frank Dann said the change order represents a 7.9 percent increase in the contract. He said the bulk of the work, which has been completed, involved milling and paving of Burnet Avenue in Union. He said the contractor had to do extensive work underneath the base of the road.

When questioned by Freeholder Adrian Mapp, Mr. Dann said he was basing the percent increase on the original contract. He said the previous change order was a decrease in the contract.

The board is expected to approve Summit's request to close Broad Street from Summit Avenue to Maple Street

from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, for the Our House Foundation 5-Mile Run.

A resolution will be on the agenda tonight to endorse the Priority Populations Plan as required by the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

According to the resolution, the plan is designed to enable the county to assess the human services needs of priority populations and to determine if existing services are adequate. The state mandate follows a number of reported child neglect cases that escaped detection by the state Division of Youth and Family Services.

Union County Department of Human Services Director Frank Guzzo said future state funding allocations to the county would be based on the county's plan.

The board is set to extend the lease to the YMCA of Eastern Union County to rent the first floor of the Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr. Justice Complex in Elizabeth for child care services. The contract is for \$3,745 a month, or \$45,000 annually.

On another issue, several freeholders questioned a contract to Community Access Unlimited of Elizabeth to provide anger management training for male and female inmates at the Union County Jail, at a total cost of \$30,000.

Freeholder Dan Sullivan asked how the county would be evaluating the success of the training, noting he would like to determine, "is it wise to spend the money or is it a waste of the money?"

Freeholder Ward questioned whether this was a first-time contract to Community Access for this type of service, and also what type of qualifications the testers have to conduct such a program.

Department of Public Safety Director Harold Gibson noted that the program is not being funded by a grant. He said the goal of the program was "to get the training started as soon as possible" followed by an evaluation "to see if it is appropriate to do this again."

WF Library Friends Schedule Bus Trip

WESTFIELD — The Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library have scheduled a trip to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's home and museum in Hyde Park, N.Y. on Tuesday May 10. A private tour of the Culinary Institute of America is included.

The cost of the trip, which includes transportation, tours and a luncheon is \$60. The bus will depart from the library at 5:50 East Broad Street promptly at 7:45 a.m. and arrive back in Westfield at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Interested persons are asked to send their checks, made payable to Friends of the Westfield Library, along with their telephone number, to Phyllis O'Brien, 23 Fairhill Road, Westfield 07090.

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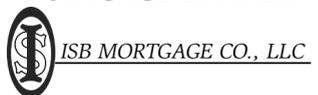
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