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THE POST-CRESCENT

Posted April 17, 2006

Clintonville woman sees end to political posts

Karen Siewert was mayor, alderwoman and on school board

By Grace Kirchner
For The Post-Crescent

CLINTONVILLE — Karen Siewert is getting ready to call it quits from a local political career that spans nearly a quarter-century.

It dates to 1982 when she became the first woman to be elected a mayor in Waupaca County.

It ends with her decision not to seek re-election to the school board seat she has held for 10 years.

"I believe it is good to have new blood on the (school) board at times. Ten years is a long time but it was a difficult decision to make not to run again," said Siewert, who received a gold apple from Supt. Tom O'Toole at last week's school board meeting.

Siewert served a pair of two-year terms as mayor.

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She was elected an alderwoman in 1990, served a two-year term and took some time off before returning to serve as an alderwoman from 1994 to 2004.

She was first elected to the school board in 1996.

"She is stepping in another direction, but her stepping aside is a loss to the community. She is so knowledgeable in politics and economics," said Betty Wicker, a former alderwoman.

Siewert said serving the city and school district are different.

"On the Board of Education, you do what is best for children and education. All board members have the same goals, but we take different routes to get there. In the city, it is extremely political and the issues are not as clear cut," said Siewert.

"I believed my greatest accomplishment as mayor was to bring Hardee's here. It turned things to a more modern tradition in the city. My greatest accomplishment while serving on the Board of Education has to be the new high school. I was the 'doubting Thomas' and sometimes spirited member of the board but the new high school is obviously a masterpiece.

"I am hopeful we can continue to financially educate students of this district in the manor they deserve so they become our leaders of tomorrow. Their education must be out sole purpose."

For the time being, Siewert would like to relax and become more creative with her pastime of rubber-stamping greeting cards.

Siewert and a few friends have formed Partners in Freedom. Through anysoldier.com, they have chosen a soldier in all states that they will be sending a package of needed items. Siewert will enclose one of her handmade greeting cards.

Siewert also will continue working as administrative secretary for the Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association, located in Clintonville.

Grace Kirchner can be reached by e-mail at pcnews@postcrescent.com.

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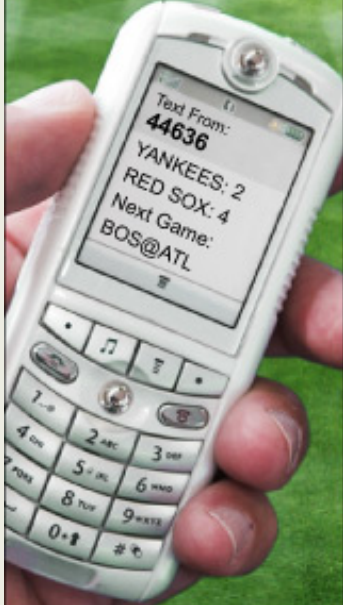
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