

MIDDLETOWN

Pflaumer moving on to 'sweeter things'

Supervisors Chairwoman Lisa Pflaumer is resigning to devote more time to her chocolate business and family.

By CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES

Middletown Supervisor Lisa Pflaumer has enjoyed her time on the board, but when it came down to a choice between chocolate and politics, her path was clear.

Pflaumer, 38, is stepping down after Tuesday night's meeting so she can devote more time to her Dove Chocolate at Home business. She is head of a team that sells Dove chocolate products and chocolatemaking equipment from home.

"I'm moving on to sweeter things in my life, literally," said Pflaumer, a Republican who is in the fifth year of her six-year term and is serving as board chairwoman for the second straight year.

Pflaumer started her chocolate business a year ago. It's a job that demands about 25 to 30 hours a week and probably more in the near future, she said.

Along with the other demands on her time, including son Andrew, 6, that doesn't leave the minimum 10 to 15 hours a week it takes to be an effective supervisor, she said.

"I'm looking to grow and expand the business," said Pflaumer, who lives in the Maple Point development with Andrew and her husband Jack, a research scientist with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

"I want to take full advantage of my business opportunities," she continued. "Doing that will mean missing more supervisor meetings, and I don't think that is fair to the township. When you have your hand in so many different pots, something is not getting tended to, and right now my top priority has to be helping support my family."

Pflaumer said she will remain active in township affairs as much as possible. That includes a continued role in the new Initiatives by Government and Neighborhoods to Increase Teaming Efforts (IGNITE) program she was instrumental in starting. It's an effort to increase communication and cooperation among township officials and residents to solve crime and other quality of life issues.

"It's been an honor to serve the community as a supervisor," she said. "I'm not giving up public service. I will always be a public servant and seek ways to help the community out."

Supervisor Jasper Caro, Pflaumer's Republican running mate in the 2003 election, said she will be missed.

"I feel bad she is leaving," Caro said. "She's always been a very industrious, thorough and competent supervisor and has done a lot for the township. She did everything with integrity and will be hard to replace. She feels she has to move on because of a commitment to this other endeavor, and I wish her and her family the best of luck."

Pflaumer's departure after Tuesday's meeting will leave Republicans Caro and George Leonhauser and Democrats Robert McMonagle and Chuck Thompson on the board. They will have 30 days from Tuesday to pick Pflaumer's replacement. If they deadlock, Vacancy Board Chairman Bill Cosen, a Democrat, will vote to break the tie.

If that doesn't work, the matter goes to Bucks County court. Pflaumer's appointed replacement would serve through 2009 but would have to run in and win that year's election to retain the seat.





Lisa Pflaumer