



## School Board Election Conflicts

The Grenada School District complies with federal and State laws concerning education. However, due to lack of the communication of information from the Mississippi State Department of Education and the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, our ability to comply with regulations relating to the upcoming school board election has been difficult. We were not informed until last Friday about a reversal of the date of the District 1 election. This reversal required that candidate qualifying information be submitted this past Monday. This lack of communication to the School District has caused innumerable problems for the District and has raised unfounded suspicions from some isolated community members.

We responded in the most effective methods available to disseminate this

information. As soon as this change of date was revealed to the District, we promptly posted this info on the GSD website, submitted announcements to the cable station, two radio stations, and posted information at each school site and various other locations including the Post Office, City Hall, and Court House.

The District regrets any inconvenience this problem has caused, but the District must comply with the law and schedule the election when we are told to do so, even if we were not informed in a timely manner. According to the current law mandates, we are required to set the District 1 election in March instead of November as we were previously instructed.

We have no option but to comply with the reversal of this directive, even though this action places the District in an uncomfortable position. This problem

began during the 2009 session of the Mississippi Legislature, when House Bill 877 was passed and changed the process for the election of members of the school district board of trustees. The law was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor but was never precleared by the Justice Department. Therefore, since the preclearance was not received, the law in effect prior to the passage of House Bill 877 is still valid, even though we were not notified of this reversal. Thus, the State requires that the election be set on March 6, 2010.

The District urges the community to stay apprised of District developments on our website to receive the most updated information. ([www.gsd.k12.ms.us](http://www.gsd.k12.ms.us))

molds, and at one time, she counted over three hundred in her possession.

In 1985, Carol's brother introduced her to stained glass, and she began a new hobby. In 1998 the family moved to the country where Carol's husband and son built a studio to house her hobby equipment. Carol spent many hours creating artwork in her studio; sometimes working up to eight hours a day. As John and Carol traveled to many Mississippi festivals to sell Carol's ceramics and stained glass, Carol developed a fan base for her creations. Nothing pleased her more than having return customers seek

*Artman gift continued on page 2....*

## Artman Family Donates to Ceramics Lab

Although Carol Artman has Alzheimer's and lives in a nursing home, her generous spirit inspires creativity in local teenagers. Due to the large donation of Carol's ceramic equipment by the Artman family, a new Ceramics and Pottery class has been added to the 21st Century Grant After-School Program at Grenada High School.

Carol learned the art of ceramics while her husband was stationed at Fort Meade (NSA) Maryland. Carol and her husband both served in the United States Air Force; however,

Carol was honorably discharged when she became pregnant with their first child in 1964. Carol and her husband John were stationed at several different bases during their time with the USAF, including Karamursel, Turkey. Carol even served for a time at the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) at Colorado Springs.

Around 1978, the Artmans moved to Grenada where Carol served as a member of the Welcome Wagon and a member of the Board of Directors at the Art Gallery. Around this time Carol began to purchase ceramic

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## Ceramics Lab offers creative options

The Ceramics and Pottery Skills class, part of the 21st Century Grant's after-school program, is located in the Grenada Career and Technical Center. One of the six career building after-school class options, Ceramics offers students the opportunity to experience clay work using molds, hand-built sculptures, and wheel-thrown pots. Working with greenware, kiln firings, and glazes, the students experiment with the production of ceramics from the beginning of the creative process to the finished product.

The new Ceramics and Pottery Skills class teaches students the art of ceramics using the equipment donated by the Artman family. Participants learn the process of pouring slip (liquid clay) into ceramic molds and unmolding the pieces to clean and fire. They also have access to a new three-phase kiln, potter's wheels, clay, slip, glazes, and pottery tools purchased through the 21st Century Grant that funds the after school program.

The potter's wheels allow students to learn the process of centering clay on a wheel, pulling up a piece, and adding textural accents while the wheel is in motion. All of the pottery and ceramic processes, including the hand-poured molds, provide greenware pieces that students bisque fire in the kiln and then glaze. Once glazed, the pieces are fired again to create works of art and functional pieces.

*Artman gift continued from page 1*

her out at festivals to purchase more of her artwork.

Carol's church, St. Peter's Catholic Church, brought her great joy as well, as she worked with the youth as head of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) during the eighties. Before her diagnosis with Alzheimer's, Carol created one last piece of stained glass, a panel of the Madonna, which she gave to the church priest, Father Martin Ruane. Another panel she produced a few years prior and would never sell was the Cross of Hope. After her diagnosis, Carol asked her husband to donate the Cross of Hope to the church to be auctioned as a benefit for the CYO. She also asked at this

time for all of her ceramic equipment to be donated to Grenada High School.

Carol's husband, John, stated, "I have always heard that life is not worth living unless you can leave something behind. Carol wanted to leave her love of ceramics to the students in the Grenada School District." The Grenada School District and the 21st Century Grant program would like to express their gratitude to the Artman family for their generous donation of equipment. Carol's life has definitely been worth living, and the legacy she leaves behind will help promote the art of ceramics in GHS students for years to come.

*Article written by Stephanie Raper*



*John Artman stands with some of the ceramics molds that he and his wife Carol have donated to the after-school Ceramics and Pottery Skills Class.*