

## COUNTY RECORDER



# THE RECORDER

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### The Recorder

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## RETIREMENT

By Bonnie Rehder, Clay County Recorder.

I am retiring from Clay County March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. I want to say "THANK YOU" to the customers of the Clay County Recorder's Office. I have been very fortunate to have relationships with so many wonderful people who access the Recorder's Office.



I have enjoyed my 36 years as a public servant. It has been a great honor to be elected so many times by the Clay County constituents. My staff is a terrific group of people who know their jobs well so I'm confident the Clay County official records will be maintained.

I have accepted a position as the MOMS (Minnesota Official Marriage System) Coordinator. I'll be coordinating efforts with all 87 counties to maintain the data and websites MOMS manages for marriage records. This year MOMS will be expanding into marriage ordination credentials, an e-Marriage system and a statewide military discharge search and request system for County Veteran Service Officers.

I wish much success in the coming years to all those who read The Recorder newsletter.

*Congratulations!*

## NEW RECORDER APPOINTED

**DiAnn Streifel** has been appointed as the next Clay County Recorder. DiAnn has been with Clay County 16 years, first as the Chief Deputy Treasurer and in 2004 she became the Chief Deputy Recorder. DiAnn also has 25 years as a legal assistant. DiAnn is a very honest ethical person who will do a terrific job for Clay County. CONGRATULATIONS DIANN!



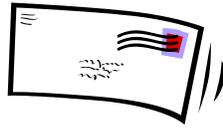
MOMS has a new domain name:  
**MOMS.MN.GOV**

MOMS is used to search marriage records statewide in Minnesota.



### Did Lady Godiva really ride naked through Coventry?

Lady Godiva's husband in 11<sup>th</sup> Century England was a strict tax collector. After unsuccessfully appealing to him to lighten the peasants' burden, he scoffed that if she was to ride through town un clothed, he'd relent. Presumably, he didn't think she'd take him seriously. She did, he honored his promise, and she remains a heroine of the people to this day.



## MAIL or DROP-OFF documents?

It is the goal of Clay County to record documents the **same day if received by 2 pm**. Transfer and mortgage type documents that need to be routed to various departments that are received after 2 pm each day will be recorded the following business day.

Documents that are walked through the process will continue to be recorded on the spot.

## TAX SEARCH TIP



Did you know there are special **FLAGS** associated with tax parcels? If you are in the Clay County Tax System using a Clay County public search PC viewing tax information, printing an on-demand tax statement copy or viewing bill details you might like to be aware of flags associated with parcels. If flags are associated with the parcel, a flag icon is displayed below the screen name. Flags indicate situations such as automatic clearing house (ACH), confession of judgment, green acres or other designations. Different colors are used to denote different priorities: red (critical), yellow (high), blue (medium) and green (low).

The word **MORE** is displayed next to the flag icon's first flag type if two or more flags are associated with the parcel number. When a parcel has multiple flags associated with it, the color of the highest priority flag is shown. To view detailed information about all the associated flags either

- Click on the flag icon 
- Or
- Click Flag information in the Common Actions panel.

Hope this will help in your process of researching real estate tax information in Clay County.



The common loon is Minnesota's state bird as well as one of the earth's oldest living bird species. Loons have been around for 60 million years. They are excellent swimmers and divers and can swim the length of a city block in less than a minute. They are also known for their wild, mournful cries that can be heard across quiet Minnesota Lakes most often at dusk or when a storm is approaching.



Two species of eagles are found in Minnesota, the golden eagle and the more common bald eagle. Adult bald eagles weigh between 8-14 pounds and have a wing span of up to 8 feet. Bald eagles build stick nests about 6 feet wide that can weigh over 2,000 pounds. They nest in tall trees near the lakes where they catch fish, their favorite food.



## **RADON IN REAL ESTATE**

Realtors, Contractors, and Public are Welcome!

March 4, 2014, 3:00-4:30pm

Dead Lake Room, Government Services Center  
Fergus Falls, MN

Free 1.5hr class approved for real estate license  
continuing education credit.

Register at 218-998-8327 with Melissa

Sponsored by MN Dept of Health and Otter Tail County Public Health

## **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

Recorders across the country have made significant advances to the access and timeliness of the official public land records over the past decade. Documents have been imaged so that they may be viewed over the Internet. Search fields are easier to use. More efficient search engines are in place to help citizens find their documents.

But it doesn't stop there.

Recorders are committed to further improve the process. Enhancements will continue in the next few years. The official public land records will utilize new technologies to capture information more accurately and efficiently. The integrity of these records will assure better detection of fraudulent intentions. There will be support for mobile devices, combined with further growth in electronic recording and a wider range of formats and interactive submission capabilities.

The official public land records are in safe hands; recorders support them with a passionate commitment to their continued existence and unparalleled protection.



Agriculture is the backbone of Minnesota's economy. Almost half of the state's total land area is farmland. Minnesota's primary agricultural products include corn, soybeans, wheat, sugar beets, beef cattle, hogs, turkeys and dairy products. The average Minnesota farmer grows enough food to feed 127 people each year.



Minnesota's nickname the "Gopher State" can be traced to a political cartoon from 1859 that showed gophers in top hats pulling a train across the prairie. In the late 1880's, the University of Minnesota athletic teams became known as the Gophers.

# SAFE AT HOME

By Michelle Ashe  
President Minnesota Association of County Officers

The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) appreciates the purpose and intent behind the Safe at Home Law. Our organization also appreciates the opportunity to make comments on the possible amendments to rules governing safe at home and potential future discussions of the law.

The safe at Home Law was amended by House File 580, which was signed into law by Governor Dayton on May 20, 2013. Other than the Office of the Secretary of State, there had been minimal knowledge of, or discussion of the amendments to Minnesota Statutes 5B, 13.045 and 13.82, subd 24. Below are comments on issues MACO views as concerns for our members.

## Implications

Minnesota Statute 386 contains requirements that County Recorders generate and maintain indexes for real estate ownership which are to be available to the public. Minnesota Statute 382.16 also specifically states that the records of the offices of the County Auditor and County Recorder be open to the public. The fact that there could be privatized or redacted real estate records such as deeds, mortgages and liens will negatively affect future title searches performed by potential purchasers. Consequently County Recorder, County Auditor and County Treasurer offices are left to determine how to implement the new amendments to the law while otherwise remaining compliant with existing laws regarding access. We request an exception of the real estate records maintained in these offices.

## Disclosure within a Government Agency

Minnesota Statute 13.045, subd 2 allows a program participant to submit a notice to the responsible authority of any government entity, but it further states that the fact that a notice has been submitted is private data on individuals. It is MACO's understanding that the intent of Safe at Home allows a participant to submit one notice to the responsible authority and that the notice will then be disclosed to all other county departments. We request an exception for such disclosure within a government agency, as well as how to accomplish such disclosure within the rules.

## Termination

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13.045, subd 2, program participants can submit a subsequent notice if they renew participation in the program. However, there is no requirement that program participants or the Secretary of State provide the government agency with any notice of cancellation, withdrawal or expiration of a participant from the program. The Office of Secretary of State is allowed to confirm if a person is a program participant to a third party but, no direction is given as to how often the third party may inquire. Nor is it clear what the government agency should do with the data classified as private upon learning that the person is no longer a participant.

Lastly, rule 8290.0900 indicates that the Secretary of State may cancel a participant certification but does not indicate who investigates and prosecutes an allegation of false information or what court would have jurisdiction. Rule 8290.0200 subpart 1 (L) refers to a 'supervising person' but there is no definition.