

2008 ANNUAL REPORT **REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE**

According to state statutes the duties of the Register of Deeds are, in brief:

- 1) Record all documents authorized by law by endorsing upon each document the time and day of reception.
- 2) Collect recording and transfer fees and submit appropriate monies to various state and county offices.
- 3) Prepare documents for indexing and imaging, safely store backup copies and make and deliver certified and non-certified copies to any person on demand.
- 4) Register, index and file all marriages, deaths and births occurring within the county.

According to state statutes the duties of the Real Property Lister are, in brief:

- 1) To make and keep accurate lists and descriptions of all parcels of real property
- 2) To provide lists, maps and descriptions of all real property for the use of the local assessors and clerks.
- 3) To update records received from the assessors and state agencies.
- 4) To provide a completed tax bill for each parcel to the local municipalities for distribution.

2008 in the Register of Deeds Office showed almost 82 million worth of property was transferred which is down slightly from what we had in 2007. It was a busy year witnessed by the following:

- 1) Our office handled almost \$250,000 about \$200,000 down from 2007.
- 2) We processed 7039 documents. This is down 681 from 2007. This was due to a decrease in number of mortgages as interest rates climbed.
- 3) We maintained assessors' records for and computed and printed tax bills for about 32000 Real Estate parcels and 2000 Personal Property parcels.
- 4) We have started to see an increase in recordings this year. They aren't the kind of recordings we want to see though. Mostly Lis Pendens and Sheriff's Deeds, which indicates people are losing their homes because of the financial stress of the nation.

During the first 100 years there were approximately 150,000 documents recorded in Waushara County. We now do that many in 10-12 years. In 1975 we were averaging about 17 documents per day compared to 30 documents per day in 2008. The Register of

Deeds Office has the same number of employees (3.5) that it had in 1975. We are able to handle the greatly increased workload because of technology changes, effective office procedures and a dedicated staff.

We ended the year 2008 by getting the news we would be losing 8 hours for our part-time person. This may bring some change in staff in 2009.

As you can see 2008 was a very busy and productive year in the Register of Deeds Office. We made some changes and continue to look for new cost effective ways to better serve the public. Your support and cooperation in this effort is appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Struzynski,
Waushara County Register of Deeds