

2009 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.

2009 in the Register of Deeds Office showed almost 75 million worth of property was transferred which is down slightly from what we had in 2008. It was a busy year witnessed by the following:

- 1) Our office handled almost \$398,000 about \$100,000 up from 2008.
- 2) We processed 7547 documents. This is up 508 from 2008. This was due to an increase in number of Sheriff's Sales and Lis Pendens.
- 3) We maintained assessors' records for and computed and printed tax bills for about 33000 Real Estate parcels and 2000 Personal Property parcels.
- 4) We have seen 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 25 documents per day in 2009. The Register of

Deeds Office has the same number of full time employees (3) and a part time employee with 12 hours per week. We are able to handle the greatly increased workload because of technology changes, effective office procedures and a dedicated staff.

We ended the year 2009 by starting a new project to make our records more accessible on line. We got the ok from the Land Records committee to scan our old volumes. In addition to that we are back indexing all the old records that have been scanned. This will be a long term project but it is going well.

As you can see 2009 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,
Wauhsara County Register of Deeds