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The Recorder

Mission Statement: To Accurately Maintain Records of Residents and Landowners of Pope County for Generations to Come.

Published by **Darby Bowen**, Pope County Recorder



The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) eCounties Committee and MACO Vitals Committee are proud to announce the creation of Minnesota Official Marriage System (MOMS). These committees brought together a team of Local Registrars to design a marriage index. The "Creation Team" was instrumental in encouraging and educating counties to collaborate to make one system. The MOMS statewide marriage index was the first phase of the project. The Creation Team started the project November 2007 and less than a year later went live to the public. The marriage index is now available to the public at www.mncounty.com.

The MOMS marriage index will include the bride and groom's names before marriage, the year of the marriage and the name of the county that holds the record. MOMS will enable individual customers to search and order a certificate from the custodial county.

The MOMS Creation Team was presented the "2008 Award of Excellence" on behalf of all Minnesota Local Registrars from MACO eCounties for their great achievement to collaborate on a statewide project this large and of this type. A second award from AMC (Association of Minnesota Counties) known as a "County Achievement Award" was just received for the project in early December. This effort was recognized again because Local Registrars for Vital Records for each county in Minnesota are independently responsible for maintaining the county's marriage records. There is no State agency involvement and these records have not been combined in the past. Frequently, the public is unsure where a marriage certificate was filed which generates a statewide search to find the custodial county of the record. Before MOMS, a statewide search would require calling each county until the custodial county was located.

All Minnesota counties are participating in this voluntary system. The specific marriage data from each county will be downloaded into the system. In the near future MOMS will contain all Minnesota marriage data from the 1850's to present.

www.mncounty.com



Making a List Checking it Twice.....

Following is a list of the major items as to why documents are often returned. Use it often to avoid getting those unwanted rejection letters.

Document(s) Complete

- All blanks filled in?
- Signed and Notarized?

Fees Enclosed

- Calculated correctly?

CRV Required/Enclosed

- All blanks filled in?; or
- Total Consideration statement on document?

Well Disclosure Certificate required or

- Statement on document regarding Wells?

Real Estate Taxes current

Tax Split of a parcel being transferred

- Are current taxes paid in full?
- Is a copy of the survey enclosed?

What did the ghost
say to Santa Claus?



I'll have a boo Christmas without you...

TAPESTRY

Land Records via the Internet

Pope County has joined with Fidlar Technologies in offering access to on-line real estate records. The site is www.landrecords.net and has recently been updated offering more search options.

The records of several Minnesota counties are available at the site. Pope County records are offered from November 1, 1987 to present, with older records in the process of being added. No software download is required - all that is needed is a web browser. Tapestry utilizes a unique pay-as-you-go method in which you can pay with your credit card on a secure internet site. Frequent Tapestry users also have the option of either opening a membership account with a credit card or taking advantage of an open account payment plan. Please be aware that a pop-up blocker must be disabled to view images. If you have questions regarding the service, please contact Fidlar Technologies at 1-887-794-8980, or if there are questions regarding documents, please contact this office. There is a new Frequently Asked Questions section that is very helpful.

As these search services become more expanded, this office directs professionals to the site to complete research on their own. This office limits its research to that of plats and document numbers or book/pages known. Please take the time to check out the site and become familiar with its many features.

Transfer on Death Deed (TODD)—New Legislation

MS 507.071

Transfer on Death Deeds are a new estate planning tool allowing the transfer of real estate at the death of the owner without the need for probate. These deeds can serve as a Will replacement. A TODD becomes effective when the Grantor dies. Following death, an Affidavit of Survivorship is recorded indicating the surviving parties. Since there is no transfer of real estate at the time of recording, a few items to remember include:

- No deed tax is due.
- A Certificate of Real Estate Value is not required.
- Since there is no transfer, a split is not created by a TODD.
- The TODD must be of record prior to the death of the Grantor.
- Can become complicated depending on family situations.
- A TODD can be revoked, or replaced by a subsequent TODD, or the property sold prior to death of the Grantor.

TODDs provide a new and helpful manner to avoid probate for some families. In situations that may be complicated, TODDs may not be the right answer. It is one of many tools used by estate planners depending on individual situations.

Happy New Year!

Splurge—Buy a new Notary stamp

The Notary seal is an item this office struggles with regularly attempting to get a good copy when scanning documents.

It needs to be legible on the reproduced copy. It's soon a

New Year, is it time to replace your notary stamp, even if your renewal date is not near? Following is a list of helpful items to make a "good impression" with your notary stamp.



- re-ink your stamp each time it is used;
- if it is self-inking, stamp it on a separate piece of paper to get the stamp well inked before using the first time, or to remove excess ink to avoid a smudged impression.
- when stamping multiple times in a short timeframe, are impressions lighter and lighter each time it is used? It's time to re-ink or replace.
- if you have a poor stamp and need to buy a new one, try a different kind. (self-inking vs pad/ink stamp). There are pros and cons to each.
- if you're replacing your stamp too often, choose a different vendor to get a better quality stamp.

Traveling in 2009?

The passport card is now in full production with applicants requesting a card, book or both, depending on travel needs. The new passport card is a wallet-size card that can only be used for land and sea travel between the United States and Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The card provides a less expensive and more convenient alternative to the passport book for those who travel frequently to these destinations by land or by sea.

Production of the card began in July, 2008. When completing the standard Passport Application, the card is an option indicated at the top of the form. On June 1, 2009, the US government will implement the full requirements of the land and seas phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. The rules will require US citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry to have a passport, passport card or other WHTI compliant document.

Children under age 16 will be able to continue crossing land and seas borders using only a US birth certificate (or naturalization certificate) after the new law takes effect in June.



**From the
Pope County
Recorder's Office**

**Darby
Johanna
Karen
Barb**

All I Need to Know I Learned from Santa

1. Encourage people to believe in you.
2. Always remember who's naughty and who's nice.
3. Don't pout.
4. It's as much fun to give as it is to receive.
5. Some days it's OK to feel a little chubby.
6. Make your presents known.
7. Always ask for a little bit more than what you really want.
8. Bright red can make anyone look good.
9. Wear a wide belt and no one will notice how many pounds you've gained.
10. If you only show up once a year, everyone will think you're very important.