



July 1, 2006

CLERK'S CLIPS



Volume 1, Issue 2



Dear Friends,

July is a busy month. We typically see an increase in land record filings prior to school starting, and we work overtime to get delinquent tax notices out and double check our title work. It is also budget time, and the Board of Supervisors begins the equalization process. Tax Assessor Gerald Barber and his staff have done a tremendous job in delivering another **BILLION DOLLAR** roll! Remember that the roll will be available in my office and on the website during the entire month — So, now is the time to review your property values and address any concerns to the Assessor's office.

This July also brings an increase in filing fees which is the subject of our feature story. The new court fees are to be paid over to the state each month, and the new law covering deed of trust cancellations is designed to encourage banks to file separate instruments for each deed of trust to be cancelled. This makes it easier on our staff and provides less opportunity for error. For our local and metro area customers, we will do our best not to return any instruments for an incorrect filing fee, but please make an effort to calculate and remit the proper amount.

As always, I welcome your suggestions, criticisms and feedback. Email me at johnston@madison-co.com.

Sincerely,

FEATURE STORY:

FILING FEE INCREASES

During the 2006 Legislative Session, Miss. Code Ann. § 25-7-9 was amended (via HB 961 and SB 2757) to establish a Civil Legal Assistance Fund and a Comprehensive Electronic Court Systems Fund. As a result, beginning **July 1, 2006**, all filing fees for civil court cases and deed of trust cancellations will increase. **Civil Case** filing fees will increase by a total of \$15.00 each. **Deed of Trust Cancellation** filing fees are applicable per each deed of trust to be cancelled. If the cancellation instrument contains only one deed of trust to be cancelled, the filing fee for Madison County will remain \$12.50. However, for each additional cancellation contained within the same instrument, there will be an additional fee of \$11.50. The \$1.00 archive fee applies only to instruments filed, not documents cancelled, so it is not included on the fee for additional cancellations contained in the same instrument. For example, if two cancellations are contained in the same instrument, the fee will be \$24.00; if three, \$35.50; if four, \$47.00, if five, \$58.50, etc. The new amendment provides for a similar application of fees for multiple oil and gas lease assignees contained in the same instrument. If you have any questions or would like to acquire a revised fee schedule for recording land records or filing cases in chancery court, please do not hesitate to contact our office.



CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Construction is now underway on the new addition to the Chancery and Administrative Building. The chancery clerk's office and the tax collector's office will remain the same, except that our court records department will be relocated to the second floor upon completion. The new addition will house the administrative offices, tax assessor's office, permit department, veterans' service office and a Board of Supervisors meeting room. Limited underground parking will be available once renovations are complete. Please be patient during these renovations. For your convenience, parking is available to the public on the square around the historic courthouse and in the Circuit Clerk's Office parking lot.



TITLE TIPS

The land roll for 2006 will be available for public viewing beginning July 1, 2006.

The tax sale will be held August 28, 2006, at 8:00 a.m. in the Justice Court Building.



Court Corner

The following court files are missing from our office:

- (1) 2005-798 Johnson Divorce
- (2) 2004-710 Darty Divorce
- (3) 2004-681 Schimpf vs Schimpf
- (4) 2002-551 Ware vs Day, et al
- (5) 2001-822 Taylor vs. MS State Board of Health

Please review your files and let us know if you have any information that could be helpful to us in locating these files.

ARTHUR JOHNSTON

MADISON COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

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