



Aug. 1, 2006

# CLERK'S CLIPS



Volume 1, Issue 3



Dear Friends,

Our office has been extremely busy collecting delinquent taxes from 2003 in advance of the maturity deadline of August 30, 2006. Please help us by checking with

any of your clients who are regularly late in paying and giving them a gentle reminder.

We have recently begun the difficult process of redacting social security numbers from land record images which are available on the web. In my view and as a lawyer myself, public records are public records, and we have no authority to alter them; however, the advent of internet predators necessitates that we take reasonable measures to protect the public against identity theft using our web-accessible images. Accordingly, by September 15, and thanks to the help of our vendor, LMI, Inc., the images which are accessed from the website will reflect masked or obscured social security numbers. The official (and "original") records available in our office will continue to contain un-redacted versions of these images.

On another note, I recognize that emergencies arise from time to time, and should you need the services of our office after hours, please do not hesitate to call me at home 601-853-0948 or on my cell phone 601-955-6925. I will be happy to assist you in any way.

Best Regards,



## FEATURE STORY: TAX REDEMPTION

Final notices for 2003 property taxes have been issued. The last day to redeem 2003 taxes is **August 30, 2006**. Any taxes not paid by this date will mature to the tax sale purchaser. Please check to make sure that any property you hold interest in is paid by this date.

Taxes may be paid in the Chancery Clerk's office with cash, cashier's check or credit card. Delinquent 2004 property taxes are also due and payable in our office.

Back taxes accrue 1.5% interest each month they are delinquent. Paying taxes on time will eliminate extra penalties and interest.

If our office can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to contact us .



## INTERNET PREDATORS:

In an effort to protect the citizens of Madison County, we are asking that to the extent your clients and institutions will allow it, please refrain from listing social security numbers, tax identification numbers and loan numbers on deeds of trust or any other documents recorded in our office. While we have no evidence that identity thieves have targeted our records, since this type of information could jeopardize the privacy of our citizens, if at all possible, please help us by excluding these numbers from documents before having them recorded.



## TITLE TIPS:

- When checking title on the un-platted Devonshire subdivision be sure to search within Lot 1 of Block 31 of Highland Colony Subdivision.
- To search and view subdivision plats on the web, you must type an asterisk at the end of the subdivision name.



## Court Corner:

- To ease the burden on our Sheriff's Office, District 3 Constable Bill Wiesenberger is available to serve summonses. Make your process server checks out to him for prompt service and we will get papers to him.

# ARTHUR JOHNSTON

## MADISON COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

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