



The Southern Essex Registry of Deeds Recorder



Register John L. O'Brien

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

April 2009; Volume 2, Issue 1

April is Homestead Month

“In these extraordinary economic times I am committed to giving the homeowners of southern Essex County every opportunity available to protect their most valuable asset, their home,” explained Register John L. O’Brien “The Homestead Declaration allows homeowners to protect up to \$500,000 of equity in their home against certain debts and liens. For \$35.00 it is one of the best and most affordable protections I’ve ever seen.”

Mayor Kimberley Driscoll and State Representative John Keenan joined Register O’Brien in kicking off Homestead month by creating their own Homestead Declaration. During the month of April, the Southern Essex District Registry of deeds will have additional staff available to answer any questions pertaining to or process constituents Homestead Declarations.

An Estate of Homestead is a type of protection for a person’s residence, in the form of a document titled a Declaration of Estate of Homestead”. The form is recorded at the Registry of Deeds in the county where the property is located, referencing the title/deed to the property. It allows homeowners in Massachusetts to protect their property up to \$500,000 of the value of their primary residence, per family.

This event is part of a larger outreach effort by Register John O’Brien to educate individuals on the importance and value of filing for protection under the Homestead Law. Teams from the Registry will be visiting senior centers, city and town halls and other community locations and events throughout the month.

For more information on Homestead Declarations, please contact a Customer Service Specialist the Southern Essex Registry of Deeds by calling 978-542-1704 or email us at southernessexcustomerservice@sec.state.ma.us or yew our website at www.salemdeeds.com.

An Important Message From Register of Deeds John O’Brien

“Scam artists are at it again”

Companies are again trying to take advantage of people during these difficult times by offering a homestead form for \$15.00. This is outrageous! My office will provide the form at **NO COST**. All you need to do is to visit our website @ www.salemdeeds.com and you can download this form **FREE OF CHARGE**.

If you have any other questions, please contact my Customer Service Department at (978) 542-1704 or you may e-mail us at southernessexcustomerservice@sec.state.ma.us .

I would appreciate it if you can make your friends, family and neighbors aware of this scam and let them know that the Essex South Registry of Deeds is here to help.



Mayor Kim Driscoll, Representative John Keenan, and Register of Deeds John O’Brien kick-off Homestead Month at the Registry of Deeds in Salem.

One of Our Own

The Southern Essex Registry of Deeds lost one of its own on February 15, 2009. Nancy Lee Olbrych, Registered Land Department Supervisor, passed away following an 18 year battle with cancer.

All of those who knew Nancy would agree that she defined the word “character” and could put a smile on even the most serious of faces with her zany antics. While handling many department tasks, Nancy was known to pepper her and her coworker’s day with witty and insightful remarks. Never one to mince words, she would take great pride in explaining to all exactly how a task must be performed & the history of why it is performed in such a manner. After almost forty years with the Registry, Nancy possessed a keen knowledge of the inner workings of the Registry and could perform nearly every function.

To those of us who knew Nancy well, shopping was her passion. She would spend hours visiting store after store looking for just the right gift for herself or a dear friend. Many of us would come in to work to find a small trinket on our desk and know Nancy was the “fairy” who had left it there.

Nancy Lee Olbrych will be sorely missed by all whose lives she touched especially those of us at the Southern Essex Registry of Deeds!



Nancy Lee Olbrych

Register John O’Brien Announces New Recording Hours

Register of Deeds John L. O’Brien determined that the customers of Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds would benefit by expanded recording hours. On February 2nd, 2009 the Register announced that the recording hours in Salem would be from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Monday through Friday. “In times like these we need to do more with less for our customers...I am increasing our recording hours so that we can make filing land records more convenient for the people of Essex County.” , O’Brien said.

By expanding the registry recording hours it will now be possible for many customers to record their documents prior to going to work or meetings. The new hours should also help to alleviate the rush to handle Registry business during customers lunch hours or after work. During the new expanded hours, there will be a minimum of ten (10) recording stations opened to record documents. The Customer Service Department will also be available to assist customers with document information or to provide complimentary certified copies of documents.

YOU CAN HELP US!

As you know, HOW MAY WE HELP YOU? is the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds motto and Register John L. O’Brien would like to encourage you to help him make his customer service the best it can be! Should you have any input or suggestions on how we might improve our service or facility, please do not hesitate contacting him directly at john.obrien@sec.state.ma.us. Your input is always important to us!