Ozaukee County's Register of Deeds office performs four important functions for the public as well as internal County operations; Register of Deeds, Property Description, Land Information Systems and Internet Development. Below is a brief description of each function of the Register of Deeds office and what transpired in 2005.

## Register of Deeds

This office once again created surplus monies for Ozaukee County. 2005 did not break 2003's record, but did surpass 2004's revenue. It was the second best year ever (see Revenue for more information). We recorded 24,413 real estate documents last year. This was a downturn from last two years in the number of documents recorded. The conversion to our new document management system from Fidlar is almost complete. This system also grants Title Companies, Banks and anyone interested to access the records through the Internet for a fee. We will have all images from September 1984 to date on this system as your read this report. To learn more about this system please check out this information.

## **Property Description**

The Property Description office maintains over 37,088 legal property descriptions, including owner name and address, and references to how they acquired the property. This is the fundamental backbone of the assessment role. In addition, the associated mapping of tax parcels is performed. Every deed that is recorded causes a change to the assessment roll.

## **Land Information**

See separate report for detail information about the function of the Register of Deeds office. This office creates, compiles, maintains and distributes land information, which includes more than maps, but information associated with land in Ozaukee County. This office works with all county municipalities, State and Federal government, as well as the regional planning commission. The office is totally self-funded, by statute, through revenue generated specifically for this function collected through the Register of Deeds Office. No property levy is applied.

## Internet Development

This function of the office not only develops and maintains the Ozaukee County website, but also develops and maintains websites for the following:

• City of Port Washington

- Interurban Trail
- Master Gardener
- Ozaukee County 4-H
- Ozaukee County Historical Society
- Ozaukee Interurban Trail
- Ozaukee Tourism
- Ozaukee/Washington Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Town of Cedarburg
- Town of Fredonia
- Ulao Creek Partnership
- Village of Belgium
- Village of Newburg
- Wisconsin Association of County Officers
- Wisconsin County Human Services Association This is New for 2005
- Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association
- Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association
- Wisconsin Land Information Association

As you can tell, this facet of the office continues to grow each year. We currently average 250 visitors daily to Ozaukee County's website and this continues to grow. For more statistical information on the Ozaukee County's website see, both the Technology Resource and Land Information report.

Sincerely

Ronald a. Voigt

- Register of Deeds
- Land Information Administrator
- Webmaster