

Grosse Pointe News

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Wayne County Register of Deeds Bernard J. Youngblood was presented with the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers Eagle Award at the association's 36th annual conference and trade show in Charlotte, N.C.

International award earned by Farms man

August 16, 2007

Wayne County Register of Deeds Bernard J. Youngblood of Grosse Pointe Farms received the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers Eagle Award for his innovative tactics in instant document recording and property fraud prevention unit.

"Mr. Youngblood's innovative programs and achievements in document processing and fraud prevention to ensure homeowner's rights are a shining example of pioneering changes that help better serve the communities we reside in," said Robert J. Venuti, International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers publications chair.

"I am deeply honored to have been selected by an assembly of my peers for this award," said Youngblood. "My staff and I take a lot of pride in the work we do to better serve and protect the citizens of Wayne County."

The award recognizes Youngblood's implementation of high-tech advancements that allow his staff to instantly record documents and eliminate a months-long recording backlog as well as save time and money for residents, government agencies, banks, title companies, attorneys and other businesses that rely on the register's office to process documents.

The improved system also creates a speedier loan review process for new mortgage applications and other business activities that help spur the local economy. The system saves taxpayer dollars and reduces the possibility of

document fraud.

In October 2005, a fraud unit was created within the Register of Deeds' office with the cooperation and assistance of the Wayne County prosecutor and sheriff's offices, the first in the nation.

With sheriff and prosecutor's personnel on-hand, more than 345 case of suspected fraudulent property ownership activity have been opened with 100 percent prosecution success for those cases that have been tried, resulting in those homes being returned to the original property owner.

Recently, the fraud unit investigations resulted in convictions and prison sentences in two major property and document fraud cases.

The International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers Eagle Award is given for innovative ideas in office procedures that have resulted in an office being more proficient, more cost effective, and more citizen friendly.