



El Paso County Clerk & Recorder For the Record

April 2003

Volume 3, Issue 1

Clerk & Recorder:

Robert C. "Bob" Balink
(719) 520-6202

Chief Deputy:

Terry Sholdt
(719) 520-6279

Admin Chief Deputy:

Nancy Bass
(719) 520-7322

Clerk to the Board:

Eileen Wheeler, Mgr
(719) 520-6432

Motor Vehicle:

Joyce Willener, Mgr
(719) 520-6244

Elections:

Marguerite Duncan, Mgr
(719) 520-6222

Recording:

Nancy Bass, Mgr
(719) 520-7322

Accounting:

Joanie Gustin, Mgr
(719) 520-6259

Archives/Records:

Joyce Mannino, Mgr
(719) 520-6380

Systems Admin:

John Gardner, Mgr
(719) 520-7306

Distribution Center:

Rich Jones, Supv
(719) 633-7018

A Message From Your Clerk & Recorder...

The first quarter of 2003 has been an eventful one. After being sworn in as El Paso County's 20th Clerk & Recorder on January 14th, I spent many of the next sixty days in Denver for several purposes and Washington, D.C. attending two national conferences.

The Colorado Clerk & Recorder's Association conducts meetings throughout the year and the January meetings focused on orientation for new Clerks. As you may know, our office has four major functions: Elections, Motor Vehicle, Recording, and Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). At the state meetings we discussed committee assignments and, as a result, I will initially serve on:

- The Legislative Committee
- The Election Statute Reform Committee

In addition, I will join the Secretary of State Donetta Davidson's Advisory Committee for implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which became law last October. The 161-page law contains many federal mandates for all elections held after January 1, 2004, although extensions for implementation of this law until 2006 are likely.

Colorado Legislation - In addition to our office's daily workload, we continue to review and track dozens of pending bills in the State legislature concerning Elections, Motor Vehicle, Recording, and standards for personal identification. As a result, we spend a considerable amount of time with Secretary of State, Department of Revenue officials, and members of the El Paso County legislative delegation. Of note in the Elections arena, HB03-1258, sponsored by Representative Dave Schultheis, proposing the elimination of mail-in elections, was recently defeated.

Identity issues have become prominent with the past couple of years so we are watching HB03-1224 quite closely. Sponsored by Representative Lee and Senator Andrews, this bill creates the "Secure and Verifiable Identity Document Act", which prohibits a public entity that provides services from accepting, relying upon, or utilizing an identification document to provide services unless the document is secure and verifiable. We will keep you posted on the progress of this bill and its impact on how we serve our customers.

Curious about how bills are progressing through the State legislature? Take a look... pending legislation can be tracked online at: <http://www.leg.state.co.us/2003a/pubhome.nsf>.

Please feel free to contact me or our department managers if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at robertbalink@elpasoco.com.

Motor Vehicle Department

Anyone interested in a specific specialty plate is welcome to contact our Motor Vehicle Department to verify availability however, we are currently out of the following specialty plates: 10th Mountain Division, Adams State, Air Force Commemorative, Always Buy Colorado, American Indian, Fort Lewis, Korean War Veteran, Mesa State, Metro State, Pearl Harbor (motorcycle), Regis University, Transporter, University of Southern Colorado, and Western State plate styles.

Driver's License

Need to renew your driver's license? With all the attention recently surrounding driver's license office closures, you should know that we continue to offer services for renewing

Locations:

Downtown Office

200 S Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
8:00am - 5:00pm
Motor Vehicle
7:30am - 4:30pm
weekdays, except holidays

Chapel Hills Office

Chapel Hills Mall
(On North side between
JC Penney & Mervyn's)
7:00am-4:30pm
weekdays, except holidays

Widefield Office

115 Fontaine Boulevard
Widefield, CO
7:00am-4:30pm
weekdays, except holidays

Phone:

(719) 520-6216 Administration
(719) 520-6200 Recording
(719) 520-6240 Motor Vehicle
(719) 575-8683 Elections
(719) 520-6286 TDD

Fax:

(719) 520-6212 Administration
(719) 520-6230 Recording
(719) 520-6239 Motor Vehicle
(719) 520-7327 Election

E-mail:

carweb@elpasoco.com

Web:

www.elpasoco.com/clerkrcd/
default.asp

Additions or deletions to our distribution list may be made by contacting Angie Leath at (719) 520-6216 or via email at angelaleath@elpasoco.com.

Comments or suggestions for future content are always welcome. Please contact the editor at (719) 520-7328.

Renée Smit, Editor
reneesmit@elpasoco.com

El Paso County
Clerk & Recorder
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both Colorado identification cards and Colorado driver's licenses at our Chapel Hills office location, with the exception of Commercial Driver's License (CDL's) and lost or duplicate license requests. We are also able to process address changes and to transfer existing licenses from other states upon surrender of the existing valid license and presentation of a second form of identification such as a valid passport, valid military identification card, or certified birth certificate from county/state of issue.

As driver's license operations are a function of the Colorado Department of Revenue, anyone with questions or concerns are urged to contact the State at (303) 205-5613.

Our Motor Vehicle Department is available to assist the public with any questions or concerns and may be reached at 520-6240, between the hours of 7:00am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except legal holidays. The department may also be contacted via email at carweb@elpasoco.com.

Recording Department



The volume of documents processed by our Recording Department continues to grow at an incredible rate. Without any staffing increases, this department recorded 1,075,849 pages (234,569 documents) last year. That is 123% more than the number of pages recorded just two years ago. First quarter comparisons of recorded documents are: 2000 = 35,138; 2001 = 39,287; 2002 = 50,557; and 2003 = 61,480.

No less important is our concern over the filing of spurious liens. When someone records a document with our office, the legality of that document speaks for itself. If an 'inappropriate' or 'invalid' lien is filed against an individual, it is the responsibility of that individual, through legal channels, to seek a remedy. We cannot *expunge* any document from the public record once it has been recorded.

Look for it! Last Fall we mentioned our exciting plans for expanding our grantor/grantee index to include related Assessor's data. Starting next week, users will be able to search the index, click on the related schedule number, and follow the link to related property information. Feel free to give it a try! The search feature is located at: <http://www.elpasoco.com/clerkrcd/rcdqueryhelp.asp>. Another example of joining forces to better services to our customers.

As always, we encourage anyone with questions or concerns to contact our Recording Department at (719) 520-6208 or via email at recweb@elpasoco.com.

Elections Department

You need to tell us if you move! If you move from the address on your voter registration record, you must change your address with our Election Department. Address changes may be mailed to our office (PO Box 2007, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2007) or updated at any one of our office locations. You will want to tell our Motor Vehicle Department too!

Miscellaneous News

We take pride in our staff and would like to take a moment to acknowledge special events and achievements.

Congratulations to Jimmie Van Buskirk in Recording for his selection as the Employee of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter of 2002.

Celebrating service anniversaries are: Dian Canfield (25), Tracey Mills (24), Marguerite Duncan (21), Angi Jenkins (19), Terri Craft-Jackson (19), Cheryl Doty (17), Susan Russo (15), Alice Jacobs (12), Heidi Benson (11), Michelle McClure (11), Cathy Gann (7), Sarah Mann (6), Yvette Briggs (6), John Hollenbaugh (5), Beth Smith (4), Melanie Maley (3), Ginny Trujillo (3), Mary Castleberry (2), Karen Flesvig (2), Susan Lee (2), Amanda Young (2), and Rachelle Hency (1). We greatly appreciate all of their hard work and dedication.