



Office of Register of Deeds
Davidson County, North Carolina
David T. Rickard, Register of Deeds

Partial list of accomplishments since 2006

- Improved signage around the courthouse to help customers find our office.
- March 2007- Began scanning documents at 300 DPI creating the first ever digital deed images in Davidson County greatly improving the quality of the public record.
- March 2007-Dec 2008- Created a digital copy of all historical deed images and Vital Records. * We are in the process of identifying and replacing poor images which were converted from archives.
- Initiated an RFP process to search for a new software vendor. The resulting 4 year contract saved the county over \$350,000 on a comparable system with the existing vendor.
- April 2008 completed the conversion to Aptitude Solutions software and went live with the new system. We converted 27 years of historical index data into the new system.
- Offered escrow accounts for the public, greatly improving our customer service & accounting procedures.
- Began returning documents immediately after recordation saving thousands of tax dollars in postage.
- All upgrades in Technology were paid for by the Automation and Preservation fund established by the General Assembly in 2001. This has allowed us to actually cut the operating budget of the office each year since implementation.
- December 2008- Initiated electronic recording of all document types one of only three counties in the state offering this service.



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- Initiated an investigation of all software vendors in conjunction with the Secretary of State's land records division. We now have 99 counties who comply with the indexing standards which were adopted in 2006. Previously there were none who complied 100%.
- The inquiry resulted in the NCARD land records committee reviewing the 2006 indexing standards. In 2011 the committee completed the process of updating and simplifying the indexing standards. The new standards will become effective Jan. 1 2012. David T. Rickard was a member of the land records committee which updated the standards over a 2-3 year period.
- Installed online marriage kiosk to help save customers and staff time.
- Offered free access to the public record online for the first time in the history of the county. * We have two websites one public and one secure site where vital records are made available.
- Increased training opportunities for all staff members at the NC School of Government in Chapel Hill.
- Dec 2010- David T. Rickard was appointed to the NC Electronic Recording Advisory Council which was established by the NC General Assembly to define standards for electronic recording in the State of North Carolina. The ERC acts as an advisory council to the Secretary of State.
- May 2011- Submitted the 2011-2012 budget for the Register of Deeds office which reduced the operating budget by 11%. Eliminated funding for 2 positions saving the county over \$60,000.