Hi Folks,

We hope you enjoyed the revival issue of Good Deeds! Continuing this monthly initiative, we are proud to present another issue of our newsletter. Suffice it to say it has been another event filled month. Our staff, with the help of a generous, anonymous donor, delivered approximately 100 masks designed with insignias of the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines to the veterans at the PA Southeastern Veterans' Center in Spring City, Chester County. We hope that this gift will help mitigate risk and promote their safety in addition to instilling in them a sense of pride while doing their part to help combat this national threat. Please read the related article within this issue of Good Deeds for more information.

On a different note, it is with mixed emotions that our staff must say goodbye to one of our all-star team members. Renée Hall has been a dedicated and valued staff member with the Recorder of Deeds office for more than 17 years. We are excited for her new life adventure but sad to see her go knowing that we will not only lose a great employee but a true friend to us all. Renée, good luck and God bless! To learn more about her professional journey, please see the related section of this issue.

Also, did you know that the first Deed recorded in Chester County was in 1688? Did you also know that the good folks at the Chester County Archives department have partnered with the Recorder of Deeds to help preserve and make available these historic records? With that said, we are happy to announce that the ROD office has updated its website to link to the Archives department to access these early Chester County maps and deed books online. These records include Chester County Deed Books back to 1918. Serving over 3,000 researchers a year, the archives are a primary destination for genealogists, property researchers, local historians and academics researching all facets of Chester County history. I encourage you to explore this wonderful historical resource and learn more about the development of this great County. More information can be found in the related section.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of our department. It is an honor to serve you, the public, to the best of our ability. We welcome any feedback to help improve and successfully continue our mission. Until our next issue, Stay Well and Stay Safe. Please note, you can sign up on our website for future publications if you have received this in forward.

Chris Pielli, Esq.
Recorder of Deeds
This Monday, September 7th, 2020, is Labor Day! According to the U.S. Department of Labor, this holiday is a creation of the labor movement and dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. Labor Day constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. The first Labor Day was celebrated in 1882.

Happy Labor Day from all of us here at the Recorder of Deeds, and keep up the good work!

Delivering Military-Branded Masks to Local Veterans

On Wednesday, August 19th, members of our team delivered face masks to residents at the Southeastern Veterans’ Center (SEVC) branded with their respective branch of military. The masks were handmade in the United States and gifted by an anonymous donor, vary in size and are printed with designs paying homage to the US Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force. Due to health and safety concerns, this event was not open to the public, but dedicated staff members at the SEVC accepted the masks on the residents’ behalf and distributed them following the event.

“Our residents, who have served their country and are heroes to all of the staff at SEVC, know that wearing a mask keeps them safe and keeps their community safe,” said Jill Alwine, Admissions Coordinator for the center. “Being able to show the pride they have in having served their country while keeping their fellow neighbors safe within our community is an honor for them. On behalf of our residents, we thank the Chester County Recorder of Deeds office for their generosity during this trying time.”

This event serves in conjunction with ongoing development of the Recorder of Deeds’ Veteran ID and Discount program, which provides photo identification cards to Chester County Veterans who record their DD-214 certificate with the Recorder of Deeds office and offers savings at more than 100 business locations throughout the county and beyond.

During the presentation, Chris Pielli stated, "Our Veterans’ efforts and patriotism have helped our country to remain the free and unconquerable United States of America. We continue to rely on their sense of duty and dedication during these difficult times knowing that their previous determination to serve contains the example we must all follow to maintain and protect our great nation."

Want to support our veterans, too? Visit www.chesco.org/1361/Veterans-ID-Program to apply to the program as a Participating Business. You can mail or fax the form to our office or scan and email it to veteransid@chesco.org.
The Chester County Recorder of Deeds office has a long history of faithfully serving the residents of this county. It recorded its first deed in 1688. Centuries later, the separate Chester County Archives department was established in 1982 to preserve and make available the historic records of Chester County. Then, in 1985, the department was renamed Chester County Archives & Record Services and expanded to include records management responsibilities. In recent years, the Recorder of Deeds and Archives & Records Services worked together on the conservation of one hundred early deed books in the Archives collection.

Chester County Archives staff has produced a tutorial on how to access early Chester County maps and deed books online. Visit www.chesco.org/4602/NEW-Historical-Archives to watch the video online.

A Bittersweet Farewell

The Recorder of Deeds office is bidding a fond farewell to one of our beloved staff members after 17 years (!!) of service to the Chester County. Prior to her last day on September 2nd, Renée "Henrietta" Hall, Geographical Research Systems Tech II, shared a final interview with our Special Projects Coordinator, Kim Bydlon. Read the full transcript on the page 4 attachment.

Top Ten Reasons Recording Documents Get Rejected

1. UPI number(s) are improperly formatted
2. Submitter resubmits and has not corrected any of the mistakes
3. Grantee address is missing or not certified
4. Mortgagee's address is not certified
5. Acknowledgment is incomplete: Venue missing or wrong, not dated and/or names missing
6. Corporate Acknowledgments missing title(s) and/or company name(s)
7. Deeds - Incorrect Township was submitted and therefore the taxes go to the wrong municipality.
8. Non-Complaint - Wrong paper size, margins and/or font size
9. Fee payments are short
10. Names are misspelled

Bubbles says: "If your UPI number is improperly formatted, it will be rejected, no barks about it!"

Recorded Docs as of 9/1/2020

49,086 eRecording

County of Chester, Recorder of Deeds | Website
Have you spent all of your seventeen years of your work for Chester County in the Recorder of Deeds department, or in any others? So, I used to live up here, and I had relocated to Atlanta to be closer to my family. I was just a kid, so, for the summer, I called one of the temp agencies that I worked for and said, “Do you have anything that I can do just for the summer?” They said, “Sure, we have a job working at [Chester] County. Would you like to do that?” I decided to give it a try. I did it and I liked it... My boss at the time was Catherine Yost and she said, “We really like you here. Do you think you might want to stay?” And I said, “Maybe I will, it seems like a good fit.”

What title did you start out as? Actually, there was a specific job function when [an employee] first started, I believe, as a Scanner. And, at that time, we had so much work we had six Scanners and a separate room where the Scanners sat... So, six of us did the scanning, there were two people that did the labeling, and then there was a larger office, like out at the front counter, where there were maybe six to eight desks of Recorders. So, yeah, I started as a Scanner and then, at the time, everybody was being rotated and cross-trained so everybody had their chance over at the BLR [Bureau of Land Records] counter... One day, [my boss] asked if I thought I would like to do that... so I started doing that and that's what I've been doing ever since then, and that was about 2006, I think.

What is your favorite thing about the ROD department? Family. A very strong sense of community.

What would you consider your greatest personal accomplishment during your time here? I enjoyed all the problems and projects that I worked on. Not so much my greatest accomplishment, but my favorite aspect of my job was my ability to help the customers through the research. So, I enjoyed when people came to me with their problems and said, “I can't figure this out” and I would enjoy the research end of it... and the passion that I brought to that.

What was your biggest adjustment when you started working for the county in comparison to your career prior? That's actually an easy one. When I first came here, it seemed to me that a county environment, a government environment, is very different from a corporate environment. So, on a personal level, that took a lot for me to get used to because, in my prior jobs in corporate, I did administrative work and you worked until the work was done. That was just the mindset I was in, and it never occurred to me that, when the lights get flicked, that's the end of your day! [Laughs] So, when that happened, I was like, “What is that? What is going on?!” ...I'd never been in an office where they do that and I don't think that, in my seventeen years of working here, I've ever gotten used to it. It still takes me by surprise.

How have you seen the department develop most over the last (almost!) two decades? When I started as a newbie, there were people who were [in their sixties] or older who worked here. And that never really bothered me on a personal level because of the family that I grew up in; such a large family, I'm used to and very comfortable being around people who are much older than me and I enjoy listening to their life stores, et cetera... and I thought, as I saw it develop, it was very structured because it is a government office; but I’ve seen in the last several years how things are changing and how the office is opening up to younger employees and I think that is a phenomenal thing. People think of government workers as being very staid, very stern and unyielding, unyielding, i.e. “we've always done it that way.” And I think it is wonderful that Erin, Diane and Chris have a vision of bringing in new people who are young, technologically savvy and very unique—I’m talking down to the tattoos. I feel in my soul that management here will take this department into the stratosphere and it's because of... the vision you guys have that’s going to move this place in great directions. I also like the diversity. I see [management] opening up this office to a more diverse workforce which, being a minority, is extremely important to me.

Cont’d on next page.
How many Recorder of Deeds have you seen in your time? Let me think... Four. Each one with their own style and just amazing people.

What are your wonderful next steps? I'm very happy that I'm going to be moving to be closer to one of my sisters. We're so close. After my mom died, I took her death very, very hard. I mean, it's only been six years and I'm still mourning. You don't get over it, it's like a hole in my heart. My family is down south, and my sister said, “You stayed up there to be with Mom because you didn’t want her to be alone, and now Mom’s gone and you need to come back down here and be with family” ...So, she helped me and [my husband] realize that... I'm going to take some time off because I'm an old lady, feel like I need to rest. I'm so tired. [Laughs] And, you know what, that’s also one of the reasons why I felt confident that leaving was going to be okay. I feel that there comes a time when you have to step aside and you have to let those people who are younger than you do it. We all have our turn here, and this was my turn and now it's your turn.