



****MEDIA ADVISORY****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MACOMB COUNTY CLERK & REGISTER OF DEEDS RECOGNIZED WITH 4 AWARDS FROM NATIONAL ASSN.

The Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds Office has been recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) with four national Achievement Awards, **Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds Fred Miller** announced today.

The Macomb County Clerk's Office was recognized in the 'County Administration and Management,' 'Human Services,' and 'Arts, Culture, and Historic Preservation' categories for recent initiatives to better serve seniors, celebrate farmers, coordinate efficient communication among county workers, and delivering services uninterrupted during the COVID pandemic.

Upon hearing of the news, County Clerk Fred Miller said, "Full circle! The last national attention this office received was for Karen Spranger's nutty antics. It is gratifying that the office is once again receiving national recognition for excellent public service. This is a significant milestone in a remarkable turn-around story."

The NACo Achievement Awards are issued nationally to recognize county programs that enhance services, improve county management or promote intergovernmental coordination. The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides services and guidance to the nation's 3,069 counties.

Twelve 2020 NACo Achievement Awards were secured in the State of Michigan by departments in just the three counties of Macomb, Oakland and Midland. The four awards won by the Macomb County Clerk's Office represent a third of the statewide award total. No other county department in the state was awarded more than three and no other Clerk or Register of Deeds Office in the state was recognized in 2020.

"I salute the hard-working men and women of the Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds Office who have been through so much. These awards are the result of the efforts of a strong team of great people with whom I am privileged to work," said Fred Miller. "Our goal is to provide excellent public services to the people of Macomb County. We set high standards because that's what the people of Macomb County deserve. Recognition by a national association of our peers reminds the country that Macomb County is a place for innovation and excellence."

The award-winning Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds initiatives include:

- **"Clerk's Senior Hotline"** - a senior advocacy program that helps Macomb County's aging population navigate through Clerk's Office services by providing Macomb County seniors the personalized attention they deserve through the combination of traditional phone service, web-based assistance, satellite locations, community outreach, and even in-home visits.
- **"Centennial Farms Program"** - relying on the over 8 million images contained within the Macomb County Register of Deeds' databases, historic documents -- some pre-dating Michigan statehood -- are provided to commemorate and recognize centennial farm owners within Macomb County. A centennial farm is a working farm of ten or more acres that has been owned by the same family for at least 100 years.
- **"Clerk's Corner Intranet"** - Developed out of a necessity to keep a 90-person team working together efficiently, the "Clerk's Corner" serves as a central location for essential department documents and information while providing a way for team members to provide feedback. Accessible to all team members at their workstations or remotely, "Clerk's Corner" allows for organization-wide sharing of necessary information and documents including policies and guidelines, job manuals, office phone numbers, HR forms, section manuals, tutorials and tips for operating computer programs and systems, among other things.

- **“Virtual Clerk’s Office”** - Created solely with in-house tools without the need for an outside vendor, this is an easy way for Macomb County residents to access most Clerk's Office services during the pandemic. While neighboring counties were shuttered, Macomb County residents received remote service uninterrupted and county workers were kept safe, productive, and accountable.

With the addition of the four awards, the Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds Office has racked up 69 National Association of Counties Achievement Awards since 1993, 65 under the tenure of longtime County Clerk Carmella Sabaugh. The 2020 awards are the first for the Macomb County Clerk & Register of Deeds Office since 2016.

Started in 1970, NACo’s annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received. Awards are given in 18 categories that reflect the vast array of services that counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more. NACo recognized 522 entries from counties and state associations in 30 states.

Macomb County was also recognized with one additional award for “Cyber Security Program Implementation.”

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