

NANCY A. WATERS

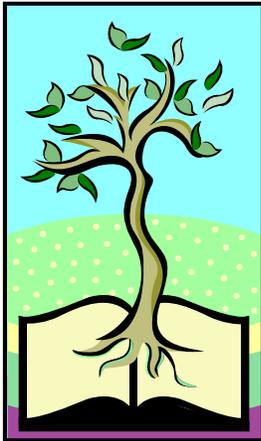
THE MUSKEGON COUNTY CLERK

SPOTLIGHT

SHINING A LIGHT ON EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



Connect with the Muskegon Genealogical Society and uncover family treasure!



If you have always wanted to delve deeper into your family history, here is your opportunity! The Muskegon County Clerk's office and the Muskegon Genealogical Society are partnering to host "Find Your Roots," 1-3 p.m., April 14 at the Muskegon County Clerk's office, located on the 2nd floor of the Central Services Building at 141 E. Apple. This workshop will assist interested parties in tracing their family genealogy. Gifts available to the first 100 visitors!

WATCH FOR NEW ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO CAMPAIGN SPENDING!

Transparency and Access: *Our Commitment to You*

The Muskegon County Clerk's office is working to obtain web-based software which will allow us to efficiently manage campaign finance information for local candidates and elected officials.

The software will allow users to see what the upcoming deadlines are for filing reports and show the late filing fees due by candidates who missed the deadline, allowing for more transparency in elections as related to campaign finance.

Available records from about 300 people will be archived dating back to 2008. Documents filed before that time are available in the County Clerk's Elections office.

We have waited a long time for this application to be available. We are looking forward to utilizing the software to benefit all of Muskegon County's citizens!

March/April/May

Volume 1, Issue 3,
2010

What's Inside

- Your Jury Commission
- Important Elections information
- Register of Deeds information
- A note from your County Treasurer Tony Moulatsiotis
- April is County Government Month. See article on p. 2 and come see what your County Government has to offer.



We're working on it!

Nancy A. Waters
Muskegon County Clerk



*Your Muskegon
County Board of
Commissioners
includes:*

Kenneth Mahoney,
Chairman (D)
Charles Buzzell (D)
I. John Snider II (R)
James Derezinski (D)
Marvin Engle (R)
Lew Collins (D)
Charles Nash,
Vice-Chairman (D)
Bill Gill (D)
Louis McMurray (D)
Roger Wade (D)
Robert Scolnik (R)

* * *

*Citizens may contact
any Commissioner:*

Phone:
(231) 724-6505
E-mail:
commission@co.
muskegon.mi.us

Let Us Help You Get Passport-Ready For Your Next Trip

Passport Day

When: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Saturday, March 27, 2010
Where: 141 E. Apple Ave.
Muskegon County Clerk



Since June, federal law requires American citizens to present a passport book, passport card, or other travel documents approved by the U.S. government to enter this country from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda at land borders and sea ports of entry.

We want your travel outside of the country as hassle-free as possible.

The County Clerk's office hosted a Passport Day last year, and many people took advantage of the service.

For a fee, our Vital Records office can provide you with photos and Muskegon birth certificates. It is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Already have a passport? If yours expired within the last five years, renew by mail using Form DS-82. The form is available in our office or at www.travel.state.gov. For more information, call (231) 724-6221 (option #7).

April is National County Government Month

"Healthy Counties" is the theme for this year's celebration of National County Government Month. The purpose is to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government.

More than 1,000 counties participate in NCGM each year by hosting a variety of outreach events, including tours of county facilities.

Since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the nation to actively promote county government programs and services. Formerly National County Government Week, the designation was expanded to a full month for 2010 to offer more counties more opportunities to plan and participate. Please visit the Muskegon County website, www.co.muskegon.mi.us, for a list of activities and departments you may visit.

Refer to this handy list when applying:

- A certified copy of your birth certificate (from Muskegon County). May be purchased for \$15.
- Two passport photos, which may be purchased in our office for \$15.
- Copy of your driver's license, moped license, or State ID (front & back).
- Check or money order payable to: U.S. Department of State, \$75 adults (age 16 or older), \$60 for ages 15 and under.
- Muskegon County Clerk's execution fee of \$25 (payable by cash, money order, check, credit or debit cards).
- Parents must be present with children under 16.
- Fees increasing in April or May

Information for Precinct Delegates

The office of Precinct Delegate is a partisan position that helps to elect local party chairs and officers, and delegates to the state and national party conventions.

The precinct delegate is the backbone of the partisan political parties. You may file your Precinct Delegate Affidavit of Identity with your local city or township clerk, or with the county clerk.

Political party contact information is as follows:

Democratic Party

Steve Keglovitz, Chair
Janet S. Thomas, Vice-Chair
490 W. Western Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49440 (231) 722-2254

Republican Party

David Farhat, Chair
Suzie Hughes, Vice-Chair
2492 A Henry St.
Muskegon, MI 49441 (231) 767-0222

The Muskegon County Jury Commission: Who is it? What does it do?

Hundreds of jury trials take place in the Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice each year. Juries are needed to ensure a fair trial.

The people who coordinate the selection of these much needed juries are members of the Muskegon County Jury Commission.

The jury commission is appointed by the Chief Judge, and each person serves a four-year term. Muskegon County Clerk Nancy Waters is clerk of this body.

The Muskegon County Jury Commission is comprised of Dr. Luther R. Dease, Chairman (D), term expires 4/30/2013; L. Anne Nelson, Secretary (R), term expires 4/30/2015 and Judy Wisniewski (R), term expires 4/30/2011.

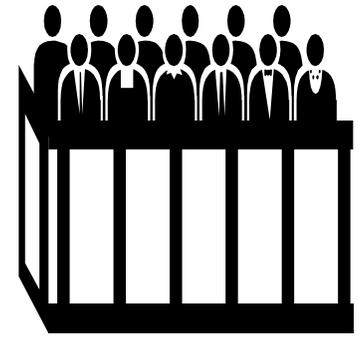
Their duties include mailing questionnaires to prospective jurors, selecting panels for jury terms, mailing summonses, and monitoring the judges' need for jurors & ensuring enough are available.

No more than two members of the commission may be from the same political party.

Each jury commissioner receives a quarterly per diem. The commission holds annual meetings in May.

Learn more about the Jury selection process:

“Meet and Greet”
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Hall of Justice, 6th Floor
Jury Assembly Room



The Jury Commission helps select eligible jurors for upcoming trials.

For more information about the Jury Commission, call (231) 724-6653.

2010 Township/County Elections: Information You Should Know

by Fruitport Twp. Clerk Carol Hulka and Kimberly Grimm, Co. Elections Coordinator

Qualifications to Register to Vote:

- Citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age on or before Election Day

Registering to Vote:

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the City, Township, County Clerk, Secretary of State or at a designated state agency during their regular business hours.

Absent Voter Ballots:

Any resident age 60 or older, or physically unable to attend the polls, unable to attend the polls because of the tenets of their religion, appointed as a precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct in which they reside, is confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial, or that expects to be absent from the community on election day, may apply for an absent voter ballot. Contact your local clerk for an absentee ballot application.

Open Seats, Candidate Filing Deadlines, and Filing Requirements:

Please check our website at www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk to see which seats are being elected in 2010.

School Elections May 4, 2010
Primary Election August 3, 2010
General Election November 2, 2010

Muskegon County Treasurer Tony Moulatsiotis

This newsletter is presented as a public service from the office of
Nancy A. Waters
Muskegon County Clerk
Vital Records and Elections Office
New location

141 E. Apple Ave., 2nd floor
Muskegon, MI 49442
Phone: (231) 724-6221
Fax: (231) 724-6262
Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Circuit Court Records
Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice
990 Terrace St., 6th floor
Muskegon, MI 49442
Phone: (231) 724-6251
Fax: (231) 724-6695
Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Via E-mail:

clerk@co.muskegon.mi.us

Web site:

www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk

If you have questions or comments for the next newsletter, please call, write or e-mail using the information above.

**Please note
new office
locations!**



The Muskegon County Treasurer's office has moved to its new and permanent location at 173 E. Apple.

The move allows the Treasurer, Register of Deeds and Equalization to be under one roof and makes it more convenient for citizens who are doing business at these offices.

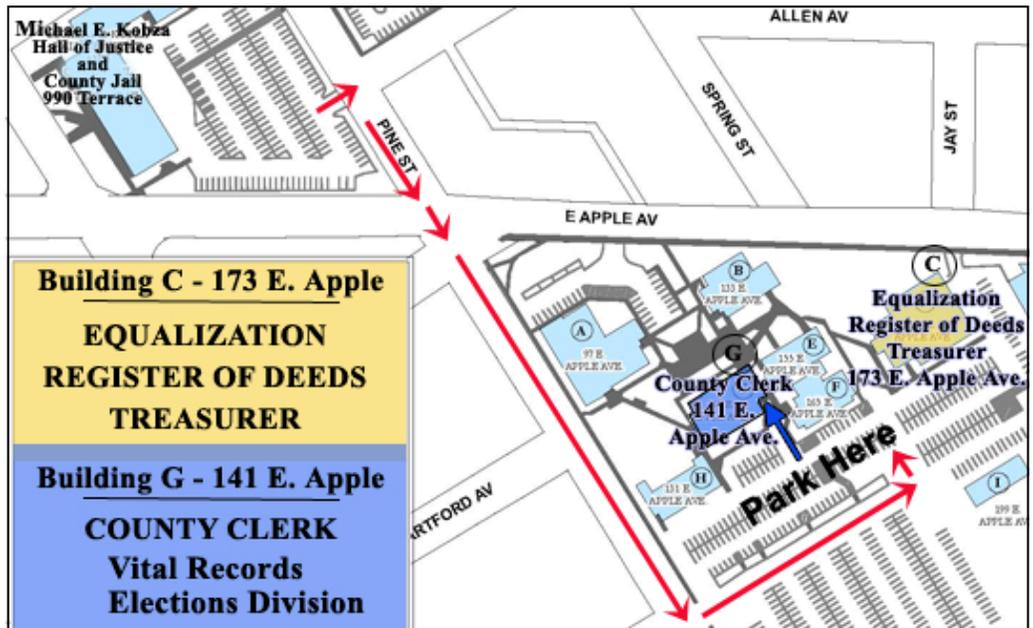
Treasurer Tony Moulatsiotis said people who are in danger of losing their property should contact his office immediately to determine what may be done to prevent this.

Homeowners may be exempt from a portion of local school operating



taxes. This "Principal Residence Exemption" (PRE) may be found on your "Notice of Assessment." If there is 0% exempt on your assessment and you wish to claim an exemption for the current year, an affidavit must be completed and filed with the Assessor's Office prior to May 1. If you currently have a PRE on your property and you don't own & occupy the property as your primary residence, you must rescind the PRE with the Assessor's Office.

The second floor of the Hall of Justice will be the future home of District Court.



Please note:

All county offices are closed for the following legal holidays:

- **Good Friday, April 2**
- **Memorial Day, Monday, May 31**



Mark Fairchild,
Register of Deeds

The primary requirement of this office is to record deeds, mortgages, liens, surveys, plats, land contracts, condominiums, financing statements, related documents and other real estate documents. The staff are also responsible for collecting Real Estate Transfer Tax for the State of Michigan and the County.

The office is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, including the lunch hour
(Holidays excluded)

The public should be mindful that this office cannot assist or prepare your documents to be recorded and urges you to seek professional advice from an attorney, title company or real estate agent.