

# **News**

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Dec. 8, 2004

Contact: Phil Frame  
Office of Public Affairs  
586-469-5125  
[phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov](mailto:phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov)

## **CLERK'S OFFICE CUSTOMERS REAP BENEFITS OF NEW MACOMB COUNTY TECHNOLOGY**

Macomb County brought on line the first part of a two-phase computer technology overhaul designed to revolutionize how the Clerk/Register of Deeds Office handles vital records and serves county residents.

The new vital records system is part of an ongoing initiative throughout many county departments to replace old mainframe computer systems with state-of-the art technology that incorporates many new features for improved efficiency.

"These technology changes and enhancements are vital to Macomb County's ability to match the growing population and expanding business services to ensure continued friendly and quality customer service," said Nancy White, chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

Clerk/Register Carmella Sabaugh said the new system makes the more than 1 million vital records under her office's control electronically accessible so they can be quickly searched and recovered. With the former system, customers in some cases had to wait while employees searched by hand in a file storage area in the basement.

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"Macomb County residents deserve prompt, friendly, convenient access to their records and this system will make our speedy service even faster," said Sabaugh. "My staff can now spend less time retrieving records from storage and more time giving personal assistance at the counter."

The first phase of the vital records system went online in late September. It involved scanning of documents for instant electronic retrieval and provided for enhanced search and reporting capabilities. The second phase, coming soon, will offer the ability to search for and view an index of public records online through Macomb County's web site. This will allow Macomb County residents to search an index of business registrations and death records, for example, without even leaving their homes.

"This upgrade will allow the Clerk/Register's office to run at an even faster pace," said Cyntia Zerkowski, director of Macomb County's Management Information Services Department (MIS). "This is going to make things much easier for both employees and county residents. "

Macomb County will spend \$71,160 per year on the new electronic vital records system. Receipts from fees for providing the records help offset the cost.

The contract for the new vital records system included an agreement with the vendor, Affiliated Computer Systems Inc., to scan in the previous 15 years of documents, while making it easy to create new records. The scanning is expected to start this month.

MIS also is overseeing computer technology upgrades that will integrate all court systems into one, and another for the Public Works Office that will allow inspectors to transfer information to and from the office while on the road.

Completion for all of the upgrades is expected around the end of this year.

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### **Vital Records Facts**

The Clerk/Register's office maintains more than 1 million vital documents, including:

- 319,934 birth records
- 264,796 death records
- 289,888 marriage records
- 110,257 business registrations
- 18,213 military discharges
- 68,124 notary records