

County Clerk's Office moving out, moving ahead

This past month, the Charlotte County Clerk's Office moved out of a 17,000-square-foot file storage area on the ground floor of the Justice Center, and into a 9,000 square foot warehouse in Murdock. Next year, our Jury Management Department will relocate into existing clerk's office space within the Justice Center, thereby providing an additional 3,000 square feet of space.

As outlined in the *Charlotte Sun's* editorial on May 3, 2017, which focused on local governmental agencies working together to save local taxpayers nearly \$20 million on a Justice



Charlotte
County Clerk

**Roger
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Center expansion project, your Clerk's Office "gave up the most, especially in terms of office space" to make these massive taxpayer savings a reality.

Our new electronic records policy, which in April 2017 was cited by the Florida Bureau of Archives and Records Management as both "impressive" and "a model for other counties to consider," required the enhanced use of

scanning, digitizing and computer-cataloging hard-copy paper records. This successful use of technology allowed your Clerk's Office to considerably shrink its office-space footprint, thereby eliminating the need for a full-blown Justice Center expansion project.

In addition to substantial taxpayer savings, successfully integrating the newest technologies within your Clerk's Office provides greater transparency.

We are excited about the new, convenient and efficient services available to Charlotte County citizens through our website, such as online juror check-in, our free

Property Fraud Alert Program, and our online marriage scheduling capabilities. While our friendly and knowledgeable staff will be happy to assist you in person if you choose to come to the Justice Center, we have found that most people prefer spending their day with family or earning a living at work rather than traveling to the Justice Center. We value your time, therefore our goal is to conveniently serve Charlotte County citizens online, not in line.

Just this past month, we began offering certified electronic official records online. Each electronic certified document uses advanced

encryption features to produce a tamper-proof electronic certified document which will include a unique Clerk of Court digital signature. No longer will those in need of certified official records need to physically come to the Justice Center or our Murdock office.

We are also working on digitizing all records in official records, such as deeds, mortgages, satisfactions of mortgages, marriage licenses, and notices of commencement. Microfilm is being converted into an electronic record which will be viewable by the public online.

Your Clerk's Office never rests on its

laurels or accomplishments. We continually search for new, innovative ways of providing a better service experience for local citizens, which also reduce the financial burden to local taxpayers. By combining excellent staff with the implementation of advanced technologies, we will continue our quest to provide more services for less cost. Online — not in line!

For more information about our office and to access all of our new features, please visit us at CharlotteClerk.com. Thank you

Roger D. Eaton is the clerk of the circuit court and county comptroller.