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A Publication of the Hays County Clerk's Office

Substation News

Civil Answers are now accepted at all substation locations! See <https://www.hayscountytexas.gov/courty-clerk> for addresses and contact information.

Right: Probate and Guardianship clerks Harmony Austin and Abigail Flores administering a "sworn oath" to a witness who will testify at a hearing.



Employees of the Quarter

By Emmanuel Roberson



Let's give a round of applause to Harmony, Jason, and Michelle for earning the Employee of the Quarter award, and an extra congratulations to Jason for having perfect attendance! Each quarter, the County Clerk's Office votes for one outstanding employee from each division, sometimes with a tie! Harmony, Jason, and Michelle help every customer to the best of their ability, and their hard work and dedication to Hays County has not gone unnoticed.

Section Feature: Probate and Guardianship

By Abigail Flores

The Probate and Guardianship section is a specific branch within the County Clerk's Courts Division. In court, Probate and Guardianship clerks are managing documents and administrative tasks, ensuring that court operations run smoothly by organizing paperwork, maintaining files, reviewing and entering information into the case management system, administering oaths before and after hearings, and assisting the public and court staff.

In office, clerks perform tasks such as document processing, which consist of stamping, scanning, and organizing documents into physical and digital case files. Probate and Guardianship clerks are responsible for maintaining cases that involve a person's death, including Wills, Estates, and court orders appointing Executors/Administrators, as well as assisting attorneys, guardians, and members of the public by providing information about filing procedures, collecting fees, and issuing certified copies of guardianship and probate documents while ensuring records are accurate and handled according to court policies.

Did you know that you can store your Will at the Hays County Clerk's Office? Our service for Safekeeping ensures your Will is stored securely and preserved until needed! Contact the County Clerk's Office for more information.

JURY SERVICE INFO

Scan QR Code or click [here](#)



How To Videos

By Jason Faulkner & Miriam Ripplinger



'FRAUD GUARD' SIGNUP

Scan QR Code or click [here](#)



Continuing Education

By Korey Thornton

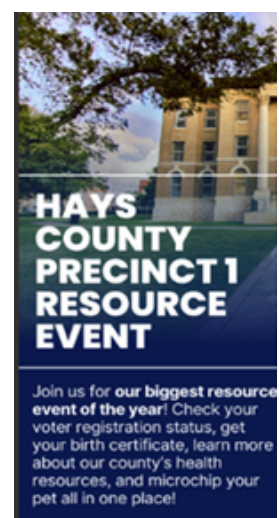
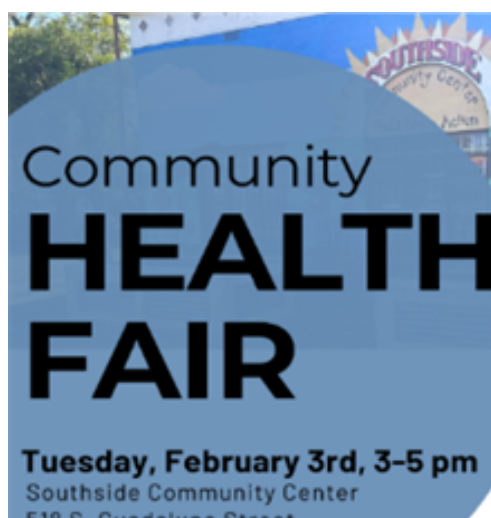
The Hays County Clerk's Office is committed to continuous learning to provide the highest level of service to the public. Staff regularly participate in professional development opportunities that keep them informed about legislative updates, best practices, and emerging challenges that impact county operations.



Pictured Above: County Clerk employees during an FBI-hosted training.

In the month of February, the Hays County Clerk's Office sent clerks of all levels to the County and District Clerks' Association of Texas (CDCAT) conference in San Marcos, where clerks and staff received continuing education and had an opportunity to collaborate with peers from across the state. Team members also attended a Federal Bureau of Investigation presentation on Sovereign Citizens, which provided valuable insight into identifying and safely responding to unusual filings and interactions that may occur in government offices. In addition, the office sent three Senior Deputy Clerks to the Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) Conference hosted in Virginia Beach. This national event focused on innovation, technology, and best practices in property records management.

Through this continuous training and robust conference schedule, the Hays County Clerk's Office continues to strengthen its knowledge, improve services, and remain up to date for the residents of Hays County.



Community Outreach Events

By Alejandra Rodriguez

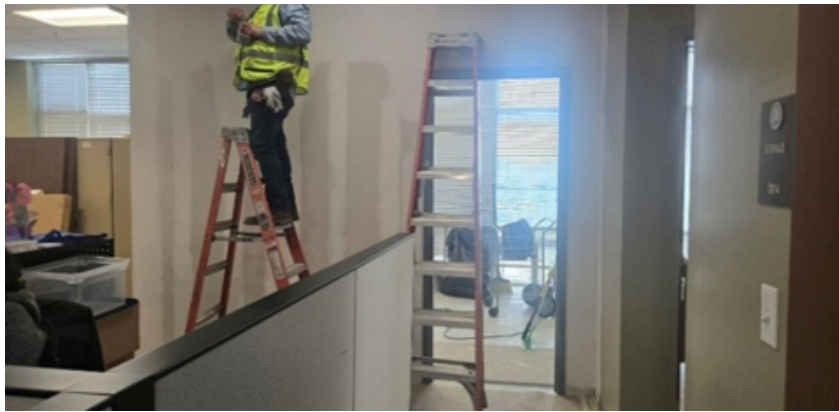
The Hays County Clerk's Records Division staff recently participated in community resource events in San Marcos – the Community Health Fair at the Southside Community Center and the Hays County Precinct 1 Resource Event at the Hays County Historic Courthouse. At these events the County Clerk's Office provided the community with property record information, birth certificate printing, and assisted community members with registering for Fraud Guard. These events are available to the community, bringing resources from all over the County to one location. The County Clerk's Office is happy to assist the community in any way we can. Invite the Hays County Clerk's Office to your next resource event!

Office Construction

By Emmanuel Roberson

The conference room has finally arrived. Previously, meetings have been held in the personal offices of employees. Now, we have a room dedicated to meetings and get-togethers!

Two new offices have been built to account for our growing staff- one for a Probate Auditor/Staff Attorney, and one for the Courts Division Chief. These new offices allow for more room for our new Compliance position as well.



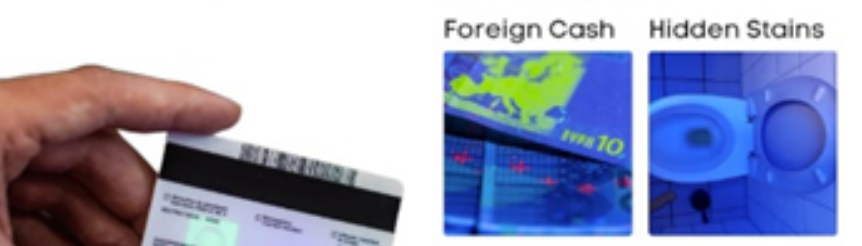
Fraud Prevention


By Madison Gish

Fraud is on the rise, but the County Clerk’s office is dedicated to maintaining the integrity of Hays County’s records. We have invested in several anti-fraud tools that we are able to use in office, including a 30x magnifying glass and a UV light for inspecting IDs, money, and birth records. We also offer Fraud Guard, a complimentary service that enables you to register to receive alerts if a document matching your name is recorded. It serves as an early detection mechanism for property fraud, allowing residents to take swift legal action if necessary.

Sign up here today:
<https://erss.co.hays.tx.us/web/fraudGuard/disclaimerPage>

Reveal Hidden UV Features in:





Fraud Guard
NEW Sign up here for Fraud Guard Protection**
 Click here to register for email notifications when documents are recorded in your name to avoid being the victim of property fraud.

Travelers, Settlers, and Deeds

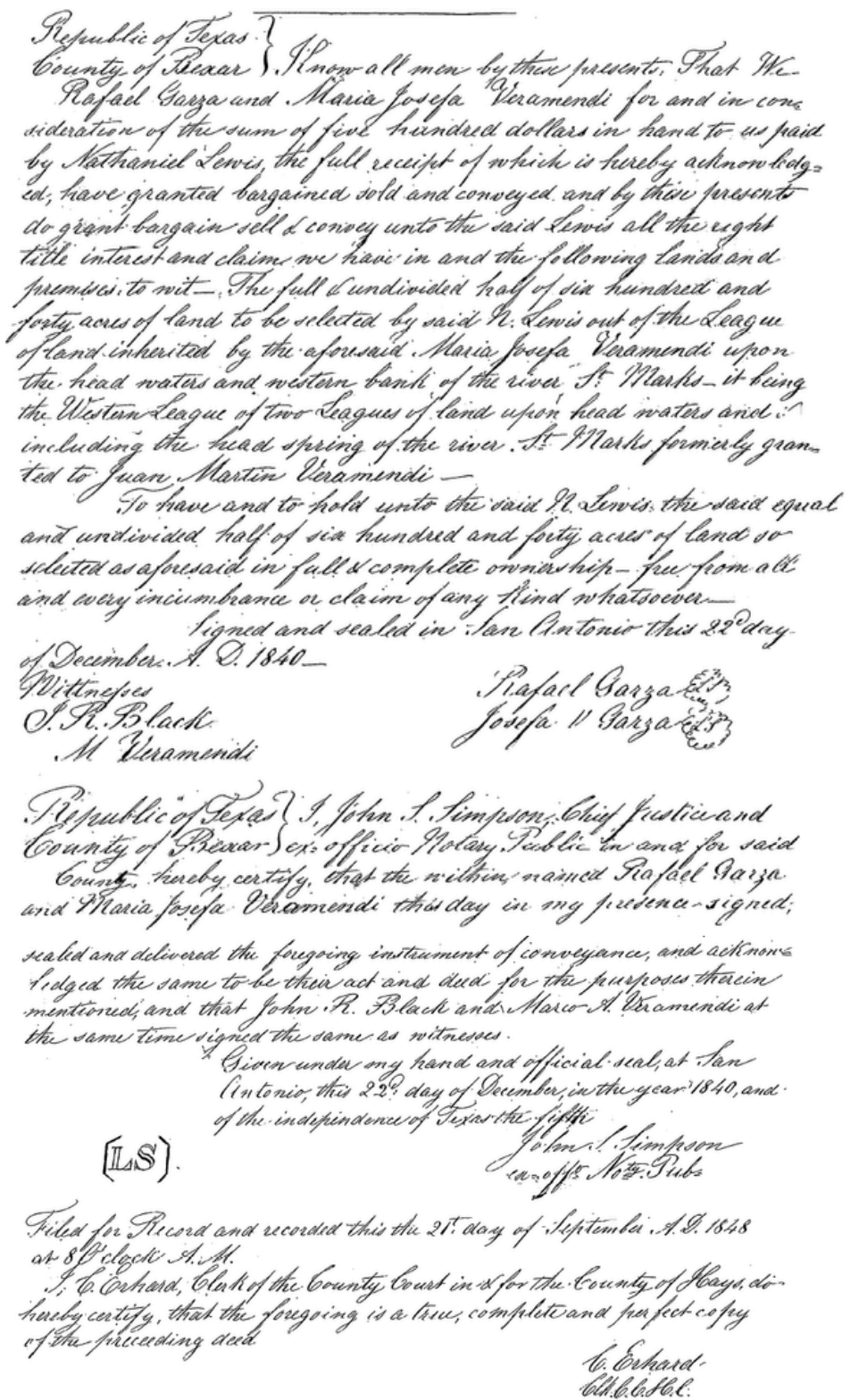
By Darren Jones

In prehistoric America, for over 8,000 years, the land within present-day Hays County was highly desirable, lush, water-abundant, and populated. Indigenous tribes (Apache, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Lipan and Tonkawa) and later the Spanish were drawn to the "Sacred Springs" (San Marcos Springs), which served as a gathering place for hunting, trade, community, and was fiercely contested.

In 1831, the Mexican government of Coahuila y Tejas granted this land to Juan Veramendi. The grant eventually passed to three American settlers; William Lindsey, Gen. Edward Burleson, and Eli T. Merriman, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the region's history. The community that grew from that foundation has grown dramatically. After 100 years, in the mid-1900s the U.S. Census Bureau recorded a population of 17,840, and 75 years later from then, that number had grown to over 260,000.

What were once Indigenous oral traditions, Spanish "paper titles", and Mexican and Texan land disputes, are now the "State of Texas, County of Hays preserved and digitized instruments". The deed below represents our office's earliest record of landownership in that long history.

Today, you can search any property record filed with the Hays County Clerk's Office on our portal, erss.co.hays.tx.us, to see all the records filed in our county since 1848.



Pictured above: Hays County recorded document from the 1840s.

Resources

- Elections information: <https://www.hayscountytexas.gov/elections>
- Passport information: <https://iafdb.travel.state.gov/>
 - If a birth certificate is needed for your passport application and you were born in Texas, you can visit any of our offices in person or order online through <https://haystx.permitium.com/rod>

Kudos from the Community

- "Emmanuel did a great job; he is a super clerk!" - Community member
- "Jacob has been very helpful in giving me this extra information!! Thanks for going above and beyond!! Your customer service is superb!!" - Community member