



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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PRESS RELEASE

Recorder Welcomes Sunshine Week

March 15, 2009 - Columbiana County Recorder Craig Brown is participating in Sunshine Week by inviting the public to come visit their county recorder's office this week.

Sunshine Week is a national initiative led by the American Society of Newspaper Editors to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

According to the event's website, "Sunshine Week is about the public's right to know what its government is doing and why."

"As a recorder, I realize the importance of full disclosure and realize the benefits of easily accessible records to government, business, and the general public," stated Craig Brown.

Brown continued, "Recorders are relatively low profile government officials, but our roles are indispensable to the continuation and maintenance of good government."

The Florida Society of Newspaper Editors initially launched Sunshine Week as Sunshine Sunday in 2002. In 2003, the American Society of Newspaper Editors hosted a Freedom of Information Summit in Washington and planned for Sunshine Week to become a national event.

Brown stated, "The whole point is to get people to think about the roles public records play in our lives. Recorders play an important role in this system, and it is important that the general public understands what we do and how we serve the common good."

"So, I hope this week peaks some people's curiosity, and a few will take the time to come visit their recorder's office how public documents and county recorders improve the overall quality of our lives," concluded Brown.

County recorders maintain and protect numerous types of documents including mortgages, deeds, liens, military discharge papers, and powers of attorney.

Sunshine Week is being observed throughout the nation this week March 15-21. The only requirement to participate is "that you do something to engage in a discussion about the importance of open government.