

# Crank to head recorders group

The Butler County official says he has ideas to help citizens use Web sites for information.

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HAMILTON — Butler County Recorder Danny Crank will be sworn in Thursday as president of the Ohio Recorders' Association, which represents county recorders statewide in Columbus.

He has worked five years for this, he said, and is already vocal on several issues.

Crank has pushed legislation that would remove social security numbers and other information from county recorders' online records or require users to create an account to view such records.

Crank took all of his records off-line two years ago, following a court ruling that social security numbers are not public record. But, "to redact that information, that might damage the integrity of those documents," Crank said.

Crank is opting to require users to establish password-protected accounts. He said this will discourage identity theft and save Butler County about \$185,000.

"I'm going to have basically a contract with anyone who wants access to my records," he said.

Another statewide issue is the standardization of official documents. County recorders now get many documents without room in the margins for the several official stamps required by law.

But the gas and oil industries oppose standardization, arguing it would make it cumbersome to get lease agreements from people.

Crank said his first priority in the new position will be, "trying to make the recorders office a nice place to come and visit."

"Danny will do an excellent job," said Joyce Leeth, Pike County recorder and current president. "He has been side by side with me this year and has just been a great help to me."