

# *Craig Olive merits admiration*

Johnston's registrar of deeds is a good boss and a good public servant

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## **THE HERALD'S POINT OF VIEW**

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**N**ot long after Craig Olive became Johnston County's registrar of deeds, we asked one of his clerks what she thought of her new boss. Her answer went something like this: In the days following election night, she and her co-workers had some restless nights. They had grown accustomed to Cecil Massengill, the gentleman Democrat, and were wary of what Mr. Olive, a young Republican, might do. But less than a month into Mr. Olive's tenure, it was clear, the clerk said, that he was a good boss who cared about his employees.

A little more than a year into Mr. Olive's tenure, it's clear also that he cares just as much about the people who use the Register of Deeds office. As the Herald reported on Tuesday, marriage licenses are now available with the click of a computer mouse. What was a "hurry up and wait" process now takes about 20 minutes.

Separately, Mr. Olive has sped the process of filing land transactions,

deeds of trust and similar property documents. And he had made the cost of copies cheaper while making it easier to pay for those copies. Finally, Mr. Olive continues to put more Johnston County land records online, making it easier, for example, for attorneys to conduct title searches.

We too had our reservations about Mr. Olive, mostly because he was an unknown commodity. But Mr. Olive has proven himself to be the rare elected bureaucrat who cares for his people and the public those people serve. What more can Johnstonians ask for in a public servant?