



# Good Deeds **Alert** –October 16, 2023<sup>1</sup>

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## Avenu Subscribers Queried.

On September 18, 2023, I reached out to all of you to ask your opinion about ideas for how Avenu Insights (our land records management vendor) could not continue in the red by providing this online service. The options included 1) a \$12 Day Pass; 2) a per page charge; 3) raising the set fee from \$50 to \$75. This would put Kent's fee between Sussex's "casual" fee and NCC's fee for similar access and downloads.

All but six of the 88 queried wanted to keep the fee stable rather than add a per-page fee, and most felt that public records viewing should remain free.

## Recorder Decision and Fee Recommendation to LC

Because of the foregoing, I will recommend to Levy Court this fee be raised because Avenu Insights requested it and you agreed. (This is the only fee I recommended be raised, save cost per copy, which is a Kent County-wide standard fee that has been in effect for some time.)

To the best of my knowledge, the fee ordinance is scheduled to be workshopped and voted by LC in May 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> This was originally published as an email but has been reformed to make it work on the website. The recipients of this email were the people who had subscribed to US Land Records at least one time in the previous six months.

You will receive an email from Avenu Insights when we change the method of paying from AVENU to PayPal. If approved, this should happen near the end of this FY. The change will take place July 1, 2024. Please look for it.

You will have to determine if the new unlimited fee will mean you will only use the \$2.00 per page fee in the future. That choice is still available to you.

Where we had problems the last time, we changed something with US Land Records Subscribers was when there is one account and many use the log on. You are getting this email because yours is the one registered with US Land Records. You are most likely the PRIMARY email. If there are others on your subscription, please be sure to advise others on your subscription of the new rate which will take effect with new subscriptions after July 1.

I discuss more about our fee schedule in my next "Good Deeds Update" currently scheduled for May 1. If you would like to receive the "Good Deeds" Update, please send me an email and I will add you to the list of recipients.

## Bottomline:

Please know that the subscription cost for unlimited printing and downloading of US Land Records will most likely increase from \$50 to \$75. We expect this change to take place in July, the start of our next FY in Kent County.

Thank you all for your comments and participation in how we will move forward together.

*Gene*



**Hon. Eugenia Thornton**

The Kent County Recorder of Deeds

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