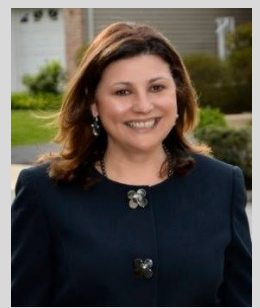


Mercer County Clerk

Paula Sollami-Covello, Esq.



County Clerk's Corner Newsletter... At Your Service!

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Welcome from the County Clerk

Welcome to the County Clerk's Summer Newsletter! The Mercer County Clerk's Office continues to preserve records and make improvements to our record-keeping systems so that you, the consumer, can access our vast library of property records dating back to 1838. Recently, my office completed a book-scanning project which allowed us to add hundreds of older deed books as well as some mortgage release books and chancery notices books into our land records management computer system. This back scanning of the deed books allows computer searchers to go back further in time to access our records, as far back as to the establishment of our County in 1838! It also preserves our County's fragile land records and allows for faster searching of the information for title searchers and members of the public via internet.

As County Clerk, the County's official property recorder, I know the importance of being able to provide information electronically in accordance with State standards for record preservation. It is how business transactions take place today, especially after the lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 where people worked remotely from their offices. I am committed to making it easier for everyone with a computer to continue doing business even if they continue to work remotely. Moreover, this scanning project preserves the information on these historic books before it is lost due to damage and aging of our books. The uploading of these images will to our system be completed by September 30th of this year.

We completed this bid through a competitive contracting process wherein we stressed that our records must be clear and process legible in order for title searchers and for future generations to be able to read them. Some were brought up to a clear level with reverse imaging to enhance readability, while other technologies were employed to eliminate the "bleed-through" of words from two-sided copies.

We will continue to scan other records at the County Clerk's office with the goal of having all records online by the end of my current term because this is how we make our office more accessible for you!

All of these records will be visible in our current land management system by September 30th, 2022. You must first register to search at http://records.mercercounty.org/RecordsNG_Search/.

UPDATED VETERAN DISCOUNT BOOKLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello is pleased to unveil a newly updated Veteran Discount Booklet that lists merchants in Mercer County who are offering discounts to Veterans. The Veterans' Discount Booklet is a way for local businesses in our community to show their appreciation to Veterans for their heroic service. Participating businesses are offering up to 25% off for Veterans who produce their County issued Veteran ID Card. The updated discount booklet also lists the County's numerous Veteran-owned businesses. The booklet will be available to Veterans when they obtain their Veteran ID cards from the County Clerk's Office located on 209 South Broad Street in Trenton. If a veteran wishes to obtain a booklet, they may also send an email Mhubscher@mercercounty.org and they will be added to our mailing list. To view a PDF version of the booklet please visit <https://www.mercercounty.org/government/county-clerk-/office-services/county-id-s>.

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UPDATED VETERAN DISCOUNT BOOKLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

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The County Clerk's Office issues Veteran ID cards as a way to honor and identify those who served our country in active military duty. The County Clerk's Office has been providing Veteran ID cards that indicate a Veteran's status for several years. "We have learned that our Vet ID cards have become very helpful, not just to indicate service, but also because many local retailers now offer special discounts to veterans," said County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello.

Veteran ID cards are issued for Free during the weeks of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Veteran's Day, and National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. However, if a card is needed at another time during the year, the fee is \$10, which is half the price of a regular County ID card. "Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Veteran's Day, and National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day remind us our U.S. soldiers made great sacrifices to preserve our freedom."

The County Clerk's Office also offers Veterans the ability to record their DD-214 form, the certificate of honorable discharge, free of charge. The DD-214 is required paperwork for a Veteran ID card and is issued when a service member is honorably discharged from active military duty. The document contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations.

Clerk Sollami Covello added, "Because military papers can get damaged or lost, veterans should take advantage of the opportunity to file copies of their DD-214 discharge papers with the Clerk's Office. I am particularly sensitive to the need for recording such papers since the County Clerk's office maintains and preserves official documents and records for Mercer County." If a copy of one's discharge papers is needed in the future, a veteran, an immediate family member, or a legally recognized representative of their estate may obtain one with proper identification.

The County Clerk's Office also issues a Peddler's License. The Peddler's License is free to veterans that are honorably discharged, in accordance to New Jersey state law. Veterans can receive our photo ID card and Veteran Discount Book by visiting the Mercer County Clerk's Office's ID department, located on the 2nd floor. ***The Clerk's ID Office, located at 209 South Broad Street in Trenton, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. To reach the ID Department directly, please call 609-278-7108 or 609-989-6465.***

****Our office also offers Gold Star Family ID's with the proper documentation. New legislation has been signed by Governor Murphy that extends the amount of family members that are eligible to receive Gold Star IDs. Pursuant to A1455, additional relatives of military members who died during active duty can now qualify for Gold Star identification. The new legislation allows Gold Star spouses, domestic partners or civil union partners and children to receive discounts and other military family courtesies. To learn more about this program please contact the Office of the Mercer County Clerk's ID department directly at 609-278-7108.****



Picture: Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello with Captain Stanley Winowicz, Jr., Mercer County Sheriff Officer Tavaris Kelly and Surrogate Diane Gerofsky, at a local Mercer County Veterans' event.

Why You Should Get Your Passport from the Mercer County Clerk

People often tell me that they can obtain passports from the U.S. Post Office just as easily as they can from the County Clerk's Office. It is true that we both offer passports but as Mercer County Clerk, I'd like to offer you several reasons why you should choose to use our office when you apply for a passport.

The first benefit is that the Office of the Mercer County Clerk has two convenient locations for passport processing and an appointment is not required for either location. We offer a full time hours in our main office at the County Courthouse Annex in Trenton, at 209 South Broad Street, Room 100. We also offer full time hours in our Hamilton Township location on Rt. 33 and Paxon Avenue in the County Connection. Both offices also have extended hours so that you can visit us on Wednesday evening in Trenton (until 6:45) or in Hamilton on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (until 8). Plus, we have Saturday hours in our Hamilton location from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. An appointment is not required for either location, although some U.S. Post Office locations do require an appointment.

Another reason to visit us is that the County Clerk's office will take your passport photos on site. There is no need to visit another photographer prior to visiting us for a passport.

Moreover, the Clerk's Office price is the same as the price at the U.S. Post office. Passport fees are set by the U.S. government. They are the same everywhere, however, a minor processing fee is allowed for the processing agent. We, like the post office, charge \$35 for Mercer County.

Most importantly, the County Clerk's office strives for positive customer service and we have an excellent rapport with the U.S. Department of State and we are trained in customer service and follow-up.

The Mercer County Clerk advises constituents to plan ahead for travel. The U.S. State Department is experiencing longer than usual delays in the processing times of passports. The current wait time for passport services is 5-7 weeks for expedited services and up to 8-11 weeks from the time of submission for a regular application. This delay is likely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The fee for a Passport Book increased from \$110 to \$130, and to \$100 for minors.



For more information regarding passports, please visit the Mercer County Clerk's website [here](#) or call the County Clerk's passport office at 609-989-6473 or the County Connection at 609-890-9800.

Did You Know?

One of the most traditional and enjoyable duties of the Mercer County Clerk is the performance of marriage ceremonies. Wedding ceremonies are performed by County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello at the County Clerk's Office located at 209 South Broad Street, in Trenton. To schedule a wedding, please call our office at 609-989-6820 or 609-989-6074.

Please note– a wedding ceremony appointment must be reserved in advance and prospective couples must apply for and receive a valid New Jersey Marriage License from the Registrar of Vital Statistics in the municipality where either spouse resides



Pictured: County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello with newlyweds alongside members of the Clerk's Staff

Notary Night Schedule 2022

We process notary applications in our office in Trenton, as well as in Hamilton at our Mercer County Connection office the first Thursday of each month.

August 4th

September 1st

October 6th

November 3rd

December 1st

To be sworn in by Mercer County Clerk's Office staff as a new notary, prospective notaries must apply and have their applications signed by a legislator. If you file your application online it will be sent to your legislator electronically. After the State of New Jersey processes your application, you will be sent your commission by mail. You must take your oath of office. The fee is \$15; checks and money order are accepted. Prospective notaries will also need a photo ID and their certificate on hand to be sworn in.

**At the current time, appointments are required for notary services at the County Connection Hamilton. Please call 609-890-9800 for appointments.*

The Clerk's office offers notary services five days a week from 8:30– 4:30, as well as until 6:45 on Wednesday nights in Trenton. Appointments can be made by calling (609) 989-6466.

For more information about notaries public and for updates on please visit the Mercer County Clerk's website at <https://www.mercercounty.org/government/county-clerk>.

Attention Students!

Don't forget to apply for a Vote By Mail Ballot before returning to school!

Here is the state link to register to vote and for Vote By Mail: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/vote.shtml>

About the Mercer County Clerk's Office

The County Clerk's Office offers many services that Mercer County residents and businesses use every day. The Clerk's Office files and records all documents concerning real estate ownership and transfer, registers small business trade names, processes U.S. passport applications, and swears in notary public applicants.

The office offers photos for people seeking passports and County and Veteran ID cards, and Gold-Star Parent ID cards as well. The County Clerk also has certain election responsibilities – including the printing of ballots, counting of votes cast by electronic machines and the issuance of vote-by-mail ballots. Elections information can be found on our website at <http://www.mercercounty.org/government/county-clerk/elections>.

Get in Touch

**Mercer County Clerk's Office
209 South Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 08608**

**Mercer County Connection Satellite Office
957 State Highway 33
Hamilton, NJ 08690**

Visit our Website: mercercounty.org/government/county-clerk

By Phone:

Main number: 609-989-6465

Admin. Offices & Deputy Clerk, Suzette Price, Esq.: 609-989-6820

Press Inquiries/Wedding requests: 609-989-6820

Elections: 609-989-6494

Property Recording: 609-989-6466

Indexing/Imaging: 609-989-6476

Business Registrations: 609-989-6469

Passports: 609-989-6473

County ID/Veteran ID/Gold Star Parent ID'S: 609-278-7108

Fax: 609-989-1111

Mercer County Connection-Hamilton: 609-890-9800

Follow us on social media:

Facebook: [facebook.com/MercerCountyClerk](https://www.facebook.com/MercerCountyClerk)

Twitter: [@MercerClerk](https://twitter.com/MercerClerk)

Property Information Portal*: pip@mercercounty.org

http://records.mercercounty.org/RecordsNG_Search/

(*Now only available to bona fide real estate professionals)

