



COUNTY CLERK'S CORNER

PAULA SOLLAMI COVELLO, ESQ., MERCER COUNTY CLERK



Welcome from the Mercer County Clerk, Paula Sollami Covello, Esq.

I am pleased to provide you with this second edition of the County Clerk's Corner. The Mercer County Clerk's Office continues its busy pace in making upgrades and improvements, with a constant focus on making it better, more user-friendly, and efficient for you—the constituents that use our office.

This year we have put the final touches on our

e-recording system, so you can now record deeds and mortgages over the computer. We have also put recent property records online and are currently testing that system, which promises to be a major time-saver and convenience for all property searches. Additionally, I have compiled important resources for residents to avoid foreclosures. Also included are stories about our increased outreach of U.S. Passport services throughout Mercer, which has been widely appreciated, including our participation at the end of March in "Passport Day in the USA" at our Hamilton office.

I was also honored to

be selected as Section Chief for the New Jersey County Clerks and Registers. In this position, I am working with other County Clerks who possess vision and a desire to improve and streamline the government services County Clerks provide. Together, we are embarking on some exciting statewide initiatives that will benefit the good people of Mercer County. As an election official, I continue to advocate for reliable counting of votes, which optimally will include a paper verification back-up system.

It is my belief that the Capital County of Mercer should continue to be a leader in innovation and

technology. My view is shared by County Executive Brian M. Hughes and the Freeholders who work everyday to make this County the best it can be. My first duty is to you, the public, and that sense of responsibility is my greatest priority. Please contact me anytime to offer suggestions or feedback on services my office provides.

Paula Sollami Covello

Paula Sollami Covello, Esq

Mercer County Clerk
Clerks & Registers Section
Chief, COANJ
mercercounty.org/clerk
609-989-6998

Mercer County Clerk Provides County Photo ID Cards for Military Veterans

U.S. Military veterans residing in Mercer County may now obtain a County photo identification card that also designates their status as a veteran from the County Clerk's Office. Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello has made this low cost (\$10.00) veteran's ID card available to all honorably discharged Mercer County veterans in acknowledgement of their service in protecting us and our country.

"Because military records 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," states Sollami Covello. The Clerk's Office maintains and preserves official documents and records for Mercer County. For further information on how to obtain a Mercer County photo identification card, call 609-989-6473. In order to honor our Veterans, the ID cards are available at NO COST to veterans during the weeks of Memorial Day and July 4th.



From left to right: Brigadier General Robert Dutko, USAF Retired, Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello and Emilio Papa, Vice Commander, American Legion Post 93 of Trenton.

What's Inside:



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A new on-site passport renewal effort is in progress.



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Foreclosure help is here.



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Elementary school "My County" contest winners announced

US Passport and Passport Card Applications Available in Two Locations

Residents can apply for a passport at any time during business hours at the County Clerk's Office or by visiting the Mercer County Connection in the Hamilton Square Shopping Center at Route 33 and Paxson Ave.

Wallet-size US Passport Cards are also available in both locations. Introduced in July 2008, they can be used at U.S. border crossings and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico,

the Caribbean and Bermuda. The limited-use passport card may **not** be used for international air travel. This less expensive alternative will be processed to the exact same standards and will otherwise carry the rights and privileges of a traditional

U.S. Passport.

For more information contact the Clerk's Office at 609-989-6473.

Constitutional Officers Award Academic Scholarship

Karisa Williams of Trenton, center, daughter of Phillip Williams, right, was awarded first place in the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey Scholarship Program (COANJ). COANJ scholarship recipients were selected from a statewide competition with top academic achievement, community service and a demonstrated commitment to excellence. Karisa Williams is a 2008 graduate of Trenton Central High School and attends Carnegie Mellon University. Also pictured are (from left) Mercer County's Constitutional Officers: Clerk Paula Sollami Covello, Surrogate Diane Gerofsky and Sheriff Kevin Larkin.

Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello has remodeled the public-access counter of the Clerk's office to accommodate handicapped residents.



It Is Easy Being Green

Mercer County officials welcomed the Big Green Bus national tour, sponsored by Dartmouth College, to promote Sustainable Living and Technologies.

Free Notary Public Manuals

Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello has made available free copies of New Jersey's Notary Public Manual. Call the Office of the Mercer County Clerk at 609-989-5277 to obtain a copy.



(from left to right): Lawrence resident and Dartmouth alum Kirkwood LeCompte, Dartmouth Student Andrew Zabel, Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello & Freeholder John Cimino.

Contest Winners Announced

The Constitutional Officers, Clerk and Surrogate sponsored a "My County" poster contest open to local fourth graders. Winners for Mercer County are: 1st Princy Shah (Lawrence Intermediate School, Lawrence), 2nd Alisa Fatihi (Grace Norton Rogers Elementary School, Hightstown), 3rd Princy Shah (Lawrence Intermediate School, Lawrence). They were given special citations. Calendars featuring the posters are available for purchase upon request.

Also pictured: Paula Sollami Covello, Sheriff Kevin Larkin and Diane Gerofsky.



Attention All Oversees Voters

For information regarding overseas military and absentee ballots, visit: www.fvap.gov.

Overseas and military ballot requests may be e-mailed to vote@mercercounty.org or faxed to 1-609-394-8785. Ballots MUST be returned to returnballot@mercercounty.org, the Board of Elections Office.

Applications for voter registration can also be obtained at the County Clerk's website in English and Spanish.

Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello Recognized for Leadership in Office

Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello has been reappointed by her national colleagues and peers to serve a second term on the Clerks Committee of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT), a professional organization that serves as a forum for sharing best practices and other professional information with a membership of over 1500 elected and appointed officials worldwide.

Statewide, Sollami Covello was elected by her peers as Chief Clerk of County Clerks and Registers Division of the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey (COANJ). Sollami Covello is pleased and proud to serve in both capacities while continuing to serve our community as Mercer County Clerk.



Paula Sollami Covello Makes Public Aware of Foreclosure Resources for Distressed Homeowners

Mercer County Clerk Paula Sollami Covello alerts homeowners to reach out early for help to stem the tide of rising foreclosures in the community. She has been urging property owners, mortgage lenders, and mortgage-servicing companies to work together in working out terms on some loans, by letter, when a lis pendens is filed on their property to avoid foreclosure. Sollami Covello says early intervention is the best way to avoid losing one's home.

Anyone in danger of foreclosure on their property should quickly contact the following resources for free advice and counseling:

- > www.NJHope.nj.gov
- > NJ Judiciary Foreclosure Mediation Hotline at 888-989-5277 Consumer
- > Credit Counseling of Central NJ at 609-586-2574
- > National Hotline for Foreclosure Help at 888-995-4673



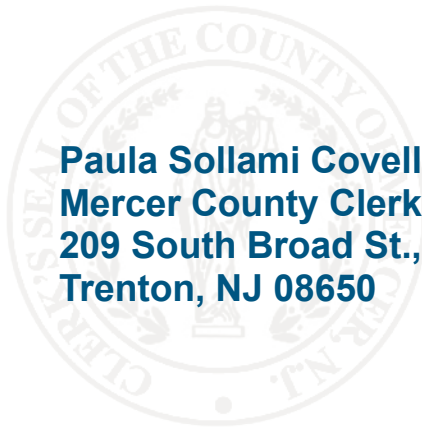
Passport Days Held Throughout Mercer County

Paula Sollami Covello and staff recently visited several locations, including East and West Windsor, Hightstown, Ewing, Hamilton and Lawrenceville

to process US Passport applications and renewals onsite. This outreach effort is part of Sollami Covello's commitment to make the Clerk's Office accessible to all residents of Mercer County.



Paula Sollami Covello and Mayor Hsueh at Passport Day in West Windsor.



Paula Sollami Covello
Mercer County Clerk
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Trenton, NJ 08650

PRSRT STD
US Postage
Paid
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 114

Paula Sollami Covello
Mercer County Clerk: 609-989-6998

Walker M. Worthy, Jr.
Deputy Clerk: 609-989-6998

Passports/County ID: 609-989-6473

Recording: 609-989-6466

E-filing: 609-989-6472

Indexing: 609-989-6476

Elections: 609-989-6495

Business Registrations: 609-989-6469

www.mercercounty.org/countyclerk

Electronic Records Search:
<http://records.mercercounty.org>

E-filing: www.njcountyrecording.com

Hours of Operation:

Elections Office
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Passport Services/Notary Public
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Extended Hours Wednesdays until 6:45 p.m.

Public Records Room/Recording Department
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
Extended Hours Wednesdays until 6:45 p.m.

County Connection, Satellite Office

Highway 33 and Paxson Avenue, Hamilton, NJ
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
609-890-9800