THE MORRIS COUNTY CLERK

CHRONICLE

Ann F. Grossi, Esq.
Morris County Clerk

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January 1st - June 30th 2015	
Deeds Recorded:	5,361
Mortgages Recorded:	21,609
Notary Public Commissions Recorded:	946
Trade Name Certificates Recorded:	284
Veteran's Discharges Recorded:	118
Total Documents Recorded:	38,576
Passport Applications Processed:	4,520
Primary Election Mail-In Ballots Sent:	756
Weddings Performed:	41
State Realty Transfer Fee Revenue:	$19,278,059
County Realty Transfer Fee Revenue:	$2,530,319
Total Realty Transfer Fee Revenue:	$21,808,378
Total Fees Collected:	$23,980,694
Total Given to County:	**$3,673,291**

2015 Primary Election Recap

9% of Morris County's registered voters cast ballots in the June 2015 Primary. 21.5% of registered Republicans voted and 7.7% of registered Democrats voted. 756 exercised the option of voting by mail. Of those who voted by mail, 548 were registered Republicans and 208 were registered Democrats. There were 34 provisional ballots cast. One of our smaller municipalities, Riverdale Borough had the highest election turnout, with 29% of total registered voters casting ballots.

The election featured contests in the 24th Assembly District and in the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders as well as many local municipalities. Independent candidates filed petitions in the 24th and 27th Legislative Districts, the Town of Boonton, Butler Borough and Hanover Township.

The official election results and a complete list of candidates for elected office in the General Election can be found at www.morriscountyclerk.org.

2015 Mid-Year Report

There has been an overall 19% increase in the number of real estate transactions recorded during the first half of 2015. Recorded deeds are up 5.2% and mortgages recorded have increased by 24.3%. Notaries are up 23.3% and there is a 30% increase in the number of veterans who have filed for their County issued veteran ID cards. The Clerks Passport Acceptance Division has experienced a 100% increase in applications being processed due to the extended evening hours.

June 2015	
State Realty Transfer Fee Revenue:	$4,614,786
County Realty Transfer Fee Revenue:	$581,425
Total Realty Transfer Fee Revenue:	$5,196,211

Revenue Generated

The County Clerk's Office has collected **a total of $23,980,694** in fee based revenue from all sources. Of that total, **$3,673,291 has been sent to the County** to offset the tax effort, while $21,808,378 has been sent to the State.

Veteran's ID Card Discount Booklet

The Office of the Morris County Clerk has been working to expand its Veteran's Identification Card program by compiling a booklet containing a listing of county businesses that provide discounts to veterans. In an effort to help veterans enjoy those benefits, County Clerk Ann Grossi is proud to offer complementary county issued ID cards to Morris County veterans who have recorded their original discharge documents (DD-214) with the Clerk's Office. *(continued on back page)*

Veteran's ID Card Discount Booklet

(continued from front page)

The ID cards can be obtained at any time during regular business hours and all that is required is an original or certified copy of the military discharge record and one form of identification proving county residency. The documents will be permanently recorded, free of charge, so the veteran can have peace of mind knowing that they will always be able to receive a certified copy from the County Clerk, should it ever be required. If the discharge document is already on file, the Clerk's Office is able to look it up for use in obtaining a Veteran's ID Card.

The booklet is expected to be completed in the coming months and will be available in hard copy in the County Clerk's Office and in digital format at www.morriscountyclerk.org. Any businesses that would like to be included in the listing or anyone that is interested in hosting an ID card event at a VFW post or similar location may contact Liz at lsutula@co.morris.nj.us or 973-285-6142.

Wayne Smikle and Sheena Gayle were married in the Clerk's Office on June 11th. As of June 30th, County Clerk Ann Grossi has officiated 159 wedding ceremonies since taking office January 2014.

Important Upcoming General Election Dates:

Aug 10 - Ballot position drawing by County Clerk (3pm)
Sept 19 - Mailing of general election mail-in ballots begins
Oct 13 - Voter registration deadline for general election
Oct 27 - Deadline to apply by mail for a mail-in ballot
Oct 28 - Sample ballots begin mailing
Nov 2 - Deadline for in-office voting (at 3pm)
Nov 3 - General election day (polls open from 6am - 8pm)

Passport Applications Surge in 2015

In just the first half of 2015, the County Clerk's Passports Department is well on its way to surpassing the total number of passport applications that were processed in all of 2014. As of June 30th, 4,520 applicants have chosen to come to the Morristown office to apply for new or renewal passports. In comparison, there were a total of 4,833 processed applications in 2014. County Clerk Ann Grossi's decision to accept appointments and expand the department's operation by adding a second evening of extended hours has proved beneficial to both the County and the public.

Applicants from all over northern New Jersey routinely elect to process their passport applications in the Morris County Clerk's Passports Department due to the courteous and efficient staff, as has been frequently expressed by its customers. The implementation of appointments has also had a considerable effect on keeping wait times to a minimum by allowing the public to choose specific times that work best for them.

In addition, the rise in the volume of passport applicants correlates to an increase in revenue that is generated for the State and County government through the processing fees that are set by the U.S. Department of State. In return, the additional revenue can be used for various operating expenses to help ensure that the Clerk's Office is able to provide the best possible experience when the public needs to apply for a passport.

About the Clerk's Office:

The Morris County Clerk is a Constitutional Officer, holding a 5 year position that is established by the New Jersey Constitution. The position was initially created to serve the public by acting as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions though duties have grown to include the recording and maintenance of every conveyance of real property such as deeds, mortgages, liens, maps and other related legal documents.

The office is a passport application acceptance facility for the U.S. Department of State. It also issues ID cards to Morris County residents and veterans, records the military discharge records of veterans (DD-214), administers the oath of office to all Notaries Public, and records the trade name certificates of all non-incorporated businesses. The County Clerk even officiates marriage ceremonies regularly.

In addition, the office administers several important election functions. These include the preparation and mailing of all mail-in and sample ballots, the acceptance of nominating petitions, the design and preparation of voting machine ballot layouts and the tallying of election results.

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