



## NEWS RELEASE



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### **County Clerk Hanlon Announces Archives & History Day 2024 M. Claire French Award Winner** *Middletown Township Mayor Tony Perry wins award*

MANALAPAN, New Jersey – Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon is pleased to announce that Tony Perry, Mayor of Middletown Township, is the winner of the 2024 M. Claire French Award for Leadership in Historic Preservation. The award will be presented at the County Clerk’s 29th Annual Archives and History Day on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at the Robert J. Collins Arena at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft.

“Tony Perry has been an unwavering champion in the preservation of Middletown’s rich historical legacy and has demonstrated a profound impact on historic preservation in our County,” said Clerk Hanlon. “His work has helped ensure a vital part of Monmouth County history will be honored and appreciated for generations to come.”



As Mayor since 2019 and a member of the Middletown Township Committee since 2017, Perry has played an instrumental role in improving historical sites, maintaining open space and participating in historical initiatives.

Mayor Perry spearheaded the creation of Middletown's America 250 Committee to develop programs and events coinciding with our nation's historic Semiquincentennial celebration. He also serves on the Board of the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area established to promote a greater understanding a Revolutionary era historical sites.

In addition, Mayor Perry has championed critical preservation projects including the restoration of the historic Joseph Murray Farmhouse, a vital link to Middletown's agricultural heritage. His leadership helped ensure the landmark continued to stand as a tangible connection to the town's past.

Perry has also been a leader of preserving Middletown's maritime history, exemplified by the current restoration of the historic Conover Beacon in Leonardo, an iconic symbol of Middletown's maritime traditions.

Mayor Perry also worked with the Township Committee to pass a resolution that took into consideration historic and aesthetic significance when developing a plan for the necessary replacement of the Oceanic Bridge over the Navesink River.

He also championed an awareness campaign focusing on educating residents about the importance of open space and landmark preservation, an effort that resulted in voters approving by referendum the establishment of a trust to preserve undeveloped land and rehabilitate and restore historic sites.

The M. Claire French Award for Leadership in Historic Preservation recognizes outstanding achievements of an elected official, government employee, public servant or civic organization in supporting historic preservation in Monmouth County through education, development, planning, rehabilitation, advocacy, community leadership or other means. Created in 2015, the award is named after M. Claire French, Hanlon's predecessor, who served as County Clerk for 18 years until her retirement in 2015.

The County Clerk's 2024 Archives and History Day will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Brookdale Community College with the awards presentations

beginning at 12:30 p.m. This year's Archives exhibit, a photography exhibit which will be on display at Archives and History Day, is titled "Monmouth County Life Through a Lens: Photographs from the Evans Studio, 1943-1987."

For more information about Archives and History Day, visit [MonmouthCountyClerk.com/Archives](http://MonmouthCountyClerk.com/Archives) or contact the Monmouth County Archives at 732-308-3771, ext. 3772.

### **About the Monmouth County Clerk**

The Office of the Monmouth County Clerk is comprised of five divisions handling property recordings, elections, archives, passports and records management. The County Clerk's Office also provides resident, veteran and Gold Star Family identification cards to county residents, administers oaths to notaries and public officials and performs wedding ceremonies. The Monmouth County Clerk is a constitutional and administrative officer elected to a five-year term by the voters of Monmouth County. Christine Giordano Hanlon, Esq. was elected Monmouth County Clerk in November 2015 and was re-elected to a second term in November 2020.

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