



NEWS RELEASE



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County Clerk Hanlon and County Board of Chosen Freeholders Break Ground on 19th Amendment Centennial Commemorative Garden

FREEHOLD, NJ – On the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote, Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon and the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders hosted a ceremony recognizing the women’s suffrage movement and its ties to Monmouth County. During the event on August 26, Monmouth County officials broke ground to mark the start of construction of a 19th Amendment Centennial commemorative garden outside the County Election Offices in Freehold.

“The fight for women’s suffrage spanned over seven decades and it involved tens of thousands of courageous women who risked their lives, their freedom, and the alienation of their friends and family,” said Clerk Hanlon. “Monmouth County was home to a number of prominent



(L to R) Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone, Freeholder Nick DiRocco, Congressman Chris Smith, Freeholder Pat Improveduto, former County Clerk M. Claire French, County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon, Freeholder Lillian G. Burry, County Surrogate Rosemarie Peters, and County Sheriff Shaun Golden

women activists and to events supporting the movement, including Asbury Park, Shrewsbury, and Ocean Grove.”

“The Centennial of the 19th Amendment comes at a pertinent time, as all the eyes of the world are currently on our country as we prepare to elect a new leader in this November’s Presidential General Election,” said Clerk Hanlon. “As we celebrate the granting of women’s suffrage 100 years ago, we are reminded of how lucky we are as



County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon

Americans to have the right to vote our representatives into office. Without the suffragists’ collective resolve and perseverance, women would not enjoy the liberties we do today.”

The commemorative garden will be placed outside the County Election Offices at 300 Halls Mill Road in Freehold so that the thousands of voters who come to the building can witness, learn, and be inspired about this historic milestone. The garden will consist of a circular area with paving stones, featuring new and large flags, plantings a sitting area, and a commemorative plaque recognizing the Centennial of the 19th Amendment.

“The freedom to vote is America’s most important political right outside of the original Bill of Rights, and it is also the most hard-won right,” said Freeholder Director Thomas A. Arnone. “I commend County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon for her vision and leadership in bringing this commemorative garden to fruition.

“Without question, this sanction guaranteeing women the right to vote altered history for the betterment of the United States and safeguarded democracy, symbolizing a monumental step taken towards forming a ‘more perfect Union’ envisioned by our Founding Fathers,” said Freeholder Lillian G. Burry. “By marking the start of construction on the anniversary of the day the 19th Amendment was certified, Monmouth County commits to ensuring the United States Constitution and its Amendments are upheld so all American citizens are able to pursue liberty and equality.”

The ground breaking ceremony was a part of the Monmouth County Clerk’s year-long 19th Amendment Centennial Recognition Program to engage and educate people of all ages about this historic milestone.

For more information about the Monmouth County Clerk’s Office 19th Amendment Centennial Recognition Program, please visit our website at MonmouthCountyVotes.com/Centennial.

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