



# **BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**

**295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624**

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**John C. Glidden, Jr.**  
Mayor

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## **MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER**



December 29, 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

With the beginning of 2018 approaching rapidly, I would like to extend sincere good wishes to all for a New Year filled with good fortune and good health. Please feel free to call my office, 201-784-0600, x500, to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

### **2018 Re-Organization Meeting**

Please join the Closter Council and members of the community on Tuesday evening, January 2nd as we eagerly move forward into 2018. The Borough's Sine Die meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and is followed by the Re-Organization Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Meeting Chambers located on the second floor of the Borough Hall. All are welcome!

### **Reflections**

Closter has seen tremendous milestones this year through years of planning, negotiating and preparing which have brought improvements to our infrastructure, commercial and residential areas. The renovation and re-opening of the Closter Plaza was one of the most visible milestones that Closter has realized, followed by our road projects and municipal upgrades. The planning and construction of the new Plaza has taken the last twelve years. The Bergen County Cultural Affairs Office recognized both the Closter Borough Hall building and the Closter Plaza sign for the renovation work completed this year, adding to the inventory of historic sites in our community. Our parks and recreation areas were recognized as some of the best facilities in the area. The lighting project along the walking path at Ruckman Park has increased the opportunity for exercise by extending the use of the pathway with longer hours.

### **The Village School**

As you are aware, I have been reporting on the efforts of Closter (as with all municipalities in the State) to comply with New Jersey State Law in the area of Affordable Housing. We recently signed a contract to purchase the old Village School on Durie Avenue where we intend to renovate/construct a building to meet

our affordable housing mandate. This is a significant achievement for the Borough as it will likely prevent the construction of hundreds of housing units in Closter which would have overburdened our schools and services and changed the nature of our residential community. When the Borough has finalized its Affordable housing Plan, public hearings will be held before the Planning Board and Mayor and Council. Thereafter it is our hope to enter into a final settlement with the New Jersey Courts in the first quarter of 2018.

### **Belskie Museum of Art & Science**

“*In The Bleak Midwinter*” opens the 2018 season of the Martin Hicks Gallery at the Belskie Museum. Featured in this exhibit is the original watercolor art by fourteen talented, and local, artists curated by Steve Cavallo. Join these talented artists when this delightful exhibit opens on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Belskie Museum Hours are Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free; hours by appointment can be arranged by calling the Belskie at 201-768-0286. [www.belskiemuseum.com](http://www.belskiemuseum.com)

### **Closter Nature Center**

It's Winter Wonderland at the Closter Nature Center! This month's after school program will focus on the nature in the winter. There are classes for Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> being held on Tuesdays – Thursdays. Call the Nature Center at 201-750-2778 for registration information. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 p.m., the CNC will host “Welcome Winter Night Hike, with Bonfire! Meet at the cabin and hike for about a half hour.

The Closter Nature Center is looking for “hardy” volunteers for a Tree Survey Workshop on January 13, 2018 at 1:30 -3:30 p.m. We are looking for a few volunteers willing to participate in the identification and survey work. Please email Mary Mayer ([marym812@aol.com](mailto:marym812@aol.com)) if you have questions and to confirm attendance.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Closter Nature Center Photography Contest & Exhibition will be held at the Closter Library for the month of April. Details for entering two of your photos will be available next month.

### **Closter Public Library**

Happy New Year from the staff of the Library! The schedule for the First and Third Friday Flicks: On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the feature film is *Dunkirk* and on January 19<sup>th</sup>, *American Made* premiers. Film time is 1:00 p.m. Closter resident, Anthony Gray, will play both popular and classical music from the 1950's and 1960's on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Join friends and neighbors as we enjoy this classic recital. Please visit the library's website for some exciting new offerings

### **Volunteerism**

Closter is proud of the spirit of volunteerism, evident by the number of persons committed to supporting the Borough's Boards and Commissions, organizations and community groups. The members of the Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Fire Company and the Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corp provide endless hours of dedication in services, training and in maintaining equipment in order to provide 24/7 and extraordinary emergency fire, ambulance and rescue services. The commitment of these steadfast men and women are the very backbone of our thriving community. Without them, we would feel a significant loss.

I would also like to thank all the members of our Boards and Commissions who volunteer their time for the betterment of Closter. These include members and commissioners of our Planning, Zoning, Environmental, Shade Tree, Health, Ethics, Recreation, Food & Assistance, Historic Preservation, Improvement, Nature Center, and Library. Without the dedication of these individuals, Closter would not be the desirable place to live that it is today.

### **Northern Valley Greenway**

The Northern Valley Greenway Project is a plan to turn the abandoned CSX railway travelling through six Northern Valley towns into a park with trails. The Mayor and Council received an update recently on the Project announcing that the initiative is getting close to transitioning from an organizational phase to one of delivering its mission within the six municipalities. The official support and cooperation of the towns has made a collective commitment to the Project as steps are being made for the Feasibility Study to organize a proposed work plan of action. As progress further develops on the NVG, I will keep you informed.

### **Closter Food Pantry**

With the close of the holiday season, the Closter Food Pantry is seeking donations that will restock the empty shelves and assist our community families in need. Please visit the Borough's website ([www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us)) and click on the link to the Food and Assistance Board to view the lists of items that are needed to stock their shelves.

### **Happy New Year**

On behalf of the members of the Closter Mayor and Council: Victoria Amitai, Jannie Chung, Alissa Latner, Robert Di Dio, David Barad, Joe Yammarino and myself, I extend sincere best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018. We gratefully acknowledge the hard work and commitment to making Closter a better place to live as we say farewell to Council members David Barad and Robert Di Dio, and welcome new members, Dolores Witko and Scott Devlin. As a team, the governing body is looking forward to working together in a cohesive manner, bringing new initiatives to Closter, while supporting and assisting in the development of many ongoing projects and functions, all designed to continue our role of a thriving community.

With heartfelt wishes for a happy and healthy 2018, Happy New Year!

All the best,



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Mayor