



# 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

June 29, 2017

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The Mayor's Newsletter provides announcements and details on the numerous events taking place throughout the community. Please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

### **Closter Holds "Color Run" for Susan Carpenter and David O'Hanlon**

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Closter held a 5k for Susan Carpenter, a first grade teacher for 16 years at Hillside, and a fun run for David O'Hanlon who is in second grade. Proceeds of the event will help their families cover medical costs while they are fighting leukemia and lymphoma, respectively. This event featured over 1500 runners in the 5K, and the whole event raised over \$90,000 for Susan and David. What a great outpouring of love from all Closter residents. Many thanks to all of the 150 race organizers who put on this event!

### **Mayors Reservoir Kayak Challenge Won by Closter!**

On Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayors and delegates from nine towns in Bergen County took to the Oradell Reservoir for the annual Mayors Reservoir Kayak Challenge. Manning kayaks, the Mayors competed in the half mile race in the Oradell Reservoir for the ninth year. Contenders from Westwood, Oradell, Montvale, Demarest, Closter, Old Tappan, Emerson, Bergenfield and Haworth began the fierce competition! Closter Mayor John Glidden came in First Place and proudly brought home the "Gold" trophy for Closter!! Congratulations to all of the participants.

### **2017 Summer Concert Series at Veterans Memorial Park**

It wouldn't be summer without the "sounds of music" filling the air from the bandstand at Veterans Memorial Park. The 2017 Summer Concert series has been underway and enjoyed by many residents and neighbors. The *New Beginnings Band* will be performing on July 7<sup>th</sup> followed by *The Willies*, a Closter favorite, on July 14th. Bring your neighbors and enjoy an evening under the stars. Concerts start at 7:30 PM. All are welcome!

### **Closter Plaza - Resurfacing of Vervalen Street**

The Borough of Closter will be conducting repaving operations on Vervalen Street in front of Closter Plaza during July. The street will be shut in its entirety from Piermont Rd to Closter Dock Road for approximately two weeks in the latter part of the month. During this period there will be detour signs directing traffic to enter and egress the Plaza on Homans Ave and Lewis Street. Please exhibit patience. This will be another great improvement to our Borough!

### **A Reminder Regarding Property Taxes**

The Borough's Tax Collector, Maria Passafaro, is reminding all property owners the third quarter property taxes are due on or before August 10<sup>th</sup>. The Borough anticipates tax bills will be mailed in the middle of July. This bill will be an estimated tax bill, as we await Bergen County's certification of tax rates.

### **Closter Police Department – Safe Exchange Zone**

The Closter Police Department has announced a Safe Exchange Zone for conducting in-person internet transactions. Residents wary of transactions via the internet with an unknown buyer or seller will now be able to do so in the parking lot of the Closter Police headquarters located at 295 Closter Dock Rd. There is a Safe Exchange Zone sign in the parking lot denoting the area under surveillance. The Closter Police will not have a hand in any transactions, act as witnesses or be involved in authentication of any item.

### **Closter Affordable Housing Requirement**

I'm sure many of you have read about affordable housing requirements in New Jersey. Sometimes referred to as COAH or Mt. Laurel housing, all New Jersey municipalities have an affordable housing obligation that must be met. Failure to address our affordable housing obligation could result in housing developments in Closter that are overly dense and out of character with our current zoning and land use. In early 2015, I formed a Closter COAH Committee to review Closter's obligation for affordable housing. Shortly, I will distribute a detailed letter to the public explaining where we are in the process. This is a serious issue for Closter, and we are examining all options.

### **Closter Recreation Summer Half-Day Camp at Veterans Memorial Park**

For more than 50 years, the Closter half-day summer recreation program has been enjoyed by many. The program is open to Closter residents in Grades K-8<sup>th</sup>. There are arts and crafts, sports and weekly special events. The sprinkler pool is open daily, weather permitting. The Half-Day Summer Recreation Program begins on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 a.m. and noon at Veterans Memorial Field. Please visit <http://www.closterrec.com/free-half-day-summer-rec.html> for more information.

### **Closter Annual Labor Day Festivities**

This year marks the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Closter's Labor Day activities. Dates for this year are September 1-4. Activities as in the past, include Closter Fireworks, Closter 5-K run with the second annual Closter-Haworth Mayor's Challenge, two concerts, and monster celebration on Monday at Memorial Field with rides and games for adults and kids. A time schedule will appear in the July Newsletter.

### **A New Restaurant Grand-Opening in Closter**

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of welcoming and cutting the ribbon for the opening of Myung Ga Tofu and B.B.Q. Restaurant at Closter Commons. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, we were presented with a sumptuous lunch of many different Korean dishes. The food was delicious, the service was excellent, and we plan to go back often.

### **The MacBain Farm**

The MacBain Farm is a unique 5.5 acre Borough park that is operated as a farm under the auspices of the Closter Environmental Commission. The entrance to the farm is just below Anderson Avenue on Hickory Lane. The MacBain Farm is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for all visitors, but *only Closter residents* have the privilege of picking a bucket full of the myriad vegetables and herbs growing profusely and organically on the farm. One bucket per day per family is the limit.

To keep the farm in full production, controlling weeds, staking tomatoes, planting and seeding second round crops and to monitor the fields against illegal harvesting, the Borough needs farm volunteers. Children as well as adults are welcome, but those under age fourteen need to be accompanied by an adult. Enjoy the fresh air, beauty of the farm and teach children how food is grown while performing a community service. Volunteers who wish to act as farm hosts can sign up for specific times and on the days the farm is open to the public. If you are interested in participating and you would like to learn more, or volunteer, please get in touch with Sophie Heymann at [heymannsophie@gmail.com](mailto:heymannsophie@gmail.com) or call 201-768-4876.

### **Closter Public Library**

Looking for some interesting and cultural things to do this summer, while staying close to home? Visit the Closter Public Library, the nucleus of recreational and educational activities for our community. With your library card you can access books, audiobooks, DVDs, music CDs and downloadable e-books, audiobooks, movies and music. The library's array of services, classes and events are filled with activity this summer. Please visit the library's website at [www.bccls.org](http://www.bccls.org) for a current calendar of events.

### **Closter Nature Center**

Summer at the Nature Center is an opportunity to participate in numerous activities and educational classes. There are programs for all age groups and interests. Please visit the Nature Center's website for information and details at [www.closternaturecenter.org](http://www.closternaturecenter.org). You won't be disappointed!!

The Nature Center has an impressive summer program scheduled for 2017 which begins on June 26<sup>th</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Registration forms and information can be pickup up at the cabin by Ruckman Pond.

## **Northern Valley Greenway**

The Northern Valley Greenway is 8 miles of rusted rail reimagined as a public recreational trail. The “High Line” of Bergen County, connecting the northern end of the expanded Hudson-Bergen Light Rail to the Clark Trail in Tappan would run through six towns in Bergen County – Tenafly, Cresskill, Demarest, Closter, Norwood & Northvale. The Greenway will have paths for walkers, joggers, casual strollers and dog walkers and paths for bicyclists, runners and alike. Details on the status of this project can be found on the NVG website, [www.NorthernValleyGreenway.org](http://www.NorthernValleyGreenway.org).

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

The Borough is seeking volunteers to fill vacant seats on both the Environmental and the Shade Tree Commissions. Both of these Commissions work to enhance the Borough’s resources.

The Environmental Commission is charged with studying and making recommendations that impact our open space preservation and environmental management. The Shade Tree Commission is charged with overseeing the management of shade (street) trees to enhance the value and the aesthetic appearance of the municipality. Membership for both of these Commissions is open to all Closter residents. No formal experience is necessary except for an interest to serve in enhancing the services offered by and to community.

To inquire about these positions please contact my office via email at [lweatherly@closternj.us](mailto:lweatherly@closternj.us). You will be asked to complete a Citizen Leadership Form (available through the Borough Clerk’s office) and to provide a brief letter of interest.

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The Borough is moving forward in many positive directions. Volunteers are the backbone of any community, and I encourage each of you to think of ways in which you can, as a volunteer, make a difference.

All the Best,



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**Mayor**