



# BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

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

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## Borough Council

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## MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



January 31, 2018

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am pleased to be sending you the January, 2018 issue of the Mayor's Newsletter which is filled with Closter info! My door is always open. Please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

### **Closter's Volunteer Emergency Services:**

There are not enough words of appreciation that can be expressed to the men and women who serve the Borough through volunteering their time, energy, knowledge and stoic commitment to emergency calls within Closter and our mutual aid towns. By far, we have the best emergency services in northern Bergen County. Closter's volunteer fire department and volunteer ambulance & rescue corps were established on the foundation of serving the community with a quality of services that make the community a safer place for all. Since 1893 the **Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Company** has been staffed by volunteers who donate their time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, responding to 274 calls last year. Separate and distinct from the fire services are the men and women who form the team of medical emergency response and rescue operations of the **Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps**. The Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps, Inc. is the only department in Bergen County, and one of the few in the state that provides both ambulance service and heavy rescue, inclusive of cliff rescues and rappelling.

Support for our emergency services can come in many forms; a commitment as a volunteer, or perhaps supporting these emergency services through donations or their fundraising drives held annually. Closter's emergency service organizations welcome new members and new supporters. Information for both of these organizations can be found by viewing the Borough's website, [www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us).

### **Closter Municipal Bond Rating**

Closter has received a Municipal Bond Rating from Standard and Poor's Corporation of **AA+** on a forthcoming bond issue to refinance outstanding debt of the Borough. Closter is one of the highest rated municipalities in Bergen County, and we are proud of this achievement. The Standard & Poor's Rating Report cited Closter's strong budgetary performance, very strong budgetary flexibility, very strong liquidity, and strong economy in assigning this high rating. The **AA+** rating will result in the lowest interest rates possible on the planned bond sale this month.

## **CMX Movie Theater Opening**

The new CMX Cinema is open in Closter. There are 5 screens and comfortable reclining seats. Soon to come is a food service venue and a bar which are waiting government approval. Stay tuned for the grand opening.

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

The Belskie Museum is pleased to present the fourth annual student art exhibit by the Bergen County Technical High School – Teterboro. On display will be works from the Fashion, Design & Merchandising, Commercial Art & Graphic Design, and Digital & Media Arts majors.

Exhibit Opening: Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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)

## **There She Blows!**

We need your help and cooperation in keeping Closter a Clean Community!! During a few of the winter storms, recycling and paper/cardboard were scheduled for collection. We all know that recycling can be rather challenging on windy or stormy days, and while we can't control *Mother Nature*, we can help prevent recycling and paper/cardboard from blowing away and littering the community.

Homeowners should make sure all trash receptacles are secured with a lid before placing them curbside. During times of high winds, trash and debris can be blown about the community. Please take a minute and bundle items such as paper and cardboard boxes so they do not blow all over our streets and lawns. Place your recycling on the curb the morning of pick-up (by 6:00 a.m.) rather than the evening before to lessen problems associated with weather related conditions. This will reduce the amount of time your recycling is exposed to high wind conditions. Place lighter materials at the bottom of a container and heavier items on top to prevent the lighter items from blowing. Consider waiting until the next collection to place the recycling at the curb, or consider bringing it to the Recycling Center at the DPW.

With your cooperation, we will keep our town free from debris.

## **Closter “Diversity Project”**

The Closter Mayor and Council has asked the Closter Improvement Commission to develop the idea for a “Diversity Project” in Closter. The concept is to build a monument or small park which will celebrate the very large number of residents and families from varied cultures, backgrounds, languages and countries. The Improvement Commission is looking for input from all residents, and we want to make sure all heritages in Closter are represented. Hearings will be announced when appropriate.

## **Closter Shade Tree Commission**

Though the winter season is still very much with us, the Shade Tree Commission works year round to maintain the streetscapes throughout the borough that add to the value of our real estate investments, as well as provide benefits to Closter's homeowners, business owners and visitors alike. Many folks are unaware of the significant value trees provide in increasing property values. Property values are 7%-25% higher for properties surrounded by trees. Trees absorb sound and create a quieter, more peaceful environment. Trees

absorb and filter rainwater, decreasing the risk of flooding and trees purify their air by taking in carbon dioxide, removing and storing the carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air. Visit the Borough's website, [www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us), to learn more.

### **Closter Public Library**

Winter is a great time to visit a museum and the Closter Public Library has passes to the Guggenheim Museum as well as the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum for library patrons. Passes require reservations, so call the library to reserve your pass. A to Z World Travel is an amazing site for those planning a trip either here or abroad. This online site provides detailed travel information on cities throughout the world. Our Closter Library is a cultural and informative mecca, offering a wide array of services. Like to knit? Then "Come Knit With Us" held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. is for you. Yoga, Meditation, Blood Pressure, Relax & DeStress – Color, are just a few of the many classes offered at the Library. February's "First & Third" Friday Flicks feature *Victoria & Abdul* on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and *Roman J. Israel, Esq.* on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Lastly, a special reminder ... the Library is closed on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> for Presidents Day.

### **Closter Trails for Hiking and Walking**

January is the month for New Year resolutions. So, you've been reading about the health benefits of walking through nature's woodlands -for sounder body and mind. But the North woods are hours away, and even Bear Mountain means traveling many miles. Never fear. Wonderful hiking or leisurely walking is right here in Closter. Our town maintains miles of wooded trails and nature walks almost at your front door. Our numerous trails can be accessed from Anderson Avenue, Ruckman Park, Ruckman Road, Stop and Shop's parking lot, Durie Avenue, Tenakill Street, the Closter library, Knickerbocker Road, Demarest Avenue, Haring Street, Bergenline Avenue, as well as other locations, all marked. Maps, showing these access points, can be found on the web. Click on CLOSTER, then Boards and Commissions, then Environmental Commission, then Closter Trail maps. You can explore further by continuing on to Demarest's trails, which are contiguous with Closter's.

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. Together we can make a huge difference in our community.

All the best,



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Mayor