



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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Mayor

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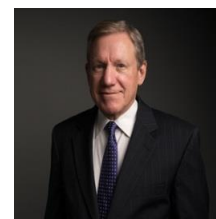
~Closter Borough Council~

Victoria Roti Amitai
Joseph Yammarino

Dolores Witko
Alissa Latner

Jannie Chung
Scott Devlin

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



July 31, 2018

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The August 2018 issue of the Mayor's Newsletter is filled with news and upcoming town events. My door is open; please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

Important Message **Third Quarter Property Tax Bill**

The County of Bergen has experienced a significant delay in establishing the property tax rate for residential and commercial properties. The delay in receiving the new tax rate trickles down to all municipalities not being able to finalize the tax bill and prepare the 2018/2019 tax bill.

Upon receipt of the County's tax rate, the Borough of Closter will work diligently to prepare and mail out the new tax bill.

Until such time, property taxes will not be due on August 1st and you will be advised as to the new due date.

Affordable Housing Update and Closter's Housing Market

The Borough of Closter is pleased to advise that its affordable housing settlement with the State of New Jersey was approved at a Fairness Hearing held before Judge Toskos on July 24th. This Settlement Agreement is an agreement between the Borough and the Fair Share Housing Center and includes information on the Borough's plan to meet its affordable housing obligation. Judge Toskos' approval of the settlement is a finding that the Borough's affordable housing plan meets Closter's affordable housing needs while maintaining the Borough's character and development patterns. The court-assigned affordable housing Special Master and Judge Toskos spoke favorably about Closter, its plan and its proposal to meet the Borough's affordable housing obligation at the Fairness Hearing.

The next steps are for the Borough to prepare and adopt a new Housing Plan that will describe and detail the affordable housing mechanisms that are contained in the Settlement Agreement. The Planning Board will

hold public hearings on the Plan in September or October. Then, the Governing Body will adopt the necessary ordinances to complete the process. These meetings should occur in October.

Finally, Closter's approval of the Settlement Agreement and upcoming Plan and ordinance adoption will protect the Borough from potential litigation by developers, known as "Builder Remedy Lawsuits", until 2025. The Borough looks forward to completing the affordable housing process in fall of 2018. The Affordable Housing Settlement Agreement is available on the Borough's website, www.closternj.us.

The Borough is pleased to announce it has completed the purchase and acquisition of 511 Durie Avenue, often referred to as *Village School*. This is just the beginning of what promises to be an important project to the community. Following the acquisition, the Borough will begin the process of turning the project over to the Bergen County Housing Authority. The Borough received certification by the State of New Jersey that the asbestos had been removed. Additionally, the 1950 wing of the building was removed, as it was structurally beyond repair.

And, last, but not least during this time of considerable activity with the Fairness Hearing and acquisition of Village School, Closter was named as one of the "hottest" housing markets in the area! Recently, the New York Times printed an article featuring a record sale for a home here in Closter. The home sold for the full asking price of \$2.48 million. The sale of the 7,608 plus square foot home on Durie Avenue marks a turning point in borough history. "Closter's real estate market is booming right now" said the article. The home breaks records in the Borough as the most expensive home sold in the past ten years and most expensive on the west side of town.

Closter's Road Conditions ~ Update

With the closure of Knickerbocker Road and Closter Road, the County is examining options to alleviate congestion which will improve traffic flow on Schraalenburgh Road and Old Hook Road.

Completion of utility work on Demarest Avenue, between Durie Avenue and Closter Dock Road is anticipated in two weeks. ADA accessible curb corner upgrades will be installed on Knickerbocker Road during August.

Annual Labor Day Events and Celebration

Saturday, September 1st through Monday, September 3rd - Veterans' Memorial Field

Scheduled Activities for the Closter Annual Labor Day Events

- Sept. 1: (Sat) – 4 person Volleyball Tournament – 11:00 a.m.
- Sept. 1: (Sat) – Waldwick Band Concert; 7:30 p.m. at Lions Band Shell – Memorial Park
- Sept. 2: (Sun) – Annual Dom Mircovich Memorial 5K Run – Kids fun run, 9:00 a.m.;
the 5K run at 9:30 a.m.
- Sept. 2: (Sun) – Movie Night at the Lions Band Shell – 7:30 p.m.
Disney Pixar "CoCo"
- Sept. 2: (Sun)- Closter Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony – Closter Pubic Library
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Sept. 3: (Mon) – 58th Annual Town Labor Day Celebration – beginning at 12:30 p.m.
kids rides, games, pony rides, two concerts, food & drink concessions
- Sept. 3: (Mon)- Closter Recreation Awards Ceremony – 2:30 p.m.
- Sept. 3: (Mon evening) – Closter Annual Fireworks Display – approximately 9:00 p.m. (dark)

Rain date for activities would be September 7th and 8th

Visit the Borough's website: www.closternj.us

The Belskie Museum Presents: “Art & Design Studio of Rockland”

The Belskie Museum of Art & Science, 280 High Street, proudly presents “*The Art & Design Studio of Rockland*”! The exhibit of work in a huge variety of mediums, opens on Sunday, September 9th between 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. This incredibly diversified exhibit will run from September 9th through September 30th. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free and while the museum hours are Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., hours by appointment can be arranged. www.belskiemuseum.com or call 201-768-0286.

Closter’s 9/11 Memorial Service

Patriot’s Day, September 11th: a day “*we will never forget*”

Completed in 2004, the Closter 9/11 Memorial is dedicated to honoring and remembering all of the Americans whose lives were so profoundly affected as well as paying homage to all those whose sacrifices have provided our cherished freedom. This memorial stands as a moment in time when at precisely 8:46 a.m., the moment the first plane hit the North Tower, shadows align and sunlight beams pass through a keyhole and illuminates an embedded piece of steel that was recovered from the World Trade Center, signifying the moment that all of our lives were forever changed.

“Let our grief become strength, our remembrance hope, our unity an enlightened path toward peace”.

Please join together as our community remembers *September 11th*. The 9/11 Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, September 11th in Remembrance Park at the 9/11 Memorial located at the intersection of Cedar Lane and Harrington Avenue. The Closter 9/11 Memorial Service begins promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Closter Police Department

Closter Police Department is again reminding *everyone* that NJ State law states motorists must STOP for pedestrians in marked crosswalks. The failure to observe the law could subject the driver to one or more of the following – two points, costly fines (plus court costs), insurance surcharges or 15 days community service. Please help us to keep Closter’s residents and visitors safe!

Closter Environmental Commission

The Closter Environmental Commission dedicates considerable numbers of volunteer hours enhancing, repairing, restoring and reconstructing Closter’s woodland trails that comprise the Closter Trail system in our parks. This extensive trail system in our woodlands is offered to our community as another passive recreational venue in which residents can utilize and enjoy the outdoors. While working on the trails this spring volunteers observed several locations where yard debris and other trash had been dumped in our parks and woodlands. Dumping on public lands is prohibited by New Jersey State Law and can result in costly fines. Please help us maintain our woodlands and parks by reporting any incidents of dumping to the Closter Police Department (201-768-5000).

Please join us in our effort to keep Closter a cleaner, greener community.

Closter’s MacBain Farm Park

The MacBain Farm Park is a unique treasure established and supported by the Borough of Closter. During the summer months, any Closter family may pick a small red bucket full of vegetables from the farm’s 5.5 acres of lettuces, herbs, squashes, broccoli, cucumbers, cabbages, eggplants, beans and tomatoes every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The farm is staffed by volunteers, who host and mentor, as well as try to maintain the far rows weed-free. It is a wonderful opportunity to teach children

where their veggies come from, as well as the work necessary to make the produce grow. If you, or someone you know, can give as little as an hour a week to be at the farm (children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult if under 14), please email Sophie Heymann at heymannsophie@gmail.com or call 201-768-4876. The farm experience will be a boon to your summer, in addition to helping the Closter Food Pantry and Senior Citizens Club.

Closter Public Library

Closter's Public Library has the month of August filled with exciting activities for all ages. "*Mom's Night Out Book Club*", *Relax, De-Stress, Color, Yoga and Meditation*, the *Adult Summer Reading Program* and *Mah Jongg*, are just a few of the activities offered in the library. Beginning August 1st, the Library will be offering the streaming video service Kanopy. Alexa, meet Hoopla... Hoopla now supports Amazon Alexa devices! You can play borrowed audiobooks and music albums directly on your Amazon Echo, Dot, Spt., and Show devices.

If there is something you would like to see the library provide, please share your thoughts by email (circulation@bccs.org), call 201-768-4917 or, visit in person! Your ideas enhance our service.

Bergen County Environmental Health

The County of Bergen's Environmental Health Department is seeking assistance in identifying the invasive long horned tick and other tick species found in New Jersey. PA Tick Surveillance Program has been started that will allow resident to submit a tick for identification. Inquires can be made by calling the BC Environmental Health Department at 201-634-2804 or visiting the web page, www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions. Please note tick identification results are not diagnostic of disease in humans or animals. If you think you may have contracted a tick-borne illness, seek medical attention.

Eagle Scout Project – Troop 63

The highest honor in scouting, the Eagle Scout award is a display of community service at its best. Alec Gerszberg, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 63 in Closter, is working to create a pollinator garden at Closter's Hillside Elementary School. This intriguing project brings a new level to horticulture education. Please visit the website, www.polarengraving.com/closterboyscouttroop63 for details and information.

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,



Mayor

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