



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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Mayor

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~Closter Borough Council~

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MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



July 31, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As we stand today, I am pleased to report Bergen County is statistically faring well in the race to flatten the curve and minimize the spread of COVID-19. But, this is not a time to let our guards down!

COVID-19

We must all preserve in our commitment to keep the curve flat and exercise the proven practice of social distancing and wearing face coverings, especially in any public venues. These are the proven tools to control a rebound of the virus and allow a continued emergence “new-norm” activities. The Governor’s Executive Order states **face coverings must be worn in all retail operations and outdoor areas where social distancing of 6’ cannot be maintained**. I urge you to instill a sense of flexibility into daily routines while navigating the “new- norms” created by the Covid-19 situation.

- (1) **SOCIAL DISTANCING & FACE COVERINGS** – It is *imperative* the practice of social distancing and wearing face coverings any time in a public setting be practiced.
- (2) We are asking all of our residents to continue to reach out to neighbors, particularly our elderly neighbors, to see if they are in need of assistance. The Task Force has a list of residents willing to offer assistance by running errands or grocery shopping for those who may not be able to get to the store.
- (3) Testing sites are now open to all residents. Details and information on how and where to be tested are available on the Borough’s website under Covid-19.
- (4) The Closter Borough Hall building remains closed to the public. The Lewis St. Lobby has convenient drop boxes for several departments. There is a silver, wall mounted mailbox for Tax Payments. (This box is only for Tax Payments and donations to the Food Pantry). The Construction Office, Bd. of Zoning/Planning and Board of Health have their own drop boxes in the lobby.
- (5) The Borough’s website, www.closternj.us, has an array of Forms and Applications which can be downloaded, completed and returned to the Borough for review and processing applications.

A Message from the Closter Tax Collector's Office

Closter's Tax/Finance Office is reminding all property owners August 1st taxes are due. For the convenience of our tax payers, *Property Tax Payments* can be made online. Please visit the Borough's website at www.closternj.us for the link to pay property taxes online. (The link can be found on the right hand side of the Borough's homepage). Tax payments can also be mailed to the Tax Collector at Borough of Closter, 295 Closter Dock Road., Closter, NJ 07624, or by in the drop box that is located in the vestibule of the Lewis St. entrance of Borough Hall. *Only check or money order payments can be accepted.* Do not leave cash in the drop box. Payments are due by 4:00 p.m., the close of business, on August 10, 2020.

Closter Volunteer Fire Department

Closter is fortunate to have an all-volunteer Fire Department that has served the community for the past 127 years. Our Fire Department is *100% volunteer* and is on call to meet the needs of the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year through storms, holidays and pandemics. Most residents and businesses have received the department's annual letter for donations. This is a legitimate request for donations to the CFD.

If you haven't received a donation request letter, the link is: www.closterfd.org/donate. Please consider the important work this dedicated volunteer service provides to keeping us safe and responding to us during times of need.

We Will Never Forget ~ September 11th ~

Friday, September 11th, Patriots Day, is America's national day of remembrance and reflection, honoring all those who perished during the attacks on our country. Completed in 2004, Closter's September 11th Memorial, located in Remembrance Park on Harrington Avenue, pays tribute to all of the Americans whose lives were so profoundly affected and homage to all persons whose sacrifices have provided our cherished freedom and liberty. Covid-19 has altered the manner in which the September 11th Remembrance Service will be held this year. A virtual tribute is being planned by volunteer members of the Closter Volunteer Fire Department. Details and information will be posted on the Borough's website once the plans are finalized.

Closter Police Department

With more folks out walking and bike riding, the CPD is reminding motorists to stay alert and aware of pedestrians. NJ State Law requires motorists to STOP for pedestrians in marked crosswalks observe speed signs and put down cell phones while driving. These infractions all come with heavy penalties, ranging from points on a driver's license to fines and/or community service. Summer is known for sudden storms. Insure you're driving with a clear view by replacing your wipers every 6-12 months. #JerseyDrives.

Closter Food & Assistance Board

The Closter Food & Assistance Board continues serve our residents in need. Until Borough Hall reopens to the public, the food pantry remains closed to food donations. We ARE still accepting financial donations, grocery store gift cards and restaurant gift certificates so that we can keep our shelves full and continue to deliver food to families who need it. Please consider restaurant give certificates as a viable donation. This type of donation not only assists our families in need, but supports our local restaurants.

If you know anyone in Closter who may be in need and is hesitant to come forward or just might not know how, please email us fabofcloster@gmail.com or call (201) 784-0600, extension 429. All inquiries are received in complete confidence. Financial donations can be sent to The Closter Food Pantry (CFP), Closter Borough Hall at 295 Closter Dock Rd., Closter, NJ.

Closter Public Library

Welcome Back! The Closter Public Library will reopen at a reduce capacity (in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order), on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. The hours of operation, services offered and patrons admitted inside the library will be determined by the Covid 19 situation and will chance with current conditions. The library will be open to the public on Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 2-4; Wednesday from 5-7, Tuesday & Thursday from 10-12 and Saturday from 12-2. The library will continue to offer door-side pickup on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-4; Wednesday from 10-7 and Saturday from 11-2. Please visit the library's comprehensive website, www.closterpubliclibrary.org for up-to-date detailed information and to read the full policy.

Closter's MacBain Farm Park

The MacBain Farm Park, 203 Hickory Lane, is a unique treasure established and supported by the Borough of Closter. Closter families may pick a small red bucket full of vegetables from the farm's 5.5 acres of lettuces, herbs, squashes, broccoli, zucchini, cabbages, eggplants, beans and tomatoes. To learn more about registering, please visit the Borough's website for an outline of ID requirements needed for farm registration. Then, in-person registration can be made on site at the Farm during the Farm's operating hours – Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am-1pm and 4pm-6pm. Everyone is required to wear face coverings/masks when visiting the Farm. *The MacBain Farm is pet-free; no pets are allowed.*



The Borough is moving forward in many positive directions. The Mayor's/OEM Task Force meets regularly to assess the situation. Follow the Borough's website (www.closternj.us) for current information on Closter's response during the Covid-19 pandemic. Cooperation, patience and tolerance are needed from all of us as we remain strong and diligent.

All the best,



Mayor

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