



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



November 30, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As we begin the holiday season this year we do so with a lot to be thankful for while being fully aware of the ever changing threats brought on by the COVID 19 virus. I implore each and every member of the community to practice an abundance of caution, diligence and safety protocols to combat the spread of COVID 19. Closter is experiencing, as is all of the surrounding communities, a surge in the virus. We all must do our parts to keep this silent threat at bay. Wear face coverings, get tested, maintain social distancing and limit all indoor groups. As always, my door is open; please contact me at 201-784-0600 x 500 with ideas or concerns related to the Borough.

Closter's 2020 TREE LIGHTING is VIRTUAL

Hear Ye Hear Ye !

In the spirit of all things festive, this year's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held virtually, starring, no other than... YOU - all Closter residents - one and many, young and old, virtual and hybrid, near and far! Share your own visual holiday spirit vibes by sending us a picture, or a short video, representing how you and your family get your spirit on. The Ceremony will be held on December 6th at 430PM, and will include a movie compilation of all the videos and pictures sent in by our fellow residents.

Demonstrate tree decorating scenes, stocking hanging, house decorations, cooking, singing, cleaning (yes some of us do that), visiting a special place, calling friends and family to convey wishes, skiing with Santa costumes, ugly sweaters contests, preparing home-made tree ornaments, Grinch inspired family facials, anything you do to get in the spirit - goes! Go crazy, get creative, be unique, show us your thing :-)

We invite everyone to take part in this one of a kind ceremony, brought to you by the Closter Improvement Commission.

Please reach out to friends and family, to spread the word, as this year we can have everyone with us at the Tree Lighting Ceremony, even if they no longer reside in Closter.

All entry submissions should be uploaded via our website at www.WeAreCloster.com.

Submissions should be uploaded by November 29th, 2020. Feel free to contact us at closterborocic@gmail.com if you hit any snags or have any questions.

This year's magic is the one we make! Happy Holidays - The Closter Improvement Commission.

2020 Closter Food Pantry

With safety for all in mind this holiday season, the Closter Food Pantry is requesting donations be made in the form of grocery store gift cards, restaurant gift certificates or checks. There will be a food drive for drop-off items between 2-4 pm on Sunday, December 6th in front of the Closter Senior Center. A table will be outside for a contactless drop-off. Should you decide to donate gift cards or certificates please place them in an envelope clearly marked Closter FAB and drop it in the silver mailbox located in the lobby of the Borough Hall (cash cannot be accepted). Your donation will continue to assist our community families in need. Please visit the Borough's website (www.closternj.us) and click on the link for the Food and Assistance Board for detailed information. Closter is fortunate to have volunteers on the Food & Assistant Board who work tirelessly to assist our residents in need.

Warning by the Closter Police Department

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season creates an abundance of opportunities for increased criminal activity. The Closter Police Department is requesting *all* residents and businesses are diligent in their efforts to protect properties. Please set both interior and exterior lights on timers, pick up packages, mail and newspapers and remove valuables from vehicles in driveways. Utilize lighting, set alarm systems and lock vehicles to aid in deterring opportunities that criminals look for. The holiday season is a prime time for scams – phone scams, computer scams door to door scams, etc. Remain diligent and remain very aware by carefully reading emails, reviewing credit card accounts and researching home repair offers. Remember, when an offer sounds too good to be true, there is a good chance it is a scam of some sort.

Above all, remove key fobs from vehicles and lock your vehicles when left in driveways. Remove your valuables from unattended vehicles. You can lesson criminal activity by making it difficult for criminals!

Closter Nature Center

Hiking, laughing and exploring nature: a great way to accent online and at-home learning! Due to Covid-19, the CNC is keeping class sizes small and mask wearing is mandatory. During the winter months, outside-only programs will be one hour in length and it is imperative children are dressed properly. December After School Programs are scheduled as well as the Holiday Break Science Classes on December 28th – 31st. Registration for the Nature Center Programs is required by registering online at <https://register.community.pass.net/Closter>, or calling Marc Gussen at 201-750-2778. There is *always* an activity or class at the Nature Center.

Closter Public Library

The Library has an incredible array of virtual services that are being offered to patrons. The list is extensive, so visiting the Library's website, www.closterpubliclibrary.org, 201-768-4197, is encouraged. The Library is offering inside browsing hours as well as outside pickup hours. Again, refer to the website or call the library with any questions regarding the safety protocols that are in place. meeScan is an app that you can download and use to charge out material at most libraries so that there is limited interaction with library staff. The app is available from the App Store and the Google Play store. We hope this will help you feel more secure when you choose to visit the library in person.

Closter Shade Tree Commission

Congratulations Closter... the Shade Tree Commission is pleased to celebrate the 20th year of recognition as a Tree City USA community! The Tree City USA program provides direction, assistance and national recognition for the community. To learn more about Tree City USA, visit www.arboday.org.

Beginning later this year, the Commission will oversee its annual maintenance pruning program of the street trees which is completed by voting district. This year, Voting District 4 and, if feasible, the downtown business district, will be pruned. A friendly reminder to all property owners ~ trees in the Borough's right-of-way may not be planted, pruned or removed without the express permission of the Borough. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the STC at shadetree@closter.nj or visit the Borough's website.

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. Rest assured, together as a community we will get through these uncertain times.

I wish you all, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, and Joy of the Season!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Blidden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mayor