



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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Mayor

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MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



April 30, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am pleased to be providing the Mayor's Newsletter designed to highlight and inform our residents with information on the activities and events taking place in Closter. My door is always open, so please feel free to contact me at 201-784-0600 x 500 with concerns or suggestions.

Rally for Community Awareness

Closter is a community that has always taken an extreme amount of pride and care of the diversity which makes up its population. Closter embraces all members of its population. In continued support of the community's diversity, and the caring manner in which diversity is accepted and embraced, you are invited to join friends and family on **Sunday, May 2nd between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm at Veterans Memorial Field** for a rally designed to embrace the Asian culture and bring awareness to the recent Anti-Asian Hate events that are taking place around the country in an abhorrent manner. Covid guidelines will require participants to wear a mask and maintain social distancing as guest speakers address the need for acceptance of cultural differences. Bring a blanket or folding chair and join your neighbors in supporting the differences that make us all the same as guest speakers address the recent rash of anti-Asian assaults.

Congratulations and Farewells

April is a busy time in the Borough. One of the best jobs of being Mayor is welcoming new staff to the Borough, congratulating students on their accomplishments and sending best wishes to those who have retired from their service to the Borough.

The Closter Police Department and I are very proud to be welcoming in two new officers to the department. I had the honor of swearing in Officers Jae Lee and Anthony LoFaro. Closter looks forward to having them in the department and working with our community.

One of the goals of the Shade Tree Commission is to educate our young residents. Celebrating its 21st year as a Tree City USA city, the STC held its second "Trees are Worth It" poster competition for the students in Hillside School. A total of 33 students entered, K-4. This year the students' work can be found on the Borough's website and in the Closter Public Library. Congratulations go to: Kindergarten students Sophia

Hwang (winner) and Bento Souza (honorable mention), First Grade students Kaylee Kim (winner) and Sloane Fries (honorable mention), Second Grade students Porter Donovan (winner) and Marc Grobler (honorable mention), Third Grade students Erica Wilsher (winner) and Luke Silleg (honorable mention) and Fourth Grade students Holly Baboo (winner) and Bailey Park (honorable mention). These ten students have been invited to participate in the 2021 Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony at Hillside School on April 30th. The five winning students will each have a shade tree planted on their street. Well done!!

The Closter Public Library bids a fond farewell to both Victoria Thomas and Diane Brecher as they take the next step forward to enjoy their retirements. Both Victoria and Diane have worked for more than 20 plus years serving the patrons of the Closter Public Library.

Memorial Day 2021

Closter is a town, rich in its history, and committed to maintaining its traditions and history. Memorial Day is a tradition that is steep in the Borough's history. The annual Memorial Day Parade **WILL** be taking place this year on Memorial Day 5/31/21. Early information on the parade is as follows. The parade will form at St. Mary's parking lot at 9:30am on Monday, May 31st. The parade will proceed down High Street to Closter Dock Road, turn left and proceed thru the center of town ending up at Memorial Park on Harrington Ave. More information will be posted on the borough's website in the coming weeks.

We are asking all Closter residents to participate in some small way with this important Memorial Day ceremony. So many Americans and Closter residents made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms and they all deserve to be recognized and remembered. Viewing the parade in the center of town and attending the ceremony that follows at Memorial Park are a great way to participate.

Since 2015, the Mayor has presented the annual Mayor's trophy for the most creative, colorful and patriotic float in the parade. The Mayor's Trophy for 2021 is ready and waiting to be awarded to the outstanding float!!

Any organization that wishes to be involved, please reach out to Jim Oettinger @ joettinger@closternj.us. All are invited and encouraged to participate.

Closter Public Library

The Closter Library is slowly regaining its momentum. While the library is now open to the public, there are restrictions in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please visit the library's website for more information. Yoga and Meditation are still being held via Zoom, as is the Short Story Club and Zumba.

Registration is available on the library's website. The Youth Services Programs are open for registration, too. Northern Valley Pen Pals has been well received. The Northern Valley libraries are excited to reinvent this new (old) way to connect! If you want to communicate via "snail mail" come join us. Forms are available on the library's home page. It's a fun way to stay connected. Lastly, Returns!! We are only accepting returns in the book drop. Please remember the book drop is outside the auditorium door, if it is full, please wait a day to return the book, and for everyone's health know that all items will be quarantined for at least 72 hours before coming off of your card. www.closterpubliclibrary.org

Closter PTO

The Closter PTO is hosting it's annual Fundraiser, albeit, a little different than years past, but with the fun, excitement and community as years prior. The Closter PTO is cordially inviting you to the 2021 Annual Fundraiser – "*It's Wine O'Clock Somewhere*" on Friday, May 14th at 8:00 pm from the comfort of your

home! Join friends and neighbors for a virtual wine tasting experience led by a WSET Level 3 Sommelier: “summer is just around the corner and what better than a sparkling wine to kick off the season? Learn how to choose the best bubbly for you and your guests, and how to open, taste and compare champagne and other bubbly’s”. Sponsor, donate and participate to support Closter students and the schools! Tickets and information are available on the PTO’s website: www.closterpto.org.

Closter – “Tree City USA”... *Arbor Day*

Closter is proud to once again receive the distinguished recognition from the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA. To maintain this status, the Borough must meet certain criteria, such as devoting a certain portion of its budget to tree planting and care and following its adopted tree ordinance.

The Closter Shade Tree Commission will be honoring **Arbor Day** with the annual tree planting at both of our schools on Friday, April 30th. Students assisted the Shade Tree Commission with planting while learning about the species of trees being planted. The traditional Arbor Day event is just a part of Closter’s commitment to being a Tree City USA community.

Closter Nature Center

The Closter Nature Center is holding its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 4th at 7:00 pm by the Log Cabin near the Pond. Please join us for a guided walk in the Nature Center followed by a brief report on our fiscal year. In a year filled with challenges brought on by the pandemic, our community is so lucky to have 136 acres of woods, ponds and trails literally in our own backyard. It provides a respite from long days at the computer and a place to go when “outside” is the only option. We saw lots of new faces at the pond and hope that they will become regular visitors and volunteers in the years to come.

The Nature Center is managed by a mainly volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of open space in its natural form. The Board is also dedicated to the idea that hands-on education and enjoyment of our natural world is important and necessary. Once a year, the Closter Nature Center Board of Trustees updates its members and the community on where we are and where we hop to be in the future. This includes a report on the environmental health of the forest as well as the financial health of the organization. Hope to see you there!

Closter Recreation

We are thrilled to announce the USA Patriots Amputee Softball team will be visiting Closter on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-May 31st. There will be a various activities surrounding this visit by these American Heroes that are still being planned, but the one event that is firm is the Softball game between the USA Patriots and many of our own Bergen County All Stars that will take place on Saturday May 29th at the George Potterton Little League field at Memorial park, located on Harrington Ave.

The pregame festivities featuring music by the Willies will begin at 6:15pm and the game will begin at 7pm. Tickets are available via the Closter Rec website at Closterrec.com . The link on the website will lead you to Community pass where online purchases can be made.

If you wish to be inspired, please check out the link on the Closter rec website for the news clip that ran on World News tonight, outlining the fundraising efforts that these incredible Americans make throughout the country. We are very lucky to have them visit us in Closter on Memorial Day weekend.

As outdoor activities begin, the Closter Recreation Commission is pleased to announce the *Annual Joe Accordino Jr. Memorial Fishing Contest* will be held on Saturday, May 15th between 9:00 a.m. and noon at Ruckman Pond in the Closter Nature Center. Last month we saw the opening of our ball fields, as well as the opening of Closter’s Challenger Baseball/T-Ball program. Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. (Veterans

Memorial Park) finds a team of enthusiastic players and volunteers enjoying baseball and T-ball. This year, the Closter Challenger team will be playing the *USA Patriots/WWAST* on Saturday, May 29th!

The USA Patriots/WWAST is a 501c3 public charity whose mission is to bring athletic and like-minded veteran amputees together to promote the benefits of inclusive sport and therapeutic recreational activities, to inspire and motivate communities of people, to support children with physical challenges and to operate as a vehicle that offers national opportunities for continued service to our country.

Closter Board of Health

A message from the Closter Board of Health.....

Due to the weather getting nicer, the borough has been getting numerous complaints regarding a person who walks their pets and letting them “GO” on other people’s private properties. Borough Ordinance, 71-10, is designed for the welfare of all residents and property owners. Excerpts of B.O. 71-10 are listed below:

§ 71-10 **Committing of nuisances; curbing of dogs and cats.**

A. No person owning, keeping or harboring or in charge of any dog or cat shall cause, suffer or allow such dog or cat to soil, defile, defecate on or commit any nuisance on any sidewalk, passageway, bypass, play area, park or any place where people congregate or walk or upon any public property without the permission of the owner of said property.

B. The restrictions herein shall not apply to that portion of the street lying between the curb lines, which shall be used to curb such dog or cat under the following conditions:

(1) The person in charge of said dog or cat shall have in his or her possession and visibly carry appropriate sanitary means to remove feces so deposited, including but not limited to implements such as a shovel, scoop, container, plastic bag or any other sanitary means of removing all feces or droppings deposited by such dog.

(2) *The person who is in charge of said dog or cat shall immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog or cat. Disposal of pet waste is also regulated by state law. See Chapter 170, Article I, Pet Waste.* [Amended 8-24-2005 by Ord. No. 2005:950]

(3) The feces removed from the aforementioned designated areas shall be disposed of by the person owning, harboring, and keeping or in charge of any dog or cat curbed in accordance with the provisions of this article in a sanitary manner.

(4) No blind person in charge of a guide dog shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

There are still outstanding dog licenses for 2021, please contact the Health Department at 201-784-0600 x 493, if you have NOT licensed your dog.

The Borough of Closter 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