



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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John C. Glidden, Jr.

Mayor

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MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



February 28, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The February 2021 issue of the Mayor's Newsletter brings some important messages, news and events in town. Please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x 500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

Senator Gerald Cardinale

The Governing Body of the Borough of Closter is expressing its sincere condolences at the passing of Senator Gerald Cardinale, New Jersey State Senator, 39th Legislative District of Bergen County, and State of New Jersey. Senator Cardinale served as a ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senate Commerce Committee, House Commission and Legislative Oversight Committee as well as on numerous other committees. Senator Cardinale was a dedicated advocate for women, children and the family, co-sponsoring Joan's Law and co-prime sponsoring Megan's Law which established the model for other state and national laws. Senator Cardinale was instrumental in assisting the Borough of Closter obtain a \$337,000 grant for the construction of the Closter Senior Center and in rebuilding the newly developed Closter Plaza. Senator Cardinale received more than 70 Legislator of the Year awards from state and national groups in recognition of his exemplary service to the people of New Jersey. The Borough of Closter recognizes the efforts, dedication, commitment and accomplishments of Senator Gerald Cardinale in his lifetime of devoted public service and leadership which has enhanced the quality of life for all of the residents of Closter and the New Jersey 39th Legislative District.

Closter Office of Registered Municipal Clerk

Please join the Council and me in congratulating Arlene Gray who has been appointed as Closter's Registered Municipal Clerk and Loretta Castano, RMC, on her retirement following 33 years of dedicated service to the Borough. Arlene joined the Borough in 2009, attained her certification as an RMC in 2012, when she was promoted to Deputy Borough Clerk. Her years of experience under the tutelage of retired Borough Clerk, Loretta Castano, are combined with her knowledge from having grown up in the municipal work with her late mother, Wanda Worner, who serviced as Northvale's Borough Clerk for nearly 30 years.. The Council and I wish both Loretta and Arlene much success in their new endeavors!

Covid – 19

Covid -19 continues to require diligence in mask wearing and maintaining social distance. Currently Closter is “holding its own” in terms of positive tests and hospitalizations. The National Public Health Information Coalition has provided the attached resource document to assist with navigating resources for issues related to Covid. This resource is provided to offer further insight to the various sources of information.

Closter Police Department

The Closter Police Department is requesting *all* residents and businesses remain diligent in their efforts to protect properties. Deterring opportunities is something everyone can do. Set both interior and exterior lights on timers, pick up packages, mail and newspapers or have them delivered to a neighbor who is at home, and remove valuables from vehicles in driveways. Above all, LOCK ALL VEHICLES, (even if they are parked in the driveway), REMOVE KEY FOBS from vehicles and *do not keep valuables in unattended vehicles*. Criminals look for easy targets... don't give it to them! A high volume of scams are taking place—phone scams, computer scams door to door scams, etc. Remain diligent; remain very aware and carefully read emails, review credit card accounts and research home repair offers. The old adage, “if it sounds too good to be true” ... applies!

Alarm Registrations are due on or before March 1st. This is a borough ordinance for operating all residential, corporate or business alarms. The Annual Alarm System Application must be filed with the CPD on or before March 1st and accompanies by an annual fee of \$50.00 payable to the Borough of Closter. Applications for the 2021 Alarm Registration are available on the homepage of the borough's website, www.closternj.us.

Property owners are being asked to maintain clearly visible house and business numbers which will assist emergency services in easily locating the property during an emergency call. Address visibility will improve the response time to emergencies, which in some cases; can be a matter of life or death. Please take a moment to maintain the visibility of your home or business address.

Closter Board of Health

Attention dog owners! 2021 Dog License Applications are currently being processed. Applications were mailed in January with a return date of March 1st. Please refer to the attached link for an application to avoid the late fee if received after February 28th. For your convenience, the 2021 Dog License Application is attached to this newsletter. Please contact the Closter Board of Health, jbae@closternj.us, with any questions.

Closter Shade Tree Commission

Following last year's enthusiastic participation in STC's “Arbor Day Poster Contest”, the STC is delighted to offer the *2021 Arbor Day Poster Contest* to students attending Hillside Elementary School. Hillside students in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade are invited to create an original artwork that shows why they think “*Trees Are Worth It*,” the contest's theme. Details are being sent to students through the school. Entries are due back Friday, April 9th. Information, inclusive of the Contest Rules and Name/Photo Release form will also be available on the Borough's website, www.closternj.us, or by emailing shadetree@closternj.us. Winners will receive an award certificate and a shade tree planted on their street!

Closter Public Library

The Library is consistently adding to its venue of “Covid-safe” offerings. There are many opportunities to “zoom” in on an interest, such as Yoga and Meditation, Short Story Club, Library from Home Book Club and Zumba to name a few. Door-side pickup hours are 9-5 on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 9-1 on

Wednesday and Saturday from 11-2. Please wear a mask when you come to the door as it is an important way to comply with public safety guidelines at this time. Returns are accepted in the book drop near the auditorium door. Items are quarantined for at least 72 hours before coming off your library card.

New to the Library is the “Northern Valley Pen Pals”. Everyone loves getting mail. Having a pen pal is a fun way to meet new people and share favorite books, recipes, funny stories and more. Our Northern Valley libraries are excited to reinvent this “new” (old) way to connect. If you want to communicate via “snail mail” come join us! Visit the homepage of the Closter Library; click on “Find a Pen Pal” ... signup info is right there!

Check out the Children’s programs offered at the library. There is something for children of all ages. www.closterpubliclibrary.org; phone (201) 768-4197 or visit the library in person!

Closter Nature Center

The CNC...a wonderful place to take a stroll, visit the pond and connect with nature. Program information is available on the Nature Center’s website, www.closternaturecenter.org or by calling the Nature Center at 201-750-2778; ask for Marc.

Closter Recreation

Please visit the Closter Rec website at closterrec.com for information on spring sports, Baseball/Girls Softball NV Junior Lacrosse and also a survey for the full day summer rec camp. In addition, the Recreation Commission is thrilled to announce the USA PATRIOTS, Amputee Softball Team will be visiting Closter again this year on Memorial Day weekend. Please check out the Closter Recreation website for updates on this great organization’s visit to Closter.

Closter Senior Shared Service Van

In cooperation with Harington Park and Haworth, the Borough offers its residents a shared service for use in meeting some transportation needs for Closter’s senior residents. Please keep in mind this is *a shared service*, not to be confused with “on demand” service. The program consists of trained and caring individuals who work to meet the needs of the seniors who are in need of transportation to medical appointments and the grocery store. Closter residents, who do not require ambulatory assistance, can participate. An instruction letter is mailed to the resident. Patience is asked as you may need to arrive early to an appointment or wait for the van to return to pick you up. The Senior Transportation Program utilizes the strictest of Covid safety protocol.

For residents interested in a door to door service, my office can provide information about the Ryde4Life transportation service, which is an on-demand, fee-for-service transportation service.

Should you have questions about this opportunity, please contact the Borough of Closter, Administrator’s office, Leslie Weatherly at 201-784-0600 x 304.

Closter Food & Assistance Board

The Food & Assistance Boards works tirelessly throughout the year to assist residents in need. 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 at fabofcloster@gmail.com or call (201) 784-0600 x 429. All inquiries are received in complete confidence.

Donations of food items *are not being accepted at this time during the pandemic*, but the need to provide families with assistance has never been greater. Please consider a financial donation or grocery store gift cards, or gift certificates to local restaurants when thinking of ways to support the needs of the FAB pantry. Your check, gift card or gift certificate can be mailed to the “Food & Assistance Board of Closter”, Borough of Closter, 295 Closter Dock Rd., Closter, NJ 07624 or left in the silver “tax” mailbox in the Lewis St. entrance of Borough Hall.

Closter Fire Department

Interested in joining an invaluable rescue and emergency service organization? The Closter Fire Department is seeking volunteers interested in becoming members of the Fire Department. Please consider supporting this all important volunteer agency. Our Fire Department works around the clock to meet the needs of our citizens and businesses. It is a 100% all-volunteer department that has served the community for 128 years. Always available - 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, which is sent out in the fall. The annual letter is a legitimate request from the Closter Fire Department for a donation.

In the event you didn’t receive 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. Contact the Closter Fire Department at firedept@closternj.us.

All the Best,



Mayor