



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

John C. Glidden, Jr.
Mayor

Office 201-784-0600 x 500
Fax 201-784-9727

Victoria Roti Amitai
Scott Devlin

Borough Council
Jannie Chung
Alissa Latner

Dolores Witko
Joseph Yammarino

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



January 30, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The governing body and I are extending warm wishes to all of Closter's residents, business people and visitors alike. The trials and challenges brought on by Covid during 2020 have, hopefully, made us even stronger and increased our resiliency as we begin this new year. The Mayor's Newsletter brings some welcome news and events in town. My door is always open. Please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

Covid 19 Update

The Borough and surrounding areas continue to see rising numbers of this virus. The Mayor's Covid Task Force/OEM Team remains industrious in following the updates on vaccine availability and distribution. As we are all well aware, we are not out of the woods yet in dealing with this pandemic. We must remain diligent in our commitment to slow the spread of this virus. All members of the community are strongly urged to continue the practices of wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing. The website for information on vaccine registration and information is www.covid19.nj.gov.

Please help us reach our senior neighbors who do not have access to a cell phone or computer. The State of NJ has opened a toll-free call-in number, staffed by a 250 person help-bank, which can assist in pre-registration. The toll-free number to call is 855-568-0545. Be patient... it may take a while to get through!

Closter's Volunteer Emergency Services

We can't say this enough... Closter has two of the most dedicated volunteer emergency service organizations in the Northern Valley! Our volunteer ambulance corps and our fire department were founded on the premise that *together volunteers can make a significant difference in the quality of services in the community*. These two organizations exemplify this commitment. Since its establishment in 1893 the **Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Company** is staffed solely by volunteers who donate their time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, responding to 274 calls last year. Complementing the emergency fire services is the medical emergency response and rescue operations provided by the men and women of the **Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps**. The **Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps, Inc.** is the only department in Bergen County, and one of the few in the state, which provides both ambulance service and heavy rescue, inclusive of cliff rescues and rappelling. In 2020, The CVAC responded to 686 calls!

Information on both of these organizations can be found by viewing the Borough's website, www.closternj.us. Support of our emergency services can come in many forms: a volunteer commitment

(Closter's emergency service organizations are seeking new members) or financial support which does not have to be limited to donations during their fundraising drives.

A Message from the Tax Collector's Office

Closter's Tax/Finance Office is reminding all property owners February 1st taxes are due. At this point in time during Covid, the Borough Hall remains closed to the public. As a convenience to our taxpayers, *Property Tax Payments* can be made online by visiting the Borough's website at www.closternj.us for the link to pay property taxes online. Other payment alternatives are sending a payment (with the full tax bill and stamped, return envelope) via USPO mail or leaving your payment in the silver TAX drop box located in the vestibule of the Lewis St. entrance of Borough Hall. Do Not leave or mail cash; it will not be accepted!

Closter "Just Seniors Call List"

The Borough is working to enhance the delivery of important information that pertains to our senior residents, realizing not all senior households have access to, or use email and social media. To bridge this gap, the Borough is maintaining a list of "Just Seniors Call List" that want to receive important information using the "reverse 911" telephone message system. To be added to the "Just Seniors Call List, please call my office, (Leslie Weatherly 201-784-0600 x 304), and leave your name, address and the telephone number. Please note, members of the Closter Seniors Club have already been added to this list.

Closter Shade Tree Commission

The winter months are regarded as the best time to prune deciduous trees. Without foliage, the unobstructed views of the trunk and branches allow the Borough's tree experts to determine the condition and stability of a tree's framework. To that end, the Shade Tree Commission began the new year with a pruning of street trees – this year is voting District 4, as part of the annual maintenance program. The absence of leaf canopy also provides us all with an opportunity to catch clearer glimpses of the resident wildlife, squirrels, owls, sparrows, blue jays and cardinals, to name just a few, who nest or otherwise frolic in our trees.

Closter Public Library

The Closter Public Library is part of the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS). As a member of this system, your Closter library card will be honored in all 76 member libraries of BCCLS. This is a lot of access to books, audiobooks, movies, music, downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, movies and more! Join in the many classes, yoga and meditation, short story club, library from home book club, Zumba and youth services program, to name a few. All of the registration information, as well as a complete calendar of events, can be found on the library's website, www.closterlibrary.org, or by calling the library at 201-758-4197. Outside pickup hours are Monday 10-5; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5, Wednesday 9-7; and Saturday 11-2.

Door-side Pickup Only for Safety – it is important to be sure the staff and public remain safe during the Covid epidemic. Therefore, the library is currently offering door-side pickup only; There will be no notary service at this time. The library appreciates all of the support given by its patrons. At this time, donated books cannot be accepted. Your understanding is appreciated.

“Housekeeping & Community Health”

Every now and then we all need to refresh the housekeeping within our neighborhoods to keep Closter a pristine town. A few of the more obvious areas requiring attention are:

- (a) **Household garbage** is collected the beginning of the week and should be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. the morning of pickup. **Household trash**, on the other hand, which is a broken chair, lamp, bookcase, etc., may be placed curbside **only the night before** the last scheduled pickup date of the week (**East Side on Thursday/West Side on Friday**). Construction debris from any type of renovation must be removed by the contractor.
- (b) **Curb Your Dog!** Residents are requested to curb their dog(s)!! The Borough’s ordinance 71-10 addresses the responsibility of dog owners to refrain from allowing their animals to soil or create a nuisance *on any* property. Dogs must be curbed, that is, restricted to that portion of the street lying between the curb lines, an appropriate sanitary means to remove feces immediately is required. Please show consideration to your neighbors when walking dogs by keeping dogs off of private property.
- (c) **Streetlights** – please include the pole number when reporting streetlight outages to the police department’s non-emergency number.
- (d) **Residential and Commercial building street numbers** must be visible from the road and maintained in good repair. This important Borough Ordinance assists our first responders in all types of emergencies, from medical, false alarm, fire and more.

Closter Recreation

Although all winter Rec sports have been canceled, the Recreation Commission and Coaches Association is optimistic that Spring Sports will be able to take place. Spring Sports consists of Baseball, Girls Softball (Rec & Travel) and NV Junior Lacrosse are being “planned” for the spring. Information on registration and tentative dates can be found on the Closter Rec Website at closterrec.com. All of these programs taking place will be determined by the Governor’s office, local health officials, OEM office and mayor & Council approvals.

Summer Rec programs are being planned but again, we need to follow the rules set forth by the offices listed above. A survey for the full day summer program will be sent out in early February. Please look for this survey and other Recreation news via emails sent thru Constant Contact. (many times, these emails end up in spam folders.)

Any questions, please send Jim Oettinger an email at closterrecjim@aol.com

Closter Nature Center

“The Closter Nature Center is a magical place loaded with native plants and animals. Unfortunately, we have a problem in our preserve--an invasive species that threatens the health of our forest. Is it a venomous snake? No. Is it a deadly spider? No. It’s a rose. Yes, a rose. Multiflora rose was brought to this country from Asia in the late 1800s for use as both an ornamental plant and as a “living fence”. Its good looks and usefulness are quickly overshadowed by its ability to take over its habitat. Fields and roadsides are where it is often a big issue but given the right circumstances it can degrade a forest habitat as well. For about a month in late spring and early summer this invasive is covered with small white roses. Those fruits become rose hips, the seed-bearing fruits of the rose. Some birds are fond of the fruit and spread the seeds. It grows by way of arching canes that are covered with recurved thorns that protect them from herbivores.

Multiflora rose has been spreading here at the Nature Center, and once they grow from individual stems into multi branched shrubs they can be very difficult to remove. Now is our chance! Naturalist Marc Gussen is putting together a squad of volunteers to get to work removing this plant from our forest. Come join us for a short hike where Marc will explain the issue further, go over techniques for removing it, and then we will roll up our sleeves and get to work! **Saturday, January 23rd at 1:00 PM** Please dress for the weather, and bring gardening gloves and garden clippers if you can. Contact Marc at mgussen@aol.com with questions or to sign-up.

Let Marc know if you can bring gloves, eye protection, and pruners or loppers, so that we can be sure of

Closter Food Pantry

The Closter Food Pantry has amazing group of dedicated volunteers who remain focused on assisting families in need who reside in our community. The FAB is fortunate to have the support of neighbors, Girls Scouts, residents and anonymous donors that offer donations; neighbors helping neighbors.

For the continued "Covid" safety of FAB's volunteers, only financial donations (check or grocery store gift card only) are being accepted. Your check should be made payable to "*Food & Assistance Board of Closter*" and mail it to 295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, NJ 07624.

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 in Closter.

All the Best,



Mayor