



# **BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**

**295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624**

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***John C. Glidden, Jr.***  
Mayor

Office 201-784-0600 x 500

**Borough Council**  
Victoria Roti Amitai      Jannie Chung  
Alissa Latner              Dolores Witko

Scott Devlin  
Joe Yammarino

## **MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER**



November 30, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As we begin this holiday season, let us keep in mind all that we have to be grateful for while enjoying the hustle and bustle which comes with the season. 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 2021 TREE LIGHTING**

Hear Ye Hear Ye!

In the spirit of all things festive, this year's annual Christmas Tree Lighting celebration is being held on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> (rain date December 12<sup>th</sup>) from 4pm to 5pm at the Closter Borough Hall. Classic holiday melodies will start the festivities beginning at 3:30pm as folks gather to welcome the holidays. There will be holiday games, the upbeat sounds of the Ekkquinox Steel Band and as we've done in years past, we are partnering up with the PBA Toy Drive and the Closter Food Pantry to serve as a drop off location for new toys and select food items for our neighbors in need. Homemade ornaments are being collected for our holiday tree which is displayed in Van Saun Park. The winner of the Best Holiday Home Lighting Contest will be announced and, of course, there is a special arrival of the star himself... Santa!!

### **Hurricane Ida Update**

Early September brought much erosion and damage to many of the Borough's streams and waterways as well as to some residents' homes. We immediately put together a task force comprised of the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator, Superintendent of Public Works and Borough Engineer to survey the damage and coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through onsite surveys and weekly meetings. It is the Borough's intention to clean and desilt portions of the following waterways; Anderson Brook, Dwars Kill and Charlie's Creek (a Tenakill Tributary).

The Borough is currently lining up funding for this project and will be applying for the State DEP required permits in January. Once the permits are issued, the Borough will be able to "bid" the project and get a responsible contractor to enter the waterways and begin the work. Because Hurricane Ida was declared a disaster, the Borough will be eligible for up to 75% reimbursement of the costs for this project

## **Warning by the Closter Police Department**

The holiday season hustle and bustle creates an abundance of opportunities for increased criminal activity. The Closter Police Department is reminding *all* residents and businesses to remain diligent in their efforts to protect their properties. Set interior and exterior lights on timers, pick up packages, mail and newspapers, remove valuables from vehicles and... lock vehicles even when parked in driveways. Utilizing increased lighting, setting alarm systems and locking vehicles reduce the opportunities criminals need. The holiday season is a prime time for scams – phone scams, computer scams door to door scams, etc. Be diligent and remain suspicious of offers by reading email addresses, reviewing credit card accounts and researching home repair offers. Remember, when something sounds too good to be true, there is a possibility of it being a scam of some sort.

The importance of removing keys and valuables from vehicles and lock your vehicles can't be emphasized enough. Make it difficult for criminals!

## **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. 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 Lewis Street lobby of the Borough Hall (cash cannot be accepted). Your donation will continue to assist our community's families who are in need. Closter is grateful to have volunteers on the Food & Assistant Board who work tirelessly to assist our residents in need and residents and businesses who give freely.

## **Closter Public Library**

The Library has an incredible array of services that it offers to patrons. The list is extensive, so visiting the Library's website, [www.closterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.closterpubliclibrary.org), is encouraged. What can your library do for you? Please fill out our survey by visiting the website or access the survey directly at <https://forms.gle/uT4QFmHBAUod9K57>. The Belskie Museum's Wall Exhibit, "Lights and Blessings" is a solo exhibit by Jeannie Cho and will be available through December 30<sup>th</sup>. Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm is the First Friday Flicks featuring RESPECT, a fascinating film about Aretha Franklin. Of course Yoga and Meditation, Short Story Club, Zumba via Zoom and our array of Youth Services Program are all taking place in the month of December. Please visit the library's website to review the calendar and to register for these classes. Looking ahead, the Closter Library has plans to start a writing club. If interested in more details, please contact Ms. Kailash at [reference@closter.bccls.org](mailto:reference@closter.bccls.org). We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

## **Closter Shade Tree Commission**

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 3 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](mailto:shadetree@closter.nj) or visit the Borough's website.

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On behalf of the Council and the Borough's employees, I extend warm wishes to all of you for a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. 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 which you can, as a volunteer, make a difference. Together we can make a huge difference in our community.

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

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Blidde", written over a horizontal line.

*Mayor*