

## CLOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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### **CLOSTER MAYOR AND COUNCIL DESIGNATES “OLAF AND INGEBORG HAGEN PARK” WITH SIGN DEDICATION SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 23.**

CLOSTER: At the meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, the Closter Mayor and Council adopted a resolution re-dedicating “Olaf and Ingeborg Hagen Park.” The Hagens were early environmental champions in the Borough. Olaf served on the Closter Environmental Commission for nearly two decades and Ingeborg was a teacher at Village School and a girl-scout troop leader.

“My introduction to environmentalism came from Mrs. Hagen.” said Councilman John Kashwick, who was a student of hers at Village School. “I will always remember her as a passionate and articulate leader on issues affecting our land, water, and air.” Kashwick added.

Olaf Hagen “chaired Closter's Environmental Commission for years and with a gentle but firm hand fathered Closter's many passive parks, and assured our Environmental Commission's strong proactive participation in Borough activities. Ingeborg Hagen originated Closter Village School's overnight environmental trips to Stokes Forest and led them for many years. Remembering such leaders and mentors by dedicating a park in their honor gives our residents a sense of place, and pride in their community” said Mayor Sophie Heymann.

The park is a 25 acre tract that runs predominantly along the Tenakill Brook from the area behind the A&P across Durie Avenue to the end of Brook Street. The park is contiguous with the Demarest Nature Center. In addition to a C1 stream that flows to the Oradell Reservoir, the park contains a significant portion of wetlands and hardwood forest. There are a number of trails that traverse the property with benches and bridges across several streams and that connect with the Demarest Nature Center trail system. The park is open year-round for passive recreation such as hiking, walking, bird-watching and simply experiencing nature.

There are a number of entry points for the Closter trail system. The main entrance for Hagen Park is at the corner of Durie Avenue and Tenakill Street where a sign has been installed. **The formal dedication of the sign will take place on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 10 AM. All members of the public are invited.** The family of the Hagens, who still live in Closter, will be on hand for the ceremony.

The park was originally dedicated in January 1997, when Olaf Hagen was still alive (Ingeborg died in 1995), but no sign was ever installed. “With the increasing popularity of the Closter trail system we felt it was important for people to know about the park and the dedicated individuals for which it was named,” said Dr. Beth Ravit, Chair of the Closter Environmental Commission.

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