

Your Coverage is Invited

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LEMONADE PORCH WALKS SUNDAY, APRIL 11, IN CLOSTER'S NEWLY DESIGNATED HISTORIC DISTRICT

As part of Closter's month-long celebration of its 300 years of history, a walking tour will be held on Sunday, April 11, at noon and again at 1 p.m. in the newly designated historic West Street/Harrington Avenue district.

Called the "Lemonade Porch Walk" because on West Street a row of 1880 thru 1920's Victorian style homes, one can stand at one end of the street and gaze all the way to the other end through the porches which line up exactly all the way down the street. It is easy to imagine turn of the century families socializing on their porches sipping lemonade on a hot summer afternoon.

On April 11th many of the neighborhood homeowners will be out on their porches to greet their Closter neighbors and share their thoughts and ideas about their lovely old houses and the newly historically designated neighborhood.

The formal designation of these streets creates privileges and obligations. It frees the 28-structure residential neighborhood from inappropriate renovations and tear downs as it obligates homeowners to review by the Historic Preservation Commission of any exterior changes or additions to their houses which are visible from the street.

The walking tours will be led by an architect who lives in the neighborhood and has designed additions to two of the houses. He will offer tips on styles, colors and the proportions of good Victorian designs. He will also point out the many different

architectural styles found in the 1840's thru 1920's such as Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Carpenter Gothic, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and offer hints and helpful information to vintage homeowners.

Anyone unable to walk the four or so blocks can avail themselves of the horse and carriage rides which will add atmosphere to the event. And, after lemonade on a porch or tea in the Jovine House Garden, the horses and carriage will take visitors to Closter's Belskie Museum for the opening of the centerpiece exhibit of the 300-year celebration "The Settlement of Closter" with original deeds and artifacts from the early 1700's.

The meeting place for the walk is the Jovine House Garden, 270 Harrington Avenue, corner of West Street (the home that presents operas at its side yard stage). Tours are free, refreshments bountiful and children are welcome. One tour at Noon, another at 1:00 pm. For more information www.closterboro.com or 201-768-2935.