



# 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  
Alissa Latner

Jannie Chung  
Dolores Witko

Scott Devlin  
Joe Yammarino

## MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



December 31, 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As we welcome the coming New Year with the hopes for a new year filled with good health and happiness, it also comes with heaviness in our hearts.

*As this year came to a close, the Borough paid last respects to Edward T. Rogan, our Borough Attorney for the past seventeen years. Ed was a lifelong resident of Closter and served most of his life actively supporting our community in a variety of ways. Ed served Closter as a councilman followed by being elected Mayor for two consecutive terms. A well-respected member of the Planning Board and the Board of Ethics, Ed's service to the community included commitment to the Closter Lion's Club, Belskie Museum Board, Spectrum for Living Board, Closter Nature Center Board as well as being an active member of the Church of St. Mary in Closter. Ed leaves behind his loving wife, Carolyn, and their three children. I ask you to please join me in keeping his family in warm thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace, Ed, knowing Closter is a better place to live because of your countless contributions.*

### **The Year 2021**

As we look back on 2021, we have had to deal with the COVID 19 virus and its affect on our health and the economic difficulties it has brought. Hopefully, in 2022, with increased vaccinations and people wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, we will conquer this disease and return to our normal lives. But we have much to be thankful for in Closter: a safe environment for ourselves and our children due to the finest Police Department in New Jersey; the best schools in New Jersey; a Recreation Program and parks, fields, and playgrounds that are the envy of our neighbors; a strong DPW that keeps our environment clean; first responders of Fire and Ambulance who volunteer their time at all hours; Boards and Commission Members who freely give many hours of their time; and a world-class new Shopping Center that draws people to Closter and protects our property values. As we move into 2022, it is our goal to keep what we have, and improve on it.

### **Borough of Closter 2022 Re Organization**

The Borough of Closter's Reorganization Meeting was held virtually on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. It was with great pleasure that Councilwoman Alissa Latner and Councilwoman Jannie Chung received their Oaths of

Office. The Borough is looking forward to moving into 2022 with the guidance and knowledge of these seasoned council members. Congratulations to you councilwomen!

2022 welcomed new Officers of the Closter Volunteer Fire Department. The Council and I are proud to recognize Fire Chief Mark Dankiewicz, Assistant Chief Nick Varni, Captain Joseph Spina, Jr., First Lt. Matthey Daly, Second Lt. Robert Russenberger and Third Lt. Ryan Lederman.

As the new officers are named, it is with tremendous appreciation the Council and I recognize the years of leadership retiring Chief Mark Lupardi has dedicated to the Closter Fire Department. Former Chief Lupardi has overseen the operation of Closter's Fire Department for the years; the past five of which as Chief. Over the many years as a fireman in the CFD, he serviced a total of thirteen years as Assistant Chief and Chief. Mark's guidance and leadership has kept the members of the department safe while consistently delivering emergency services to the residents and businesses of Closter and surrounding communities. A job well-done Chief Lupardi. We commend and thank you for the tireless efforts and continuous years of service you have put forth into keeping Closter safe in your 35 plus years .

### **Hometown Hero**

James Winters, a familiar face for many in the Closter community, was recently awarded the Hometown Hero award through Congressman Gottheimer's office. For the past 25 years, Jim has served the residents and the Borough in numerous roles. As the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, Jim is the Borough's unsung hero for managing, navigating and planning for all types of emergencies. Since 1980 Jim has contributed his services to Closter, beginning as a volunteer fire fighter with the Closter Volunteer Fire Department. In 2018 Jim retired as a Captain in the Closter Police Department and remains dedicated to serving Closter. Thank you for your service, Jim, and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

### **Covid – 19**

The Borough is imploring all residents and businesses to be mindful of the continued rise in the Omicron virus. Diligence in wearing masks/face coverings, maintaining social distance and washing hands remain top priorities as we all navigate through this surge. Needless to say, dealing with the resurgence of this virus will take patience as changes to routines may be interrupted; but rest assured, as a community we will get through this!

As mentioned above, patience is a key ingredient in navigating the disruptions created by Covid. The Closter Senior Citizens Club has postponed club meetings until further notice and in-person programming at the Closter Library has been suspended (until further notice). As of this writing, the Mayor and Council meetings will remain virtual. Zoom information can be found on the calendar located on Borough's website's home page. Please visit the Closter Public Library's website, [www.closterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.closterpubliclibrary.org), for a current calendar of virtual programs and other related information. The Closter Board of Health has advised the Borough that the shortage of rabies vaccines has created the need to cancel the January 8<sup>th</sup> Rabies Clinic run by the Board of Health. A flyer regarding Rabies vaccines is attached to this newsletter.

### **A Farewell from the Closter Public Library**

Longtime Board of Trustee member and friend of the Closter Library, Don Mufson, passed away earlier in December. Don was a member of the board for more than twenty years and was passionate about the Library. Don was involved in the 2006 renovation of the library and made sure the entrance was in the right location, surrounded by beautiful plantings. The governing body paid tribute to Don at the December 8<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Don's contributions will continue to be enjoyed by all who visit the library.

### **A Few 2022 "Housekeeping" Tips**

*Borough Code 147-9J: "Building Street Numbers":* All residential and commercial building numbers shall be visible from the road and maintained in good repair at the cost and expense of the property owner or owners". This is especially important to assist our emergency operations when responding to calls. Please, take a minute and insure the building street numbers are visible from the street.

*Borough Code 181-3: "Tree Removal Permit":* A permit is required for the removal of any tree with a DBH greater than six inches. This permit is in addition to any other approvals required pursuant to Municipal Land Use Law,<sup>11</sup> if the tree removal is taking place in conjunction with construction. Tree Removal Permits are issued through the Closter Building Department and are available on line. It should be noted, the property owner, not a contractor, is the responsible party to insure a permit has been obtained. If you have a question regarding the need for a permit, please visit the borough's website at [www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us) or contact the Building Department.

### **Closter Nature Center**

The Closter Nature Center will soon begin the long-planned restoration of the NCN's boardwalk. The CNC would love to hear from individuals who would be interested in participating in this project. There will be

planning, measuring, cutting and transporting of black locust planks throughout the preserve's trails to replace ones that have been damaged. If you are interested in joining this important improvement project, please email CNC Trustee Tom Golodik at [t.golodik@verizon.net](mailto:t.golodik@verizon.net) and include your phone number to receive more detailed information about the work involved.

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As we enter into the New Year, let us bring with us lessons learned from the past and look to the future with optimism and possibility. The spirit of volunteerism plays a significant role in the successes of our community. Let us take with us the absolute "Spirit of Volunteerism" which has been showered on the Borough and honor the intention of volunteering. Whether volunteering as a Board or Commission member with scouts troops, coaches, PTO or our Volunteer Fire Department or Volunteer Ambulance Corps, civic group or religious group, know that your participation as a volunteer is enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Closter. The council and I recognize, commend and thank each and every one of you for volunteering to make Closter the best it can be.

"May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home. May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam." — Irish Proverb

Wishing you a happy and, above all, healthy New Year,

All the best,



*Mayor*