



# BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

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

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## MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



June 30, 2022

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am pleased to provide the Mayor's Newsletter designed to highlight and inform our residents with information on the activities and events taking place in Closter. My door is always open, so please feel free to contact me at 201-784-0600 x 500 with concerns or suggestions.

### Closter Fire Department

**"The Closter Fire Department is currently in DIRE NEED of new members to help our community.** We can have all of the equipment in the world, but without members it is useless. Volunteer members like **YOU** allow us to serve our community as we have proudly done for over the past 129 years.

As our world becomes more complicated with each passing year our emergency calls for help increase. Today we respond to far more than just fires and alarms. We answer a myriad of unique requests, each and everyone just a little different from the last but one thing remains the constant - **One call does it ALL !** But we **need volunteer members like you** to help us continue to help our community for the next 129 years."

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US –  
WE PROMISE AN EXPERIENCE YOU WILL NOT FORGET !**

**WE NEED PEOPLE NOW**



**HELP**

**OR WE MAY AS WELL BE**

**CLOSED**

**IF YOU WON'T HELP  
WHO WILL ??**

**Consider it Today !!**

**<http://www.closterfd.org>**

## A Message from the Tax Collector's Office

Estimated tax bills were mailed in the middle of June. **“Skip the line... PAY online!!”** Visit [www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us) and use the online portal for your tax payment.

## Closter Police Department

The CPD has been warning residents about the rise in car thefts and thefts from motor vehicles. Yet, despite months of warnings, vehicles are still being left unlocked and key fobs and valuables are being left in vehicles. Help deter these criminals by making it difficult for them to steal anything. Key points:

**Don't leave your car running. • Lock your car • Take your keys or key fob with you even if you are parked in a garage • Don't leave valuables in your car • If possible, park in a garage or a well-lit place • Thieves troll the area looking for cars with mirrors turned out, which often indicates that the car is unlocked and the key may be in the vehicle...bottom line – LOCK YOUR VEHICLE**

The Closter Police Department will be teaming up with 7-Eleven for **2022 Operation Chill!** Officers will be **issuing 7/11 Operation Chill Coupons** to kids throughout the community. This program is aimed to enhance the relationship between the youth in the community and the Closter Police officers. Kids who are seen by a police officer exhibiting good behavior, performing good deeds, practicing bicycle safety, helping a neighbor, etc. will be issued a 7/11 Free Slurpee Coupon!



## Closter Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) works to assist Closter residents who, due to physical limitations, may not be able to self-evacuate in an emergency condition and may require assistance. This need may be due to medical equipment or lack of proper transportation during an emergency. Closter residents who would like to be included on the OEM check list should contact Leslie Weatherly at 201-784-0600 x 304. Residents will need to provide their name, address, phone or cell number, name of emergency contact person and the type of physical need. All information is strictly confidential and will be kept in the OEM files to be used in emergency situations only.

## Closter Improvement Commission

The Improvement Commission has also created subcommittees to work on Downtown Beautification, International Day and Our Annual Tree Lighting event which includes a house decoration contest, gingerbread contest, cookie bake and welcoming committee. Anyone wishing to participate on some level by volunteering their time is welcome.

Feel free to tune in to our meeting held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. The Zoom link is found on the homepage of the Borough's website, [www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us), right hand column under Upcoming Events.

## **Closter Improvement Commission ~ Mayor's Committee of the Arts**

### ***Calling All Artists & Performers***

Under the wing of the Improvement Commission, there is a new Mayor's Committee for the Arts whose mission is to bring the arts to Closter by having its residents participate in pop-up exhibits of music and visual arts. The Mayor's Committee for the Arts is looking for people of all ages to participate in Closter's Pop-Up-Arts Events taking place in town throughout the summer. Please contact [mayorscommitteearts@gmail.com](mailto:mayorscommitteearts@gmail.com) if you are interested in performing.

### **Closter Public Library**

The Closter Library features a New Releases Newsletter available on Sunday evenings for a list of popular items coming out on Tuesday. Click the pictures to reserve the items. Belskie Art Wall will be featuring the work of Sueim Koo. "Storiescape" an exhibit depicting abstract landscapes that represent her emotions and memories, will be exhibited July 18th – September 3rd.

First Friday Flicks – Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm will feature Father Stu. This movie follows the life of Father Stuart Long, a boxer-turned-priest who inspired countless people during his journey from self-destruction to redemption.

The Adult Book Club meets on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. The Book of Lost Friends, by Lisa Wingate. The Writing Club meets on Wednesdays at 5-8pm; Yoga and Meditation remain hybrid, in-person at the library or virtual via Zoom. Mah Jongg is on Thursday afternoons beginning at 12:30; Knitting & Craft Group meet Thursday afternoons at 2:30p. Zumba via Zoom is also on Thursday afternoons beginning at 4:30p. Please visit the Library's website at [www.closterpubliclibrary.org](http://www.closterpubliclibrary.org) for the full array of youth services and program. Summer programs are currently in session.

### **Closter's Lustron House**



Come and visit Closter's historic Lustron House, a mid-century marvel. You will feel as though you are walking back in time to the 1950s and '60s as soon as you enter this fully furnished home and hear the music playing!

The Lustron House Museum is free and open to the public every second Saturday of the month from 12 noon to 2pm. The next open house date is **Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**. Closter's Lustron House is located at 421 Durie Avenue, Closter – on the corner of Durie Avenue and Legion Place.

Email [lustronfriends@gmail.com](mailto:lustronfriends@gmail.com) or visit Facebook page "Friends of the Hess Lustron House" for more information.

### **Closter Nature Center**

Summer Fun at the Closter Nature Center! The summer program will run from June 27<sup>th</sup> to August 25<sup>th</sup> for children ages 4-14. Children can sign up for one or multiple weeks. Each weekly program will offer different activities suitable to the age group, children's interests and the weather. Participants will hike, dig, wade in the water and examine nature, and above all, have fun!

Campers ages 4-6 will meet each day for 2 hours, with weekly fees of \$80 for members, \$100 for non-members. Campers ages 7-10, and 11-14 meet for 3 hours each day, with weekly fees of \$120 for members, \$150 for non-members.

To register please go to <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>, and you will be taken to Community Pass, our online registration and payment system.

## Shade Tree Commission

There are famous Cherry Trees and there are famous Oak Trees. The Borough of Closter is fortunate to have recently received a sapling of the historic Salem White Oak Tree which, before toppling over in a storm, lived for nearly 600 years in Salem, New Jersey, originally shading the Lenni Lenape people!

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection had the foresight to preserve one of the largest white oaks in the State by growing a sapling for each of the states 565 municipalities. The Shade Tree Commission recently secured our sapling in Jackson, NJ. Currently measuring two feet tall and growing by leaps and bounds, the plan is to plant this Legacy Oak next spring in Lone Horseman Park. Interested in volunteering? Please reach out to the STC via email at [shadetree@closternj.us](mailto:shadetree@closternj.us).

## Closter's MacBain Farm

The MacBain Farm is open for the 2022 season and is springing to life! There are six kinds of lettuce including romaine, two kinds of parsley, mint, collards, and rainbow chard, all ready to pick. Cucumbers, beans, peppers, squash and eggplant are flowering so more veggies are coming. Closter residents can come pick at the farm once a week, one bucket per household, on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 1pm and 4 to 6pm. The farm provides the red bucket and visitors should bring their own scissors/knives and a bag to take produce home.

Help is always needed and very much appreciated for weeding, greeting, and tying tomatoes at this volunteer supported farm. Opportunities to volunteer at the kiosk during any open hours are available. Send an email [volunteers.macbainfarm@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers.macbainfarm@gmail.com) to [mcbfarm@closternj.us](mailto:mcbfarm@closternj.us) to make arrangements.

All households that registered in 2021 and/or 2020 will only have to show proof of continued residency in Closter on their first visit. After the initial visit, you just have to sign in with your email address at the kiosk. Those who have never registered will need to show their driver's license and fill out a registration form. All parking is on Hickory Lane. Come and enjoy this beautiful jewel of Closter.

## Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps



**Serving Closter and Alpine Since 1936**

**2022 Fund Drive - We Need Your Help!**

**The Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps has been serving the residents of Closter & the Northern Valley community since 1936. Our 40 active member organization (which are comprised of your neighbors) services the Emergency Medical needs of Closter & supports surrounding communities 24 | 7 | 365. We answer approximately 750 emergency calls per year, which equates to approximately 3,300 man hours per year.**

**We currently support two State of New Jersey approved fully equipped BLS Ambulances, a First Responder unit, a Rescue Truck for motor vehicle accidents / extrication and an Off-Road support vehicle. As you can imagine, to support these services takes a lot of financial help. Most people are surprised to learn that 80% of our funding is through fundraising.**

**We ask for your help but once a year. To make a donation you can use the envelope in our upcoming mailing or visit our web site at [www.CVARNJ.org](http://www.CVARNJ.org) For additional information you can "like" our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CVARNJ>**

**We appreciate your support.**

**Have the PayPal app?  
PLEASE SCAN HERE TO DONATE NOW!**



**Don't have the app?  
GO TO [CVARNJ.ORG](http://CVARNJ.ORG)  
& click on the donate button**

## Closter Recreation

The Steven Potterton Memorial Concert Series held at Memorial Park in Closter on Harrington Ave continues on Friday, 7/8 with Joe Delia & the Thieves and then Friday, 7/15, the TK Walker Band will be playing. Both concerts start at 7:30pm - come and enjoy a great night of music with family and friends. Bring a blanket and enjoy the summer nights

Registration for Fall Soccer will open up for all K-8 boys and girls on July 11th. Registration will be open until August 15th. Please visit the Closter Recreation website for more information on the fall soccer program, and register via Community pass. Take advantage of the early bird rate and save money!!!

There are other programs and camps that are being offered with info that can be found on the [www.closterrec.com](http://www.closterrec.com) website.

## Closter Environmental Commission

Let's get outdoors in Closter!

Members of the Closter Environmental Commission and families recently re-furbished our Cross-Closter Trail System signs. They are sparkling clean and ready to guide families and friends into Closter's many parks! This month, we feature ***Mollicone Park***.

Some parks are called "active" because their playgrounds are equipped with playground equipment and also used for athletic activities; others are "passive" because their trails encourage walking and enjoying what nature so bountifully provides in Closter. Mollicone Park, on Knickerbocker Road south of Demarest Avenue, is both an active and a passive park. It is named after First Lieutenant Donald Allan Mollicone, who was killed in Vietnam on December 20, 1963. The part of the park fronting Knickerbocker Road is a heavily used ball field. But to the east, the park has some wonderful treasures for the casual pedestrian. A meandering stream was a major source of ice for residents' iceboxes before the days of electric refrigerators. The ice was cut in blocks and stored in a shack at the southern end of the park during the winter, to be disbursed during the hotter months. On a hill to the east, there is Closter's Girl Scouts cabin. Built more than fifty years ago, it has been upgraded several times, and provides a friendship and learning experience for Closter's Girl Scouts on many a week-end. Several trails traverse the dense woods of the park, and one downhill trail leads to a second entrance, on Taillon Terrace.





**Ordinance Updates**

Ordinance 2022-1294: An ordinance amending the code of the Borough of Closter pertaining to the Removal of Trees (Section 181-4G) has been amended to read “Review of certain applications by the Borough Engineer. Any application seeking the removal of 4 or more regulated trees within a 2 year period shall be reviewed at the applicant’s expense by the Borough Engineer to ensure erosion and sediment guidelines have been satisfied”.

Ordinance 2022 -1295: An ordinance amending section 35-41 of the of the Borough of Closter Code relating to appeals to the Zoning Board of Adjustment has been amended to provide for an appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment may be taken by any interested party affected by any decision of the Construction Official of the municipality based on or made in the enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance or Official May. Such appeal shall be taken within 20 days by filing a notice of appeal in the manner set forth in Article II of Section 35-21A, etc. In addition, notice of such appeal shall be provided to all properties within 200 feet of the subject property.

Ordinance 2022 -1296: An ordinance amending section 181-4F of the code of the Borough of Closter relating to notice of property owners for proposed tree removals in certain circumstance has been amended to “provide that written notice of the proposed tree removal to all adjacent property owners as opposed to all property owners within 200 feet of the property in question”.

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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,



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**Mayor**