



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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Mayor

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MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER

January 30, 2016

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am pleased to provide the January issue of the Mayor's Newsletter. My door is always open; please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

Winter Snow Storm *Jonas*

Your patience during recent winter storm *Jonas* in which Closter received approximately 24 inches of snow in less than 24 hours was greatly appreciated. The Closter DPW did an excellent job maintaining our streets during and after the storm. This was accomplished by the DPW working side-by-side with all of our emergency services and the Closter Office of Emergency Management. I would like to call your attention to the Borough codes for snow removal. Code 183-45:C states no vehicle shall be parked on any street while snow covered. Your assistance in insuring all vehicles are removed from the roadways during and after a storm will assist our DPW in clearing the roadways. Borough code 171-13:1-C states all sidewalks and handicap ramps shall have snow removed within 12 hours from the end of the storm. It is important, for the benefit of all residents and visitors, to follow our regulations for snow removal.

Closter Improvement Commission

Admiring the Closter holiday lights downtown is almost as enjoyable as celebrating the holidays. We asked the Closter Improvement Commission ("CIC") to revitalize the Tree Lighting Ceremony from the past and it was a well-attended ceremony. Next on the to-do list for them is choosing the spring plantings once the snow melts and the temperature rises. Of course the CIC has been meeting monthly to discuss ways of implementing other projects to beautify the town, including sprucing up our municipal parking lots, signage, and several public places. They have also been actively preparing for the second annual HOEDOWN which is scheduled for Friday, June 10th. The CIC is always looking for help so if you have any questions, concerns, or want to volunteer for a project or event, please contact Chairperson Maria Kim at maria_kim1@outlook.com

Closter Nature Trails

The Closter Environmental Commission invites all our residents and neighbors to enjoy the newly improved Closter trail system. Fresh boardwalks enhance the safety of Hagen Park, and there is a new accessible entry on Demarest Avenue, between Stop and Shop and Harvest Church. New trail markings and log borders delineate the trails at Hagen Park and the newly laid trails at Schauble Park. We are presently working on trails at Buzzoni Park. Future plans include trails in the Temple Emanu-El conservation easement, trails in Blanch Woods, and a connection between Mollicone Park and Schauble Park. Preliminary trail maps will be displayed on Closter's web site. In the future we will be providing printed maps as well as improved signage located at the major trail heads. The cost of the trail improvements have been provided by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with a 20% matching grant provided mostly by the

work of our staff, volunteers and DPW. Through the outstanding work done by our trail builder, Kevin Riley of Demarest, and the generous cooperation of our DPW we have been able to use the DEP grant funds to build and repair many times the length of the original grant application. We welcome donations of funded benches to place along these new trails. Walking is the #1 means to healthy living. Please enjoy our trails.

School Bond Referendum

The Northern Valley Regional High School District has arranged for a Bond Referendum vote on March 8, 2016, 2:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. We will vote on the Board of Education's Proposal to issue \$11,707,485 in bonds to upgrade/renovate the Demarest High School and the Old Tappan High School. The Board indicates these projects are needed to retain the high quality of our education system for our children in Closter. In addition, the Board indicates the Referendum will be "tax neutral" and will not require any increase in taxes to support the bond issue. I urge all residents to visit the NVRHS website (<http://www.nvnet.org/>) and review the information and explanations so as to be informed for this Referendum.

Downtown Improvements

The Mayor and Council will be meeting shortly with the Closter Chamber of Commerce. The most immediate issue to tackle is the parking issue, and many good ideas are now formulating. I will report further on this progress in my next newsletter.

Closter Plaza

Construction remains on schedule, and the recent storm had no effect on the timetable. One new store has signed a lease since last month and it's called Kidville (www.kidville.com). It is a place where parents and children from newborn to six can have fun and play together. I expect a report from the developer, Edens, next month in which they will announce several new venues.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

Details will be posted on the Borough's website, www.closternj.us

- **Sunday, April 24th ~ Opening Day for Little League and Girls Softball**
Little League Parade begins at 12:30 from Borough Hall
- **Saturday, May 7th ~ Annual Joe Accordino Memorial Fishing Contest**
9:00 a.m. to noon Ruckman Pond at Closter Nature Center
- **Monday, May 30th ~ Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Service**
Parade steps off at 10:00 a.m.
Memorial Service follows at Veterans Memorial Park
- **Friday, June 10th ~ Closter's Country Hoe Down. sponsored by the CIC,**
Join friends and neighbors in a country hoedown!

There are many more issues on which to report in Closter, and I will do so in next month's Mayor's Newsletter. Please stay healthy and please stay safe.

All the best,



Mayor