



# BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

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Mayor

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## MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



January 30, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

2020 is off to a wonderful beginning. The Mayor's Newsletter brings some welcome news and events in town. My door is always open. Please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

### New Jersey's Monthly Magazine ~ 30 Best New Restaurants

It is my absolute pleasure to announce New Jersey's Monthly Magazine has named Closter's newest restaurants, Stern & Bow and The Brasserie-Memere in its list of the 30 Best New Restaurants in New Jersey. Perhaps it's the nautical décor, American menu, exceptional oysters at Stern & Bow or perhaps it is Chef Thomas Ciszak's transformation of space into a mini-arrondissement of Paris with Boeuf Bourguignon and Mousse au Chocolat which brought these two restaurants notoriety. *Hip, Hip Hurray* welcome!

### Closter Improvement Commission – International Day Survey

The Borough of Closter's Improvement Commission is looking into hosting an International Day (date in March TBD), where members of our community will showcase their culture and traditions through food, crafts and performances. If you would be interested in representing your country/culture, please complete this short survey and the CIC will follow up with you. Please note you may sign up as an individual or as a group; more so, if other people representing the same country/culture sign up we may connect you so you can collaborate for this event! The first step in exploring this activity is to complete the Survey which can be found on this link or the Borough's website, Facebook and Twitter.

*Right click on the mouse and scroll to "open hyperlink" ...* [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBAnTD-iQ\\_YVty\\_4tpfMXt3--Tv4JfxO0CD4Nn1P0FsxEHhw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBAnTD-iQ_YVty_4tpfMXt3--Tv4JfxO0CD4Nn1P0FsxEHhw/viewform) The members of the Closter Improvement Commission are looking forward to hearing from you.

### Closter's Volunteer Emergency Services

The Borough of Closter has two of the most committed volunteer emergency service organizations in northern Bergen County. Closter's volunteer ambulance corps and fire department were founded on the premise that together volunteers can make a significant difference in the quality of services in the community and, indeed, they have. Since its establishment in 1893 the **Knickerbocker Hook & Ladder Company** is staffed solely by volunteers who donate their time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, responding to 274 calls last year. Complementing the emergency fire services is the medical emergency response and rescue

operations provided by the men and women of the **Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps**. The Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps, Inc. is the only department in Bergen County, and one of the few in the state that provides both ambulance service and heavy rescue, inclusive of cliff rescues and rappelling.

Closter's emergency service organizations are seeking new members. Information for both of these organizations can be found by viewing the Borough's website, [www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us). Support for our emergency services can come in many forms; a volunteer commitment or perhaps supporting these emergency services during their fundraising drives throughout the year.

### **Belskie Museum of Art & Science**

The Belskie Museum is pleased to present an exhibit of original watercolor art. "*The Long and Winding Road*" is curated by local artist Steve Cavallo. This exhibit features works from 17 talented local artists. It is a delightful exhibit

The artist reception and exhibit opening is being held on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 1:00 p.m. This exhibit runs February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Museum hours are Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free; hours by appointment can be arranged by calling the Belskie at 201-768-0286. [www.belskiemuseum.com](http://www.belskiemuseum.com)

### **A Message from the Closter Tax Collector's Office**

Closter's Tax/Finance Office is reminding all property owners February 1<sup>st</sup> taxes are due. For the convenience of our tax payers, *Property Tax Payments* can be made online. Please visit the Borough's website at [www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us) for the link to pay property taxes online. The link can be found on the right hand side of the Borough's homepage. Paying in person? The Tax Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am-4:00pm. A drop box for overnight payments is located in the vestibule of the Lewis St. entrance of Borough Hall. Please do not use this box during normal business hours and, please, do not leave cash in the drop box.

### **Closter Shade Tree Commission**

Shade trees are an essential component of our green infrastructure. Beyond their aesthetic value, shade trees help absorb and clean rainwater, reduce storm water runoff and flooding, improve air quality and, yes, provide shade to pedestrians and and cyclists. What's more, shade trees boost our property values!

Each year, the street trees in one of the Borough's six voting districts benefit from a safety pruning. As a service to our community the STC works to maintain the town's streetscape by trimming and pruning shade trees located along the street. Voting District Five is the geographical area that will be pruned this winter by a certified arbor company. It is anticipated (weather permitting) the work will be completed before mid-February. For purposes of this work, a shade tree is defined as any portion of a street tree within 15' of the curb line. The scope of work will include crown raising, trimming lower branches that block sidewalks or the ability of all vehicles and trucks to approach a curb line, follow Class III Pruning Standards and cut branches that block street lighting or signage.

The proactive work of the Shade Tree Commission has established a beautiful street scape within our community.

## **Closter Public Library**

The Closter Public Library is part of the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS). As a member of this system, your Closter library card will be honored in all 76 member libraries of BCCLS. This is a lot of access to books, audiobooks, movies, music, downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, movies and more!

The loan periods for materials will now be the same among all BCCLS libraries. New DVDs – 1 week; New books – 2 weeks; old DVDs 2 weeks; old books 4 weeks. Items that have no requests will automatically be renewed twice for the full renewal period. This will be done 3 days before the item is due.

The Closter Public Library offers a wide variety of programs and services. *ESL Advanced Conversation* takes place on Mondays, beginning at 10:00 a.m. *Come Knit With Us* and *Mah Jongg* are held on Tuesdays. *Yoga* and *Meditation* are on Wednesdays (please see the schedule). Interested in Real Estate? Join the seminar on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at noon. Bring a friend to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Flicks! This month the feature films are *Judy* on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and *Harriet* on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Movies begin at 1:00 p.m. The Adult Book Club will be discussing *The Nightingale* by Susan Hannah on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. followed by Mom's Night Out Book Club on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 when the club discusses *Olive Again*. Please visit the library's website for details on these programs, [closterpubliclibrary.org](http://closterpubliclibrary.org) or come in person, or if you have a question, call the library at 201-768-4197.

## **Closter Historic Lustron House**

Closter's historic Lustron House will be celebrating Valentine's Day at its monthly Open House on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:00pm. This 1950 steel house at 420 Durie Avenue (corner of Legion Place) is worth a visit to see what life was like in Closter mid-century.

Just in time for spring and Easter bonnet season, on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Lustron will have an exhibition of 1950s hats on loan from Nonu Vintage Shop in Dumont and from private collectors. Several of the women's hats were designed by Pauline Reiner, milliner whose shop in Jersey City was very popular in the 1950s and '60s. If you own a special hat or bonnet from this period and are willing to lend it to the Lustron show, please let us know by stopping in at our February Open House.

## **Closter Police Department**

The Closter Police Department is reminding all of us of a couple of "housekeeping" items. All ***residential and commercial building street numbers*** must be visible from the road and maintained in good repair. This important Borough Ordinance assists our first responders in all types of emergencies, not including medical and fire calls, false alarm calls and general assistance. (B.O. 147-9J).

***Overnight parking*** is prohibited between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday and between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Sunday *on any street* in the Borough of Closter (B.O. 183.45B). There is ***No Parking on any road which is snow covered*** (B.O. 183.45C). ***Alarms*** ~ all individuals, corporations or businesses operating any ***alarm*** device must obtain a valid permit on an annual basis. Alarm applications are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Your assistance in complying with the ordinances listed above is appreciated.

## **Closter Recreation**

Recreation news – spring sports registration is now open along with registration for the full day Summer Recreation Program. Please visit the Closter Recreation website, [www.closterrec.com](http://www.closterrec.com) for more information on these programs and for the latest information on recreation sponsored events.

## **Environmental Commission**

**Mark your calendars and Save the Dates!!** The Environmental Commission is planning to hold the annual Town Wide Clean Up on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Details will be available shortly.

The Northern Valley Annual Earth Fair is taking place in Norwood on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers, vendors and a large array of activities will be on hand for the delivery of the Annual Earth Fair. The Northern Valley's Environmental Commissions welcomes all volunteers to help with this event. Visit [www.nv-earth-fair.org](http://www.nv-earth-fair.org) for more information.

## **Closter Nature Center**

February is a very busy month at the Closter Nature Center. The month is filled with activities, classes and after-school programs. Watch out!! Mount Closter is about to erupt again – Volcanoes! Pre-K and Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade classes begin on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration is required. Layer up your winter clothes, the Winter Hike is on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:00 p.m. Meet at the cabin! February Break Nature Classes are February 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Join for the four day program or by the day; registration is required and can be completed on Community Pass, [www.register.communitypass.net/Closter](http://www.register.communitypass.net/Closter). If you must register in person, please call Marc Gussen at 201-750-2778. All of this information is available on the Nature Center's website, [www.closternaturecenter.org](http://www.closternaturecenter.org) or by calling the Nature Center at 201-750-2778; ask for Marc.

## **Closter Food Pantry**

The Closter Food Pantry is an amazing group of dedicated volunteers focused on assisting families in need who reside in our community. The FAB is fortunate to have the support of neighbors, Girls Scouts, residents and anonymous donors that offer donations; neighbors helping neighbors. While most folks think of non-perishable items when thinking of the food pantry, there is a strong need for items such as laundry detergent, household cleaners, paper goods and cereals.

If your family, employer, religious or other organization would like to host a food drive in the upcoming months, please contact us at [fabofcloster@gmail.com](mailto:fabofcloster@gmail.com) for more information and let us help you plan a successful event. If you would like to make a financial donation to the Closter Food Pantry, please make your check out to “*Food & Assistance Board of Closter*” and mail it to 295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, NJ 07624.

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