



# BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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Mayor

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~ Closter Borough Council ~

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## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JOHN GLIDDEN



## HALLOWEEN in CLOSTER During COVID-19

Dear Closter Friends and Families,

The COVID pandemic has created the need to celebrate Halloween in a manner atypical to the traditional Closter-style celebrations. The Closter Recreation Commission has carefully designed an alternative for the 2020 Halloween “Parade & Costume” event to meet the safety standards necessary during this time.

**Detailed information for this year’s event is available on the Recreation website, [www.closterrec.com](http://www.closterrec.com).** The “Welcome Trick or Treaters” sign will be available to download from the Borough’s website ([www.closternj.us](http://www.closternj.us)) on Friday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. I urge everyone considering participation in this year’s Halloween Costume Contest to spend time reading the information for the event. It will be time well spent to make this a safe event for everyone.

In place of the parade that went through the center of town, the Recreation Commission is hosting a Halloween Costume Contest with winners for the top four categories: scariest, most beautiful, funniest, most original and the overall best Costume – the Taaz Trophy! The event will be held this Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup> at Veterans Memorial Park located on Harrington Avenue.

There will be TWO contests to *limit the numbers of attendees*. There will be TWO sets of trophies; one for each time frame/age group. Children in Pre-K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade are at 11:00 am- noon; 5<sup>th</sup> grade- 8<sup>th</sup> grade are at 12:30-1:30 p.m. The only two entrances open for the event are on Harrington Avenue. Please leave enough time to be at the field promptly at the start of each event. Parents with siblings in both age groups are urged to bring the older children with them for the first event, but they will not participate until the second (age appropriate group) takes place.

Please note in following the guidelines established by the Governor, CDC and NJ Department of Health, *only 500 people will be permitted to be in Veterans Memorial Park. This number includes parents, children and volunteers!*

To militate against COVID-19 exposure, all **participants and parents are required to wear a face mask**. *Costume masks are not an acceptable substitution and should be supplemented with a cloth or disposable mask.*

All residents are urged to incorporate additional COVID safety measures into Halloween Outdoor Door to Door Trick or Treating by limiting their groups to current household members, consider staying local and limiting the number of houses on the route. Above all, Social Distancing should be practiced. For those putting out treats, the borough is recommending to ALL residents who are welcoming Trick or Treaters are to hang an 8" x 11" sign on their door.

**Reminder** – Closter's annual 9:00 pm curfew for both "Cabbage Night" ~ Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and "Halloween Night" ~ Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> is being enforced. *The curfew pertains to all persons under the age of 18.*

The CDC guidelines recommend **Good, Better and Best** options for leaving treats on Halloween. (**Good**) - limit interaction or contact with trick-or-treaters, wear a mask when individuals come to the door and regularly washing hands. (**Better**) – leave a treat bowl on a porch or table where it may be accessed while adhering to social distancing requirements and (**Best**) arrange individually packaged candy so that trick or treaters can grab and go without accessing a shared bowl. Candy should be commercially packaged and non-perishable.

Lastly, avoid large indoor or outdoor parties; instead consider virtual activities such as online costume parties, carving pumpkins with family or have a Halloween themed movie night with family.

The only obstacles limiting Halloween in 2020 is creativity! Replacing the traditional Halloween festivities mindful of the need for "COVID-19" awareness and compliance of suggested protection protocols will facilitates a fun-filled, enjoyable celebration.

On behalf of the members of the Closter Council, I wish you all a *spooktacular* Halloween!

Be safe,



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Mayor

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