



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER

March 30, 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The March 2026 issue of the Mayor's Newsletter brings some important messages, news and events in town. My office is open to discuss any issue concerning the Borough. I can also be reached at 201-784-0600, x 500 or by email, jglidden@closternj.us



CLOSTER'S CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY, JUNE 13th

The Countdown to America's 250th Anniversary begins NOW!

The Borough of Closter is thrilled to announce ***Closter's Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary*** is planned for Saturday, June 13th with a rain date of Sunday, June 14th.

Closter's America's 250th Anniversary Celebration is being held in Memorial Park and Tenakill School. The town wide event will kick off with ***Closter's America's 250th Anniversary Parade*** beginning at 11:30 am which will conclude at Memorial Park/Tenakill School and launch the celebration at noon! An amazing display of fireworks, set to begin around 9pm, will close the celebration. A huge array of events, food and drink, free kids' rides and activities for all ages are being planned. It is a true celebration of our country and community.

ALL of Closter's organizations are invited (and encouraged) to participate in the parade by marching or by viewing the parade from the recommended location in the center of town and are invited to participate in ***Closter's America's 250th Anniversary Celebration*** festivities.

Closter's organizations are being offered a spot at Memorial Park/Tenakill School, following the parade, to set up a table and share information about their group or organization. Brochures, handouts and demonstrations are welcome. While ***Closter's Celebration of America's 250th Anniversary*** is planned from noon until the fireworks around 9pm, the length of time your group chooses to participate is up to each group.

If your group wishes to participate in ***Closter's America's 250th Anniversary Parade*** or set up a table for the event at Memorial Park/Tenakill School, or be a part of both activities, please email Jim Oettinger at joeettinger@closternj.us to reserve a place. Details regarding the parade, set-up and more will be forthcoming.

This is an exciting time for the Borough. I am looking forward to celebrating *America's 250th Anniversary* with all of you in true "Closter tradition".

Closter Police Department – Coffee With Cops

March 19th was a terrific example of community as officers from the Closter Police Department met with members of the community at the Closter Target. Target's team hosted a wonderful open house providing an informal venue for our CPD to interact with the public. The comradery, conversation and interaction defined cooperation and support from a terrific business and our own police department. Stay tuned, another "Coffee With Cops" will be scheduled soon! Shout Out to Closter Target for their interest in bringing this event front and center to the public.



Mayor Glidden, Officers of the CPD & the Target Team

Celebrating Our History

A time honored tradition in Closter is the celebration and recognition of multi-cultural celebrations. As such, I would be remiss in not recognizing Black History Month, and while there is no group organizing a celebration, Closter does have a lot to celebrate.

The history of enslaved Africans that helped build Closter and the surrounding areas is quite remarkable. Skunk Hollow, for example was founded by freed African Americans, the Pareslls/Vanderbeck Tenant House on Piermont Road was referred to as the "Vanderbeck Slave House, and most familiar to all residents is the Centennial AME Zion Church on Lewis St near Closter Plaza. This historic site, built in 1896 by descendants of freed slaves, is significant for its direct association with the 19th Century African-American freed slave community of "the Mountain" or "Skunk Hallow" and its association with the famous civil right leader, Bishop Alexander Walters. Closter is proud to be the home of the Centennial AME Zion Church as well as recognizing the significance of Black History in our community.

Closter's Challenger Program

It was another banner year for Closter's Challenger Program. Students, young adults and volunteers of all ages share engage in this multifaceted -recreational sports program. The spirit of inclusivity as students and coaches join together on Closter's ball fields and basketball courts is inspirational. Our athletes in the Challenger Program offer our middle and high school students the opportunity to earn community service credits while experiencing activities with neighbors of all abilities.



Closter Recreation Challenger Basketball ~ 2026

Closter PTO Dinner Dance

A fabulous night as more than 150 people danced the night away at the Edgewood CC while supporting the numerous projects of the Closter PTO.



Top center: Mayor John Glidden, Councilman Chris Cho & Superintendent Vincent McHale

Greek Independence Day

March 25th marked the 205th Anniversary of Greek Independence, known as the Greek War of Independence in 1821. It is a privilege to recognize Greek Independence Day with our constituents, friends and neighbors and to honor the legacy of those courage men and women who valiantly fought freedom and democracy for the people of Greece.



Celebration of Green Independence Day with Mayor Glidden presentig Proclamation

Town Hall Information Seminar

Monday, April 20th at 7pm Closter residents are invited to learn more about deer management. The Mayor & Council are hosting a seminar given by NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife biologists, Brian Schumm and Megan Mills for Closter residents. The seminar will provide information and possible approaches to address the impact of the local deer population on public safety, property and the environmental as well as the health of the deer population. This Seminar will be held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall (295 Closter Dock Rd., Closter) in person, or via ZOOM (link available on www.closterboro.com).

Belskie Museum of Art & Science



The eighth annual art exhibit by students of Bergen County Technical High School – Teterboro is proudly presented April 12th-26th. On display will be works from the Automotive Engineering, Commercial Art & Graphic Design, Digital Media and Art majors. Artists will be available to speak about their work at the reception. This is a “must-see” exhibit!

Exhibit Opening Reception is Sunday, April 12th from 1pm-4pm. Light refreshments will be served. Museum hours after opening reception are Saturdays & Sundays from 2-4pm. Hours by appointment can be arranged. The Belskie Museum is located at 280 High St, adjacent to the Library. 201-768-0286 or www.belskiemuseum.com

Closter's MacBain Farm

Spring is just around the corner and the 2026 growing season at the MacBain Farm is underway. As volunteers prepare for the seasonal planting and summer events, the *Friends of the MacBain Farm* are planning their support too. The *Friends of the MacBain Farm*, a 501-3c nonprofit, is launching the Second Annual **Sponsor-A-Row Fundraiser** for the 2026 growing season. Sponsorship is a meaningful way to support the farm while helping to sustain this invaluable resource which is only found in Closter.

Community members are invited to sponsor a row at the MacBain Farm for \$150. Each sponsored row will feature a custom sign placed at the end of the row that can include your family name, business name, or a memory tribute/dedication. All donations are tax deductible. This season promises to be one of abundant vegetables, herbs and flowers for Closter's residents combined with events and activities. Opening day information will be forthcoming!



How to Sponsor a Row:

Fill out the quick form : [CLICK HERE FOR FORM](#)

Send your \$150 donation via Zelle or check

Zelle: FriendsofMacBain@gmail.com

Check: Friends of MacBain, PO BOX 68, Closter, NJ 07624

Environmental Commission

Closter Town Wide Cleanup 2026

Friends, neighbors, community working together!

Saturday, April 25th from 10am-2pm. (Rain Date May 3rd)

Meet at either starting location:

Closter Senior Center or Closter Nature Center.

Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies and map of cleanup sites will be provided.



Green Challenge

Join the Closter Green Challenge! The Environmental Commission is supporting a new “*Green Initiative Challenge*” for households and businesses to adopt more sustainable habits, reduce waste and promote environmental stewardship throughout our community.

The month of April is the “***Energy Saver Challenge***”. This month between April 1st and 30th join your community and challenge yourself and your family to lowering energy use in your home by switching to LEDs, unplugging electronics and taking shorter showers. Then, join the Environmental Commission Challenge and share your energy saving by either posting a pic of how you met the challenge and share it using hashtag #ClosterGreenChallenge or email to gc@sustainablecloster.org by April 30th. The winner will be announced on SustainableCloster.org. If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the work of the Closter Environmental Commission, please email gc@sustainablecloster.org.

Mayor Glidden announces a new ***Mayor's Award***, the “***Green Challenge Sustainable Closter***”. There will be six bi-monthly challenges; these winners will receive Environmental Commission prizes. The overall Green Challenge winner will receive the ***Mayor's Award*** in early January 2027. This recipient will be selected from all of the 2026 bi-monthly winners based on originality and environmental impact.

Closter Public Library

The Closter Library is now offering access to the Wall Street Journal through the library website with the first 6 digits of your library card number. Visit Closterpubliclibrary.org/wall-street-journal to begin. Don't have a library card? Visit the library and get one!

Belskie Library Art Wall – Landscapes of Color by Jong Rim Song beginning April 4th – May 2nd. This solo exhibit features a selection of paintings that explore color through abstracted landscapes.

Mayor's Committee For The Arts is pleased to host two concerts in the Library's Community room. Join friends and neighbors at 3pm on Saturday, April 11th as the *Ronen Mikay Duet* fills the room with the sounds of jazz and at 3pm on Saturday, April 25th at 3pm as *Music Friends* join together in an array of music.

The Library's regular programs for both adults and youth are too numerous to list! Check out the First Friday Flicks on April 3rd at 1pm featuring *Hamnet*. Please visit the library's website for program offerings, details and schedules. www.closterpubliclibrary.org or call 201-768-4917

Closter Shade Tree Commission

Arbor Day 2026 -For more than 25 years, the Borough of Closter under the auspices of the Shade Tree Commission has consistently met the Arbor Day Foundation's standards to be awarded the "Tree City USA" status. This year, as in keeping with a longtime Closter tradition, the Closter Shade Tree Commission will be hosting the Arbor Day celebrations at both Hillside Elementary and Tenakill Middle Schools.

What has now become a tradition in celebration of Arbor Day students are invited to participate in the "*Why Trees Are Important*" Poster Contest. It's a highlight of the Closter's Arbor Day celebration that is being held on Tuesday, April 28th.

Spring Suggestions from the STC

Deer Guards:



As spring approaches and residents begin their cleanups, plantings and tree maintenance please take the time to follow some important guidelines for tree care and mulching. If you see scrapes on your young trees, male deer caused them by rubbing their antlers against the trees. The damage this causes can eventually kill the tree. The Shade Tree Commission recommends installing "deer guards" on all young trees to help save them from inevitable damage.

Mulch:



Most folks don't realize there is a proper way to mulch trees. Mulch should never be piled up into a cone around a tree. These "mulch volcanoes" can actually kill trees. Instead, place mulch in a donut shape around the tree trunk, leaving 6 inches from the trunk. Proper mulching is simple and enriches the health of the tree while saving money on excess mulch material. Feel free to speak with your landscaper to ensure the mulch is placed correctly. The Shade Tree Commission has a host of information on the Borough's website, <https://www.closterboro.com/page/shade-tree-commission>

If you have any questions about either one of these suggestions or questions about shade trees, please send an email to shadetree@closternj.us

Mayor's Committee For The Arts

Mark your calendars for a summer filled with a fabulous lineup of music in Closter Plaza's "*Concert Corner*". Opening the 2026 Summer Concert Series is the *Magnolia String Band* on Wednesday, May 20th at 7pm. Please spread the word, bring a chair, and enjoy summer evenings filled with music. The **Mayor's Committee For The Arts** is grateful for the generosity EDENS offers to Closter's residents and businesses.

Closter Recreation Commission

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 4th at 11:00am sharp – Tenakill School Field.

Opening day Parade for Girls Softball and Little League Baseball will be held on Sunday, April 26th. The parade will form at 12:30pm and kick off at 12:50pm sharp - walking through downtown Closter to the George Potterton LL field for the opening day ceremonies.

Save the Dates:

The Annual Joe Accordino Jr. Memorial Fishing Contest Co-Sponsored by Police Unit 233 will be held on Saturday, May 9th at Ruckman Pond. Contest runs from 9am-12 noon. Registration form can be found on Closterrec.com

Monday, May 25th- The annual Memorial Day Parade will start at 10am and march through the center of town to Memorial Park for the Memorial Day Ceremony where Closter's Heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms are recognized along with our nation's heroes who did the same. The 2026 Grand Marshall is Lenny Albanese, United States Air Force, Retired. Please consider marching with one of the many organizations that will be in the parade and or watching this event from the streets of Closter.

The Closter Recreation Commission offers a host of varied sports programs. Information on programs can be found on the closterec.com website.

Closter Nature Center

Sunday, April 26th - **Annual Soup Supper**, 5-7pm at the Cabin. Support the CNC by enjoying delicious soups, breads and other dishes donated by local restaurants and residents! Come with family and friends; local musicians will be on hand too. Food to go and merchandise will be available for purchase. Interested in volunteering? Email adri.lindgren@closternaturecenter.org. Pay at the door: \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

Spring Semester of After-School Nature Classes – March 24th to June 4th (Pre-K4 to 6th Grade) Get the kids outside to experience the reemergence of our natural world amidst a blooming forest. A 10-week full semester and 5-week session are available. <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>

Summer Program Registration Opens April 1st – Weekly sessions run July 6th to August 27th. Get ready for the ultimate outdoor adventure. Our famous summer program offers eight weeks of exploration across 136 acres of ponds, streams, meadows and forests. Each week is 4 days of half-day sessions, serving ages 4-14. Visit: www.closternaturecenter.org/summer_program

Questions? Email info@closternaturecenter.org or call 201-800-2008

Closter Lions Club

Mark your Calendars for Sunday, April 26th as the Closter Lions serve up their delicious pancakes. The Lions Club is a 100% volunteer organization with a mission of assisting persons with The Closter Lions Pancake Breakfast is 8am-12pm at the Closter Elks Lodge on Railroad Avenue. Come enjoy the traditional breakfast of pancakes served with sausage, fruit, coffee, tea, juice or milk!

It's a community event with a strong mission of offering year round service to our community. Tickets are available by emailing the time Lions Club at closterlions@gmail.com. Bring the family and enjoy with friends and neighbors!



Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps



The 2026 Fund Drive has been mailed out to all residents. The CVAC Fund Drive notice is included on the last page of the newsletter, so please take a minute to check it out! To make a donation you can use the envelope that is included in our mailing or visit our CVARC's web site at www.CVARCNJ.org . 100% of your donation is used to support the services

Closter Troop 63

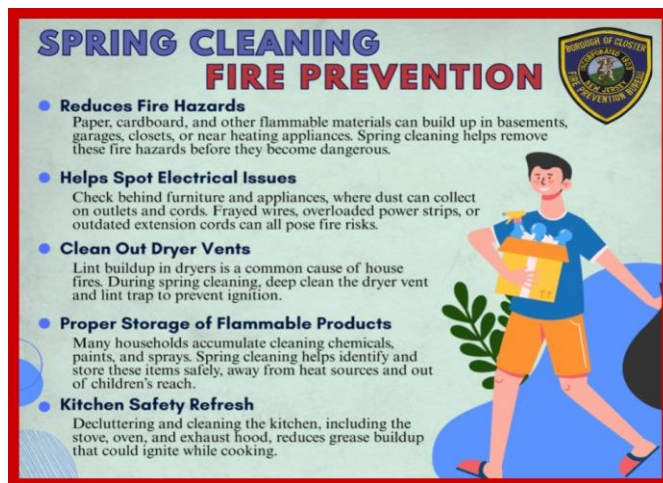
Closter Scout Troop 63 is hosting two special events to learn more about scouting activities and service opportunities. Join the scouts of Troop 63 at an Open House on April 1st at 6:30pm in the Closter Senior Center and learn about activities such as overnight camping, hiking, camp, swimming, cooking, learning new skills and volunteering and community service opportunities. Can't make it on 4/17? An information Zoom session is being held on April 22nd at 8pm. Visit www.clostertroop63.org or email clostertroop@gmail.com. Scouting offers students ages 11-17 with amazing opportunities .Find the ZOOM link below:
:<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7233441214?pwd=aZM4GrOtFKIHHind59qBILWinM9xjj.1&omn=72925869626> .

A Notice from Bergen County

United We Serve: A Week of Service ~ April 18th – 26th

One Week. Hundreds of Ways to Serve! Bergen County is proud to host “*United We Serve*”, a weeklong series of volunteer opportunities designed to strengthen our community and support those in need. Please visit the website, <https://share.google/DBNq4JRyse4rayJDf> to explore all of the ways to participate in the “United We Serve” volunteer program

Closter Fire Prevention Bureau



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The Borough of Closter 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.

All the Best,

Mayor

## Closter Volunteer Ambulance Corps

### CLOSTER VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE & RESCUE CORPS

1936



2026

### 2026 Fund Drive



We are celebrating our 90th year of continuous VOLUNTEER services, and

# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps, Inc. is a 40 active member organization (comprised of YOUR neighbors) who services the emergency medical needs of Closter and Alpine in addition to supporting our surrounding communities 24 | 7 | 365. We answer approximately 800 emergency calls per year; 2025 showing the 2nd highest call volume in our history. In addition to that, we were named 2025 NJ Squad of the Year by the NJ EMS Council! That's #1 of over 250 squads.

**Our funding is NOT part of your county or state taxes.** It does not come from the hospitals. It comes from good people like you who want to do what they can to support our services. And you will be pleased to know that 100% of your donation is used to support the services above. We do not charge for our services; our volunteers do not get paid.

Our fleet consists of two NJ State certified ambulances, an E-ONE Rescue Truck equipped to handle vehicle extrication and ropes/rappel rescues, a first response SUV, a UTV, and a boat. We take great care of our vehicles, however most are aging. The ambulances were new in 2008 and 2014, the Rescue truck new in 2000. As you can imagine, to maintain these vehicles takes a lot of financial help.

In addition to vehicle maintenance and medical supplies, some of the equipment within those vehicles is very costly. We own three LUCAS automated CPR units. The lifespan of these units is only 8 years! We recently purchased the third unit which cost \$24,000. It is now placed in rotation with the older units which have 4 years to go before they need replacement. We all know how important automatic defibrillators are to saving a life. An AED has a lifespan of about 5 years, and the units are approximately \$2000 to replace. **Long story short, we count on YOUR donations more than ever.**

Any sized donation is welcomed. To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope, or go to [www.cvarcnj.org](http://www.cvarcnj.org) and click on the "donate" button or use the QR code below to use the PayPal app OR Venmo.

Should you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps please feel free to contact us at 201-768-3339 or send a message through our Facebook page.

Sincerely,

*M Buchanan*

Margaret Buchanan, Captain

*A Lupardi*

Anthony Lupardi, Jr., President

*Thank you for donating*



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venmo