BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

John C. Glidden, Jr.
Mayor

Office 201-784-0600 x 500
Email jglidden@closternj.us

Borough Council

Victoria Roti Amitai **Chris Cho** **Jannie Chung**
Alissa Latner **Anna Maroules** **Joseph Yammarino**



MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER

February 28, 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

February was a wonderful month, filled with a number of celebrations. The February 2026 issue of the Mayor's Newsletter brings some important messages, news and events in town. Please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x 500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

Closter's MacBain Farm Park

Earlier this month the community paid a final tribute to life-long Closter resident, friend, volunteer and MacBain Farm steward, John McCaffrey. John was the backbone of the establishment of MacBain Farm Park, developing and cultivating this horticultural treasure for the Borough and its residents. His artistic vision and in-depth knowledge of landscaping combined with his love of nature brought artistic design to Closter residents to pick vegetables, volunteer in the gardens and educate our children. While hearts are heavy, the Borough remains committed to carrying on the mission of community at the MacBain Farm Park.

MacBain Farm Volunteers

As a community, Closter is extremely fortunate to have dedicated volunteers. The volunteers overseeing the MacBain Farm are a tremendous group. Working together, these folks assist in the planning, preparation, planting, weeding and management of the Farm's fields in order to provide an abundance of vegetables, herbs and flowers for Closter's residents. Despite a particularly hot summer, 2025 was no exception as to the bounty cultivated at the farm. The annual gathering of the MacBain Farm volunteers was held in early February where comradery and enthusiasm to return to the fields of Closter's horticulture treasure. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the volunteers of the MacBain Farm!









Recognizing the P.A.V.A. Volunteers

Joined by Councilman Chris Cho at the February 11th Mayor & Council meeting, I was honored to acknowledge by Proclamation the spirit of volunteerism and the dedication of P.A.V.A. (Pacific Asian Volunteer Organization) to the Borough of Closter. This active, hard working group of volunteers has contributed by supporting Closter's MacBain Farm, Environmental Commission activities and town events. Closter is grateful for their continued interest in participating in our events and support of our activities.



Ground Hog Day 2025 Celebration

Right in line with Staten Island Chuck and Punxsutawney Phil, *Closter Chuckie* paid a special visit to Hillside School accompanied by his handlers, Mayor Glidden, Councilwoman Victoria Amitai and Closter Public Library Director, Ruth Rando. When *Closter Chuckie* emerged from his burrow, a shadow he did see and declared six more weeks of winter it would be!



Celebrating Chinese New Year

What a fabulous way to celebrate Chinese New Year. In addition to an uplifting program held at Hillside Elementary School, students under the supervision of the KPG (Korean Parent Group) illuminated the Closter Senior Center with a beautiful presentation by dancers and musicians welcoming Chinese New Year, *The Year of the Horse*. The celebration was enjoyed by all! Sincere appreciation to the KPG and to our students for bringing an uplifting and lively performance to Closter.





Ramadan



The *Muslim Community of Closter*, under the leadership of Farhat Khalique, held a lovely celebration beginning the month long period of Ramadan.

Throughout the world Muslims celebrate Ramadan, the month long period of reflection, to commemorate the first revelations of the Quran to the Prophet Mohammad. It is a time of worship and reflection.

Save The Date **– Closter Town Hall Presentation ~** ***"What is Tax Assessment vs. Property Tax"***

Thursday, March 19th at 7:00pm in the **Closter Senior Center, 4 Lewis St.** is the date the Closter Mayor and Council will be holding a special Town Hall Meeting for Closter residents. Join Angela Mattiace, Closter Tax Assessor and Appraisal Systems professionals as they present an overview of *"Tax Assessment vs. Property Tax"* to assist Closter's residents.

Closter Police Department

Ice Skating on Ruckman Pond (Closter Nature Center) ~ Residents are reminded that ice skating is permitted on Ruckman Pond ***only when conditions are clearly posted as safe by the Closter Nature Center***. For everyone's safety, skaters should look for official signage or announcements confirming that the ice has been inspected and approved. Conditions will be posted on the cabin facing the parking lot. Please respect all posted rules to ensure a safe and enjoyable winter experience for the entire community.

Annual Alarm Registration Renewal Reminder ~ The Closter Police Department would like to remind all residents and business owners that **annual alarm system registration is currently underway** as required by Borough ordinance. Under **Closter Ordinance § 65-4**, any residential or commercial burglar or fire alarm system that summons police or fire response must be registered with the Police Department each year. To comply, a **2026 Alarm System Registration Application** and the **$50 annual fee**, payable to the Borough of Closter, must be filed with the Closter Police Department by **March 1, 2026**. After that date, systems without current registration will be considered **unregistered** and subject to summons and mandatory municipal court appearance, along with additional penalties beyond the registration fee.

Speed Limit Evaluation – Schraalenburgh Road ~ The County of Bergen recently completed a comprehensive speed limit evaluation along Schraalenburgh Road in Closter at the request of the Closter Police Department. The review was prompted by concerns regarding pedestrian safety and increased commuter activity at multiple NJ Transit bus stops along the corridor. The evaluation included a speed study conducted by the Bergen County Sheriff's Office in September 2025, a review of roadway conditions, pacing of vehicles, analysis of land use, and examination of three years of crash data. The study also considered the mix of residential properties, restaurants, a large church congregation, signalized intersections, and bus stop locations throughout the corridor. Based on its findings, the County has recommended lowering the speed limit on Schraalenburgh Road to 35 MPH from Old Hook Road south to the Haworth municipal line, and to 40 MPH from Old Hook Road north to the Harrington Park municipal line. The County has also recommended increased police enforcement. These changes are intended to enhance safety for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation users throughout the corridor. The Borough of Closter and County of Bergen have officially adopted these changes and signage will be updated in the early spring. This is the first of several steps planned to improve vehicle and pedestrian safety.

Snow Removal Requirements for Residential and Commercial Property Owners ~ Property owners, tenants, or occupants are required to remove snow and ice from the public sidewalks abutting their property, including walkways, ramps, staircases, and access to fire hydrants. Snow and ice must be cleared within twelve (12) hours of daylight following the end of the storm and maintained thereafter to keep the area safe

for pedestrian travel. Sidewalks and related pedestrian areas must be cleared to a minimum width of thirty (30) inches, or the full width if less than thirty inches. If ice cannot be completely removed due to weather conditions, it must be treated with a suitable material to reduce hazards. Snow and ice may not be thrown or deposited into public streets or onto neighboring properties. Failure to comply may result in enforcement action, including fines and the Borough may arrange for removal with the cost assessed against the property.

Closter Recreation Commission

Spring sports registration is open! Please register for baseball and softball for Grades K-8 before March 8th to avoid the late fee registration. closterrec.com

Save The Dates:

Saturday, April 4th at 11:00 am ~ Easter Egg Hunt – Memorial Park Playground

Sunday, April 26th 12:30pm ~ Opening Day Parade – Girls Softball/Little League; 1st pitch at George Potterton Little League Field is 1pm

Saturday, May 9th at 9:00am-noon ~ *Joe Accordino Jr. Memorial Fishing* contest at Ruckman Pond. This great annual event is co-sponsored with the Closter Unit of PBA Local 233

Monday, May 25th at 10:00am ~ Memorial Day Parade followed by Memorial Day Service; details to follow

Mayor's Committee For The Arts



The Mayor's Committee for the Arts is planning a full array of concerts this spring and summer at Concert Corner located in Closter Plaza. These outdoor "pop-up" musical events are certain to be enjoyed by all.

While we wait for the warmer weather, the Mayor's Committee for the Arts is hosting winter concerts in the Community Room of the Library. Join friends and neighbors on Saturday, February 28 at 2pm and enjoy the music of Rob & Amy, a popular, local duo!

The Closter Plaza "Concert Corner" schedule will be posted shortly.

Closter Public Library

This March the Closter Public Library is pleased to feature the following Special Programs:

Wall Street Journal ~ Beginning March 1st the Library will offer access to the Wall Street Journal through our website with the first 6 digits of your library card number. Visit ClosterPublicLibrary.org/wall-street-journal to begin.

Save The Date ~ Where Was Closter?
Local historian Tim Adriance has written an engaging paper on the early days of Closter. Tim explores how the name "Closter" once referred to a much larger portion of the surrounding area and provides valuable insight into the community's origins. This paper is illustrated with historical maps and images that help bring this history to life. Copies are available to borrow from the library. Tim's presentation, "Where Was Closter", is scheduled for October 3rd at 2pm.

The library continues to offer a large array of programs and services. The featured First Friday Flick on March 6th at 1pm is Blue Moon. Please visit the library in person or online to view the extensive calendar of events. The array of Youth Services programs are listed on our website. Signup for the newsletter and never miss a program! Visit the Closter Public Library's website, www.closterpubliclibrary.org for details on programs and services.

Closter Environmental Commission

Join the ***Closter Green Challenge***! Start the year strong by challenging you and your family to reduce household waste. Choose one habit to stick with all month:

- Shop local to reduce packaging waste
- Say no to single-use utensils and straws
- Get creative with leftovers
- Store food in glass Tupperware rather than foil or cellophane

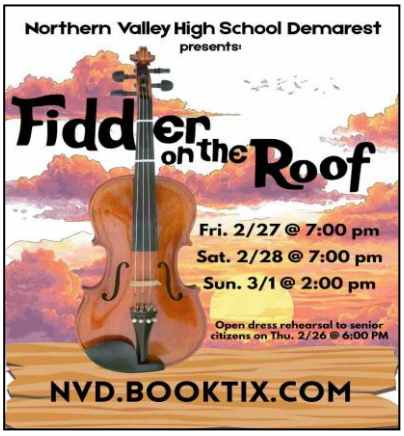
Join us and share: Post a pic of how you met the challenge and share using hashtag #ClosterGreenChallenge by Feb. 28th. Your Green Challenge actions will be recognized on SustainableCloster.org. (If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the work of the Closter Environmental Commission, please contact us at hello@sustainablecloster.org

Belskie Museum of Art & Science

MAG 26 opened on February 8th at the Belskie Museum of Art & Science. This collection of original art by 17 talented artists includes oil paintings, mixed media and watercolor. Following the opening exhibit, the Belskie Museum's hours will be Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm – 4 pm. Hours by appointment can be arranged by calling 201-768-0286. The Belskie Museum is located at 280 High Street next to the Closter Public Library. It is a destination you will certainly want to visit. www.belskiemseum.com



Northern Valley Regional HS – Demarest



Fiddler On The Roof will be performed at Northern Valley Reg. H.S. - Demarest on Fri., Feb. 27 at 7pm, Sat., Feb. 28th and Sun., March 1st at 2pm.

Tickets are on sale now at: nvd.booktix.com

(A senior citizens performance will be on Thursday, Feb. 26th at 6pm.

Come on out and enjoy this fabulous production!

Closter Nature Center

Sunday, March 1st, 6pm ~ *Moon-Lit Hike* ~ Join a guided hike through the crisp evening woods and warm up by a cozy fire at the end (weather permitting): Register to attend at: www.closternaturecenter.org/events

Saturday, March 7th, 12pm ~ *Know Your Woodpeckers* ~An educational program by volunteer Daniel Kogan

Sunday, March 15th, 2–4pm ~ *Music By The Pond* at the Cabin ~ Musicians of all levels unite to exchange melodies and embrace nature's arena! A low-key and relaxing. Donations are appreciated
March 24th to June 4th ~ *The After-School Nature Program ~ Spring Semester: 10 weeks*: (PreK-4 to 6th Grade) Please visit our website, www.closternaturecenter.org; Register on Community Pass: register.communitypass.net/closter Questions? Email info@closternaturecenter.org or call 201-800-2008.

Closter Borough Hall – New Office Hours

Closter's Borough Hall is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and Friday from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

~~~~~~



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CLOSTER AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, JUNE 13th

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

~~~~~~

The Borough of Closter is moving forward in many positive directions. Volunteers are the *backbone* of our community; I encourage each of you to think of ways in which you can, as a volunteer, make a difference in Closter.

All the Best,

John Glidden

_____

Mayor