BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

John C. Glidden, Jr. **Office 201-784-0600 x 500**
Mayor

Borough Council
Victoria Roti Amitai **Christopher Cho** **Jannie Chung**
Alissa Latner **Anna Maroules** **Joe Yammarino**



MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER

January 30, 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Welcome 2026! The Mayor's Newsletter is designed to offer current events, activities and important notices. As always, my door remains open to all; please feel free to call my office at (201) 784-0600 x 500.

Closter's Governing Body ~ 2026

It was an honor to welcome Councilwoman Vicky Amitai and Councilman Joe Yammarino as returning council members to the governing body at the January 5th Reorganization Meeting. Arthur Chagaris of Beattie Padovano, LLC administered the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Amitai and Assemblyman John Azzariti – District 39 administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Yammarino. The announcement of the Village School ground breaking ceremony, scheduled for January 13th at 11am, was one of the highlights of the Borough's Reorganization meeting as the governing body continues its work to enhance opportunities for growth in Closter.



Councilman Joe Yammarino



Councilman Cho, Councilwomen Maroules & Amitai, Mayor Glidden, Councilwomen Chung & Latner, Councilman Yammarino



Councilwoman Vicky Amitai



2026 Reorganization Meeting of the Borough of Closter

Village School Commons ~ Ground Breaking Ceremony

January 21st was a beautiful morning to put the "shovel in the ground" and celebrate the official ground breaking of the Village School Commons project with residents, friends, neighbors and the Closter Council, MasterMind LLC., clergy and dignitaries. A separate announcement about this project will be issued shortly.



Mayor John Glidden






Senator Holly Schepisi

An *IMPORTANT* Notice from the Closter Department of Public Works

Starting January 1st **all** cardboard, paper and commingled "blue barrel" recycling ***must be placed together at the curb on your normal Wednesday for recycling pickup***. Please refer to the Borough's 2026 Recycling/Trash Calendar (mailed to all households in late December) to confirm the scheduled collection dates which are listed as East Side or West Side Recycling/Paper/Cardboard. The Recycling /Trash Collection Calendar is available on the Borough's website (www.closterboro.com).





Closter Police Department



TRAFFIC ALERT: *Knickerbocker Road Speed Limit Reduction*

The Closter Police Department is informing residents about a recently approved speed limit change on Knickerbocker Road**.** At the request of the Closter Police Department—based on safety concerns including a history of motor vehicle crashes and challenging road conditions—Bergen County's Department of Planning and Engineering conducted a traffic study in 2025. As a result, the County Board of Commissioners approved lowering the posted speed limit on Knickerbocker Road within Closter from **40 mph to 35 mph**. This change reflects our ongoing commitment to roadway safety and aligns with broader efforts to reduce crash severity and improve conditions for drivers, pedestrians, and neighbors along this busy corridor. Residents should be aware of the new 35 mph signage and drive attentively, especially during peak travel and school commuting times.

Residential Security & Package Theft Prevention

While the holiday season has passed, package deliveries and travel remain common in January. Residents are reminded to lock doors and vehicles, even when home, and to use exterior lighting and security cameras when available. If traveling, residents should consider holding mail or arranging for a trusted neighbor to

collect packages. Suspicious activity should be reported promptly to the Closter Police Department so officers can respond quickly and help keep neighborhoods safe.

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 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.

This registration helps the Police Department maintain accurate contact and location information for alarm systems, reducing false activations and improving emergency response efficiency. If you are a new owner or tenant with an alarm system, please register upon installation completion. Contact the Closter Police Department at 201-768-5000 or visit the Borough website to access the registration form.

Winter Weather & Cold-Weather Safety

January brings winter weather that can significantly impact roadway and pedestrian safety. The Closter Police Department reminds residents to slow down when driving in snow or icy conditions, increase following distances, and ensure all snow and ice are fully cleared from vehicle roofs, windows, and lights before driving. With shorter daylight hours, pedestrians are encouraged to remain visible and use crosswalks whenever possible. Residents are also urged to check on elderly neighbors and those who may need assistance during periods of extreme cold.

Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps



There are several ways you can help us to help you!

- Keep a current list of all medications and any drug allergies. the top of the list have the patient's full legal name (*no nick-names*) and date of birth. Have the list in an easily accessible location where it can be shown to EMS.
- Be ready to briefly explain the patient's major medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart issues).
- If the patient has a valid DNR (Do Not Resuscitate), you must provide the physical document. By law, verbal instructions cannot be honored.

Mayor's Committee of the Arts



The Mayor's Committee of the Arts, chaired by Councilwoman Vicky Amitai, is pleased to announce a series of concerts which will be held in the Community Room at the Closter Public Library.

The array of performers scheduled for the 2026 Concert Series offers something for everyone's musical interest.

Updates will be posted on both the Borough and Library websites.

All are invited to attend!

Closter's Belskie Museum

MAG 26 opens on February 8th at the Belskie Museum of Art & Science. The collection of original art by 17 talented artists includes oil paintings, mixed media and watercolor. This lovely group exhibition opens on ***Sunday, February 8th at 1pm***. It is an inspirational exhibit. (The snow date is February 15th, 1-4pm)

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

Closter Environmental Commission

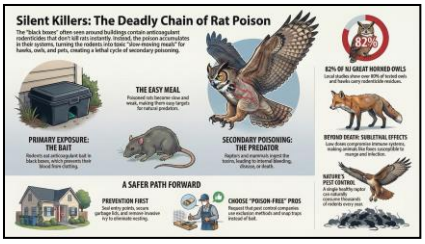
Have you noticed the black plastic boxes sitting along building foundations or in shopping centers? While intended to control rodents, these bait stations often contain anticoagulant rodenticides—blood-thinning poisons that are wreaking havoc on our local ecosystem.

These poisons do not kill rodents immediately. Instead, they leave rats slow and disoriented, making them easy prey for Closter's natural hunters: hawks, owls, foxes, and even domestic pets. When a predator eats a poisoned rodent, they ingest the toxin themselves. This "secondary poisoning" is lethal. Many magnificent animals found dead in our area have been confirmed by toxicology reports to have been killed by rat poison, including a pregnant Great Horned Owl. To control pests without killing their natural predators:

- Secure garbage cans, remove invasive ivy where rats hide, and clean up bird feeder spills.
- Block entry points to homes and businesses to prevent infestation before it starts.
- If you hire a pest control service, insist they use exclusion methods and snap traps rather than poison bait boxes.

For more information:

- Closter Environmental Commission, www.sustainablecloster.org
- Celery Farm, https://celeryfarm.net/rat-poison-in-the-news/
- Raptors Are The Solution, https://raptorsarethesolution.org



Closter's MacBain Farm Park

The 2026 season at the MacBain Farm is planning to be a busy one! The MacBain Farm Committee is coordinating activities and events to capture a multitude of interests. Volunteers are always needed to serve as greeters, assist with activities or events, for help with planting and of course, weeding!! The MacBain Farm continues to rely on community volunteers to support the farm's ongoing success.

The MacBain Farm, located at 203 Hickory Lane, will be open in the spring on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9am-1pm and 4pm-6pm, weather permitting. *Closter residents will need to bring a form of ID and Proof of Residency to register and pick produce once a week on any of the 3 days the farm is open weekly*. Parking for the MacBain Farm is on Hickory Lane.

The "Friends of MacBain", a nonprofit 501c3 organization, works to provide additional support to this magnificent farm. Support the *Garden That Gives Back* by sponsoring a row at MacBain Farm Park. With a $150 donation, you can sponsor a row of vegetables for the 2025 season at MacBain Farm Park. Your sponsorship supports planting, maintenance, education, and community access—and includes a personalized sign with your name (or your family's, business, or a dedication in honor or memory of someone special). Let your legacy grow alongside the sunflowers and snap peas! Here's how to get started:



Click Here to Fill Out the Quick Form
Send your $150 donation via Zelle
Zelle: FriendsofMacBain@gmail.com
Check: Friends of MacBain, PO BOX 68, Closter, NJ 07624
We'll install your custom sign at the farm!

Closter Nature Center

Full Moon Hike, Sun., Feb. 1st at 6pm at 1pm at the Cabin – Embrace the magic of a winter night at CNC under the glow of the February full moon with a guided hike. Donation suggested. Register at www.closternaturecenter.org/events.

Artists on the Cliffs, Thurs., Feb. 5th, 7pm at the Cabin – Public Historian Francesca Costa presents an illuminating look at the artists who shaped the Palisades. Discover the work of pioneering environmentalists whose artwork and conservation efforts continue to protect this stunning landscape. Open to all, free!

Music by the Pond, Sun., Feb. 15th 2pm-4pm at the Cabin –Both professional and amateur musicians come together to share their talents! Donations are appreciated.

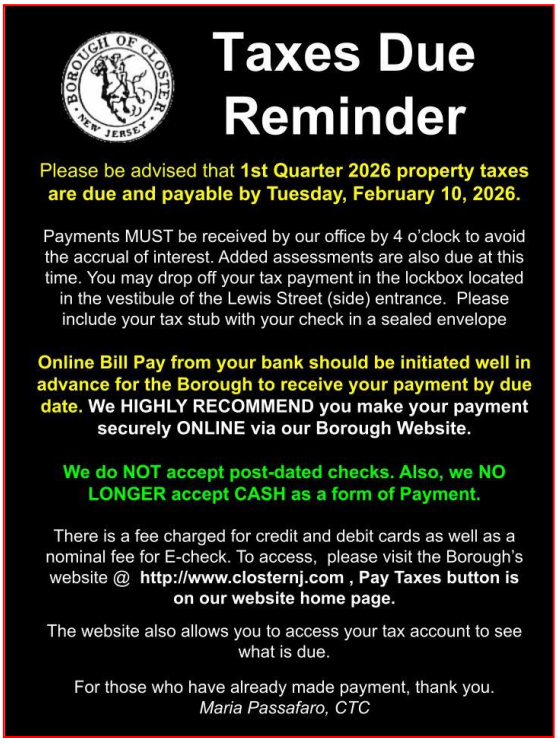
After-School Nature Program – Winter Session II Feb. 10th – March 19th (ages 4-14) - Afternoon children's classes feature nature walk, wildlife encounters, hands-on discovery and more. Register on Community Pass: register.communitypass.net/closter

Winter Break Children's Program (Ages 4-14) Feb. 17th – 19th -Outdoor adventures, exploration, hands-on ecology lessons and more! Register on Community Pass: register.communitypass.net/closter

Closter Public Library

The library is proud to host the Mayor's Committee of the Arts concert series at 2pm on both February 14th – Mark Wright fills the air with New Orleans music and February 28th is the music of Rob & Amy. First Friday Flicks takes place on February 6th at 1pm with the film *One Battle After Another*. Regular Programs are scheduled throughout the month. Visit the library in person or online, www.ClosterPublicLibrary.org for a complete calendar of programs and activities. Just a reminder, the library will be closed on Monday, February 16th for Presidents Day.

A Reminder from the Tax Collector's Office



A Message from the Superintendent's Office – Closter Public Schools

Closter Public School proudly offers an Integrated Pre-K program for children ages 3 or 4, designed to nurture young learners in a warm, engaging environment. Our program uses the Tools of the Mind curriculum to support self-regulation, creativity and strong academic foundations. All classes are taught by a certified teacher and include lessons led by a certified speech therapist, ensuring rich language development and individualized support. With a strong focus on early literacy and numeracy skills, children build confidence and readiness for kindergarten. Art, music and movement are thoughtfully infused throughout the curriculum, making learning joyful, active and meaningful. Give your child a strong start at Closter Public School! Applications are available at http://closterschools.org/ beginning January 9, 2026.

Northern Valley Regional H.S. Demarest – *Save the Date!!*

NVD High school would like to invite you to our upcoming musical:



FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Friday, February 27th, & Saturday, February 28th at 7:00 PM
Sunday, March 1st, 2:00 PM

NVD.BOOKTIX.COM

Winner of nine Tony Awards when it debuted in 1964, *Fiddler on the Roof* is the brainchild of Broadway legends, Jerome Robbins and Harold Prince, songwriters Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick; and book by Joseph Stein.
Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, Fiddler on the Roof's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

SHOW DATES
Friday, February 27th, 7:00 PM
Saturday, February 28th, 7:00 PM
Sunday, March 1st, 2:00 PM

NVD.BOOKTIX.COM

February 26th: Senior Citizen Dress Rehearsal at 6:00 pm
Contact marconid@nvnet.org for tickets for this performance or any questions.

Making Prom Possible for Bergen Co. Special Services School District Student

Community support comes in a variety of ways. The Bergen County Special Services School District is a special needs school that supports students of all abilities by creating inclusive and meaningful experiences. ***Prom*** is one of those experiences, and with community support, this drive can ensure every student feels valued and included for Prom.

Women's Prom Dresses, shoes, jewelry & accessories, Men's suits & tuxedos, dress shirts, ties and bowties, dress shoes Women's formal Wear. Monetary donations are also needed to offset the cost of the DJ, decorations, refreshments and dry cleaning services. A collection box for Women's and Men's Formal Wear will be available in the Closter Borough Hall (on the main floor) from February 1st through 14th. Alternatively you can contact jenven@bergen.org or 201-343-6000x 8718. www.bergen.org

Project Graduation 2026

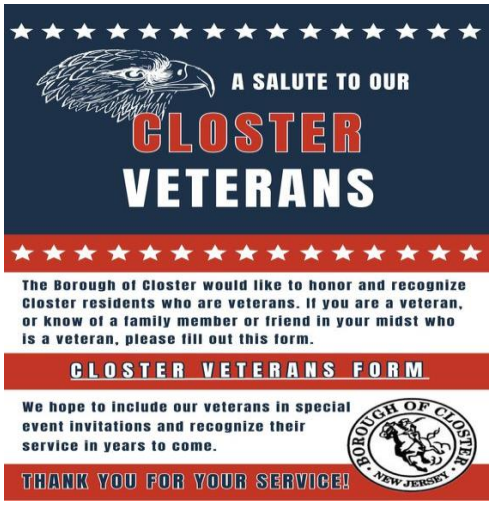


Project Graduation 2026 is focused on providing our local seniors with a safe, fun, and memorable celebration on graduation night. It's designed to keep students together, supported, and in a positive environment during a milestone moment in their lives. An upcoming event is being held to support this effort, and we wanted to make our members aware of it. It's a great opportunity to enjoy a great evening while helping ensure graduation night is meaningful and safe for the Class of 2026. Think of it as a night out with purpose: • time with friends • a fun atmosphere • and the satisfaction of being part of something that truly matters. We are proud to help spread the word about initiatives like this that support our students and strengthen our community.

Message for Closter's Veterans

The Borough of Closter would like to honor and recognize its residents who are veterans. We hope to include our veterans in special event invitations and recognize their service for years to come. Thank you for your service!

https://tinyurl.com/clnjvets



~~~~~~~~~~~~

As I reflect on the growth and positive direction of our community, I am reminded of all that Closter provides which draws us to making it our hometown. The abundance of its neighborhoods, activities, schools, businesses, retailers, services, open spaces, parklands and, of course, our volunteer first responders in the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps who freely give many hours of their time. Our Borough professionals are committed to providing extraordinary services and supports which address the needs of our residents, visitors and businesses. Closter truly is the "*Hub of the Northern Valley*".

All the best,

John Glidden

Mayor
~~~~~~~~~~~~