BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

John C. Glidden, Jr.
Mayor

Office **201-784-0600 x 500**
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~ Closter Borough Council~

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



MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER

April 30, 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

This month's issue of the Mayor's Newsletter is filled with information on upcoming events as well as a photo gallery of the most recent recognitions and business openings. As always, my door is open; please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.

CLOSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Governing Body and I join the Closter Police Department in welcoming Officers Nicholas DiIorgi and Crista Booth to Closter.

Officer DiIorgi joins the department after serving with the Bergen County Sheriff's Office and graduating from the Bergen County Police Academy, where he was selected as a squad leader. A Haworth native with strong ties to the local community, he is currently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice. His background reflects a strong work ethic, leadership, and a deep commitment to public service.

Officer Booth brings prior experience from the New Jersey Transit Police Department, where she served following her graduation from the Hudson County Police Academy. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Caldwell University and has been recognized with a Life Saving Award for her response to an overdose incident. Her dedication to community service began early through volunteer coaching and continues in her law enforcement career.

Both officers are committed to serving the Closter community with professionalism, integrity, and pride.



Closter Police Officer Nicholas DiIorgi



Closter Police Officer Crista Booth (center)

CLOSTER SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Celebrating Arbor Day 2026 began with the reading of the Arbor Day Proclamation at the April 22nd Mayor & Council Meeting followed by Mayor Glidden recognizing students from Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School who won awards in the Shade Tree Commission's Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest. The artwork of Closter's students' highlighted *"WHY TREES ARE IMPORTANT*". For 26 years, Closter has earned its Tree City USA Recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation.

Pictured below with Mayor Glidden and STC Member, TJ McCaffrey, are Arbor Day Poster Contest winners



Mayor John Glidden with STC member T.J. McCaffrey and 2026 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners



Arbor Day Celebration – Hillside School



Arbor Day Celebration – Tenakill Middle School

CLOSTER PTO SPRING FAIR 2026



The Annual Spring Fair is being held on **Saturday, May 2nd** beginning at noon and closing at 5pm. (Rain date is May 16th).

There is something for everyone!

The PTO Spring Fair is a Closter tradition!! The Closter PTO has organized a fun-filled afternoon of activities for Closter's families, friends and neighbors enjoy.

Tenakill Middle School
275 High Street
Closter, NJ 07624

TOWN-WIDE CLEANUP *RESCHEDULED*

The wet weather last Saturday called for the Town-Wide Clean Up to be postponed until **Sunday, May 3rd**. Please consider participating in and supporting this important project as residents, volunteers and Environmental Commission members join together in this annual "clean up Closter" event.

There are two meeting sights – in front of the Closter Senior Center at 4 Lewis Street (behind the Borough Hall) or near the cabin at the Closter Nature Center, 154 Ruckman Rd. The Closter Clean Up is scheduled from 10am-2pm. While supplies for the cleanup and a map of the area will be provided, children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers are encouraged to come "weather-prepared"!

JOE ACCORDINO JR. MEMORIAL FISHING CONTEST



The annual Joe Accordino Jr. Memorial Fishing Contest, co-sponsored by Closter Recreation and the Closter Police Department, will be held on **Saturday, May 9th** at Ruckman Pond from 9am-12 noon. Registration forms, which should be brought with each child, can be found on the Borough of Closter's website (www.closternj.us) and on the Closter Rec website, www.closterrec.com

This annual event will have various awards supplied by the Closter Police Department and the Accordino family. Reminder to all entries to bring their own fishing equipment and BAIT! Ruckman Pond is stocked in advance with various species of fish for this contest to make it more enjoyable for the children participating.

CLOSTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Closter Historic Preservation Commission welcomes you to attend its **May 18th meeting, which begins at 7:30pm**, in Council Chambers at the Closter Borough Hall. There will be an informational session concerning a proposed new historic district along High Street.

Are you proud of your home? Well, so are your neighbors! Come learn how preserving historic properties strengthens the character and long-term value of your neighborhood. Hear how thoughtful preservation increases the desirability of individual homes while protecting the qualities that make your neighborhood special. Think about the beauty that first drew you to your home, preservation is simply a way to ensure that beauty continues for the future.

Join us to understand how smart, balanced planning can safeguard architectural integrity and keep the neighborhood you love intact. Being part of a protected historic area can generate a strong sense of pride in knowing your home is recognized and valued as much by neighbors as by you.

Currently in Closter, there is the West Street/Harrington Avenue historic district, comprising 28 properties, and there are 17 other individual landmark properties. The proposed new historic district would span High Street from West Street to "Old" Closter Dock Road.

MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR THE ARTS

The Mayor's Committee for the Arts announces the ***2026 Concert Series*** in the Closter Plaza which begins on **Friday, May 20th** with the ***Magnolia Street String Band***. On **Friday, May 29th** the magical sounds of jazz fill the air with the music ***of Ronan Mikay & Friends***. *All concerts begin at 7pm.* These delightful summer concerts are funded by EDENS generous donation and are held in ***Concert Corner*** **in the Closter Plaza**. In the event of adverse weather, concerts are planned for the following day. Guests are invited to bring a chair or blanket and enjoy a wide variety of music.



MEMORIAL DAY 2026 – PARADE & CEREMONY



Closter's Annual Memorial Day Parade will be held on **Monday, May 25th**. This annual event honors Closter' own heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice, along with our nation's men and women who gave their lives in defending our nation's freedom.

The parade will form at 9:30am in front of the Closter Plaza on Vervalen Street. The parade will start at 10am sharp. Mayor's Trophy will be awarded to the best group or float marching in the parade.

Immediately following the parade, the Memorial Day Ceremony will take place in the northeast corner of Memorial Park where this year's Grand Marshall, Lenny Albanese, will be recognized. All are welcome. Please contact Jim Oettinger at joettinger@closternj.us if your organization is interested in marching.

CLOSTER'S CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250th ANNIVERSARY

Closter's Rev 250 Town Day Parade kicks off on June 13th at 11:30am and concludes at Memorial Park/Tenakill School at noon, launching the town wide celebration. In true Closter fashion, *all* of Closter's civic organizations are invited to participate in the parade.



If your civic organization wishes to march in *Closter's Rev 250 Town Day Parade* or set up a table for the event at Memorial Park or Tenakill School, or be a part of both activities, please email Jim Oettinger at joettinger@closternj.us to reserve your place. Details regarding the parade, set-up and more will be forthcoming.

Join friends, neighbors and family for a fun day of activities which will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display.

Closter's Celebration Of America's 250 will replace the traditional town day in September. This event is planned to be a true celebration of our Country and of our Community!

CLOSTER NATURE CENTER

Spring Migration Bird Walk on **May 2nd, 9am** at the Cabin: This morning hike is dedicated to the "gems" of spring migration: Warblers! Led by CNC Trustee and birding enthusiast, Joel Rudin, this walk is designed for beginners Spots limited, registration required.at www.closternaturecenter.org/events

After-School Nature Program – Spring Session II (begins **May 5th – June 4th**), PreK-4 to 6th Grade. Let the kids experience the forest in its late-spring prime! Members $150, Non-Members $180 per child. Register on Community Pass: www.closternaturecenter.org

Open Public Board Meeting on **May 12th**, 7:30 pm at the Log Cabin

Music by the Pond on May 17th, 4-6pm Musicians of all levels unite to exchange melodies and find solace in the embrace of nature's arena.

Summer Program Registration ~ NOW OPEN! Registration for the CNC Summer Program from July 6th to August 27st. Explore 136 acres of ponds, streams, meadows and forests with naturalist Marc Gussen and his assistant! More information is available at www.closternaturecenter.org/summerprogram

Check out our new website – Same URL new design: www.closternaturecenter.org. Questions? info@closternaturecenter.org or call 201-800-2008.

CLOSTER RECREATION COMMISSION

The full day Summer Recreation program, which runs from 9am to 3pm daily in June and July, is closed because the maximum number of campers has been reached.

Parents can still send their children to the free half-day Summer Rec program that runs Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 12 noon at Memorial Park in Closter. This program is canceled if it rains.

Residents can register their K-8 grade children on the first day they bring them to camp. There is no pre-registration for campers. This free half day program starts Wednesday, June 29th, and runs through Friday July 31st at Closter Memorial Park on Harrington Ave. Parents can register their child on the day they bring the child to camp.

CLOSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library is now offering access to the Wall Street Journal through the website using the first 6 digits of your library card number. Visit www.closterpubliclibrary.org/wall-street-journal to begin. If you don't have a library card, this would be a good time to visit the library and get one! Bring your proof of residence with you.

The *Mayor's Committee For The Arts* has two concerts planned in May. Come enjoy the beautiful music of the **Understaffed Chamber Ensemble** on **Wednesday, May 13th**. On **Saturday, May 30th**. The Community Room will be filled with the sounds of music performed by the **CJC Music School**. Contact the library for more information.

Beginning on **May 4th through the end of June**, the Belskie Library Art Wall is featuring *"The Art Beyond A Syndrome"*, a collection of paintings and poetry by local artist, Andrew Weatherly. This forty-eight foot Art Wall can be viewed during normal library hours.

The Library's "regular" programs are listed on the library calendar and are posted on the library's website, www.closterpubliclibrary.org. Programs include First Friday Flicks – May 7th at 1pm featuring the film "A Complete Unknown", the Adult Book Club, ESL classes, Knitting and Craft Group, Technology help Zumba and more! Services and programs for our youth are too numerous to list so please visit the website. In honor of Memorial Day, the Library will be closed on **Saturday, May 23rd** and **Monday, May 25th**.

CLOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Cash in your clutter~ Get $50 from an old, working dehumidifier or room air conditioner. Learn more and apply in advance at oru.com NJRecycle. Recycle drop off events are planned for **Sunday, May 3, 2026** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and **Sunday, May 17, 2026** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Home Depot, 465 State Route 17, Mahwah, NJ 07430

CLOSTER DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"Ride A Truck to School" was a popular prize at the PTO Gala! Pictured below is Conrad Matthews with DPW Deputy Superintendent Cody Watkins and DPW employee James Carullo. Thanks for joining the DPW Team, Conrad!





Deputy Superintendent Cody Watkins, Conrad Matthews and DPW employee James Carullo

CLOSTER'S MACBAIN FARM

As signs of spring continue to emerge, so will the beautiful array of flowers that have been planted. Earlier this season, volunteers planted hundreds of bulbs and flats of "cold weather" plants, designed to launch the season at the MacBain Farm. In addition to the seasonal gardens, this summer events will include painting and photography classes.







The *Friends of the MacBain Farm*, a 501-3c non-profit, is launching the Second Annual **Sponsor-A-Row Fundraiser** for the 2026 growing season. 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 0762



A REMINDER FROM THE CLOSTER TAX COLLECTOR

The 2nd Quarter 2026 Property Taxes are due on **May 1st**. Property tax payments can be made online by visiting the Borough's website at www.closterboro.com. An alternative payment option is to leave your payment in the silver TAX drop-box located on the wall in the Lewis Street entrance of the Closter Borough Hall *(please do not leave cash*). The last day to pay is Monday, May 11th by 4pm.

NVD PROJECT GRADUATION 2026

The community is invited to join in the support of Project Graduation 2026 for Northern Valley Regional High School – Demarest graduates by participating in the Metropolitan Plant & Flower Exchange Fundraiser.

Metropolitan Plant & Flower Exchange is supporting NVD Project Graduation 2026 Fundraiser by offering a $10 donation to NVD HS Project Graduation for every $50 spent now through June 1st. Simply email NVDProjGrad@gmail.com to receive a flyer, then show the flyer at Metropolitan Plant when you check out.

NJ DEP FISH & WILDLIFE – WHITE TAIL DEER PRESENTATION

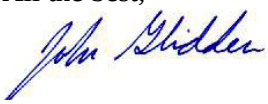
During a Town Hall presentation held on Monday, April 20th, NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife biologists, Brian Schumm and Megan Mills provided comprehensive information on the impact of the local white tail population's on public safety, property, environment as well as the health on the deer population. .

An informative article can be found on the NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife website ~
https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/wildlife/community-based-deer-management/

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Closter, the Hub of the Northern Valley, offers invaluable services for our residents, a safe environment in which to raise our families, activities for all age groups, a dedicated core of highly trained emergency response volunteers and a litany of volunteers who serve the community as a whole. 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,



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Mayor

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