

**MAIL LIST**  
**January 30, 2026**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Pertains to:</b>	<b>Agenda/Committee/ Liaison</b>
1.	1/22/2026	Division of Local Government Services	Local Finance Notice 2026-02	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
2.	1/23/2026	Bergen County Board of Commissioners	Commissioner Ordinance	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
3.	1/28/2026	County of Bergen	Bergen County celebrates Lunar New Year – February 12th	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
4.	1/29/2026	New Jersey Emergency Operation Center	Statewide Memo for Salt Supply Shortage from the Statewide Emergency Operations Center	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
5.	1/29/2026	County of Bergen	2026 Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
6.	1/30/2026	Borough of Closter	Mayor's Newsletter	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator
7.	1/28/2026	NJLM	<p>Weekly Roundup</p> <p><b><u>State Issues</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NJ Department of Environmental Protection Adopts the NJPACT REAL Rules</li> <li>• Governor Signs EO Instituting Temporary Regulatory Freeze</li> <li>• Division Issues Guidance on LOSAP Annual CPI Adjustment</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Federal Issues</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Budget Deadline Approaching</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Also of Interest</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show Off Your City 2026: Apply Today</li> <li>• Tuesday Talks with the Mayor Launched in Dunellen</li> <li>• 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Louis Bay Scholarship Contest</li> <li>• 2026 AARP Community College Grants</li> <li>• Celebrate Your Municipality During Local Government Week 2026</li> </ul>	Mayor and Council Borough Administrator



# Local Finance Notice

**LFN 2026-02**

**January 22, 2026**

Mikie Sherrill  
*Governor*

Dr. Dale G. Caldwell  
*Lt. Governor*

Jacquelyn A. Suárez  
*Commissioner*

Michael F. Rogers  
*Director*

Contact

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**Distribution**

Municipal CFOs

Municipal

Managers/Administrators

Municipal Clerks

Fire District Officials

Auditors

## LOSAP CY 2025 Annual CPI Adjustment (For Use in CY 2026)

This Local Finance Notice provides local units administering a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) with general information regarding LOSAP award increases and the annual cost of living adjustment to the maximum award amounts.

1. **Newly established LOSAPs:** New programs must provide a benefit between the minimum contribution of \$100 and maximum contribution of \$1,150 per year.
2. **Increasing base contribution amounts:** The LOSAP law did not contemplate increases to the initially approved base contribution amounts. As the LOSAP law intends that voters approve the base amount of contributions, base amounts cannot be increased solely by governing body action. The public referendum process must be used to increase award contribution amounts where the total appropriation would exceed the originally approved amount (plus allowed CPI adjustments and subject to minor adjustments based on number of participants). This use of the referendum is in addition to the provisions in N.J.A.C. 5:30-14.8 authorizing a referendum to create or abolish a LOSAP.
3. **Periodic or annual contribution increases (cost of living):**
  - a. Automatic CPI adjustments: Automatic annual cost of living adjustments are permissible if authorizing language was included in the enabling resolution or ordinance. Application of the automatic annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment is strictly optional.
  - b. Time-to-time CPI adjustments: If the enabling ordinance or resolution did not provide for an automatic annual CPI adjustment, the sponsoring agency may choose to provide a CPI adjustment from time to time. In this case, the LOSAP contribution may be increased up to a maximum equal to the cumulative percentage increase since the time the award was last set. The change is made by resolution without a public hearing.

- c. Authorizing automatic increases: If the sponsoring agency wants to provide for an automatic annual CPI adjustment to the LOSAP award, the agency must amend the enabling ordinance or resolution to authorize an automatic adjustment. This type of program amendment is subject to a public hearing whether adopted by ordinance or resolution. This action does not require a referendum.

**2025 CPI Adjustments for Use in CY 2026**

LOSAP rules require that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services annually calculate an adjustment to the maximum LOSAP contribution due to changes in the CPI. Please note that the amount of the increase cannot exceed the amount calculated by multiplying the current contribution by the inflation percentage.

There may be differences in the maximums between fire districts and municipalities where calculations represent different CPI quarters.

The increase in CY 2025 (for use in CY 2026) is **3.3% for municipal** (November) and **3.1% for fire district** (February) LOSAPs. Calculation history and details follow. The table also shows the maximum LOSAP award allowable for Programs that have been in effect since 1999.

**Fire District LOSAPs  
February to February CPI Change**

Year	Current Year CPI	Prior Year CPI	Consumer Price Index Factor	Maximum LOSAP Award for Programs in effect since 1999
2000	174.7	168.6	3.6%	\$1,191
2001	179.0	174.8	2.4%	\$1,220
2002	182.0	179.0	1.6%	\$1,240
2003	186.6	182.0	2.5%	\$1,278
2004	191.4	186.6	2.6%	\$1,311
2005	200.1	191.4	4.5%	\$1,370
2006	209.0	200.1	4.5%	\$1,432
2007	213.152	209.0	2.0%	\$1,461
2008	220.935	213.152	3.7%	\$1,516
2009	220.262	220.935	0%	\$1,516
2010	226.529	220.262	2.8%	\$1,558
2011	230.878	226.529	1.9%	\$1,588
2012	235.857	230.878	2.2%	\$1,623
2013	240.137	235.857	1.8%	\$1,652
2014	242.584	240.137	1.0%	\$1,669
2015	242.424	242.584	0%	\$1,669
2016	243.132	242.424	0.3%	\$1,674
2017	248.345	243.132	2.1%	\$1,709
2018	249.567	248.345	0.49%	\$1,717
2019	253.218	249.567	1.5%	\$1,742
2020	259.694	253.218	2.6%	\$1,787

2021	262.167	259.694	0.96%	\$1,804
2022	281.402	262.167	7.3%	\$1,936
2023	300.882	281.402	6.9%	\$2,070
2024	311.227	300.882	3.4%	\$2,141
<b>2025</b>	<b>302.935</b>	<b>311.227</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>\$2,208</b>

**Municipal LOSAPs  
November to November CPI Change**

Year	Current Year CPI	Prior Year CPI	Consumer Price Index Factor	Maximum LOSAP Award for Programs in effect since 1999
2000	177.9	174.4	2.0%	\$1,173
2001	182.9	177.9	2.8%	\$1,206
2002	185.8	182.9	1.5%	\$1,224
2003	190.3	185.8	2.4%	\$1,253
2004	200.2	190.3	5.2%	\$1,318
2005	207.5	200.2	3.6%	\$1,365
2006	211.6	207.5	2.0%	\$1,392
2007	218.929	211.6	3.5%	\$1,441
2008	225.113	218.929	2.8%	\$1,481
2009	224.787	225.113	0%	\$1,481
2010	228.543	224.787	1.7%	\$1,506
2011	235.440	228.543	3%	\$1,551
2012	240.537	235.440	2.2%	\$1,585
2013	241.141	240.537	0.25%	\$1,589
2014	244.948	241.141	1.6%	\$1,614
2015	243.697	244.948	0%	\$1,614
2016	246.952	243.697	1.3%	\$1,635
2017	248.956	246.952	0.8%	\$1,648
2018	253.040	248.956	1.6%	\$1,674
2019	257.966	253.040	1.9%	\$1,705
2020	259.979	257.966	0.8%	\$1,718
2021	274.647	259.979	5.6%	\$1,814
2022	295.978	274.647	7.8%	\$1,955
2023	306.276	295.978	3.5%	\$2,023
2024	316.617	306.276	3.4%	\$2,091
<b>2025*</b>	<b>316.061</b>	<b>326.334</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>\$2,159</b>

\*Due to the 2025 Federal government shut down, the CPI adjustment for Municipal LOSAPs is calculated using Current Year CPI from August 2025 and Prior Year CPI from August 2024.

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Approved: Michael F. Rogers, Director

## LOSAP – ENABLING ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION

The first step in creating a LOSAP is the adoption of the **enabling** ordinance or resolution. However, the ordinance or resolution does not take effect until the voters approve it as a public question at the next general election (for a municipality), or the fire district's next annual election. Ordinances and resolutions creating a LOSAP must include the following items:

- A general description of the program, including the point system to be utilized in determining eligibility for benefits;
- A statement of the proposed estimated total amount to be budgeted for the program;
- A statement of the proposed maximum annual contribution for an active volunteer member; and,
- If the proposed LOSAP authorizes credit for prior years service, a statement of the number of prior years of active emergency service that may be credited for each active volunteer member.

A majority vote of the sponsoring agency's governing body is required to approve the ordinance or resolution. Consent of the Director of Division of Local Government Services is not necessary for ordinances, resolutions, or ballot questions regarding a LOSAP. However, at the request of the sponsoring agency, DCA will review individual ordinances/resolutions, ballot questions and explanatory statements.

Copies of all approved LOSAP ordinances and resolutions must be filed with the Division within 30 days of the date of the referendum. Also, all election results must be certified by either the County Board of Elections or the fire district and a copy filed with the Division with 30 days of the date of certification.

### SAMPLE ENABLING LOSAP RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE

(Items in *italics* require the insertion of local information.)

(Text following "optional" means it is only to be included if the provision is chosen by the sponsor.)

Ordinance/Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_

**Whereas**, the (*sponsoring agency name*) deems it appropriate and necessary to act to ensure retention of existing members and to provide incentives for recruiting new *volunteer firefighters/first aid organization members*; and;

**Whereas**, the (*sponsoring agency name*) has determined that the creation of a Length of Service Award Program will enhance the ability of the (*municipality's/fire district's*) ability to recruit *volunteer firefighters/first aid organization members*;

Now, be it resolved/ordained by the (*sponsoring agency name*) that:

1. A Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) is herewith in accordance with Chapter 388 of the Laws of 1997, to reward members of the volunteer *firefighting/first aid organization names* for their loyal, diligent, and devoted services to the residents of (*sponsoring agency name*).

2. The LOSAP shall provide for fixed annual contributions to a deferred income account for each volunteer member that meets the criteria set forth below; that such contributions shall be made in accordance with a plan that shall be established by the *(sponsoring agency name)* pursuant to P.L. 1997, c. 388; and that such plan shall be administered in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and this *ordinance/resolution*.
3. The LOSAP shall provide for annual contributions to each eligible member that meets the criteria as follows:  
*(Insert schedules for: number of points required, and amount of award)*
4. (optional) The LOSAP shall provide for contributions as credit for no more than \_\_\_\_ years of prior years services for each eligible volunteer in accordance with the following schedule.  
*(Insert schedule of number of years of prior years service and contribution amount)*
5. The estimated cost of the program has been calculated as follows:
  - a. For regular annual services: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year.
  - b. (optional) For contributions for prior years service: \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year for an estimated \_\_\_\_\_ years.
6. Each active volunteer member shall be credited with points for volunteer services provided to the volunteer *fire company/first aid organization* in accordance with the following schedule:  
*(insert point schedule)*
7. That this *ordinance/resolution* shall not take effect unless it is approved by voters as a public question at the next *general/annual election*.
8. (optional) As the services provided by the *(name of the emergency services organization)* are provided to several *municipalities/fire district*, this plan is being coordinated with similar efforts in the other *municipalities/fire districts* served by the *(name of emergency services organization)*, and shall not take effect until approved by all other jurisdictions.

*(Adopting/closing language)*



2 ML 1.30.2026

Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

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## Commissioner Ordinance

1 message

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Barca, Thomas <TBarca@bergencountynj.gov>

Fri, Jan 23, 2026 at 1:35 PM

**Please find attached legislation related to the board of County Commissioners January 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting.**

### **Ordinance 26-01 Introduced at First Read**

Ordinance 26-01 was introduced and passed upon First reading at a meeting of the governing body of the county of Bergen, a body politic and corporate of the State of New Jersey (the "County"), held on January 21, 2026. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held at One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack New Jersey, on February 4, 2026, at 7:00pm.

### **Ordinance 26-01**

-  
Ordinance 26-01 is a Ordinance to revise an existing speed limit on a portion of Schraalenburgh road-borough of Closter.

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Thomas Barca

Clerk

Board of Commissioners

One Bergen County Plaza

Fifth Floor

Hackensack, NJ 07601

Tel: 201-336-6533/6289

[tbarca@co.bergen.nj.us](mailto:tbarca@co.bergen.nj.us)



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 26-01 f.pdf  
172K



**COUNTY OF BERGEN**

ONE BERGEN COUNTY PLAZA  
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601

**Certified Copy**

**Ordinance: 26-01f**

**Agenda: 1/21/2026**

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**Ordinance 26-01**

**Meeting Date: 1/21/2026**

**Planning & Engineering/ Division of Engineering**

**Reading: First**

**Purpose: Revise Existing Speed Limit on Portion of Schraalenburgh Road - Borough of Closter**

**Prepared By: JAF:sa**

**Sponsored by County Commissioner Sullivan, seconded by Chair Pro Tempore Voss, and introduced on first reading by the following vote:**

**Yes: 6 -** Chairman Tanelli, Vice Chairwoman Silna Zur, Chair Pro Tempore Voss, County Commissioner Amoroso, County Commissioner Marte, and County Commissioner Sullivan

**Absent: 1 -** County Commissioner Ortiz

I, Lara Pollitt, Clerk, Board of County Commissioners, certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. 26-01f, introduced on first reading by the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS on 1/21/2026.

*Lara Pollitt*

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_



3 ML 1.30.2026

Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

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## Bergen County celebrates Lunar New Year - February 12th

1 message

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Sands, Derek <DSands@bergencountynj.gov>

Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 4:48 PM

To: "Sands, Derek" <DSands@bergencountynj.gov>

Cc: "Pellicano, Breanne" <BPellicano@bergencountynj.gov>, "Dorsett, Craig" <CDorsett@bergencountynj.gov>

Good afternoon - Please join Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco and the Bergen County Board of Commissioners as we celebrate Lunar New Year on **Thursday, February 12, 2026** in the Conference Center at Two Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack.



The poster features a red horse with white floral patterns on its body, set against a background of yellow clouds and a red branch with yellow blossoms. The text is in red and black. At the top left is the Bergen County seal. At the top right, it reads: "Bergen County Executive, James J. Tedesco, III and the Bergen County Board of Commissioners in partnership with the Bergen County Asian American Advisory Board invite you to celebrate". The main title is "LUNAR NEW YEAR" in large red letters, followed by "YEAR OF THE HORSE" in smaller red letters. The date and time are "Thursday, February 12, 2026 5:30 PM". The location is "Conference Center Two Bergen County Plaza Hackensack, New Jersey". The invitation text says "Join us as we celebrate with delicious food, music, and cultural traditions." At the bottom left, it lists "James J. Tedesco, III Bergen County Executive" and "Bergen County Board of Commissioners" with a list of names: Steven A. Tanelli, Chairman; Tracy Sittha Zui, Vice Chairwoman; Dr. Joan M. Voss, Chair; Tom...

My best,

Derek Alan Sands (*he/him/his*)

Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of County Executive James J. Tedesco III

County of Bergen

Office – 201.336.6979

Cell – 201.250.6080



**Bergen County Lunar New Year Celebration.pdf**  
442K

4 ML 1.30.2026



Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

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## Statewide Memo for Salt Supply Shortage from the Statewide Emergency Operations Center

1 message

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**Sands, Derek** <DSands@bergencountynj.gov>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 11:43 AM

To: "Sands, Derek" <DSands@bergencountynj.gov>

Cc: "Dorsett, Craig" <CDorsett@bergencountynj.gov>, "Duch, Thomas" <tduch@bergencountynj.gov>, "Tiedemann, Matthew" <MTiedemann@bergencountynj.gov>

Good morning, Mayors & Administrators – On behalf of Bergen County OEM, please see the attached memo from the Statewide Emergency Operation Center regarding salt supply concerns.

My best,

Derek

**Derek Alan Sands** (*he/him/his*)

**Deputy Chief of Staff**

Office of County Executive James J. Tedesco III

County of Bergen

Office – 201.336.6979

Cell – 201.250.6080

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 **Statewide Memo For Salt Supply Concerns (Updated).pdf**  
1300K

**DATE:**

January 27, 2026

# **STATEWIDE COORDINATION MESSAGE**

**TO:**

All County & Municipal  
OEM Coordinators

## **Winter Weather Materials: Conservation, Demand Management, and Morton Salt Procedures**

### **Purpose**

This document provides statewide guidance on winter weather materials conservation, surge demand management, and standardized procedures for salt pickup operations at Morton Salt's Port Newark facility. The objective is to ensure safe, equitable, and efficient winter operations across all jurisdictions during periods of heightened demand.

### **Key Message**

There is no statewide salt shortage. Commercial suppliers, including Morton Salt, continue to meet previously scheduled and contracted delivery commitments. However, when counties and municipalities place simultaneous surge orders immediately prior to a weather event, commercial suppliers may be unable to fulfill those short-notice requests due to transportation, staging, and regional hauling capacity limitations. These conditions reflect surge-related constraints, not depletion of supply.

### **Operational Context**

- Commercial suppliers plan production and delivery schedules based on pre-season and pre-storm ordering
- Surge orders placed days before an event frequently exceed available hauling and port throughput capacity
- Conservation and prioritization measures are necessary during statewide surge periods

## **Statewide Conservation Guidance**

Counties and municipalities are strongly encouraged to implement the following measures during active winter operations, especially when concerns of low salt inventory arise:

### **Application Practices**

- Apply materials at manufacturer-recommended minimum effective rates
- Prioritize treatment of:
  - Bridges, overpasses, and elevated roadways
  - Steep grades, curves, and known hazard locations
  - Primary emergency response routes
- Avoid blanket re-application unless freezing rain or refreeze conditions exist

### **Operational Adjustments**

- Utilize spot-treating where feasible
- Delay treatment of secondary and low-volume roadways until conditions warrant
- Coordinate plowing operations to reduce unnecessary material loss

### **Alternative Materials**

- Use sand or treated abrasives where operationally appropriate
- Blend materials to extend salt inventories when safe
- Maximize use of brine or pre-treatment methods where available

### **Resource Prioritization**

- During periods of constrained surge availability, NJOEM and the SEOC will prioritize coordination efforts based on the following order:
  1. Life safety routes (EMS, fire, hospitals, dialysis access)
  2. Critical infrastructure and major transportation corridors
  3. Mass transit and public service continuity
  4. Secondary and local roadways

# Morton Salt, Port Newark – Pickup Procedures and Requirements

## Vehicles

- It is highly recommended that triaxle trucks are utilized for pickup of materials.
- If a county or municipality lacks suitable vehicles, coordination may occur directly with Morton Salt to arrange Morton-provided trucking assistance.
- Counties and municipalities may utilize contracted trucking companies for assistance; however, all such arrangements should be communicated to and coordinated with Morton Salt in advance.

## Driver Experience and Port Access

- It is strongly recommended that drivers with prior Port Newark pickup experience be utilized because driver registration is required.
- New or unregistered drivers have caused significant delays during surge periods.
- TWIC cards are **NOT** required.

## Experienced drivers are preferred because:

- They are familiar with site entry and loading procedures.
- Understand staging and traffic flow requirements.
- Know required radio channels and on-site communication protocols.
- Reduce congestion and prevent avoidable operational delays.

## Pickup Order Confirmation Requirements

- Counties and municipalities **MUST** have written email confirmation from Morton Salt for any of the following:
  - Initial pickup orders
  - Changes from scheduled delivery to pickup
  - Modifications to existing orders.
- Vehicles may not arrive without prior confirmation and coordination.
- Unconfirmed arrivals will not be accommodated.
- Email: **buyroadsalt@mortonsalt.com**

## Vehicle Documentation Requirements

- Each vehicle arriving for pickup must carry its own copy of the Morton Salt confirmation email.
- This requirement applies to every vehicle individually.
  - *Example:* 20 trucks = 20 confirmation emails (printed or electronic)
- Shared confirmations or single copies for multiple vehicles are not acceptable and may result in delays or denial of access.

## Planning and Preparedness Reminder

- Advance planning remains the most effective mitigation strategy.
- Counties and municipalities are strongly encouraged to:
  - Secure adequate pre-season and pre-storm salt orders
  - Review historical usage trends and adjust ordering accordingly
  - Coordinate with suppliers well in advance of forecasted events
  - Establish internal conservation activation thresholds

Early preparation stabilizes delivery schedules and reduces the impact of last-minute regional surges.

## Role of NJOEM and the SEOC

- The SEOC will continue to:
  - Monitor statewide demand and supplier capacity
  - Support prioritization during surge periods
  - Facilitate information sharing and coordination
  - Maintain situational awareness for executive decision-making

NJOEM does not replace local procurement responsibilities, but will support coordination and statewide awareness during elevated demand periods.

**Please ensure that all mutual aid options are being exhausted prior to making a request for State assistance.**

## Closing

New Jersey's winter response relies on coordination, conservation, and preparedness at all levels of government. Adherence to this guidance will help maintain safe operations, reduce delays, and ensure equitable access to resources during periods of heightened demand.

Questions regarding this memo should be routed through the State Emergency Operations Center.



NJEOC@NJSP.GOV



609-963-6900



NJ.GOV/NJOEM



5 ML 1-30-2026

Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

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## 2026 Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

1 message

Sands, Derek <DSands@bergencountynj.gov>

Thu, Jan 29, 2026 at 2:41 PM

To: "Sands, Derek" <DSands@bergencountynj.gov>

Cc: "Amoroso, Mary" <MAmoroso@bergencountynj.gov>, "Dorsett, Craig" <CDorsett@bergencountynj.gov>, "Knight, Colin" <cknight@bergencountynj.gov>, "Krouse, Cheryl" <CKrouse@bergencountynj.gov>

Good afternoon local officials: Please see the email below regarding the County's 2026 Historic Preservation Awards.

All the best,

Derek

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

## 2026 Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards

### Deadline: Friday, March 20, 2026

The Bergen County Historic Preservation Advisory Board is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards. In honor of America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs, and the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, will be prioritizing nominations for historic works focusing on the period surrounding the American Revolutionary War.

Since the program began in 1982, more than 300 awards have been presented to individuals, students, organizations, and businesses in honor of outstanding historic preservation achievements in Bergen County. These awards highlight efforts that protect, restore, and creatively reuse the County's historic buildings, houses, schools, houses of worship, cemeteries, and other invaluable cultural and historic sites.

"Bergen County is home to some of the most important Revolutionary War sites in New Jersey, and preserving that history is essential to understanding who we are today," said **Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco**. "As we approach America's 250th anniversary, these awards recognize the individuals and organizations who are doing the critical work of protecting our historic places and ensuring future generations can learn from them."

"The Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards are a meaningful way to highlight the stories, places, and people that shaped our role in the American Revolution," said **Commissioner Mary Amoroso, Bergen 250 Liaison**. "As we commemorate the 250th anniversary, we encourage nominations that bring our Revolutionary War history to life and honor the stewardship that keeps it preserved and accessible for our communities."

Nominations may be submitted in a variety of History and Historic Preservation categories, including restoration projects, educational programs or publications, community leadership, etc.

The **deadline for nominations is March 20th**. Details about award categories, eligibility, criteria, and the nomination form, are available on the Bergen County website at <https://bergencountynj.gov/bergen-county-department-of-parks/cultural-historic-affairs/historic-preservation-awards/>.

Honorees will be recognized at the 2026 Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards ceremony, scheduled for Thursday, May 7th at 7pm.

For questions or to submit a nomination, please contact Elaine Kiernan Gold, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (201)-336-7294 or [egold@bergencountynj.gov](mailto:egold@bergencountynj.gov).

*The Bergen County Division of Cultural & Historic Affairs is dedicated to supporting the arts, history, and historic preservation. The DCHA plays a leading role in building a flourishing cultural environment that benefits and distinguishes Bergen County as a New Jersey cultural destination, offering programs, services, and resources in all three areas.*

###



# BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

**John C. Glidden, Jr.**  
Mayor

Office 201-784-0600 x 500

Borough Council

Victoria Roti Amitai  
Alissa Latner

Christopher Cho  
Anna Maroules

Jannie Chung  
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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

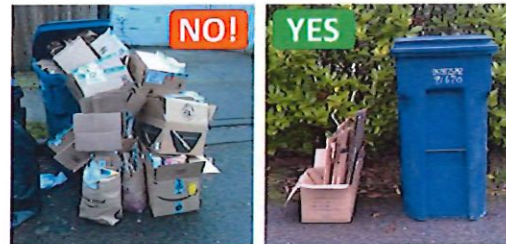


Senator Holly Schepisi



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

Starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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.

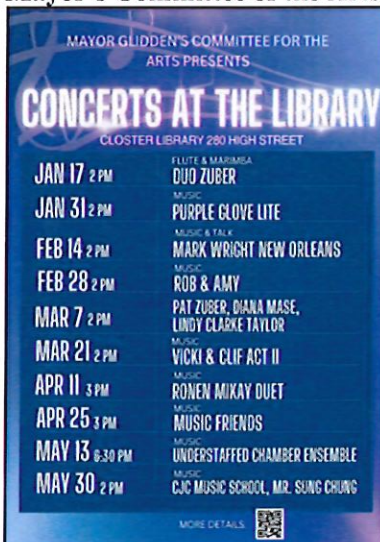
### **Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps**

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.belskiemuseum.com](http://www.belskiemuseum.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](http://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](mailto: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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.closternaturecenter.org/events).

Artists on the Cliffs, Thurs., Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 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. 15<sup>th</sup> 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. 10<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup> (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](http://register.communitypass.net/closter)

Winter Break Children's Program (Ages 4-14) Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> -Outdoor adventures, exploration, hands-on ecology lessons and more! Register on Community Pass: [register.communitypass.net/closter](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> – Mark Wright fills the air with New Orleans music and February 28<sup>th</sup> is the music of Rob & Amy. First Friday Flicks takes place on February 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ClosterPublicLibrary.org) for a complete calendar of programs and activities. Just a reminder, the library will be closed on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> for Presidents Day.

## A Reminder from the Tax Collector's Office



### Taxes Due Reminder

Please be advised that **1st Quarter 2026 property taxes are due and payable by Tuesday, February 10, 2026.**

Payments **MUST** be received by our office by 4 o'clock to avoid the accrual of interest. Added assessments are also due at this time. You may drop off your tax payment in the lockbox located in the vestibule of the Lewis Street (side) entrance. Please include your tax stub with your check in a sealed envelope.

**Online Bill Pay from your bank should be initiated well in advance for the Borough to receive your payment by due date. We HIGHLY RECOMMEND you make your payment securely ONLINE via our Borough Website.**

**We do NOT accept post-dated checks. Also, we NO LONGER accept CASH as a form of Payment.**

There is a fee charged for credit and debit cards as well as a nominal fee for E-check. To access, please visit the Borough's website @ <http://www.closternj.com>, Pay Taxes button is on our website home page.

The website also allows you to access your tax account to see what is due.


For those who have already made payment, thank you.  
*Maria Passafaro, CTC*

## 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 27<sup>th</sup>, & Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 PM

[NVD.BOOKTIX.COM](http://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 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 PM

[NVD.BOOKTIX.COM](http://NVD.BOOKTIX.COM)

February 26<sup>th</sup>: Senior Citizen Dress Rehearsal at 6:00 pm  
Contact [marconid@nvnet.org](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>. Alternatively you can contact [jenven@bergen.org](mailto:jenven@bergen.org) or 201-343-6000x 8718. [www.bergen.org](http://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>

A poster titled 'A SALUTE TO OUR CLOSTER VETERANS'. It features a dark blue background with a white eagle head silhouette on the left. The text 'A SALUTE TO OUR CLOSTER VETERANS' is prominently displayed in white and orange. Below the title, it says 'The Borough of Closter would like to honor and recognize Closter residents who are veterans. If you are a veteran, or know of a family member or friend in your midst who is a veteran, please fill out this form.' There is a section for 'CLOSTER VETERANS FORM' and a message: 'We hope to include our veterans in special event invitations and recognize their service in years to come.' The poster ends with 'THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!' and the official seal of the Borough of Closter, New Jersey.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Glidden'.

Mayor



7 ML 1.30.2026

Mari Margiotta <mmargiotta@closternj.us>

## REAL Rules Adopted; Regulatory Freeze; LOSAP Guidance

1 message

NJLM Weekly Roundup <noreply@civicplus.com>  
Reply-To: noreply@civicplus.com  
To: mmargiotta@closternj.us

Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 4:27 PM



View a Featured Ad at the End of this Email

January 28, 2026

## State Issues

### **NJ Department of Environmental Protection Adopts the NJPACT REAL Rules**

On January 20, the DEP adopted the amendments to the NJPACT Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) Rules.

[Read more: NJ Department of Environmental Protection Adopts the NJPACT REAL Rules](#)

**Contact:** Sadayah Q. DuRant-Brown, Legislative Counsel, [sdurantbrown@njlm.org](mailto:sdurantbrown@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x137.

### **Governor Signs EO Instituting Temporary Regulatory Freeze**

On January 23, Governor Sherrill signed Executive Order No. 7, instituting a regulatory freeze or 90-day pause on the proposal and adoption of new rules and regulations in the State.

[Read more: Governor Signs EO Instituting Temporary Regulatory Freeze](#)

**Contact:** Sadayah Q. DuRant-Brown, Legislative Counsel, [sdurantbrown@njlm.org](mailto:sdurantbrown@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x137.

### **Division Issues Guidance on LOSAP Annual CPI Adjustment**

The Division of Local Government Services (Division) has issued information regarding the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP), along with the annual cost-of-living adjustment to the maximum award amounts based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

[Read more: Division Issues Guidance on LOSAP Annual CPI Adjustment](#)

**Contact:** Erin Knoedler, Legislative Analyst, [eknoedler@njlm.org](mailto:eknoedler@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x116.

## **Federal Issues**

### **Federal Budget Deadline Approaching**

The federal budget expires on January 31. The House passed Appropriations bills for the Departments of Defense, Education, Transportation, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security. The Senate has yet to act.

[Read more: Federal Budget Deadline Approaching](#)

**Contact:** Paul Penna, Director of Government Affairs, [ppenna@njlm.org](mailto:ppenna@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x110.

## **Also of Interest**

### **Show Off Your City 2026: Apply Today**

The deadline is approaching for the Show Off Your City Contest. Municipalities are invited to send the League photos of their tourist attractions, downtown areas, economic development initiatives, parks, city halls, community groups, and new projects for the 2026 Show Off Your City Photo Contest!

The winning photo will be featured on the cover of the April issue of *NJ Municipalities* and the winner will also receive a free League publication of their choice. Entries will be posted on the League's Facebook page, and some featured in the April issue of *NJ Municipalities*, and possibly other issues.

Photos should be high-resolution JPEG, the bigger the image, the better it would look on a magazine cover, with the ideal size being 7MB or larger.

**Deadline: February 6.**

[Submit photos using the Show Off Your City submission form](#) or mail a CD or flash drive to 222 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608.

**Contact:** Amy Spiezio, Editor, [aspiezio@njlm.org](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x123.

## **Tuesday Talks with the Mayor Launched in Dunellen**

This week's [NJ Municipalities blog](#) focuses on the Borough of Dunellen's new resident outreach: the Tuesday Talks with the Mayor video series. Dunellen Mayor Jason Cilento noted that the short videos are where, "I'll be sharing timely updates, important local reminders, and happenings around our Miracle Mile as well as a highlight of a Dunellen business once a month."

Want to share your local story in the blog or print magazine? Please send in your 300- to 1,200-word items and photos.

**Contact:** Amy Spiezio, Editor, [aspiezio@njlm.org](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x123.

## **32nd Annual Louis Bay Scholarship Contest**

Municipalities are encouraged to participate in the League of Municipalities' 32nd Annual Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition for high school juniors and seniors.

[Read more: 32nd Annual Louis Bay Scholarship Contest](#)

**Contact:** Ciara Bradley, Research Associate, [cbradley@njlm.org](mailto:cbradley@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x128.

## **2026 AARP Community Challenge Grants**

AARP invites eligible local governments and nonprofits to apply for the 2026 Community Challenge quick-action grant program.

[Read more: 2026 AARP Community Challenge Grants](#)

**Contact:** Ciara Bradley, Research Associate, [cbradley@njlm.org](mailto:cbradley@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x128.

## **Celebrate Your Municipality During Local Government Week 2026**

Please join municipalities across the Garden State for 2026 Local Government Week from April 12-18 to engage citizens while celebrating the work of local government.

[Read more: Celebrate Your Municipality During Local Government Week 2026](#)

**Contacts:** Amy Spiezio, Editor, [aspiezio@njlm.org](mailto:aspiezio@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x123, or Taran Samhammer, [tsamhammer@njlm.org](mailto:tsamhammer@njlm.org), 609-695-3481, x124.

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