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

December 31, 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Happy New Year! I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Borough of Closter Sine Die and Reorganization Meeting ~ January 5, 2026 ~ 7:00 p.m.

The Sine Die and Reorganization Meetings of the Borough are scheduled for Monday, January 5, 2026 beginning at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers of the Closter Borough Hall, 295 Closter Dock Rd. Please consider joining the governing body as we close out the 2025 calendar year and begin the New Year.

Swearing in Ceremony of Closter's Council Members
Vicky Amitai & Joe Yammarino cordially invite you to join them as they celebrate the start of a new term of service & their commitment to our community
Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm
Closter Borough Hall, 295 Closter Dock Rd., Closter, NJ
Following the ceremony, light refreshments will be served

Your presence would be a great honor as we begin this next chapter together in dedication to the Borough of Closter

Closter's Hometown Heroes

Congratulations to Dr. Andy Baron who was honored at the annual Hometown Heroes Ceremony hosted by Congressman Gottheimer. Dr. Baron, a long-time Closter resident, was recognized for the many contributions he has made not only in Closter, but elsewhere in the world too. Dr. Baron is an active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, serves on the Closter Board of Health, volunteers with the Guatemala Dental Clinic and the list goes on! Thank you, Andy, for all you do for so many folks!



Councilwoman Latner, Dr. Andy Baron, Congressman Gottheimer, Mayor Glidden

Closter Food & Assistance Board

To all of our generous Neighbor-to-Neighbor Donors ~ the best problem to have is the issue of trying to fit all the gifts into this photo! In addition to all the gifts pictured here, the FAB in excess of $3,000.00 in gift cards to grocery stores and other vendors. This holiday season, the Food & Assistance Board provided support to 40 households and received 149 gifts for our clients. Support was received from 79 donors!



Thank you for your amazing generosity.

Environmental Commission

Are you concerned about rising energy costs? Do you want to help Closter save money, improve energy resilience and cut carbon emissions? The NJ Board of Public Utilities' Clean Energy Program has awarded Closter a grant for development of a Community Energy Plan. In the coming months the Environmental Commission will be working with residents, businesses, schools and municipal leaders to assess various ways to improve energy efficiency and expand our clean energy options. Residents who use heat pumps, solar panels or electric vehicles are encouraged to share their experiences and anyone with energy questions or concerns is welcome to join us. Please email us at hello@sustainablecloster.org, or join our monthly public meetings if you'd like to get involved. The Environmental Commission meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30pm via Zoom. The Zoom link is available on the Borough's website, www.closternj.us.

Closter Shade Tree Commission

Closter's Shade Tree Commission held its annual Fall Photo Contest in October/November of last year. The photos which were submitted were exceptional in representing the beauty of our trees. To view the top three photos, please click on the link … https://aptg.co/NKcjnt







Closter's Belskie Museum

The Belskie Museum of Art & Science proudly opens the 2026 season with work a collection of original art by ten talented artists from the "*Art Design Studio of Rockland*". This beautiful group exhibition opens on ***Sunday, January 11th at 1pm***. It is an inspirational, uplifting exhibit. (The snow date is Jan. 18th, 1-4pm)

Following the 2026 Opening Reception, 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 Nature Center

After-School Nature Program - Winter Semester runs January 6th – March 19th (ages 4 thru 14). Winter's brisk winds and snowy days don't have to bring outdoor adventures to a halt. Let your children join the intrepid and experienced Nature Marc for weekly hands-on environmental learning, lively explorations and engaging games and activities. Full details are available on the CNC website, www.https://closternaturecenter.org. Registration: https://register.communitypass.net/Closter

Primitive Technology, Hands-on Lecture, Thurs., January 15th at 7pm - Join expert naturalist Marc Gussen for a hands-on experience that brings ancient tools to life. Participants will learn about the essential survival skills that sustained early humans. Register to attend at www.closternaturecenter.org/events

Music by the Pond, Sunday, January 18th 2pm-4pm at the Cabin – An afternoon of music, nature and community at beautiful Ruckman Pond. Both professional and amateur musicians come together to share their talents! Donations are appreciated.

Closter History Hike, Saturday, January 24th at 1pm at the Cabin – Local historian Francesca Costa is your host for a guided, all-ages walk through Closter's evolution from its farming roots to the history of Blanch Avenue. This free, moderate-level hike is open to everyone!

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.

January 17th	at 2pm – Pat Zuber & Greg Zuber, Flute & Marimba
January 31st	at 2pm – Purple Glove Band, a lite version
February 14th	at 2pm – Mark Wright, New Orleans Music & Talk
February 28th	at 2pm – Rob & Amy
March 7th	at 2pm – Pat Zuber, Diana Mase, Lindy Clarke Taylor – Chamber
March 21st	at 2pm – Vicki & Clif, Act II
April (TBD)	at 3pm – Ronen & Friends
May 13th	at 6:30pm – Understaffed Chamber Ensemble
May 30th	at 2pm – CJC Music School

All are invited to attend! Updates will be posted on both the Borough and Library websites.

Closter Public Library

Happy New Year from the Closter Public Library! The Library is offering a new ESL One to One tutoring program beginning in January. Watch the library's website for changes to the schedule. While no registration is necessary, you should contact the Library for more information. The Frick Collection and Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center have been added to the list of museum passes available to borrow. The Regular Programs at the Library are scheduled throughout the month, kicking off with First Friday Flicks on January 2nd at 1pm which will feature the film "The Roses". From programs such as the Adult Book Club, Short Story Club via Zoom, Yoga and Meditation, Knitting and Craft Group, Zumba and more, the Closter Public Library remains your resource as a cultural, recreational and education center. Visit www.ClosterPublicLibrary.org for a complete calendar of programs and activities.

A Message from the Bergen County Clerk's Office – Property Alert Service

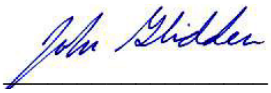
The Bergen Co. Clerk's Office is offering a service for protecting your property. Property and mortgage fraud is a fast growing crime in our country. Scammers record fraudulent documents, such as fake deeds or record fake liens against property owners. In some cases, fraud on real property is not discovered for years. To address these concerns and protect one of your most important assets, the Bergen Co. Clerk's Office offers a Free Service to notify you immediately via email whenever a document with your name is recorded in the County Clerk's Office. Visit https://bclrs.co.bergen.nj.us/propertyalert/ to register and begin protecting your property.

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

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*".

Wishing you peace, joy and good health in the coming year.

All the best,



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