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

November 24, 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As we begin this holiday season, let us keep in mind all that we have to be grateful for while enjoying the hustle and bustle which comes with the season. As always, my door is open; please contact me at 201-784-0600 x 500 with ideas or concerns related to the Borough.

A Night of Congratulations!

The November 12th meeting of the Mayor and Council was filled with an air of celebration as Mayor Glidden read a proclamation congratulating the Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps for receiving the 2025 Ambulance Squad of the Year for the State of New Jersey (a tremendous accomplishment) followed by recognizing the winning households of this year's Closter Improvement Commission's "Halloween Home Decorating Contest" ~ *a "spook-tacular"* event! Congratulations to all!!



Mayor Glidden & Members of the CVAC



Halloween Home Decorating Contest Winners

Celebrating Diwali in 2025

Diwali is the Hindu festival of lights, with variations celebrated in other Indian religions such as Jainism and Skihism. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual victory of Dharma over Adharma, light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. This year's Diwali celebration in the Community Room was delightful!







Diwali Celebration

Closter's Salute to Our Veterans ~ Veterans Day – November 11, 2025

The community took pride in honoring the members of the Leroy Mead Post 111, led by Commander Dick Bishop this past Veterans Day. The service, hosted by Mayor John Glidden (Ret. U.S. Air Force) and Jim Oettinger, Director of Recreation, was held at Veterans Monument Park on Herbert Ave. Select members of the NVD Marching Band and NVD Choir provided patriotic music, including a short salute to our Armed Forces. Special thanks to the community and organizations in Closter who attended, and to the Closter DPW, Closter Police, NV Demarest Band & Choir, TJ McCaffrey for beautifying Veterans Monument Park. The photos are courtesy of Tsun Tam.



Veterans Monument Park



Members of Leroy Mead Post 111



NV-Demarest Marching Band & Choir

Closter's MacBain Farm Park

The annual MacBain Farm Festival held on Saturday, October 25th was a big hit with a record number of residents turning out to enjoy the day. Visitors loved wandering through the farm, pumpkin painting and checking out all of the arts and crafts. The farm looked amazing, the music had everyone tapping their toes and the s'mores by the fire pit was the official snack of the day.

The festival brought out the best in Closter ~ warm welcomes, plenty of smiles and a buzz of togetherness that made the day feel like one fun neighborhood party! Many thanks to the MacBain Farm volunteers for delivering another season filled with delicious vegetables, beautiful flowers and lots of comradery!





"Welcome to the MacBain Farm Harvest Festival"

Closter's Annual Tree Lighting Celebration



Deck The Halls! It's Time to Light the Tree!

Closter's Improvement Commission has been busy "decking the halls"! Sunday, December 7th is the date for Closter's Annual Tree Lighting Celebration. The festivities begin at 4:30pm on the Lewis Street side of the Borough Hall.

Join friends and neighbors in this festive welcome to the holiday season. An array of classic holiday melodies, crafts, raffles, light refreshments and of course, the special arrival of the man himself… *Santa Claus*!!

Be sure to take a photo with Santa!! The annual Tree Lighting is being held rain or shine!

Belskie Museum of Art & Science



"*Collectors & Collections*"! The Belskie Museum is hosting an exhibition of varied personal collections from 20 collectors in the Northern Valley area. Come be fascinated by the items that have been lent to the Belskie Museum for this exhibit that are beyond ordinary.

The exhibit opens on **Sunday, November 30th from 1-4pm** (refreshments will be served) Following the exhibit opening Collectors & Collections will on exhibit from November 30th – December 21st. The museum hours after the opening reception are Saturdays & Sundays 2-4pm (Day and evening appointments can be arranged. Admissions is free!

The Belskie is located at 280 High St.; 201-768-0286 or Visit www.belskiemuseum.com

Closter Shade Tree Commission

Interested in having a beautiful "shade tree" planted in the front of your home? The Closter Shade Tree Commission is inviting any resident that would like to have a "shade tree" planted by the Commission, to send an email l to Jim Oettinger at **joettinger@closternj.us** and the STC will contact you. An attractive tree, enhancing your home, will be planted before the spring.

Closter Food & Assistance Board



Thank you, thank you, thank you! We are so grateful for the incredible response to the FAB's Thanksgiving Drive for gift cards and food for the holidays to assist our neighbors in need, especially since SNAP was delayed. Both the volunteers and the families are overwhelmed and grateful by the outpouring of community support. It's truly neighbors helping neighbors!

The Closter Food & Assistance Board is still collecting gift cards for the Holiday Season which allows our clients to choose their choice of delectable for their holiday meals. Gift cards can be placed in the silver mailbox located in the Borough Hall's Lewis St. Lobby. Please label the envelope FAB.

Happy Holidays from the volunteer members of the Closter Food & Assistance Board. Our email address is fabofcloster@gmail.com.

Closter Public Library

This December the Library will be offering two special programs. *"Courts in the Community"* on December 10th from 12-2pm hosted by the Judiciary's Office of the Ombudsman in Bergen Co. is designed to teach about the court system while promoting public trust and confidence in the courts. New to the ESL classes is "One to One Tutoring" on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-7pm and Fridays 10-11:30am.Contact the library for more information.

Of course the regular programs are held monthly beginning with "First Friday Flicks" on December 5th at 1pm – the feature film is "Downton Abbey the Grand Finale" followed by a month of regular programs for all interests. The Library has two new museum passes available to borrow – The Frick Collection and the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center. And of course, our youth services programs!

Visit the library in person or on line at www.closterpubliclibrary.org. for a compete calendar of events, programs and services.

Closter Police Department

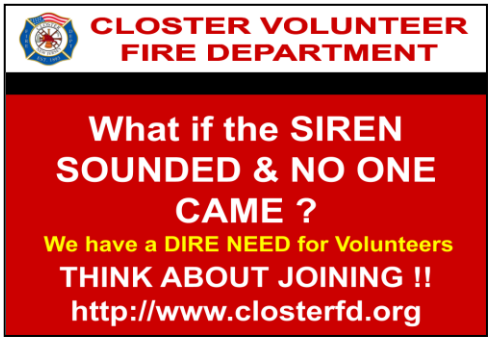
The holiday season is here and with it is prime time for criminals. Email scams, phone scams and credit card scams are widespread. Protect yourself and your property of suspicious offers, look twice at unfamiliar email addresses and review your credit card accounts and bank transaction. Scammers are professional criminals who strive to take advantage of any type of opportunity. The FTC's flyer, "**Fraud Alerts & Credit Freezes: What's the Difference** available on www.ftc.gov/idtheft provides resources and information.

The Closter Police Department is suggesting ***all*** residents and businesses remain diligent in their efforts to protect their possessions. *Remove packages from front door areas as quickly as possible, keep mail and newspapers from accumulating, and most importantly, remove any valuables from vehicles.* **Lock vehicles** (even when parked in driveways). Limit opportunities for criminals by increasing the exterior and interior lighting, setting the alarm systems and taking the key fobs out of vehicles.

Vigilance while shopping, especially during this busy season, is necessary. Remain actively aware of your surroundings while shopping, keeping a close eye on your belongings and remain cautious, *especially in crowded areas*, to prevent theft or other issues. Report suspicious activity to store employees, security or calling the Closter Police Department.

Closter Fire Department

There is currently a CRITICAL NEED for volunteer firefighters in Closter. If you are 16 years or older, YOU can make a difference in our community, learn new skills and become part of a team. PLEASE consider joining us today. Email secretary@closterfd.org for more information or visit on web at www.closterfd.org



Closter Nature Center

Music by the Pond - Sunday, December 21st - 2 pm to 4 pm
Join us for an afternoon of music and community. Professionals and amateurs alike perform to bring music to quiet Ruckman Pond. Always free!

After-School Nature Program – Winter Semester Jan. 6th-March 19th (Ages 4-14)
Winter Session I (5 weeks, Jan. 6- Feb 5); Winter Session II (4 weeks, Feb 10-Mar 19)
Join us at the Closter Nature Center for weekly hands-on environmental learning, lively explorations in our living classroom and engaging games and activities. Sessions run 3:45-5:00pm. ; *Register on Community Pass: https://register.communitypass.net/Closter*

A special thanks to the Borough of Closter for Supporting the CNC Reforestation Initiative

In spring 2025, the Borough of Closter generously awarded the CNC grant funds from the Borough's Open Space Fund enabling the CNC to continue the vital reforestation work we began in 2017. With significant canopy loss from rampant tree diseases and ongoing threats from invasive species and deer over browsing, restoring our forest is essential to ensuring a healthy, sustainable ecosystem.

This October and November, the CNC expanded the reforestation efforts along the white trail. Support from

the Open Space Fund allowed us to purchase and plant more than 550 native trees and shrubs, hire professional labor for installation and add protective fencing to safeguard young plants from deer. Over time, these new plantings will rebuild both canopy and understory, strengthening the long-term resilience of our forest. We are deeply grateful for the Borough's continued partnership and commitment to preserving Closter's natural spaces.

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As our Borough moves forward in many positive directions, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who make up the backbone of any community. I encourage each of you to think of ways in which you can, as a volunteer, make a difference. Together we can make a huge impact in our community.

With warm and grateful wishes to all for a Thanksgiving season filled with happiness, good health and good fortune. May the coming holiday season bring each of you joyful times with family, friends and neighbors.

All the best,



Mayor

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