



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 Chris Cho
Anna Maroules Alissa Latner

Jannie Chung
Joe Yammarino

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



January 30, 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Welcome 2024! The newsletter is designed to offer current events and activities and important reminders regarding activities and events. My door remains open to all; feel free to call me at 201-784-0600 x 500.

Closter's New Council Members

Closter's Annual Reorganization meeting, held on January 3rd, welcomed two new councilpersons to the governing body. Anna Maroules and Chris Cho were sworn in as members of the Closter Council.



Councilwoman Anna Maroules sworn in by Judge Menelaos Tascos



Councilman Chris Cho sworn in by Reverend Benjamin Choi

Closter Swears-In Six Officers in Volunteer Fire Department for 2024

After swearing-in six fire fighters, Mayor Glidden stated: "It was my pleasure acknowledging the accomplishments of the volunteers who selflessly devote their time and energy responding to fire and emergency calls, training for emergencies and educating our students about fire prevention. Pictured are Fire Chief Nicholas Varni and the Officers of the Closter Fire Department".



Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition

Once again the League of Municipalities is proud to announce the Louis Bay 2nd Future Municipal Leaders Scholarship Competition for high school juniors and seniors planning to continue their education after high school. The scholarship information has been sent to the guidance office at NVRHS – Demarest, and is open for all *Closter* juniors and senior students. Completed applications and essays are due before March 7, 2024, must be submitted in a sealed envelope and delivered to Mayor John Glidden’s office in the Closter Borough Hall.

Closter’s Volunteer Emergency Services

Closter has two of the most dedicated volunteer emergency service organizations in the Northern Valley! Our volunteer ambulance corps and our fire department were founded on the premise that *together volunteers can make a significant difference in the quality of services in the community*. These two organizations exemplify this commitment. Since its establishment in 1893 the **Closter Fire Department** is staffed solely by volunteers who donate their time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Closter’s medical emergency response and rescue operations are provided by the men and women of the **Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps**. The **Closter Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Corps, Inc.** is the only department in Bergen County, and one of the few in the state, which provides both ambulance service and heavy rescue, inclusive of Palisades Cliff rescues and rappelling.

Information on both of these organizations can be found by viewing the Borough’s website, www.closternj.us. Support of our emergency services can come in many forms: a volunteer commitment or financial support which does not have to be limited to donations during their fundraising drives.

Closter Fire Department

An important message from the Closter Fire Department:



“Folks, this isn’t a joke or fake news! There is a current and dire reality that our Fire Dept. is facing and wrestling with on a daily basis all while trying to continue to serve and protect you as you deserve and expect.

- WE NEED MEMBERS -

Please consider joining the Closter Volunteer Fire Dept. as a member and help us to protect our great town!”

Closter Food & Assistance Board

The Closter Food and Assistance Board has been very busy keeping up with the donations of food and gift cards from our generous neighbors. We would like to spotlight and thank a few of our donors and volunteers: The Haworth 5K Committee who presented a generous check to the Pantry at a recent Haworth Council Meeting, the Northern Valley PBA presented a generous check and gift cards to the pantry from their toy drive, Temple Emanu-El of Closter Men’s Club donated ShopRite Gift cards, Happy Birthday to Lauren Morton who added a wish list on Amazon of hygiene products for the pantry! Thanks to all who contributed! And sincere thanks to the Closter Seniors Club for sharing their space with the food pantry and always welcoming us with a smile!

FAB volunteers who pick up, sort, date, pack and shop on behalf of the pantry. This group includes people of all ages - from students to seniors - you know who you are! We are still working on catching up with our

Thank-you letters. Please know how grateful the pantry and the residents we serve are, for your thoughtfulness and generosity!! Please follow us on Facebook @ Closter Fab and Instagram @ closterfab

The Belskie Museum of Art & Science

“*Still Raining, Still Dreaming*” is the art exhibit opening at the Belskie Museum on February 4th. This exhibit, curated by Steven Cavallo, is a collection of original watercolor art by 12 talented artists from northern New Jersey and North Carolina. The Exhibit Opening is Sunday, February 4th from 1-4pm. Refreshments will be served and admission is free. Museum hours after the opening reception are Saturdays & Sundays, 2-4pm. 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



The Belskie Museum’s Art Wall located in the Closter Library is exhibiting a beautiful collection of Chinese Brush Painting by local artist Jane Chang. Chinese brush painting is a rendition of mind and rhyme of chi, unifying the artist with the art. The Art Wall is available for viewing during the regular hours of the Closter Library. In celebration of Chinese Lunar New Year on February 3rd at 3pm, artist Jane Chang will be hosting a live brush painting demonstration. All are welcome!

Closter Public Library

The library will be closed on Monday, February 19th for President’s Day. Library services include enjoying free access to everything the NY Times has to offer, kanopy, hoopla, museum passes, to name just a few. *First Friday Flicks* on February 2nd at 1pm features “The Holdovers”. Technology help is offered Mondays from 7-8pm, Short Story Club via Zoom and the Adult Book Club meet in person and hybrid. Zumba via Zoom, Yoga & Meditation are alternating Wednesdays. The Knitting & Craft Group (with a certified knitting teacher) meets on Thursdays and ESL classes are held on Mondays and Saturdays. The selection and sign up for the Youth Services Programs can be found on the library’s website, www.closterpubliclibrary.com. There is such an array of programs and activities that visiting the library or reviewing the library calendar is the best way to find information.

Join us this Black History Month as the *Joel Zelnik Trio* pays tribute with their program – “*African American Jazz Piano Pioneers*”. We invite you to celebrate their legacy on Saturday, February 10, 2pm at the Closter Public Library 280 High St. This concert is made possible with a grant from the Musicians Union Local 16-248 Music Performance Trust Fund.

Housekeeping & Community Health

Periodically reminders are needed for simple housekeeping within our neighborhoods to keep Closter pristine.

- (a) **Prompt Removal of Snow & Ice** is a requirement by Ordinance for the removal of snow and ice from public sidewalks. Snow and ice shall be cleared within 12 hours of daylight after the end of the weather event. Please review Borough ordinance 171-13.
- (b) **Curb Your Dog!** Residents are requested to curb their dog(s)!! The Borough’s ordinance 71-10 addresses the responsibility of dog owners to refrain from allowing their animals to soil or create a nuisance *on any* property. Dogs must be curbed, that is, restricted to that portion of the street lying between the curb lines, an appropriate sanitary means to remove feces immediately is required. Please show consideration to your neighbors when walking dogs by keeping dogs off of private property.
- (c) **Household garbage** is collected the beginning of the week and should be placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. the morning of pickup. **Household trash**, on the other hand, which is a broken chair, lamp, bookcase, etc., may be placed curbside **only the night before** the last scheduled pickup date of the week (**East Side on Thursday/West Side on Friday**). All debris from any type of construction or renovation must be removed by the contractor.
- (d) **Streetlights** – please provide the pole number when reporting streetlight outages to the police department’s non-emergency number.

The Mayor's Committee for the Arts

Stay tuned as the Mayor's Committee for the Arts finalizes the lineup for an array of indoor "pop-up" music events in the Community Room of the Closter Public Library. Performances will be held on Saturdays and will begin at 2pm. During the summer months, these performances will be held outdoors at Closter Plaza. The 2024 schedule will be published shortly.

Closter Recreation

Spring sports registration for boys and girls in grades K-8 is NOW open. Please look for details on Closterrec.com and take advantage of the early bird discount. The Closterrec.com website has information on other various programs and soon to be announced information on the FULL DAY summer rec program and the half day free summer rec program.

A note from Jim Oettinger, Director Closter Recreation: "The following is an update on the playground installations taking place. With monies from the Open Space account, we are installing new playgrounds at Schauble Park and High Street Park. Thank you for your continued support for the children in Closter. This equipment was ordered 4 months ago and arrived in Closter in early December. We needed to wait until the first of the year to start installation as the hard working DPW needed to complete the fall leaf pickup before they had any free time to start the demolition of Schauble Park and the removal of the current wood barrier and digging needed at High St. Park. Schauble Park demolition was completed last week and the contractor has started installation. After Schauble Park is completed, the DPW will dig out the area at the High St. Park and the new playground will be installed at this park. Both parks will be completed in the coming weeks/months and will be 100% ready for the spring."

"The playground at Schauble Park is replacing the playground that was there utilizing the same "footprint". Installing any larger size playground at this park would be impossible as any installation of playground equipment must follow stringent "Fall Zone" areas for each piece of apparatus – (this is the required safe distance that the JIF requires in between each piece of equipment)".

Closter Shade Tree Commission

The Shade Tree Commission would like to take a moment to thank the Mayor and Council, our school district, our public library—and all our stakeholders—for their partnership.

With your collective support last year, we were able to: engage scores of Closter residents, including 80 students, in the Commission's annual Arbor Day Poster and Fall Foliage Photo Contests. Also, the STC was able to effectively complete Closter's street tree inventory. The Borough was awarded a \$37,500 state grant to inventory the Borough's 6,100+ trees and transition to a new data management platform, which we are now using to document maintenance, removals and new plantings. The inventory is available online [here](#). Closter was able to 1) plant 20 new street trees town-wide and prune the Borough's street trees in Voting District 1; and 2) conduct over 120 tree inspections and review 34 building plans which will result in the planting of up to fifty additional street trees in Closter, at no cost to the Borough. And finally, in partnership with the Closter Public Schools, we were able to secure a \$47,939 grant to plant another fifty trees at two sites near Tenakill School this spring.

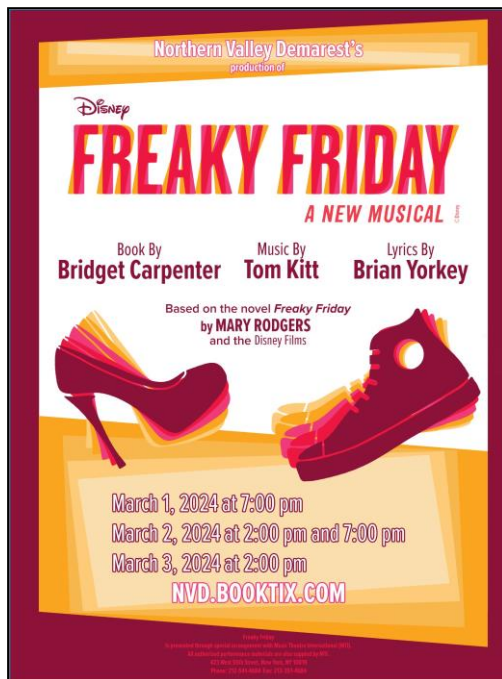
Closter Nature Center

Not a member? Join today and receive special discounts! Explore the trails of the CNC with Naturalist Marc Gussen. A Winter Hike is planned for February 17th beginning at 1pm. The cost is \$5 for Members and \$10 for non-members. <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>. The After-School Nature Program – Winter Session II begins on February 13th. This 5 week session for PreK-4 to 6th Grade provides a season of nature fun and science. Members \$125, non-members \$150 per child. On Sunday, February 18th from 4pm – 5:30pm the CNC presents Music by the Pond featuring *Rob Horowitz* and *Amy Kleiman*. Musicians, professionals, amateurs, friends and family share music. Free donations are appreciated!

Questions? Email admin@closternaturecenter.org

Northern Valley Regional HS Demarest... **"FREAKY FRIDAY"**

Mark your calendars for the NVRHS – Theatre Department’s all-school musical production, **“Freaky Friday”** on March 1st – 3rd. A performance for senior citizens is planned for February 29th at 6pm, which is free to seniors. The link for purchasing tickets will be available shortly. This is a fabulous production that is sure to please all who attend.



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Closter, the “Hub of the Northern Valley” is a diverse resource of neighborhoods, activities, schools, businesses, retailers, services, Houses of Worship, open spaces and parklands. The continued growth and development within our community draws us to make Closter our home. Our volunteers, whether it be serving on board or commission, as a scout leaders, civic organization or the dedicated first responders in the Fire Department and Ambulance & Rescue Corps (who freely give many hours of their time) are a driving force which enhances the quality of life we all enjoy. Our Borough professionals are committed to providing extraordinary services and support which addresses the needs of our residents, visitors and businesses.

I wish you all an abundance of good health and happiness in the coming year.

All the best,



Mayor John Glidden

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