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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Borough of Dunellen to Host First-Ever Founders' Day, Celebrating the Birthday of Dunellen on October 27, 2024, at Washington Memorial Park

Dunellen, NJ – October 2, 2024 - The Borough of Dunellen is excited to announce its first-ever Founders' Day event on Sunday, October 27 from 12:00-5:00 PM at Washington Memorial Park, located on N. Washington Avenue between First Street and Dunellen Avenue. The event will showcase the spirit of Dunellen with local vendors, a variety of activities, live performances from community artists, and more!

Dunellen, New Jersey, is a one-square-mile community with a rich history dating back to the 1800s and the early days of railroad transportation, earning the Borough its original nickname, "The Railroad Town." In 1843, industrial growth spread throughout the country, and the train route that previously ran from Elizabethtown to Plainfield now extended through the land that would come to be known as Dunellen and Somerville. In 1868, the village of Dunellen came into existence and is believed to have been founded by John Taylor Johnston, a prominent New York Financier and president of the Jersey Central railroad. Dunellen officially became a borough in 1887 when it broke away from Piscataway Township.

"There is a lot of history packed into our one-square-mile community and Founders' Day is the perfect opportunity to take a step back and reflect on where we came from, where we are, and where we are going together. From our humble beginnings as a railroad town in the 1800s to the diverse and vibrant Borough we are today, this event honors everything that has shaped Dunellen over the last 137 years and celebrates the community spirit that drives us forward," said Mayor Jason F. Cilento.

Attendees can look forward to learning more about our history, browsing handmade artwork and crafts from local vendors, purchasing food from local eateries, listening to live music performed by local artists, and activities for children.

"We're excited to celebrate the history of Dunellen with this brand-new event," said Dunellen Recreation Coordinator Kelly Seader. "This is an idea we've had for quite some time and we're looking forward to highlighting the charm of our town with local vendors, live performances, and activities that are perfect for the whole family."

Founders' Day is a free event. Vendors and food vendors interested in participating can register by filling

out an application at bit.ly/DunellenFoundersDay by Sunday, October 20. This event is sponsored by Optimum Altice.

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