

The Dunellen Report



VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 4 • OCTOBER 2024

PUBLISHED BY APR PUBLICATIONS, INC.



Message from the Mayor

MAYOR JASON F. CIENTO

October 2024

Hello neighbors! I would like to dedicate this month's Message from the Mayor to Dunellen's ongoing redevelopment efforts taking place throughout the Borough, the advantages of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs), and how these efforts continue to push our Miracle Mile forward.

Dunellen's redevelopment journey began in 2001, with the designation of key downtown areas as sites for revitalization. After years of planning, we are seeing significant growth, and the goals we've been working toward for over two decades are finally coming to fruition. You can see this in the successful development of previously vacant and underutilized properties such as the former Art Color property which is now home to The Nell and The Crossing at the Dunellen Station and the new building of 150 North Avenue on the site of a former vacant auto body repair shop. These types of projects increase property values Borough-wide and help create a vibrant downtown for us all. Additionally, over time, it increases the commercial property values in the downtown, stabilizing the tax burden on residents as approximately 90% of Dunellen's tax base relies on residential properties, which stresses the importance of revitalizing and investing in our downtown.

These successes have been made possible through the use of PILOTs. PILOTs are long-term investments in our community that help reduce residential tax burdens, attract new businesses, and enhance the overall quality of life for all those here in our Miracle Mile. Ordinarily, the Borough only keeps 26% of tax revenue collected. The remaining portion of your tax payment goes to the school district (59%), the County (13%), the Dunellen Public Library (1%), and County Open Space (1%). PILOT agreements allow the Borough to retain 95% of revenue from redeveloped properties, while the County receives 5%. This increases funding available for local infrastructure and municipal services. It is

...Continued on page 3

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*Hours subject to change.
Please call for updates.

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Dunellen Fire Department Volunteer with the Dunellen Fire Department

Volunteers Needed!

Did you ever want to help your community by joining the fire department? Now is your opportunity!

The Dunellen Fire Department is accepting new applicants. If you're at least 16 years old, you can join with us in one of the following categories:

Junior Firefighter

Our Junior Program is for high school students 16-18 years old and offers a taste of what volunteering in the fire department is all about. Don't worry moms and dads, your baby won't be going into any burning buildings just yet, but they will get the opportunity to start learning about the different types of calls we go on, the equipment we use, the apparatus we have, and how to hone in those people skills while helping the people in their community. Junior Members are also part of our company side where they can help with fundraising activities and help plan for upcoming events.

Active Firefighter

The Active Firefighter is responsible for answering the calls. If you don't have any previous experience, don't worry, most of us didn't when we first started out either. The Fire Department will pay for all training. We also hold monthly in-house trainings to keep our skills sharp as well as monthly truck checks to make sure all of our equipment and vehicles are in tip-top, response-ready shape. The Active Firefighter is also an active member on our company side where we have our monthly meetings, do fundraisers, and plan for any upcoming events.



Associate Member

If running into burning houses and responding to fire alarms at 3:00 AM isn't your thing, then we have a category for you! Our associate members are responsible for coming to our monthly meetings, helping plan and run any fundraisers, attending community events, and giving input during the meetings. This is the perfect support role position without being directly on the front lines.

If any of this sounds interesting to you, we encourage you to check out our website at www.dunellenfd.com and email us at Joinfd@dunellenfd.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Boro Hall

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Message from the Mayor

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important to note that PILOTs do not negatively impact the school district’s funding. Support for Dunellen Public Schools is a top priority of our Administration and the Board of Education is guaranteed to receive 100% of its budget regardless of what the municipality collects, every year. Furthermore, PILOTs are only offered on a project after the Borough’s financial advisors conduct a financial analysis on said projects and the project passes the “But For” test, meaning, but for the PILOT could the project actually be developed without the incentive, and if not, a PILOT may be offered to make the project more fiscally stable.

To summarize, PILOTs have played a role in the Borough’s redevelopment efforts and greatly benefit the town and our residents. Scan the QR code or visit www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/RedevelopmentMessage to read a full history of Redevelopment in Dunellen and for a more in-depth look at PILOTs, their benefits, and their impact on the Borough and the school system.

Thank you for taking the time to read this month’s message. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or comments. I am always available to listen to the ideas and concerns of our residents. My Borough cell phone number is (732) 882-4551, and my email is jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
 Borough of Dunellen



**Support Local Businesses on November 30
 Spend \$100 in Dunellen & Receive \$20!**

November 30 is Small Business Saturday, a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for the Dunellen community.

To help encourage the community to shop local, when you spend \$100 in Dunellen on November 30, 2024, participants will receive a \$20 gift card to a Dunellen business.

How it works:

- Save your receipts after a day of local shopping, eating, getting a haircut, etc., take a picture, and email them to DunellenDowntownManagement@gmail.com.

- Once the receipts have been verified, the entrant will be mailed a \$20 gift card to a Dunellen business to use on a future date.
- Receipts must be emailed/received by Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Don’t forget: Receipts must indicate that transaction(s) took place on November 30, 2024, be from official Dunellen businesses, and be equal or greater to \$100 (in totality). One gift card per person. Recipients will not get to choose the business they receive a gift card from. Sponsored by the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization.

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 Daniel M. Erickson, Director, NJ Lic. No. 4798

September 11 Memorial Ceremony with the Borough of Middlesex

The Borough of Dunellen was invited to join the Borough of Middlesex at Victor Crowell Park in Middlesex to participate in their Annual September 11 Memorial Ceremony. The event was attended by Mayor Cilento, members of the Dunellen Borough Council, Dunellen Police, Fire, Rescue Squad, OEM, and CERT.

Thank you to the Borough of Middlesex, Mayor Jack Mikolajczyk, and event coordinator Sherley Penrose for continuing to include the Borough of Dunellen in this annual remembrance of the nearly 3,000 victims who lost their lives on that fateful day, including Dunellen's own Lydia Bravo. 23 years ago, our nation made a promise to never forget, and we will forever hold the memory of each and every victim in our hearts.



Dunellen Downtown Management Organization (DDMO) Join us for the 12th Annual Dunellen HarvestFest!



Fall is officially here when the Dunellen HarvestFest rolls around! Join the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization (DDMO) for the 12th Annual Dunellen HarvestFest on October 13 from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Washington Memorial Park.

This year's HarvestFest is sponsored by Comcast and will feature a variety of food, vendors, performances, demonstrations, a bounce house, and more! Returning favorites include the popular Pumpkin Decorating Contest and Apple Pie Baking Contest.

To learn more about this year's HarvestFest, visit: tinyurl.com/dunellenharvestfest

or follow Dunellen Downtown Management Organization on Facebook



This year's schedule of events (subject to change):

- 11:45 AM – Opening Remarks from Mayor Cilento
Comcast Sponsorship
St. Francis Episcopal Church: Blessing of the Animals
- 11:50 AM – Dunellen Shade Tree Commission: Tree Identification Tour
- 11:55 AM – Yoga Essence of Dunellen: Stretching Demonstration
- 12:15 PM – Dunellen Public Library: Children's Story & Song
- 12:45 PM – The Actors Studio of New Jersey
- 1:00 PM – Warrior Martial Arts: Demonstration
- 1:30 PM – Generations Dance Company: Dance Performance
- 2:00 PM – The Actors Studio of New Jersey
- 2:15 PM – Dunellen Shade Tree Commission: Tree Identification Tour
Contest Winners Announced: Pumpkin Decorating, Apple Pie Baking, and DHS Poster Design
- 2:20 PM – The Actors Studio of New Jersey
- 2:30 PM – Rockstar Studios: Live Band Performance
- 3:45 PM – Closing Remarks from Mayor Cilento

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Dunellen Outings Community Committee (DOCC) DOCC Happenings - Know What's Up

The Dunellen Outings Community Committee (DOCC) has been busy planning monthly activities for the adults in our community! Over the summer we hosted meetups at Daluca's Café in June for coffee, treats, and great conversation, Plays in the Park in Edison for the opening night of "In the Heights" in July, a dinner and dessert meetup at Avellino's Pizzeria & Sports Bar and Dairy Quick in July, our Third Annual Food Truck Night in August - in conjunction with the Dunellen Public Library and Recreation Department's free family movie night, and a Paint & Sip event hosted by Melanie's Hair Salon in September.

Coming up this fall is our meetup at the Lakota Wolf Preserve, Columbia, NJ, on Sunday, October 20. Tickets are still available for the 10:30 AM session through the link on our Facebook flyer - www.lakotawolf.com/toursbooking/. We will meet in the parking lot by 10:00 AM for the shuttle, and those interested are welcome to join us for lunch afterward.

In December, we have two events planned including our annual holiday shopping trip to the Sussex County Fairgrounds Holiday Shopping Market on December 7 and our Annual Caroling Around Town on December 14. Our monthly Walk and Talks with the Mayor will continue at 9:30 AM on the first Saturday

of each month at Columbia Park. We meet at the gazebo, leisurely walk around the track, discuss any Dunellen questions and topics, and have great conversations! The meetup will be at the Senior Center in the case of inclement weather.

For more information or questions on any of our events, or about the DOCC, visit (and join) our Facebook Page - "DOCC - Dunellen Outings Community Committee" or email us at dunellendocc@dunellenborough.com. Our events are open to all current and past Dunellen residents, 18+ unless otherwise specified. Join in the fun! We'd love to meet you.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Through the month of October, Superfood Fresh Supermarket will **donate \$5 in your name** to the National Breast Cancer Awareness Association with every \$50 or more purchase.



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Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone Homecoming Ceremony



On Monday, September 23, the Borough of Dunellen proudly welcomed 3x Olympian Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone home at Columbia Park to celebrate her incredible accomplishments at the 2024 Paris Olympics. On August 8, Sydney won a gold medal in the Women's 400m Hurdles and broke her sixth world record in the event with a time of 50.37s. Just two days later, she would join Team USA to win another gold medal in the Women's 4x400 Relay alongside

teammates Gabby Thomas, Alexis Holmes, and Shamier Little. unending support, and God for blessing her with an amazing family, support system, town, and state. Following the conclusion of the ceremony, Sydney greeted her fans, staying at Columbia Park for over two hours to make sure she had the chance to speak with everyone, take pictures, and sign autographs.

The Borough of Dunellen is extremely proud of you Sydney and we are grateful for how much pride you take in our community. Congratulations!

The event received coverage from news outlets including News 12 New Jersey, NJ.com, CBS, WNBC, Pix11, MyCentralJersey, Courier News, and American Track & Field Magazine.

teammates Gabby Thomas, Alexis Holmes, and Shamier Little.

The program began with an introduction from Business Administrator Alex Miller, followed by a performance of the National Anthem by the Dunellen High School Madrigals and God Bless America by Dunellen musician, Jake Mosca. Pastor Roy Carryl led the crowd in prayer before we heard from Acting Governor Tahesha Way who presented an official letter on behalf of the office of Governor Phil Murphy. Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis, Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz, and Senator Jon Bramnick of the 21st Legislative District offered words of congratulations before sharing a resolution from The Senate and General Assembly from the State of New Jersey. Faber Elementary School Principal Brendan Tennant, Coach Mike McCabe, and Sister Percylee Hart of Union Catholic High School recounted their memories of Sydney as a student-athlete and the quality of her character dating back to a young age. Middlesex County Commissioner Chanelle Scott McCullum and Sheriff Mildred Scott, mother and daughter, touched on the importance of family and the inspiration Sydney provides to our youth. Mayor Cilento proudly welcomed Sydney home to our Miracle Mile and presented her with a key to the city mounted on a plaque recognizing her career accolades, a symbolic naming of the street she grew up on, a proclamation from the Borough, and a proclamation from Dunellen's Sister Cities in Italy; Borgonovo Val Tidone and Castel San Giovanni.

Finally, our Guest of Honor, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone came up to the podium and was greeted with another round of applause. She thanked the crowd for coming out and for their



Left to right: Olympians Elliott Denman (1956), Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, and Barbara Friedrich Parcinski (1968)

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Dunellen Department of Parks & Recreation

The Haunted Trail

Prepare to be scared! Join us for Dunellen Fright Nights: The Haunted Trail on Friday, October 18, and Saturday, October 19 from 7:00-10:00 PM at Columbia Park, Orange Street in Dunellen. Help us celebrate our special 11th year and experience spooky new attractions for a half mile of pure terror. All proceeds benefit the restoration of the Maurer House. Admission is \$12 per person; \$5 for ages 7 and under. Cash only. Concessions, glow sticks, and more! Free parking is available at the Dunellen Train Station.



A New Route is Planned for Dunellen's 75th Annual Halloween Parade

The Dunellen Halloween Parade is moving from a walk around the track at Columbia Park to a stroll through town! We invite the community to join us on our new route as we march straight up Washington Avenue to Washington Park where Founders' Day will be taking place! Participants can register in the library parking lot from 12:00-12:45 PM on Sunday, October 27. The parade will begin at 1:00 PM with a costume contest to follow. Judging will take place in the gazebo and the top favorite costumes will win awards. We hope to see you there!

The rain date will be on October 30 at 6:00 PM at Columbia Park. Registration will take place at the gazebo and the parade will march around the track.

Dunellen Celebrates Founders' Day

In recognition of Dunellen's upcoming birthday, Dunellen Recreation will be celebrating Founders' Day with a community-wide celebration marking the anniversary of our Borough's founding on October 27, 2024, from 12:00-5:00 PM at Washington Park! This event aims to bring residents and visitors together in a festive environment to honor Dunellen's heritage while supporting local businesses, committees, organizations, and talent. The day will feature local vendors, activities for the kids, live performances from community artists, and activities that showcase the spirit of our Borough. Founders' Day will also coincide with our recreation Halloween Parade! Come have fun with your Dunellen neighbors and join us in celebrating our Miracle Mile! Admission is free. For further questions regarding this event/inquiries about being a vendor please contact Rec Program Coordinator Kelly Seader at kseader@dunellenborough.com.

DUNELLEN'S 11TH ANNUAL FRIGHT NIGHT

THE HAUNTED TRAIL

1/2 Mile of Pure Terror
October 18th & 19th
7:00-10:00 PM
Columbia Park
 200 Orange Street, Dunellen NJ

ADMISSION: \$12
KIDS 7 AND UNDER: \$5

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Miracle Mile In Motion: Redeveloping Dunellen for an Innovative & Sustainable Future

Redevelopment is driving positive change in Dunellen and helping to shape a brighter future for our community. We have several exciting projects underway, including new residential units and mixed-use developments, which are attracting new residents and businesses, and having fewer than anticipated impacts on school enrollment. Redevelopment is not just about new buildings; it's about fostering a vibrant, sustainable future for Dunellen while preserving affordability and enhancing the quality of life for all in our Borough.

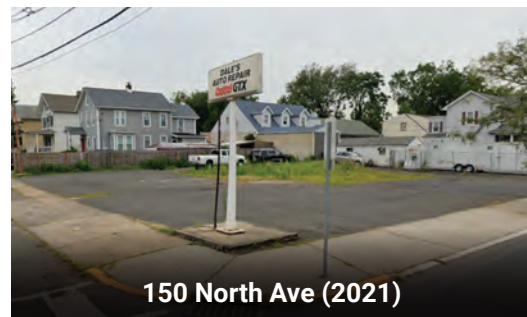
Building the Future: Before & After



S. Washington Ave (2021)



S. Washington Ave (2024)



150 North Ave (2021)



150 North Ave (2024)

Mayoral Town Hall

Hosted by Mayor Jason F. Cilento

Redevelopment in the Borough of Dunellen

Curious about how redevelopment is shaping the future of our Borough? Join us to hear about the history of redevelopment in Dunellen, current projects, upcoming plans, and how these developments benefit our community. Don't miss this opportunity to ask questions, share your thoughts, and stay informed about the positive changes happening in Dunellen!

Thursday, December 12 | 7:00 PM
Senior Center, Columbia Park
216 Orange St., Dunellen, NJ

Coming Soon to Downtown Dunellen



431-441 North Avenue - Mixed Use Apartment

This new mixed use apartment will have 62 residential units with ground level retail and commercial space, and parking to allow new businesses and residents to call our Miracle Mile home. This project was approved by the Dunellen Planning Board at the September 23, 2024 meeting and will be replacing underutilized and underdeveloped property in our downtown.



North Hamilton Project - 405 North Avenue

This project will see a vacant bank and the former Dunellen Rescue Squad Building transform into 50 residential units with first floor commercial / amenity space, and parking. Not only is this project contributing to ongoing revitalization of our downtown, but it provides our Rescue Squad with essential upgrades, allowing them to serve our Borough more efficiently.

“

I have seen an uptick in patrons in my eatery since the completion of the Dunellen Station project and I am looking forward to seeing the increase in foot traffic in the downtown as Dunellen continues to grow. It will help support my business and others.

- **Jeff Roscoe, Owner of Roscoe's Eatery & Dunellen Resident**

”

Understanding Redevelopment & PILOTs: Why They Benefit Dunellen

- ✔ \$2.5 million in PILOT revenue to date.
- ✔ Nearly \$250,000 in contributions to our community.
- ✔ 51 new students added to the school system, which is 25% less than projected.
- ✔ In 2023, Dunellen became one of the first municipalities in NJ to implement a Climate Resiliency Plan, designed to ensure the Borough's future sustainability.

In 2024, the Borough will receive over \$1.4 million in PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) revenue, representing approximately 14% of the Borough's total revenue. Without these redevelopment projects, this revenue would have had to be raised through property taxes, thus playing a critical role in stabilizing taxes for all.

Moreover, these projects will generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding for important initiatives like traffic and pedestrian safety, infrastructure improvements, and enhancements to playground facilities.

Scan the QR code or visit www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/redevelopment to learn more about redevelopment and PILOTs in Dunellen.



“

The new Rescue Squad building will help breathe new life into our downtown by beautifying a plot of land that has been abandoned for 20 years, while simultaneously modernizing and improving the quality of service we can provide to our community.

- **Chief Jeff Best, Dunellen Rescue Squad**

”

DUNELLEN GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

www.dunellen-nj.gov

All council meetings are held in the Municipal Council Chambers, on the first and third Monday of the month, located at 355 North Ave, Dunellen. Meetings commence at 7:00pm, unless otherwise noted.

Elected Officials:

Jason F. Cilento, Mayor . . . 732-882-4551, jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov
Teresa Albertson, Council President . . talbertson@dunellen-nj.gov
Crisol-Iris Lantz, Councilmember clantz@dunellen-nj.gov
Trina Rios, Councilmember trios@dunellen-nj.gov
William Scott, Councilmember wscott@dunellen-nj.gov
Daniel Cole Sigmon, Councilmember . . dsigmon@dunellen-nj.gov
Harold VanDermark, Councilmember hvandermark@dunellen-nj.gov

Business Administrator, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Superintendent of Department of Public Works:

Alexander Miller 732-968-3033, amiller@dunellenborough.com

Municipal Clerk:

Lauren Staats, RMC
732-968-3033 (Phone)
732-968-8605 (Fax)
M-F: 9:00am-4:30pm

Communications Coordinator:

William George communications@dunellenborough.com

Registrar:

Lauren Staats, CMR
M-F: 9:00am-3:00pm
Marriage License Applications are by appointment only.

Tax Collector:

Dawn Hutchison dhutchison@dunellenborough.com
732-968-1226 (Phone)
732-968-3903 (Fax)
M-F: 9:00am-4:30pm

Tax Assessor:

Dawn Guttschall dguttschall@dunellenborough.com
1st & 3rd Monday of the month
5:00-7:30pm (or by appointment)
732-289-8131 (Phone)
732-968-3903 (Fax)

Construction Office:

Scott Brescher sbrescher@dunellenborough.com
101 Prospect Ave, off Skinner Plaza
M-F: 9:00am-4:30pm
Inspections
Monday: Building Inspection 3:00pm-6:00pm
Tuesday: Fire, Electrical, & Plumbing Inspections 3:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday: Building, Fire, Electrical & Plumbing Inspections 3:00pm-6:00pm
Wednesday & Friday: No inspections
732-968-3323 (Phone)
732-968-3872 (Fax)

Recreation Program Coordinator:

Kelly Seader kseader@dunellenborough.com

Planning Board:

Regular meetings - 4th Monday of each month at 7:00pm
Municipal Building

Office of Emergency Management:

732-968-3033 ext. 126

Homer Mosley, OEM Coordinator

hmosley@dunellenborough.com

Bill Carlson, OEM Deputy Coordinator

wcarlson@dunellenborough.com

Joseph Cummins, OEM Deputy Coordinator

jcummins@dunellenborough.com

Code Enforcement:

George Deene 908-672-2593, gdeene@dunellenborough.com

Ken Baudendistel kbaudendistel@dunellenborough.com

Public Works

M-Sat: 8:00am-2:00pm
235 Hall Steet, 732-968-5455
Paint Drop Off: 2nd Saturday each month (8:00am-12:00pm)

Municipal Attorney:

William P. Robertson

MCIA – Division of Recycling

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Dunellen Public Library

Summer Reading at the Dunellen Public Library

The Dunellen Public Library enjoyed a very busy season this past summer, recently completing another successful Summer Reading Program with over 900 books read by participating patrons. In addition to our regular library programming, we held special programs throughout the summer, sponsored by the Friends of the Dunellen Public Library Foundation, including a visit from educators from the Turtle Back Zoo with over 60 patrons in attendance!



Shared Library Services

Did you know that your library card can be used at numerous libraries across the state? The Dunellen Public Library is a member of S.T.E.L.L.A (formerly LMXAC). The acronym stands for Sharing & Technology Enhancing Local Library Access and comprises over 43 member libraries in more than 15 locations throughout Middlesex, Union, and Monmouth counties. Members can use their library cards at any location offering increased access to 3.5 million items.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Borough of Dunellen has a Sister City relationship with Borgonovo Val Tidone and Castel San Giovanni - two municipalities in the province of Piacenza, Italy.

Visit www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/ValTidone to learn more!

Welcoming Green Brook & SCLSNJ Patrons

In addition to shared services through STELLA, the library has recently entered into a pilot arrangement with the Somerset County Library System. This new arrangement will allow our neighbors in Green Brook (and other Somerset County residents) to use their SCLSNJ library cards at our library, and Dunellen patrons can use their cards at the following libraries: Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Hillsborough, Manville, Mary Jacobs, Montgomery, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Residents only need to be in good standing with their home library to participate in this free program.

Dunellen Public Library Programming

As the school year begins, the Dunellen Library's regular programs change to accommodate students' schedules. Some of the recurring programs offered at the Dunellen Public Library are:

MONDAY

- Crafternoon at 3:30 PM, ages 10+

TUESDAY

- Kids Craft at 4:15 PM, ages 1-5
- Twilight Storytime at 5:15 PM, ages 1-5

WEDNESDAY

- English Conversation Cafe at 6:30 PM, ages 18+
- Crochet Meetup, every other Wednesday

THURSDAY

- Musical Storytime at 11:30 AM, ages 1-5
- Gaming Club at 3:30 PM, ages 10+
- Adult Book Club, every last Thursday at 1:30 PM, ages 18+

FRIDAY

- Afternoon Movie at 12:00 PM

SATURDAY

- Saturday Storytime at 10:30 AM, ages 1-5
- Young Adult Book Club starting in October, every last Saturday at 12:00 PM, ages 17+!

Special Programs in October

- **TOUCH A TRUCK** First responders will join library staff on **October 19** at 11:00 AM for a registration event celebrating the open borrowing agreement between Dunellen and the Somerset County Library System. Patrons are invited to explore emergency vehicles and register their library cards for reciprocal privileges.
- **ACRYLIC WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS AND TEENS** - October 28 at 5:30 PM. Registration required.

Library programs are free and open to the public. For more information please call (732) 968-4585 or visit us at 100 New Market Road, Dunellen NJ.

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Dunellen Borough Police Department Dunellen Borough Police Department Announces Promotions of New Captain, Lieutenant, and Sergeants Following Approval at September 3 Council Meeting

On Monday, September 4, the Borough of Dunellen and Dunellen Borough Police Department announced the promotions of Dunellen Police Officers, Captain Christopher Beenders, Lieutenant John Doherty, Sergeant Jonathan DeAngelo, and Detective Sergeant Nicholas Goldman which were approved at the September 3 Council Meeting by Mayor Jason F. Cilento and the Dunellen Borough Council.

“As a member of the Dunellen Borough Council and the Chair of the Police Committee, I’m incredibly proud to see Capt. Beenders, Lt. Doherty, Sgt. DeAngelo, and Det Sgt. Goldman enter these exciting new chapters of their careers. I wish them all the best in their new roles, and I look forward to their continued success as they serve our community,” said Councilman Hal VanDermark

“The Borough of Dunellen is very fortunate to have so many incredible officers on our police force and I have the utmost confidence in their ability to lead and push the department forward. These promotions are a testament to the quality of their careers thus far and their commitment to the safety and well-being of our Miracle Mile. I congratulate Capt. Beenders, Lt. Doherty, Sgt. DeAngelo, and Det Sgt. Goldman and I know they will continue to make us proud,” added Mayor Jason F. Cilento.

Captain Beenders, who has been with the Dunellen Borough Police Department for 27 years, was promoted from the rank of Lieutenant, making him the first Police Captain in almost 30 years. During his service with the Dunellen Police Department, Captain Beenders has held numerous roles within the department and received many awards throughout his career from the apprehension and arrest of a burglary in progress to most notably the apprehension of a suspect with a gun. Capt. Beenders will oversee the administrative responsibilities within the department.

Lieutenant Doherty was promoted from the rank of Sergeant, which he’s held since 2011. Lt. Doherty has been a member of the Dunellen Borough Police Department since 2002 where he started as a Patrolman. Throughout his 22 years serving Dunellen, he held numerous responsibilities and has been recognized with awards and citations for various acts throughout his career, from life-saving awards to gun and drug arrests. Lt. Doherty will command and oversee the Patrol Division.

Sergeant DeAngelo joined the Dunellen Borough Police Department in 2004 and throughout his 20-year career, has held many responsibilities including his most recent assignment as Detective



Left to right: Det. Sgt. Nick Goldman, Lt. John Doherty, Chief Dan Smith, Capt. Chris Beenders, Sgt. Jon DeAngelo, Mayor Jason F. Cilento

since 2020. He has received several awards throughout his career most notably a money laundering investigation that resulted in the seizure of \$45,600 to receiving a Meritorious Service Award for saving a kidnapped victim of a Sexual Assault and apprehension of the suspect in 2023. Sgt. DeAngelo will serve as a Patrol Squad Supervisor.

Detective Sergeant Goldman has served in the Borough of Dunellen since 2014. Throughout his 10 years in Dunellen, he has held numerous assignments, with his most recent assignment being in the Detective Bureau. He has received numerous awards throughout his career, most notably an Exceptional Duty Award in 2019 for a Narcotics Seizure of Cocaine with a \$10,000 street value to an Honorable Service Award in 2020 for the apprehension of an Armed Robbery suspect. Det Sgt. Goldman will serve as the Supervisor of the Detective Bureau.

“I’ve had the privilege of working with and watching these officers grow throughout their careers and I’m proud to see them advance into positions of leadership. These hard-working individuals always go the extra mile for their fellow officers and the Dunellen community, and I congratulate them on their well-deserved promotions,” said Dunellen Borough Police Chief Dan Smith.



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Office of Emergency Management

Dunellen Office of Emergency Management & Dunellen Community Emergency Response Team

The mission of the Dunellen Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and lead recovery efforts when emergencies and disasters impact the Borough and its residents. OEM accomplishes its mission by providing residential educational programs, having Emergency Operation Plans (EOPs) in place, and by obtaining and coordinating necessary resources such as equipment, materials, and personnel, to respond to and recover from disasters. OEM also forms partnerships with citizen volunteers, churches, schools, non-profit community groups, and other non-government organizations (NGOs) to assist in its efforts.

Citizens can volunteer with the Dunellen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is made up of residents who have committed to taking a 28-hour course to learn basic skills that they can use to protect themselves, their families, neighbors, and loved ones in times of emergencies. These dedicated individuals become the local neighborhood help until Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services arrive at the scene. We currently have 12 CERT members who attend community events like Dunellen Street Fairs, parades, the Haunted Trail, and High School Graduation, and assist the Dunellen Police and Fire Department. We are always welcoming new members, but you can take the free training and get certification without becoming a CERT team member as the information is invaluable.

To learn more about OEM, CERT, and how you may be able to support our efforts, contact Homer M. Mosley, Jr., OEM Director at hmosley@dunellenborough.com, (732) 902-1789, or Deputy Coordinator, William (Bill) Carlson at wcarlson@dunellenborough.com, (908) 930-4059.

Updates from Dunellen OEM Staff

OEM has recently appointed Joseph Cummins as its second OEM Deputy. Joe was first recruited as an OEM Staff Member after having served as a CERT member and brings a wealth of experience as a Borough volunteer serving in the past as a Municipal Council Member and on various municipal boards and committees.



In September 2024, in an election held by the New Jersey Emergency Management Association, Homer Mosley, Jr. was selected to serve as the Recording Secretary of the organization, meaning that Dunellen has representation in an organization that can shape the future of the Emergency Management profession and its impact on Municipal residents.

Storm Preparedness

With Hurricane season running from June to November and September being designated as National Preparedness Month, OEM provided two Storm Preparedness presentations to Dunellen residents at the Mayoral Town Hall on August 21 and at the Dunellen Senior Citizens Club on September 13. The Mayor and the Dunellen Borough Council also issued a proclamation commemorating September 2024 as National Preparedness Month.

Safety Saturdays

On September 21, OEM Deputy Bill Carlson made a presentation to residents regarding Pet Safety during Emergencies at the Dunellen Library as part of OEM's Safety Saturdays in which residents are provided with an hour of preparedness training on an emergency topic.

Most Safety Saturday sessions are held virtually and are led by OEM Social Engagement Director Autumn Barbado. The next session will be held virtually on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at 11:00 AM covering Back to School Child Safety.

Dunellen OEM Awarded New Jersey Emergency Management Agency Assistance Grant

Dunellen OEM applied for and was awarded the New Jersey EMAA (Emergency Management Agency Assistance) Grant for the fourth consecutive year. Recipients of this award receive \$10,000 a year to enhance their OEM program. Using this grant, Dunellen OEM has purchased handheld radios, amateur radios, CERT apparel and gear, computer accessories, an office paper shredder, a 40-foot storage container, industrial shelving, and specialized training for OEM, CERT, and resident training.

To stay in the loop on what's happening in Dunellen, make sure to check out:

- **Borough website:** www.dunellen-nj.gov
- **Borough Facebook page:** Borough of Dunellen, NJ
- **Emergency Notifications:** www.dunellen-nj.gov/enotify
- **Community Events & Programs eblasts:** Create an account at www.dunellenparksandrecreation.com
- **Downtown Dunellen monthly e-newsletter:** Email: dunellenmanagement@dunellenborough.com

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