

# The Dunellen Report



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## Message from the Mayor

MAYOR JASON F. CILETO

April 2025

In this April Message from the Mayor, we celebrate the many volunteers who serve on the Borough of Dunellen's Boards & Commissions as part of National Volunteer Month, share details on how you can apply and get involved, look ahead to events such as the Opening Day Parade & Ceremony, Volunteer Picnic Day, and a Mayoral Town Hall on Volunteerism, and provide important information regarding a change in Dunellen's polling locations ahead of the upcoming June primary election.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

April is National Volunteer Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the countless volunteers who have contributed to our Miracle Mile, past and present. I truly believe that volunteering your time is one of the greatest gifts you can give, and I am grateful for all who generously give back by serving on the Borough's many commissions and boards. We would not be where we are today without the work of these passionate individuals who help make Dunellen a vibrant and thriving place.

The impact of volunteerism cannot be overstated. Every day, volunteers help our community in countless ways and stay involved in a wide range of activities, from organizing events and fundraisers to providing essential services to those in need. They are a vital part of our town, and their efforts continue to improve the daily life for residents and visitors alike. Every act of kindness matters, and by volunteering, we can positively impact countless lives and create a stronger, more connected community.

If you are interested in volunteering in our community, you can fill out the Borough of Dunellen's Volunteer Application in one of two ways;

- Complete a paper application, which is available at the Clerk's Office in Borough Hall, 355 North Avenue
- Apply online by visiting [www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/volunteering](http://www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/volunteering) or scanning the QR code

...Continued on page 3

## JOIN US ON MEMORIAL DAY

FULL EVENT DETAILS ON PAGE 3



# Memorial Day

## Parade and Ceremony

### Monday, May 26

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*Parade Lineup* - 9:30 AM | American Legion Post 119  
*Parade Start* - 10:00 AM

*Ceremony* - Directly following the Parade at Washington Memorial Park

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All Scouts, Recreation Sports Teams, Youth Organizations, and High School Athletes are invited to march in the parade!

If your organization would like to have a float in the parade, contact Recreation Program Coordinator Kelly Seader at [kseader@dunellenborough.com](mailto:kseader@dunellenborough.com) by **Monday, May 12**.

**Honoring and remembering those who served.**

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- ✓ **INSPECT THE ROOF** – Check for damage or missing shingles from winter weather.
- ✓ **Clean Gutters** – Remove debris to prevent water damage and ensure proper drainage.
- ✓ **Service HVAC** – Schedule a check-up for the air conditioning system before it gets too warm.
- ✓ **Declutter** – Tidy up spaces, especially closets, to create a fresh, organized home.
- ✓ **Check for Drafts** – Seal gaps around windows and doors to improve energy efficiency.
- ✓ **Freshen Up the Lawn** – Aerate and fertilize the lawn to keep it healthy as the weather warms.
- ✓ **Clean Windows** – Wash both the inside and outside for a clearer, brighter view.
- ✓ **Test Smoke Detectors** – Replace batteries and ensure smoke alarms are working properly.
- ✓ **Check Foundation** – Look for cracks or settling that could lead to bigger issues down the line.
- ✓ **Revamp Outdoor Spaces** – Clean and refresh outdoor furniture, and add new plants or flowers to brighten up the yard.

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**Message from the Mayor**

*Continued from cover...*

**We proudly offer opportunities for individuals of all interests to get involved:**

Dunellen Planning Board, Dunellen Library Board of Trustees, Shade Tree Commission, Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission, Dunellen Downtown Management Organization, Dunellen Parks & Recreation Commission, Dunellen Municipal Alliance, Dunellen Parking Authority, Dunellen Fire Department, Dunellen Rescue Squad, Maurer House Restoration Committee, Mayor's Traffic & Pedestrian Task Force, Office of Emergency Management, Mayor's Cannabis Task Force, Dunellen Green Team Advisory Committee

**Mayoral Town Hall - Volunteerism:**

Join us on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the George W. Hodulik Firehouse for a Mayoral Town Hall Meeting on Volunteerism. The Borough of Dunellen offers a variety of opportunities to get involved in our community through our various volunteer boards and commissions and you will hear directly from some of our many volunteers to learn more about their roles in enhancing our community and how you can get involved! RSVP at [tinyurl.com/DunellenTownHall](http://tinyurl.com/DunellenTownHall).

**Opening Day Parade & Ceremony:**

The Borough of Dunellen will be celebrating Opening Day on Saturday, April 26 with the Recreation Department's annual parade and ceremony. The parade will begin at 10:00 AM at Washington Memorial Park, marching up N. Washington Ave., and concluding at McCoy Park where the Opening Ceremony will take place. Residents are encouraged to join us along the parade route and cheer on the athletes, coaches, and community groups as they head to the field.

**Volunteer Picnic Day:** On Saturday, April 26, the Dunellen Parks & Recreation Department, Dunellen Borough Council, and I will be hosting our second annual Volunteer Picnic Day at 11:00 AM directly following

the Baseball & Softball Opening Day Parade & Ceremony at McCoy Park. This free event is open to the public and serves as a way to celebrate and thank our incredible volunteers who make our Miracle Mile a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

**Polling Location Update:** An update from the Dunellen Borough Clerk's Office regarding polling locations in Dunellen: Please be advised that the Middlesex County Board of Election Commissioners has approved the Borough of Dunellen's request, on behalf of the Dunellen School District, to remove Lincoln Middle School as a polling location to minimize disruptions to school day operations. This change is effective as of March 13, 2025.

Updated polling locations are as follows:

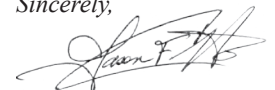
- District 1 & 2: Dunellen Senior Center, 216 Orange Street
- District 3 & 6: George W. Hodulik Firehouse, 231 South Madison Avenue
- District 4 & 5: Dunellen Public Library, 100 New Market Road

A notice will be mailed to all residents affected by this change.

If you're unsure of your polling district, you can view a map of the Borough separated by districts at <https://dunellen-nj.gov/ElectionMap> or you can visit <https://voter.svrs.nj.gov/polling-place-search> and enter your address and zip code. If you have any further questions, please contact Municipal Clerk, Lauren Staats, at (732) 968-3033 ext. 4, or via email at [ldarr@dunellenborough.com](mailto:ldarr@dunellenborough.com).

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's message from the mayor. 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](mailto:jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov).

Sincerely,



Jason F. Cilento, Mayor  
 Borough of Dunellen

**Dunellen to Honor Fallen Heroes with Annual Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony**

The Borough of Dunellen will once again come together to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation with the annual Memorial Day Parade. The event will take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, beginning at 10:00 AM.

The parade will commence on New Market Road, between the Dunellen Public Library and American Legion Post 119, proceeding south. Marchers will then turn right onto Grove Street, followed by a right onto Madison Avenue, and another right onto North Avenue.

The final stretch will see participants make a left onto Washington Avenue, culminating in Washington Memorial Park, where a solemn remembrance ceremony will be held.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to attend and show their support by lining the streets along the parade route. The event will feature local veteran organizations, community groups, marching bands, recreation teams, first responders, and other honored participants. The ceremony at Washington Memorial Park will include speeches, tributes, and a moment of

silence to reflect on the sacrifices made by our fallen service members.

The annual Memorial Day Parade serves as a cherished tradition in Dunellen, bringing the community together in a show of gratitude and remembrance. All are welcome to join in paying tribute to our heroes and celebrating their enduring legacy.

For more information about the parade and ceremony, please visit the borough's website, [www.Dunellen-NJ.gov](http://www.Dunellen-NJ.gov), or contact American Legion Post 119.

**If you or your organization would like to march or have a float in the parade, please contact Recreation Program Coordinator Kelly Seader at [kseader@dunellenborough.com](mailto:kseader@dunellenborough.com) by Monday, May 12. Let us come together as a community to honor and remember those who gave their lives in service to our country.**

## Dunellen Outings Community Committee (DOCC)

The Dunellen Outings Community Committee has been busy in the first quarter of 2025 planning and presenting outings for our Dunellen adult residents. So far, DOCC has held two of our Night Out Meetups; a Night Out at Seafood Boil in January, and a Welcome Back Night Out at 30 Burgers in March. These are always fun evenings, as we visit the various establishments in Dunellen and meet new people. They are also family-friendly events if you like to bring the kids along. In addition to our nights out, we held an Intro to Mahjong event at the Senior Center, which was very well received. A big thank you to Adrienne and Jane for volunteering their time to teach us the many aspects of the game. Lastly, we promoted a train trip to Somerville for their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 16. Always a fun event for the whole family!

Now that spring is in the air, it's time for our walking groups to start up again on April 1 at Washington Park. Our Tuesday & Thursday group walks at 7:30 AM, and then at 8:00 AM on Saturdays, except for the first Saturday of the month when we meet up at 9:30 AM for the monthly Walk & Talk with the Mayor starting on April 5. Join us as we stroll around the park and converse about town happenings. Our



walking sessions are open to all adult residents of Dunellen. Meet us at the gazebo a few minutes prior. Upcoming events on our wish list include a Night Out at the Dunellen Hotel in April, a Mother/Daughter or Mom & Me Paint or Craft event in May, a Night or Afternoon Out at Rosco's Eatery, a Caribbean Party, and a Night Out at Il Forno. Be sure to mark your calendar for our Annual Food Truck Night on Friday, August 15.

For more information on these and other events, follow our Facebook Page at DOCC – Dunellen Outings Community Committee or email us at [dunellendocc@dunellenborough.com](mailto:dunellendocc@dunellenborough.com). We hope to see you soon!

## Automatic Side Loading Recycling Bins

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA), which is responsible for recycling collection in the Borough of Dunellen, will be implementing Automatic Side Loading (ASL) services for Dunellen this spring, expected in April or May. With ASL, recycling containers are lifted and emptied mechanically to improve efficiency and personnel safety. As part of this transition, MCIA will deliver a new, 95-gallon recycling container to all Dunellen residents, free of charge, to be used for curbside collection.



## Branch Collection

A reminder that curbside collection of branches and tree limbs occurs in April. Make sure to stack branches and tree limbs in bundles; limbs shall be no more than 6 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length. Residents may also bring branches and tree limbs to the DPW Recycling Yard year-round.

# SPRING IS IN THE AIR.

DON'T LET ALLERGIES SLOW YOU DOWN.



Now's the time for long days filled with sunshine and getting outdoors. And AFC is here to help you enjoy it. So whether you have seasonal allergies or are simply feeling under the weather—come in and we'll get you all taken care of. We're open every day with extended hours to fit your schedule. No appointment is needed—just walk in.



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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! We are accepting new applicants. If you're at least 16 years old, you can join 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.

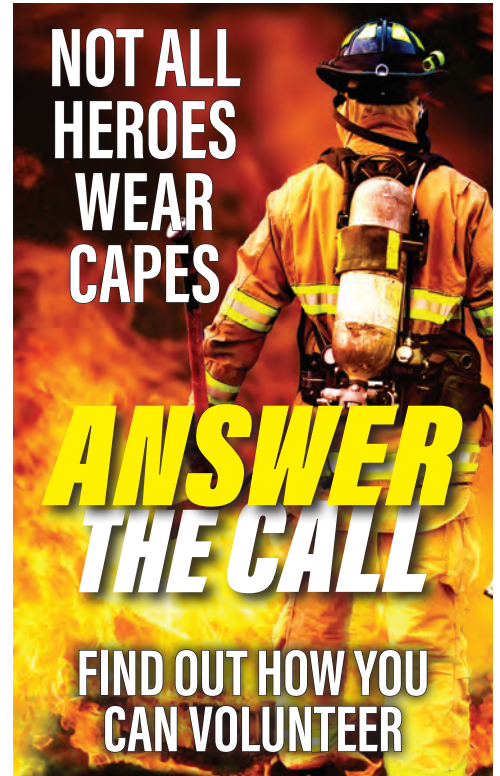
#### Associate Member

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](http://www.dunellenfd.com)

and email us at:  
[Joindfd@dunellenfd.com](mailto:Joindfd@dunellenfd.com)

*We look forward to hearing from you!*



**FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED**

*Welcome Spring*

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**LOCATED IN THE MIDDLESEX SHOPPING CENTER**  
**738 UNION AVE, MIDDLESEX**

## Polling Location Update from the Borough Clerk's Office

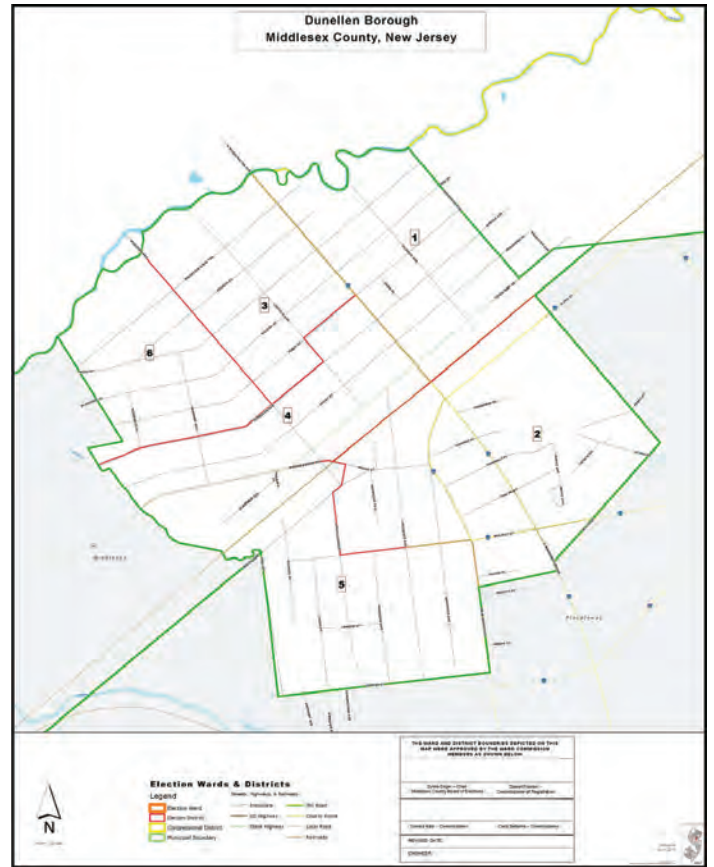
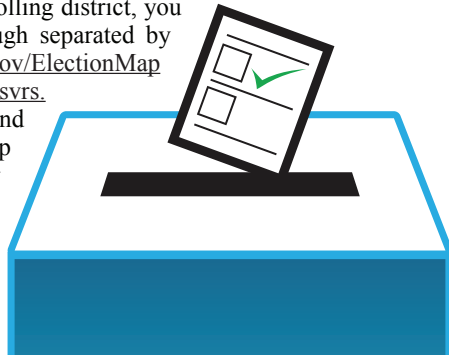
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## New Jersey American Water Project

New Jersey American Water (NJAW) has started Phase 1 of its 2025 Water Main Replacement Project in the Borough of Dunellen to bring necessary infrastructure improvements to our community. Phase 1 includes water main replacement on Prospect Avenue from North Avenue to Center Street and Whittier Avenue from New Market Road to Center Street.

Crews will remove and replace the existing water mains, install new water service connections from the main to each residential water box, and replace fire hydrants. Once this work is completed, the impacted streets will be milled and paved with a two-inch asphalt top coat to restore the surface of the roadway. Additionally, Prospect Avenue will be re-stripped to match its current layout after paving is complete.

### Future New Jersey American Water projects will include:

- Grove Street/South Avenue from New Market Road to the Middlesex border
- Walnut Street from Pulaski Street to West Fourth Street
- Bache Place
- New Market Road from S. Washington Avenue to the Piscataway border

The Borough and NJAW will provide notices to residents impacted by this work.

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 To comfort you in your time of need.  
 To help you make difficult choices.  
 And to provide your family with peace of mind going forward.*

# HONOR our HEROES

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Downtown Dunellen Car Show

The Dunellen Downtown Management Organization and Karl's Custom Classics will be hosting the 1st Annual Spring Downtown Dunellen Car Show on North Avenue, Dunellen from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Sunday, May 4. This event is free for the general public. If you are interested in entering your vehicle, contact Karl Jackson at (908) 500-1837. There will be a day-of-show entry fee of \$20 per vehicle.

This exciting event will feature an impressive lineup of cool, unique, and vintage cars. Enjoy a day of family-friendly fun, explore local shops and restaurants, and experience the charm of Downtown Dunellen! This event also coincides with the Friends of the Dunellen Public Library's first Open Air Market of the season and the DDMO's Spring Into Wellness at Washington Memorial Park!

If you are interested in becoming a trophy/event sponsor for this event, visit [www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/SpringCarShow](http://www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/SpringCarShow) for a printable copy of the registration form.

Presented by the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization & Karl's Custom Classics

Dunellen Downtown Management Organization

Karl's CUSTOM CLASSICS

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring

# Downtown Dunellen Car Show

Sunday, May 4 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
355 North Avenue, Dunellen

Admission is free for the general public  
Day of Show Entry Fee: \$20 per vehicle

Featuring Diecast Jimmy, Dirty Rat Apparel, and Music by Hotrod Mike

For more information, contact Karl Jackson at (908) 500-1837

### Flashing Beacon Lights

#### Madison Avenue & Dunellen Avenue

Push-button flashing beacons will be installed at Madison Avenue, Dunellen Avenue & First Street, and North Washington Avenue, Dunellen Avenue & First Street.

The traffic lights at Washington Avenue and Madison Avenue will also receive updated pedestrian crossing signals. These intersections are our children's main walking paths to and from school. Installation of these RRFBs is expected later this year.

#### South Washington Avenue & Orange Street, New Market Road & Grove Street

Push-button flashing beacons will be installed at South Washington Avenue and Orange Street, as well as at New Market Road and Grove Street. These intersections are our children's main walking paths to and from Columbia Park. The installation of these RRFBs is expected later this year.



When was the last time you checked your house value?

*Isn't it time?*



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2009-2010, 2012-2017, 2019





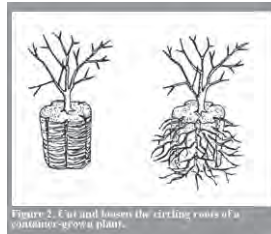
## Dunellen Shade Tree Commission

*Continued...*

to the soil at the base of the stem (mulch should not be touching the stem of the plant)

**Bare-Root plants** are economical and relatively easy to handle without soil, this also provides easy inspection of root system. Provide adequate moisture to roots during storage and soak well (minimum 1 hour) prior to planting. Inspect the root system to determine how the planting hole should be formed some bare root stock may need a cone shaped mound to rest on and some may need room for a tap-root structure. The trunk should be supported during the backfill and staking process.

**Balled & Burlapped;** root loss may be substantial during harvesting and a large ball of soil can be extremely heavy. Determine whether natural or synthetic materials are supporting the ball, if the materials are determined to be synthetic they must be removed once the plant is placed in the planting hole. The bottom of the excavation must have firm soil to prevent the plant from settling. Natural materials that can be easily removed can be taken from the hole and the burlap should be pulled off the top of the root ball to allow water to penetrate easily.



Wire baskets found around the root ball are used to transport plants long distances while preventing damage to the roots and soil, experts vary on the long-term effects of removing vs. not removing wire baskets when it comes to plant growth and mortality, my experience tells me they have no place in the planting hole. The removal of a wire basket can be accomplished by removing the base of the basket on structurally sound root balls prior to placing it into the hole, then cutting down one side of the basket and removing it from the hole (as demonstrated in the lecture).

### Additional Best Management Practices:

**Pruning;** Prior to installation judiciously prune broken and rubbing limbs prior to placing the plant in the excavation. Once upright you can prune any injured or girdling roots that can be addressed at this time. If you skip the pruning of the crown prior to installation you may need additional equipment (ladders or extension pole pruners).

**Plant Size makes a difference,** smaller plants are vigorous growers and can acclimate to the site and establish much faster than their larger counterparts. Root loss and transplant shock is minimized with the purchase of younger or smaller plants.

**Soil Drainage;** Provide good drainage for plants if planting soil or poor drainage plagues your site remediate by installing a viable drainage system prior to installation of plant material. Water should be applied regularly throughout the establishment, it should be applied after checking soil to avoid under or over watering.

**Sanitation of Tools;** Disinfect all planting and pruning tools prior to installation, soil pathogens like phytophthora can be spread by moving soil from one planting to another, if you removed any diseased plant material with your shovels or pruning tools clean and disinfect them with a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water and rinse thoroughly prior to installing plants.

**Helpful Hints;** Inspect root ball size and shape, stem and branch structure and crown symmetry. Upon placing the plant in the excavation, face the plant for its best appearance, this can also help to minimize future pruning. Assemble friends to assist with planting, form a group that will reciprocate with each other, this will add fun into a mundane task. Place excavated soil on tarps for easy clean up, place soil in a wheel barrow to loosen and remove debris prior to use as backfill.

Monitor growth and progress, inspect plantings regularly and provide proper cultural practices (watering, mulching, fertilizing, pruning, aeration and maintaining a visible trunk flare) from spring through fall. Expand the mulch ring as the plant grows larger.

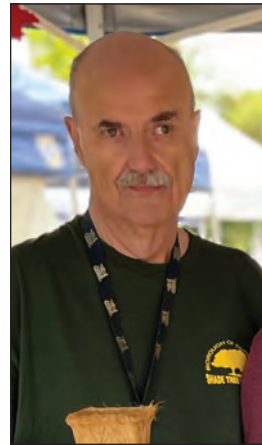
### Removing a Tree or Pruning a Tree on Public Property

Please remember Chapter 275 of the Borough Code outlines what can and cannot be removed or pruned without consent and approval the DTSC. These laws can be found online by going to [www.ecode360.com/12496463](http://www.ecode360.com/12496463)



We hope this information is helpful and thank you for planting trees.

## The Dunellen Shade Tree Commission Remembers John Finney



The Dunellen Shade Tree Commission remembers John Finney, a dedicated commission member for the past three years, who passed away on March 21, 2025. John volunteered many hours beautifying our Borough. He was always ready to lend a helping hand, regardless of the task before him, and assisted in many mulching, pruning, and planting activities throughout his time of service.

The DSTC is partnering with the Mayor and the Dunellen Borough Council to plant a memorial tree in John's honor in one of Dunellen's parks. John will certainly be missed and will always remain in our prayers.

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Bound Brook, NJ 08805  
**732-356-0846**



# DUNELLEN PARKS AND RECREATION

## Hop into Spring at the Dunellen Easter Egg Hunt!

Spring is in the air, and that means it's time for one of Dunellen's favorite traditions—the annual **Easter Egg Hunt!** Gather your little ones and join us on **Sunday, April 13, at 1:00 PM in Columbia Park** for an afternoon filled with fun, excitement, and plenty of colorful eggs!

This event is open to children in **Pre-K through 3rd grade**, so bring your baskets or bags and get ready to hunt for eggs hidden throughout the park. But that's not all—

our **very special guest, the Easter Bunny**, will be there **for photos**, so don't forget your camera!

The Easter Egg Hunt is a wonderful way for families to celebrate the season together, and we can't wait to see everyone there. Mark your calendars and get ready for a fun-filled afternoon!

For more information, contact Rec Program Coordinator Kelly Seader at [kseader@dunellenborough.com](mailto:kseader@dunellenborough.com)



## Swing into Spring with the Dunellen Youth Tennis Academy!



Dunellen Recreation is thrilled to announce the return of the Spring Youth Tennis Academy, a fantastic opportunity for young athletes to develop and refine their tennis skills! This five-week program is designed for players of all skill levels, whether they're a beginner or looking to sharpen their game.

Under the expert guidance of Larry Dillon—PTR International Master of Tennis, Youth Development, USTA National Trainer, and USTA Eastern Lead Clinician—participants will enhance their understanding of tennis strategy, athleticism, technique, mental and emotional resilience, and sportsmanship.

The academy will take place on Mondays and Saturdays at the Dunellen Tennis Courts in Columbia Park, beginning April 21 for Monday sessions and April 26 for Saturday sessions. Age groups and times are as follows: 6-8 years old

from 5:00-6:00 PM (Mondays) or 9:00-10:00 AM (Saturdays), 9-11 years old from 6:00-7:00 PM (Mondays) or 10:00-11:00 AM (Saturdays), and 12 and up from 7:00-8:00 PM (Mondays) or 11:00 AM-12:00 PM (Saturdays).

The registration fee is \$90 per player for one five-week session on either Monday or Saturday. A 10% discount is available for players who register for multiple sessions or join with a sibling. The registration deadline is April 17, and late registrations will incur a \$15 fee with no guarantee of a t-shirt.

For sibling discount promo codes, contact Rec Program Coordinator Kelly Seader at [kseader@dunellenborough.com](mailto:kseader@dunellenborough.com) before registering.

Don't miss out on this chance to learn from the best and have a blast on the courts this spring! Sign up today and get ready to serve up some fun!

## Experience the Ultimate Summer at Dunellen Recreation Camp!

For over 50 years, Dunellen Recreation has been the heart of summer fun for local children, providing a safe and exciting environment where kids aged 5-12 can make lasting memories. This year, the tradition continues with an action-packed summer camp program filled with engaging activities and thrilling adventures!

Campers will enjoy a variety of activities, including playground playtime, organized games, science experiments, water play, scavenger hunts, and movie days. Special outings such as field trips and walking trips to the local ice cream shop add to the excitement. With something for everyone, this is a summer experience your child won't want to miss

### Camp Details:

- **Location:** Senior Center in Columbia Park, Dunellen
- **Session Dates:** June 16 - August 15 (No camp on July 3-4)
- **Hours:** 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Flexible Registration & Affordable Rates:** Dunellen Recreation offers flexible options to fit every family's needs. Sign up by the day, by the week, or for the entire summer!

- **Weekly Rate:** \$250/week (Deposit options available)
- **Daily Rate:** \$60/day (Paid in full at registration)
- **Full Summer Discount:** Pay in full or with a \$500 deposit; balance due in installments

### Exciting Activities & Special Events:

The 2025 Rec Summer Camp promises an unforgettable summer with exciting trips to destinations like Runaway Rapids Waterpark, Branchburg Sports Complex, and Yestercades Arcade. Special themed days add even more fun, with events such as Karaoke Day, a Talent Show, Camp Olympics, a Glow Dance Party, Christmas in July, and a Town-Wide Scavenger Hunt.

**Aftercare Available:** For parents who need extended care, aftercare is available from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the following rates:

- \$30 per day
- \$90 per week
- \$900 for the entire season

### Register Early – Space is Limited!

For more information, contact Program



Coordinator Kelly Seader at [kseader@dunellenborough.com](mailto:kseader@dunellenborough.com)

Give your child a summer to remember at Dunellen Recreation Camp – register today and get ready for a season filled with fun, friends, and adventure! Registration is open now at [www.DunellenParksandRecreation.com](http://www.DunellenParksandRecreation.com).



# DUNELLEN PARKS AND RECREATION

## Dunellen Kicks Off Baseball Season with Opening Day Parade & Volunteer Picnic

The excitement is building as Dunellen gears up for its highly anticipated Opening Day celebration on Saturday, April 26. This year's event comes with a special twist, as it will coincide with the Borough's second annual Volunteer Picnic Day, bringing the community together for a day filled with fun, sports, and appreciation for local volunteers.

The festivities will begin at 10:00 AM with the traditional Opening Day Parade, stepping off from Washington Park and marching north up Washington Avenue to McCoy Park/Clem Santy Field. Residents can line the streets to cheer on the young athletes, coaches, and community groups as they make their way to the field.

Following the parade, an exciting Opening Day Ceremony will take place at Clem Santy Field, marking the official start of the baseball season. The ceremony will recognize the dedication of players, coaches, and volunteers who make Dunellen's sports programs a success.

But the celebration doesn't stop there! After the ceremony, attendees are invited to stay and enjoy a variety of fun activities and information tables set up for teams, coaches, and residents. The Volunteer Picnic will provide a perfect opportunity to recognize and thank those who generously give their time to support the community. This event will also give people the chance to meet our volunteers and see the incredible work they do!

Dunellen offers a wide variety of different boards, committees, and commissions, all made up of resident volunteers. Additionally, the borough is home to its own volunteer emergency services, including the Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and OEM/CERTs—an impressive feat for a town spanning just one square mile! Dunellen has so much to offer, and this event is an opportunity to honor and express our gratitude to the volunteers who contribute so much to our community.

This event is more than

just the start of baseball season; it's a chance for the entire community to come together and celebrate the spirit of teamwork and volunteerism.

Mark your calendars and come out to support Dunellen's young athletes and dedicated volunteers! Don't miss this wonderful day of celebration, community, and fun.

**Opening Day**  
**April 26 10:00 AM**  
**Parade & Ceremony**  
 The parade starts at Washington Memorial Park, heads north on N. Washington Ave, and concludes at McCoy Park with the Opening Ceremony.  
**Washington Park to McCoy Park**

**Volunteer Picnic Day**  
**Saturday, April 26 | 11:00 AM**  
**McCoy Park**  
 Join us to celebrate our dedicated volunteers! Learn about the Borough's many volunteer boards & commissions and how you can get involved!  
 • Food • Drinks • Music  
**Free Event!**  
 Hosted by Mayor Cilento, the Dunellen Borough Council, and Dunellen Parks & Recreation

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**sbuhlercarpentry@gmail.com • References Available**

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James A. Gustafson, President/Manager, NJ Lic. No. 4205  
 Daniel M. Erickson, Director, NJ Lic. No. 4798

## Dunellen Borough Police Department Welcomes New Officers



On Wednesday, January 1, 2025, during the Dunellen Borough Council’s Reorganization Meeting, the Borough of Dunellen and Dunellen Borough Police Department welcomed Patrolman Paul Condit to the force. Prior to his law enforcement career, Patrolman Condit honorably served his country in the United States Marine Corps. He was formerly employed by the New Jersey Department of Corrections and more recently, the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office. A resident of Dunellen for over a decade, we are excited that he has chosen to complete his career protecting his hometown. Patrolman

Condit will finish a field training program before being assigned to patrol.

At the March 18, 2025, Dunellen Borough Council Meeting, Chief Smith and Mayor Cileto proudly swore in two new officers to the Dunellen Police Department in the presence of the Dunellen Borough Council along with gathered family and friends.

Patrolman Andrew Mortensen is a graduate of the Ocean County Police Academy. He was first employed as a class II officer by the Seaside Park Police Department and most recently the Island Heights Police Department.

Patrolman Mortensen is excited to further his career with our growing community.

Patrolman Erik Ortiz holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Kean University. Patrolman Ortiz is a recent graduate of the Alternate Route training at the Monmouth County Police Academy and is excited to begin his Law Enforcement Career in Dunellen, adding another bilingual officer to our department.

May our new officers have long, safe, and successful careers protecting and serving the residents of Dunellen.

## Your Dunellen Parking Authority

This is your Dunellen Parking Authority because we are not a non-profit or private organization. The Authority is considered a public corporation of the State of New Jersey outlined in NJSA 40:11A-1 “Parking Authority Law.” Realizing the need to address public parking, the honorable Mayor Joseph Morecraft Jr. created the Dunellen Parking Authority on October 3, 1955, Codified in the Borough code in Chapter 7 Authorities, Article 1.

As a public corporation of the State, the Parking Authority is required to abide by the laws of New Jersey such as the Public Contract Law, Public Employees Health and Safety Act, New Jersey Motor Vehicle Code, and Public Ethics to name a few. The Authority is granted autonomy in areas such as budgeting, hiring/firing, purchasing, funding, etc. all within state laws. By law, the Mayor appoints up to five commissioners, who then appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Parking Authority has increased its public interaction by addressing future planning to ensure public parking is available, patrol our streets, and actively pursue violators of both state parking regulations and the Borough’s parking ordinances. You can visit [www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/DPA](http://www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/DPA) to view our mission statement, core values, and vision statement in addition to other relevant information regarding the Authority.

Our goal is to serve the residents of our Borough regarding their parking needs and concerns. We actively pursue complaints lodged by our residents and respond within 24 hours. In addition, the Parking Authority is responsible for enforcement of all on-street parking regulations, the 200 parking meters downtown, 2-hour non-resident parking, public parking lots, and the approximately 39 handicapped parking spaces within the Borough on both public and private properties.

Please note that the Authority does not tow or boot illegally parked vehicles. Our authority is only to issue fines.

# THE ACTORS STUDIO

OF NEW JERSEY





## PROFESSIONAL THEATER IN YOUR BACKYARD

The Actors Studio of New Jersey (ASNJ) is a vibrant nonprofit theater company dedicated to producing high-quality, professional entertainment in residency at the Dunellen Theatre. With a mission to forge a hub of artistic innovation and unity, ASNJ aims to leverage the transformative power of theater to bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds. By delivering exceptional productions and fostering community engagement, ASNJ promises to enrich the lives of Dunellen residents and beyond. Whether through captivating performances or educational programs for all ages, ASNJ is committed to making theater accessible and exciting for everyone.

For more information on upcoming shows and classes, visit [www.actorsstudioj.org](http://www.actorsstudioj.org).

**MORE INFORMATION:**

✉ [STUDIO@ACTORSSTUDIONJ.ORG](mailto:STUDIO@ACTORSSTUDIONJ.ORG)  
 🌐 [WWW.ACTORSSTUDIONJ.ORG](http://WWW.ACTORSSTUDIONJ.ORG)

## Open Air Market / Spring Into Wellness

The Grand Opening of the Friends of the Dunellen Public Library's Open Air Market is May 4 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Washington Memorial Park. The Market will be held every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month through October. We have many wonderful vendors this year and some fun surprises and themes.

The May 4 Market will include our annual collaboration with the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization for Spring Into Wellness which highlights businesses and

organizations within Dunellen that are focused on health, wellness, and fitness. We will have fitness performances by local organizations, and presentations from the Dunellen High School Drama Department and the Dunellen Public Library at the gazebo. This event also coincides with the DDMO and Karl's Custom Classic's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Spring Car Show along North Avenue!

Stop by the Friends booth to learn about upcoming events and activities, including our 9-hole mini-golf course which will open at our May 18 market.

If you are interested in being a vendor at the market please contact us at [friendsofthedunellenlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthedunellenlibrary@gmail.com)

Follow the Friends of the Dunellen Public Library and the Dunellen Open-Air Market on Facebook and Instagram.

Facebook:

@FriendsoftheDunellenPublicLibrary

Facebook: @DunellenOpenAirMarket

Instagram: @friends.dunellen.library

Instagram: @dunellen.open.air.market

## DUNELLEN GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

[www.dunellen-nj.gov](http://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](mailto:jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov)

**Daniel Cole Sigmon, Council President**

[dsigmon@dunellen-nj.gov](mailto:dsigmon@dunellen-nj.gov)

**Teresa Albertson, Councilmember**

[talbertson@dunellen-nj.gov](mailto:talbertson@dunellen-nj.gov)

**Crisol-Iris Lantz, Councilmember**

[clantz@dunellen-nj.gov](mailto:clantz@dunellen-nj.gov)

**Trina Rios, Councilmember**

[trios@dunellen-nj.gov](mailto:trios@dunellen-nj.gov)

**William Scott, Councilmember**

[wscott@dunellen-nj.gov](mailto:wscott@dunellen-nj.gov)

**Harold VanDermark, Councilmember**

[hvandermark@dunellen-nj.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dhutchison@dunellenborough.com)

**Maria Santos, Assistant Tax Collector**

[msantos@dunellenborough.com](mailto:msantos@dunellenborough.com)

732-968-1226 (Phone)

732-968-3903 (Fax)

M-F: 9:00am-4:30pm

### Tax Assessor:

**Dawn Guttschall**

[dguttschall@dunellenborough.com](mailto:dguttschall@dunellenborough.com)

1st & 3rd Monday of the month

5:00-7:30pm (or by appointment)

732-968-3033 ext. 132 (Phone)

732-968-3903 (Fax)

### Construction Office:

**Scott Brescher, Construction Official**

[sbrescher@dunellenborough.com](mailto:sbrescher@dunellenborough.com)

101 Prospect Ave, off Skinner Plaza, M-F:

9:00am-4:30pm

**Claribel Acevedo, Technical Assistant**

**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](mailto:kseader@dunellenborough.com)

### Planning Board:

Regular meetings - 4th Monday of each

month at 7:00pm

Municipal Building

### Director of Community Development:

**Derryck White**

[dwhite@dunellenborough.com](mailto:dwhite@dunellenborough.com)

### Office of Emergency Management:

732-968-3033

**Homer Mosley, OEM Coordinator**

[hmosley@dunellenborough.com](mailto:hmosley@dunellenborough.com)

**Bill Carlson, OEM Deputy Coordinator**

[wcarlson@dunellenborough.com](mailto:wcarlson@dunellenborough.com)

**Joseph Cummins, OEM Deputy Coordinator**

[jcummins@dunellenborough.com](mailto:jcummins@dunellenborough.com)

### Code Enforcement:

**George Deene**

908-672-2593, [gdeene@dunellenborough.com](mailto:gdeene@dunellenborough.com)

**Ken Baudendistel**

[kbaudendistel@dunellenborough.com](mailto: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

Call MCIA for any questions or concerns

regarding bi-weekly Recycling

101 Interchange Plaza, Ste 202

Cranbury, NJ 08512

Hotline: 1-800-488-6242



# 2025

# Calendar of Events

## APRIL

- 5 Walks & Talks with the Mayor**  
9:30 AM at Columbia Park  
Office of the Mayor and DOCC
- 13 Easter Egg Hunt**  
1:00 PM at Columbia Park  
Dunellen Parks & Recreation
- 26 Opening Day Parade & Ceremony**  
10:00 AM at Washington to McCoy Park  
Dunellen Parks & Recreation
- 26 Volunteer Picnic Day**  
11:00 AM at McCoy Park  
Dunellen Parks & Recreation

## MAY

- 3 Walks & Talks with the Mayor**  
9:30 AM at Columbia Park  
Office of the Mayor and DOCC
- 3 PTO Tricky Tray**  
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM at Faber Elementary School  
Dunellen PTO
- 4 Spring Into Wellness**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
DDMO & Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 4 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 4 Downtown Car Show**  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM on North Avenue  
DDMO
- 7 Walk & Bike to School Day**  
Dunellen PTO
- 9 Dunellen High School Dunellies**  
7:00 PM at Dunellen High School  
Dunellen High School Arts
- 10 Multi-Site Green Brook Cleanup**  
9:30-11:30 AM at McCoy Park  
Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership
- 18 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 26 Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony**  
9:30 AM American Legion to Washington Park  
American Legion and Dunellen Parks & Rec

## JUNE

- 1 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 4 Spring Band Concert**  
7:00 PM at Dunellen High School  
Dunellen High School & Lincoln Middle School
- 7 Walks & Talks with the Mayor**  
9:30 AM at Columbia Park  
Office of the Mayor and DOCC

- 11 Spring Choir Concert**  
7:00 PM at Dunellen High School  
Dunellen High School & Lincoln Middle School
- 15 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 19 Music in the Park - Kolor Blynd**  
7:00 PM at Washington Park  
DAICC
- 21 Dunellen Fire Department Street Fair**  
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM on North Avenue  
Dunellen Defender Fire Company #1

## JULY

- 5 Walks & Talks with the Mayor**  
9:30 AM at Columbia Park  
Office of the Mayor and DOCC
- 6 Unity Day**  
11:00 AM at Columbia Park  
Open Air Market & DAICC
- 6 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 10 Music in the Park - The Masons**  
7:00 PM at Washington Park  
DAICC
- 18 Plays in the Park**  
Time TBD at Washington Park  
DAICC
- 19 Plays in the Park**  
Time TBD at Washington Park  
DAICC
- 20 Plays in the Park**  
Time TBD at Washington Park  
DAICC
- 20 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 24 Music in the Park - Block Party**  
7:00 PM at Washington Park  
DAICC

## AUGUST

- 2 Walks & Talks with the Mayor**  
9:30 AM at Columbia Park  
Office of the Mayor and DOCC
- 3 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 5 National Night Out**  
6:00-8:00 PM at Columbia Park  
Dunellen Police Department
- 7 Music in the Park - This Old Engine**  
7:00 PM at Washington Park  
DAICC

- 15 Food Truck Night**  
TBD at Washington Park  
DOCC
- 17 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 21 Music in the Park - MPack**  
7:00 PM at Washington Park  
DAICC
- 28 Overdose Awareness Ceremony**  
6:00-8:00 PM at Washington Park  
Dunellen Municipal Alliance

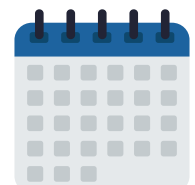
## SEPTEMBER

- 7 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 11 9/11 Memorial Ceremony w/ Middlesex**  
7:00 PM at Victor Crowell Park (Middlesex)  
Borough of Dunellen
- 13 Walks & Talks with the Mayor**  
9:30 AM at Columbia Park  
Office of the Mayor and DOCC
- 19 Senior Citizen Picnic**  
11:00 AM at American Legion Post 119  
Dunellen Recreation & American Legion Post 119
- 20 Dunellen Gives Back**  
11:00 AM - TBD  
DOCC
- 21 Open Air Market**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park  
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 27 Dunellen Fire Department Street Fair**  
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM on North Avenue  
Dunellen Defender Fire Company #1

### And more!


Events, dates, and times are subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar of events, please scan the QR code or visit

[www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/calendar.php](http://www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/calendar.php)



## Volunteerism Town Hall

Join us on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the George W. Hodulik Firehouse for a Mayoral Town Hall Meeting on Volunteerism. The Borough of Dunellen offers a variety of opportunities to get involved in our community through our various volunteer boards and commissions and you will hear directly from some of our many volunteers to learn more about their roles in enhancing our community and how you can get involved! This is a great opportunity to ask questions and explore opportunities that align with your interests. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/DunellenTownHall](http://tinyurl.com/DunellenTownHall).



**Mayoral Town Hall Volunteerism**  
Hosted by Mayor Jason F. Cilento

**Wednesday, April 23 | 7:00 PM**  
George W. Hodulik Firehouse  
231 S. Madison Avenue, 2nd Floor

The Borough of Dunellen offers a variety of opportunities to get involved in our community through our various volunteer boards and commissions. Join us to hear directly from these volunteers to learn more about their roles in enhancing our community and how you can get involved!

RSVP at [tinyurl.com/DunellenTownHall](http://tinyurl.com/DunellenTownHall)



## Code Enforcement



### Dunellen Code Enforcement Reminder

To keep Dunellen beautiful, it is important to manage the maintenance of your property.

#### Front & Rear Yard Maintenance

- Grass must be cut from structure to curb and should be kept under 5 inches tall.
- Hedges and bushes must be maintained and kept trimmed and kept free of weeds.
- All beds, sidewalks and driveways should be kept free of weeds.

#### Maintenance of Exterior Buildings Including Garage

- Building exteriors must be kept free of dirt by power washing surfaces.
- All peeling surfaces/walls/steps need to be scraped and painted.
- Structural deterioration such as but not limited to - porches, landings, balconies, stairs, eaves, fences, gutters, shingles, steps, and ledges must be maintained in keeping within standards and not constitute a blighting factor.

#### Trash / Materials

- Home furnishings, appliances, tools, recreational devices etc. can sit curbside for no more than 24 hours and must be removed by refuse company.
- No stored equipment and materials related to business, commercial or industrial uses in residential zoned areas.

#### Parking

- It is prohibited for any vehicles to be parked on lawn or landscaped areas.
- Vehicle parking is limited to parking areas and driveways.
- No commercial vehicle over 8,000 manufacturers rated capacity shall be stored or parked on any street or lot in a residential zone.
- Trailers must be parked in private garage or rear yard and cannot be parked on the street or front edge of the home structure.

All non-conforming activities are subject to a summons.

Visit [www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/MunicipalCode](http://www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/MunicipalCode) or scan the QR code to view Dunellen's Municipal Code




**DUNELLENHOTEL**

**732-968-2900**  
120 N. Washington Avenue  
Dunellen, New Jersey  
[www.DunellenHotel.com](http://www.DunellenHotel.com)

**CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS ON OUR WEBSITE!**



**KITCHEN HOURS\***

Monday	CLOSED
Tues-Thurs	11:30am-9:00pm
Fri-Sat	11:30am-10:00pm
Sunday	12:00pm-9:00pm

\*Hours subject to change. Please call for updates.




Find us on Facebook | Follow us on Twitter

## New Hybrid CERT Training

One of the Dunellen Community Emergency Response Team's (CERT) goals is to help educate Dunellen residents and business owners on the need and steps to become prepared for floods, emergencies, and other incidents that may impact them and our borough. That education can take many forms, but now there is a new online course, Hybrid CERT, which will provide guidance on basic emergency response skills including, preparedness, fire safety, and medical emergencies.

The primary goal of this course is to help provide a larger audience with the basic education needed to develop skills to help themselves, their families, and neighbors in disasters and other emergency situations. This course is free and self-paced, so it can be taken 24/7 at your convenience.

We know how busy your personal schedule may be, and that is why this online program is a convenient option to learn skills that prepare you to respond when disasters strike. Think about the confidence and satisfaction you will gain knowing you can help yourself, your family, friends, and neighbors while waiting for busy first responders to arrive.

Consider taking advantage of this mobile-friendly training opportunity complete with interactive knowledge checks and virtual reality simulations that equip you to take decisive action when it matters most. For more information or to sign up for the course, go to <https://medicine.utah.edu/occupational-environmental-health/research/outreach/cert> or scan this QR code:



The CERT program is designed to provide a consistent, nationwide approach to emergency training and response. The CERT online course was created by the University of Utah Health in partnership with the National CERT Association. The educational curriculum is the same that FEMA established for CERT programs, and ultimately, may provide more volunteers to help in disaster situations so professional responders can focus on more complex tasks they are trained to handle. Through CERT, a community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters is enhanced.

For those interested in getting more involved with helping the Dunellen community, this course can be the first step toward additional practical training, and becoming part of the Dunellen CERT.

**How can I find out more about the CERT program or training opportunity?** Contact the Dunellen CERT Coordinator, Bill Carlson at (908) 930-4059, or direct your inquiry to [oem@dunellenborough.com](mailto:oem@dunellenborough.com).

### Q&A

If I take the class, does that mean I automatically become a CERT Member? No, CERT membership is optional. You are not required to become a CERT member. You will still be able to benefit from the training program even if you elect not to fulfill the requirements for CERT membership.

Will training be conducted entirely virtually? The training program is a hybrid model consisting of both online and in-person training. The in-person component is strongly encouraged for hands-on experience and is required to receive CERT membership credentials. Contact the Dunellen CERT Coordinator, Bill Carlson at [oem@dunellenborough.com](mailto:oem@dunellenborough.com), with any questions.

Is the training offered in more than one language? The training program is currently offered in both English and Spanish.

What browser or device should I use? The online program is available on both desktop and mobile. Get complete information on minimum system requirements here: <https://medicine.utah.edu/documents/hybrid-cert-system-requirements>.

What if I have already completed CERT Training, is this course worthwhile? For those who have completed the full program live, hybrid CERT can serve as a knowledge review to sharpen disaster survival skills.

## Welcoming New Businesses to Dunellen

### Luxury Kitchen & Bath Grand Opening:

Congratulations to Xavier and his team at Luxury Kitchen & Bath, who celebrated their grand opening with an official ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 1! We were joined by members of the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization and Dunellen Borough Council to officially welcome one of our newest businesses to downtown Dunellen! Luxury Kitchen & Bath, located at 118 N. Washington Avenue, offers high-quality kitchen and bathroom renovations, featuring beautiful designs, premium materials, and expert craftsmanship. Be sure to visit their showroom to explore their offerings and support this fantastic new addition to our downtown community!



### The Wick Studio Grand Opening:

On Saturday, March 1, we also welcomed Annette, Ernest, and their family at The Wick Studio to Dunellen! The Wick Studio, located at 362 North Avenue, offers unique, hands-on, custom candle-making experiences perfect for birthday parties, corporate gatherings, or a relaxing night out. They have a variety of scents and containers to create a candle that is unique to you. The Wick Studio celebrated its grand opening with an official ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 1, where we were joined by members of the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization and Dunellen Borough Council.





# Dunellen Public Schools

For the 2024 Dunellen boys basketball team, the goal was simple. The Destroyers, led by five seniors, wanted to leave a legacy.

After a few close calls that allowed them to stay in position, the Destroyers accomplished that goal by winning the GMC Silver Division title with a 48-35 victory over Piscataway Magnet on January 31.

The victory over the Raiders was led by the seniors, as Ryan Hutchins, who just four days later would notch his 1,000th career point, scored 20 points. Classmate Danny Watts added 13, including 8 in the fourth quarter, as the Destroyers ended the game on a 19-4 run over the final eight minutes and 30 seconds of the game. That run was started by a tough basket from Hutchins at the third-quarter buzzer to send the game into a decisive fourth quarter tied at 31. From there Dunellen smothered any Raiders' offense, highlighted by a flurry of steals from sophomore guard Will Ghanim and senior guard Joel Cruz late in the quarter. The steals capped off a defensive effort in which the Destroyers did not allow any Raider to reach double figures in scoring, including holding Watts and fellow senior Luke Pettersen combining to hold Piscataway Magnet's leading scorer to just six points.

The win was the fifth straight divisional win for Dunellen, who



finished the year 12-2 in Silver Division play. Two of those wins came over South Amboy thanks to the heroics of Watts, who converted game-winning layups off passes from Ghanim with under 15 seconds left in both matchups with the Governors on the year.

Clutch moments were a theme for Dunellen throughout the seasons as Hutchins hit a game-winning jumper with two seconds left against Spotswood on December 21, to give the Destroyers their first win of the season.

Ghanim and Watts also connected again for a late-clock game-winner in the Destroyers' victory over Highland Park in the first round of the Central Jersey Group 1 playoffs. Despite entering the fourth quarter trailing by 10

points, the Destroyers never gave up and set up the duo's heroics. With 40 seconds left in the game, Ghanim attacked the Owls' zone defense before zipping a pass into Watts for a layup to give Dunellen a 59-58 victory. After two defensive stops and an offensive rebound by Watts off a missed Dunellen free throw, Hutchins added two late free throws to secure the 61-58 win.

The heroics, as well as general strong play, allowed Hutchins and Watts, along with junior Jamael Davis, to be named to the All-Silver Division team.

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## North Ave/Bound Brook Rd – DOT/ADA Sidewalks & Flashing Beacon Crosswalks Project

This DOT Project started on Thursday, November 14, 2024, and spans from the Warrentville Road & Bound Brook Road intersection to the Jefferson Avenue & North Avenue intersection. It includes removing and replacing old ADA sidewalk ramps and installing new ones at the Sanford Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and Jackson Avenue intersections.

To enhance pedestrian safety, the project will include push-button flashing beacon lights at the following intersections: Sanford Avenue & Bound Brook Road, Lincoln Avenue & North Avenue, Prospect Avenue & North Avenue, and Jackson Avenue & North Avenue. The Borough's portion of funds for the push button flashing beacon lights with the DOT has come from various redevelopment projects as part of redevelopment agreements towards community benefits.

The Washington Avenue and Madison Avenue traffic lights will also have updated pedestrian crossing signals.

## Second Street New Jersey DOT Phase 1 (From Madison Avenue to Schwartz Place)

Phase 1 of the Second Street Project will take place this spring and spans Second Street from Madison Avenue to Schwartz Place. The scope of work includes removing and replacing severely damaged curbs and sidewalks, installing new ADA-accessible sidewalk ramps at intersections, replacing damaged castings, and enhancing traffic safety with new striping, markings, and a push-button rapid beacon. Additionally, two speed-check radar systems will be installed. The entire street will be milled and paved as part of the project.

Second Street, from Schwartz Place to the Middlesex border, will also undergo curb replacements and be milled and paved simultaneously as part of the larger mill-and-pave initiative.

### Jackson Ave Mill & Pave Project

This project is a shared service agreement with the Middlesex Mill and Pave Program for 2025 and will take place on Jackson Avenue from North Avenue to the dead end of the street. The process will include installing new ADA sidewalk ramps at each intersection, milling, and paving of two inches of the asphalt surface, and enhanced street striping.

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