

The Dunellen Report



VOLUME 14 • NUMBER 3 • JULY 2025

PUBLISHED BY APR PUBLICATIONS, INC.



Message from the Mayor

MAYOR JASON F. CILENTIO

July 2025

This month's Message from the Mayor is dedicated to the Borough's 2025 Municipal Budget, which was adopted by the Dunellen Borough Council on May 5. On the following pages (10 and 11), you will find clear, easy-to-

read charts and graphs that explain how the Borough raises money, how the Borough spends money, and how collected taxes are split between Dunellen Public Schools, the Borough of Dunellen, Middlesex County, the Dunellen Public Library, and Middlesex County Open Space.

In recent years, our administration has worked to fulfill its core duties and invest in initiatives to propel Dunellen forward. Through Borough restructuring initiatives, we have continued to provide quality services and introduce new offerings, while maximizing operational efficiency. Moving forward, we will continue to focus on diversifying our tax base through business attraction and redevelopment, allowing us to alleviate the burden on residents and ensuring sustainable revenue streams for the Borough.

In addition to fiscal responsibility, the 2025 Municipal Budget enables critical capital infrastructure improvements, including road enhancements, improved parks, and strengthened public safety. Several road projects will enhance our Borough's infrastructure while increasing the efficiency of traffic flow. The engineering phase for Gavornik Park Improvements will continue as we coordinate with the Borough's engineers, RVE, and the NJDEP. Morecraft Park will receive new ADA-compliant playground equipment, which was funded through a community benefit contribution from redevelopment, to provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities. Safety initiatives include Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon Lights at key intersections, radar

...Continued on page 10

Honor Our Hometown Heroes with a Banner

Celebrate the bravery and dedication of our local service members through Dunellen's Hometown Hero Banner Program. These banners honor veterans and active-duty military personnel with a personalized banner proudly displayed throughout town.

Existing banners, which last approximately 7-10 years, are installed each year before Memorial Day. New banners are also added before Veterans Day.

To order a banner, please visit:

www.dunellenparksandrecreation.com

For more information or questions, contact:

Kelly Seader at kseader@dunellenborough.com.

Honoring those who have served our country

New orders for Dunellen Hometown Heroes banners are being accepted now until September 1.

To order, visit:

www.dunellenparksandrecreation.com

Click Programs>Order a Hometown Heroes Banner

Follow the prompts to complete your order. \$170/banner



Family Owned and Operated



NEED A RIDE?
WE HAVE YOU COVERED!
ASK ABOUT OUR FREE
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
LO RECOGEMOS Y LLEVAMOS
A SU CASA GRATIS

TEL: 732-667-7812 | HOURS: Mon-Sun 7am-10pm

- ▶ HIGH QUALITY PRODUCE
- ▶ LARGE SELECTION OF PREMIUM MEATS
- ▶ FRESH FISH EVERY DAY
- ▶ BEST VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL FOODS IN THE AREA
- ▶ HOT FOOD BAR - BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER TO GO!
- ▶ 10% SENIOR (65+) DISCOUNT EVERY WEDNESDAY (WITH LOYALTY CARD)
- ▶ 2% LOYALTY DISCOUNT EVERYDAY (WITH LOYALTY CARD)



SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR OUR WEEKLY FLYER & SPECIALS

www.facebook.com/SuperfoodFreshSupermarket



LOCATED IN THE MIDDLESEX SHOPPING CENTER
738 UNION AVE, MIDDLESEX

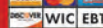


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Mayorcover, 10, 11
 Honor Our Hometown Heroes with a Banner ... cover
 Summer Art Camp Returns for Kids and Teens..... 2
 Plays in the Park: "High School Musical"..... 2
 Dunellen Fire Department 3
 Dunellen DPW..... 4
 Tax Assessor 4
 Dunellen Public Schools:
 Education for Parenthood Preschool Program ... 4
 Heartfelt Memorial Day Parade..... 5
 Music in the Park Series - Summer 2025 5
 Dunellen Shade Tree Commission..... 6
 Dunellen Senior Citizen Fall Picnic 6
 Dunellen Fire Department Street Fair..... 6
 Dunellen Outings Community Committee7
 Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone - NJ Hall of Fame7
 Dunellen Government Directory..... 8
 Office of Emergency Management 9, 10
 2025 Third Quarter Estimated Tax Bill Details 11
 Dunellen Borough Police Department.....12
 Classifieds13
 Dunellen Parks and Recreation:
 Summer Camp Kicks Off Another Season.....14
 Fall Soccer - Register by August 1114
 Youth Tennis Academy.....15
 Dunellen Unveils Community Mural16
 Calendar of Events17
 Dunellen Downtown Management Organization:
 Gentle Family Dentistry 10th Anniversary.....18
 Uncle Louie G Reopening & Ribbon Cutting.....18
 Haunted Trail Returns to Dunellen This October!19
 Founders Day on October 26.....19
 Shop Local 20

Dunellen Summer Art Camp Returns for Kids and Teens

Get ready to get creative this August! The Dunellen Arts, Inclusion and Culture Commission is hosting its annual **Summer Art Camp**, offering hands-on, engaging art enrichment programs for children and teens at the Dunellen Senior Center in Columbia Park.

For Ages 6–12, the morning camp, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, runs August 18–22 and August 25–29, and features daily themed lessons tailored to all skill levels. Young artists will explore topics like the color wheel, abstract art, and 2D vs. 3D design, creating fun projects such as paper jellyfish and shaving cream tie-dye. Each session includes a lead instructor and a classroom assistant. All registered families will be invited to a pre-camp orientation to meet the instructor and ask questions. Fee: \$120/week

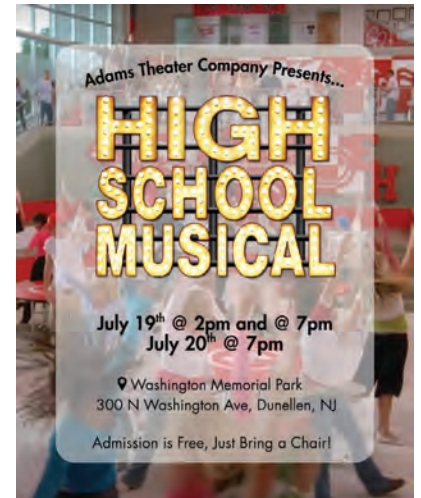
Teens (Ages 13+) can join the afternoon camp, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, during the same weeks for just \$75/week. This session explores more advanced techniques with acrylics, watercolor, and sculpture, and will even include participation in designing a brand-new public mural for the town.

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Let your creativity shine in Dunellen this summer!



Plays in the Park: "High School Musical"

The Adams Theater Company will be returning to Dunellen for the Plays in the Park with their production of High School Musical! The performances will take place in Washington Memorial Park on Saturday, July 19, at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM, and on Sunday, July 20, at 7:00 PM. Admission is free, just bring a chair or blanket! The Plays in the Park series is sponsored by the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission.



AMERICAN RESTAURANT & RATHSKELLER
 OLD WORLD PUB

DUNELLEN HOTEL

732-968-2900
 120 N. Washington Avenue
 Dunellen, New Jersey
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



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.

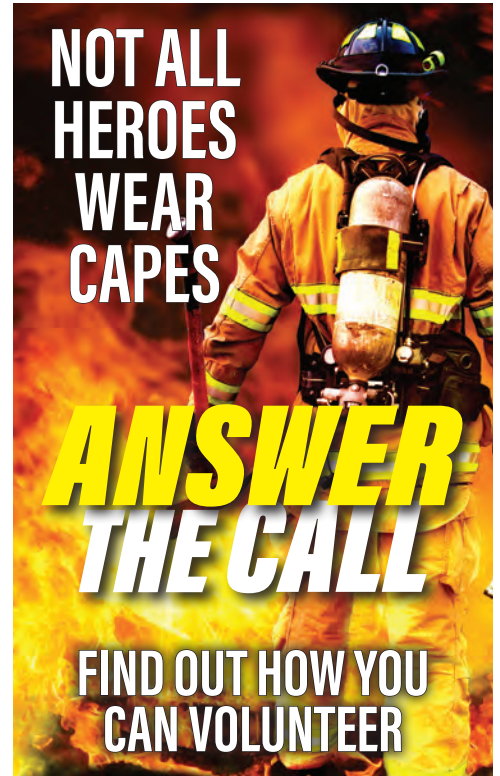
Associate Member

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

and email us at Joindfd@dunellenfd.com

We look forward to hearing from you!



PISCATAWAY AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR

Get It Done Right. The First Time.

WE SERVICE FOREIGN & DOMESTIC:

- Tires • Brakes • Shocks & Struts • Front End Repairs • Oil, Lube & Filter
- Air Conditioning • Batteries • Electrical • Tune-ups • Radiators • Starters
- Computer Diagnostics • Alternators & Generators • Transmissions
- 4 Wheel Computerized Wheel Alignments • Engine Rebuilding
- NJ Emission Repair Facility • NJ State Inspection Center

We Install
JASPER
ENGINES • TRANSMISSIONS

DROP OFF SERVICE AVAILABLE

TOWING AVAILABLE

License #011699 • ERF #001790

ASE CERTIFIED
Certified

Corner West 7th & Walnut St.
PISCATAWAY
732-968-8550

MasterCard VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

HOURS
Monday-Friday 8:30am-5:00pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

COMPUTERIZED WHEEL ALIGNMENT 4 WHEELS

\$109⁰⁰ for cars requiring all 4 wheels to be aligned
REG. \$129.00

- Most Cars • Parts and labor extra • With this coupon
- Cannot Be Combined • Expires 09/30/25

FUEL INJECTION SERVICE

\$109⁰⁰ Improves Mileage and Engine Performance
REG. \$129.00

- Most Cars • With this coupon • Cannot be combined
- Expires 09/30/25

RADIATOR/COOLANT SERVICE SAVINGS

\$20⁰⁰ OFF

INCLUDES:

- Drain & Flush Cooling System
- Check hoses & belts
- Install new coolant
- 10 Point safety check

- Most Cars
- With this coupon • Cannot be combined
- Expires 09/30/25

MAINTENANCE BRAKE SPECIAL

\$20⁰⁰ OFF

Install new front disc pads or rear shoes. Inspect calipers, master cylinder, hoses & lines. Add brake fluid as necessary. Machine tool rotors or resurface drums. Road test vehicle. Regular price \$289.95. Ceramic Pads extra. Hub type rotors extra.

- Most Cars & Light Trucks • With This Coupon • Cannot Be Combined • Expires 09/30/25

MAINTENANCE VALUE PACKAGE

\$20⁰⁰ OFF

Diesel Models • Higher EPA Compliance

- Oil filter change (vehicles w/5W20 slightly higher)
- Rotate & Inspect Tires
- Inspect Brake System
- Test Battery
- Check air & cabin air filters
- Check belts & shoes
- Top off all fluids

- Most Cars • With This Coupon
- Cannot Be Combined • Expires 09/30/25

Dunellen DPW

Automatic Side Load (ASL) Services Begin in Dunellen with the August 13 Collection

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority, which handles recycling in the Borough of Dunellen, has provided the following information regarding the implementation of Automatic Side Load (ASL) service beginning on August 13.

A 95-gallon two-wheel recycling container was delivered to each home in the Borough in early July. Residents can start using the 95-gallon recycling bins for the August 13th recycling pickup. MCIA noted that these bins cannot be used for recycling pick-up before August 13, as the crews will still be using the backload trucks.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will receive a bin?

Each home that currently receives curbside pickup from the MCIA will receive one (1) free, new 95-gallon rolling bin. Each unit in multi-family homes will receive a bin. Apartment buildings will receive bins based on the number of units in each building.

How do I get my free bin?

Bins were delivered directly to your home in early July.

When can I start using the 95-gallon bin?

ASL Service begins on August 13. The 95-gallon bins CANNOT be used prior to August 13.

What do I do with my old bin(s)?

You may keep your old bins for personal use or place them in the new, 95-gallon bin to be recycled. Recycling on and after August 13 will not be collected if placed in an old bin.

Why is the MCIA changing to ASL Service?

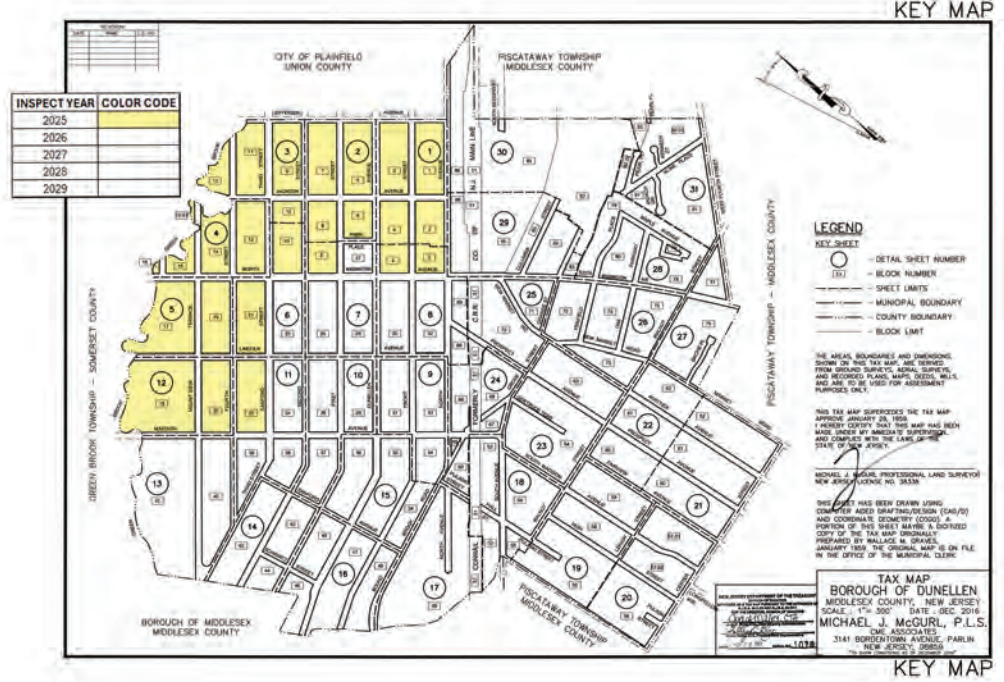
ASL is a more efficient, safer, and environmentally friendly recycling collection system.



designed by freepik

Tax Assessor Annual Reassessment Program

Dunellen is continuing its annual reassessment program to ensure all properties reflect fair market value and promote an equitable distribution of the tax burden. Beginning in July 2025, representatives from Professional Property Appraisers (PPA), under the direction of the Municipal Tax Assessor, will begin field inspections of properties as part of this effort. Inspectors will measure buildings and verify existing records, but will not assign property values. If you are not home, a postcard will be left to schedule an appointment. For more information, visit dunellen-nj.gov/propertyreassessment or contact the Assessor's Office at 732-968-3033 x132 or dguttschall@dunellenborough.com



Dunellen Public Schools

Education for Parenthood Preschool Program

Dunellen High School is offering an exciting class that has storytelling, learning, and craft activities as everyday events. The course is Education for Parenthood, where the students are the teachers!! It is an accredited course taught during the third and fourth periods at the high school.

The purpose of the course is to educate students in effective parenting skills. High school students work with preschool-age children from ages 2 - 5 two days a week. There is a critical need for a stronger emphasis on parenting education. The high school students plan, run, and evaluate the entire program. The year ends with a graduation ceremony.

Dunellen High School is currently taking applications for the 2025-2026 Preschool Program. Only Dunellen residents are eligible for the program, and it is free of cost.

The preschool runs two days a week, Wednesday and Friday (9:20-10:45 am). The tentative dates for 2025/26 are October through June 1. Applications are available on the school website and in the main office of Dunellen High School. You can click on the link below for the application or email Tammy Del Rosario at delrosariot@dunellenschools.org

Dunellen Honors Heroes with Heartfelt Memorial Day Parade

The streets of Dunellen were lined with red, white, and blue on Monday, May 26, as the community came together for its annual Memorial Day Parade. Residents of all ages gathered to pay tribute to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

The parade stepped off at 10:00 AM, beginning at the American Legion and making its way down North Avenue, ending at Washington Memorial Park, where the ceremony took place. Veterans, local officials, scouts, youth sports teams, school groups, and civic organizations marched proudly, while waving flags and saluting the service members being honored. Marchers and guests were greeted with patriotic music courtesy of the Imperial Brass Band!

Following the parade, a solemn ceremony was held at Washington Memorial Park, where members of the Dunellen American Legion and VFW posts led a moment of silence, the laying of wreaths, and a rifle salute. Mayor Jason Cilento shared remarks, as well as Green Brook's Mayor Jim Van Arsdale, reminding attendees of the true meaning of Memorial Day and encouraging the community to always remember those who gave their lives for our freedoms.

The event was organized by the American Legion Post 119 and Veterans of Foreign Wars 5479 and supported by the Dunellen Recreation Department, many volunteers, and community partners. It's always inspiring to see our town come together to reflect, remember, and show our gratitude to our fallen heroes.

As the morning concluded, families gathered at the American Legion to continue the day in community, remembering those we've lost, and celebrating the unity that defines Dunellen.



Dunellen Arts, Inclusion and Culture Commission

Music in the Park Series – Summer 2025

Hosted by the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion & Culture Commission, the Music in the Park series brings live performances to the community all summer long. The season kicked off in June with Kolor Blynd and The Masons. All concerts take place at 7:00 PM at Washington Memorial Park. Coming up:

- **July 24** – *The Block Party* (Pop, R&B, and Classics)
Rain Date: July 31
- **August 7** – *This Old Engine* (Grateful Dead Covers)
Rain Date: August 14
- **August 21** – *MPack* (Funk and Motown)
Rain Date: August 28

Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy great music in the heart of Dunellen! The Music in the Park series is sponsored by Blue Foundry Bank.



TOGETHER WE LEARN & GROW



A+ Academy is a state-of-art preschool designed to provide a strong foundation for your child's learning and development.

A+ Academy es un preescolar de última generación diseñado para proporcionar una base sólida para el aprendizaje y el desarrollo de su hijo.

- **Ages 2-5**
De 2 a 5 años
- **Before & After Care Programs**
Cuidado antes e después
- **Chef on Premises/Lunch and Snacks Included**
Comida incluida y snack
- **Certified Teachers**
Profesores que están certificados
- **Summer Camp**
Campamento de verano



ENROLL NOW

908-584-8284
316 Jackson Avenue, Dunellen
www.aplusacademies.com



Dunellen Shade Tree Commission Dunellen Shade Tree Commission Celebrates Arbor Day at Faber Elementary School

On Friday, April 25, the Dunellen Shade Tree Commission held its 23rd Annual Arbor Day Celebration with the students and faculty of Faber Elementary School. Mayor Cilento and Councilwoman Trina Rios joined the celebration as Shade Tree Commission members Ken Baudendistel, Joe Cummins, Brianna Savage, Jim Sweeney, and Pat Fowler taught the students all about trees, including their importance to the environment, how they benefit our planet, types of trees, how they grow, and more.

To conclude the celebration, the students were invited outside to help the Shade Tree Commission place mulch around the base of the newest tree they planted on the Faber School grounds.



Image by pikisuperstar on Freepik

Dunellen Senior Citizen Fall Picnic Set for September 19



Dunellen seniors are invited to join us for a fun and festive Fall Picnic on Friday, September 19, at 11:00 AM, held at the American Legion. This special event is a great opportunity to enjoy good food, great company, and celebrate the changing seasons together.

All Dunellen senior residents are welcome to attend!

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Kelly Seader at kseader@dunellenborough.com. We hope to see you there!

Dunellen Fire Department Street Fair

The Dunellen Fire Department will be hosting their annual September Street Fair on Saturday, September 27, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM along North Avenue! Join us for a fun day of food, music, games, arts & crafts, and local vendors!



SEPTEMBER 27 | 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
NORTH AVENUE, DUNELLEN

Food ★ Music ★ Games ★ Arts & Crafts ★ Local Vendors





McCriskin-Gustafson

Independent Family Owned & Operated Funeral Homes
www.mccriskinfuneralhome.com

<p><i>Middlesex</i> FUNERAL HOME 528 Bound Brook Road Middlesex, NJ 08846 Phone: (732) 968-3377</p>	<p><i>Piscataway</i> FUNERAL HOME 18 Stelton Road Piscataway, NJ 08854 Phone: (732) 968-2828</p>
---	--

James A. Gustafson, President/Manager, NJ Lic. No. 4205

Dunellen Outings Community Committee

The Dunellen Outings Community Committee kicked off the spring season with our walking groups and Walk & Talk with the Mayor on April 1. Despite the chilly weather and dodging raindrops, we were able to get a few walking sessions in, but we are looking forward to getting back on a regular schedule. If you are interested in joining one of our walking groups, drop us a line at our email address, dunellendocc@dunellenborough.com, or our Facebook page so we know to look out for you. All walking groups are weather permitting.



For our last event of the quarter, we Wrapped It Up at Roscoe's Eatery at the end of the school year. Have you tried their wraps and meal preps yet? You are missing out if you haven't! Weather permitting, they have indoor and outdoor seating. Extra parking is in the rear, entrance off Prospect Avenue, just before the bridge.

Starting off our summer, we can be found at our Night Out at Il Forno a Legna in July. We are also working on a project for September in preparation for October's

Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our Walk & Talk with the Mayor events coming up are Saturdays at 9:30 AM on August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6, all weather permitting. Bring all your questions, observations, and ideas to add to the conversation.

Be sure to follow and watch our Facebook page for more details to come: "DOCC – Dunellen Outings Community Committee" or email us at dunellendocc@dunellenborough.com. We look forward to seeing you soon!

What is not affected by the weather are our ever-popular DOCC Nights Out, where we invite residents to join us in exploring the many food establishments around town. This year, we have added some extra Nights Out to our calendar. In April, we returned to our very first location, the Dunellen Hotel, for great company and great food. We also added an event at Mike's Subs/30 Burgers/Bubz Boba Bar to welcome them back once they were cleared to reopen and meet new neighbors. All residents of Dunellen are always welcome to our events. While some events are for adults aged 18 years old and above, many are family-friendly.

In May, we held our Second Annual Ladies Night Out in honor of Mother's Day. This year it was a craft and sip, held at Maggie Murray's, where we decorated glass vases, snacked on some appetizers from the Celtic Kitchen, and enjoyed great conversation. We had a great showing and made some new friends. Thank you to Maggie Murray's for hosting our gathering.

DOCC Food Truck Night

DOCC's most popular event, the annual Food Truck Night, will take place on Friday, August 15, at Washington Memorial Park. This event is in conjunction with the Dunellen Library & Recreation Department's Family Movie Night. Join us for an evening of family fun with great food and an outdoor movie showing!

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone – NJ Hall of Fame

Dunellen Native and 4x Olympic Gold Medalist, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Announced as a New Jersey Hall of Fame 2025 Inductee



Congratulations to Dunellen's hometown Olympian, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, on being named as one of the New Jersey Hall of Fame's 2025 inductees! Sydney is an inspiration to the Dunellen community, New Jerseyans, and fans throughout the world, not only for her impressive feats on the track but for the quality of her character and her unwavering commitment to faith, humility, and excellence.

The induction ceremony is scheduled to take place in November at the New Jersey Hall of Fame at American Dream in East Rutherford, where Sydney will take her place alongside fellow New Jersey legends such as Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, and Toni Morrison.

I HAVE THE KEYS TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR REAL ESTATE Dreams!

With Multi-Award Winning Agent,

DAWN TUNISON

It's Always A Good Time To Buy or Sell!

- ↑ Increased Inventory
- ↑ Motivated Buyers
- ↑ Perfect Time to Buy or Sell

If you're considering selling, call me to find out what your home is worth.

C: 732-485-1223

O: 908-874-8421

dawn.tunison@cbrealty.com



Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract with another brokerage.



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

Daniel Cole Sigmon, Council President
dsigmon@dunellen-nj.gov

Teresa Albertson, Councilmember
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

Harold VanDermark, Councilmember
hvandermark@dunellen-nj.gov

Business Administrator, Superintendent of Parks & 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:

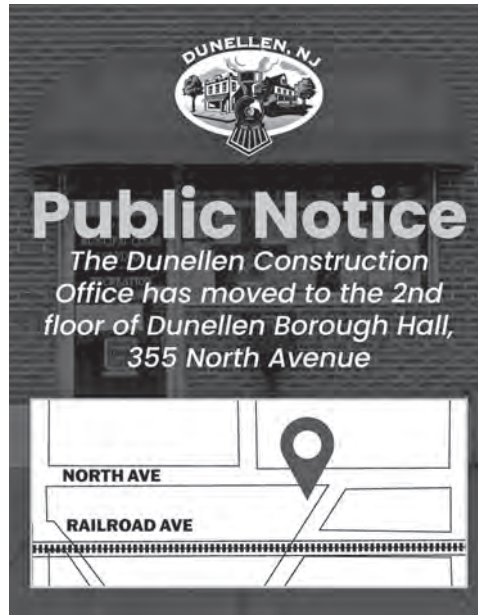
Dawn Hutchison
dhutchison@dunellenborough.com
Maria Santos, Assistant Tax Collector
msantos@dunellenborough.com
732-968-1226 (Phone)
732-968-3903 (Fax)
M-F: 9:00am-4:30pm

Tax Assessor:

Dawn Guttschall
dguttschall@dunellenborough.com
1st & 3rd Monday of the month
5:00-7:30pm (or by appointment)
732-968-3033 ext. 132 (Phone)
732-968-3903 (Fax)

Construction Office:

Scott Brescher, Construction Official
sbrescher@dunellenborough.com
The Construction Office has Moved to the 2nd Floor of Borough Hall, 355 North Avenue
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

Planning Board:

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

Director of Community Development:

Derryck White
dwhite@dunellenborough.com

Office of Emergency Management:

732-968-3033

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

Call MCIA for any questions or concerns regarding bi-weekly Recycling
101 Interchange Plaza, Ste 202
Cranbury, NJ 08512
Hotline: 1-800-488-6242

STAY IN THE LOOP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DUNELLEN:

- 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

Office of Emergency Management

The Dunellen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), in partnership with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), continues to advance its mission of community safety, public education, and emergency preparedness through hands-on training, outreach, and interagency collaboration.

On March 29, the Dunellen Office of Emergency Management activated a mobile command post to support the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership (LRWP) "Run Off"/Walk 5K event. The command post was staffed by representatives from the Dunellen Police Department, Dunellen Fire Department, Dunellen Rescue Squad, Department of Public Works, and the Recreation Department. The mobile unit was provided by Middlesex County OEM, with Deputy OEM Coordinator Eric Martin offering on-site support throughout the event. This deployment demonstrated the Borough's continued focus on preparedness, communication, and interagency coordination during large-scale public gatherings.

Earlier in the spring, several Dunellen CERT members participated in the Disasterville CERT Workshop at the Middlesex County Fire Academy on April 26. This full-scale exercise simulated a tornado strike, providing participants with hands-on experience in



disaster response, triage, search and rescue, and coordinated emergency operations. The training was an important opportunity for CERT members to test their skills in a realistic, high-pressure environment alongside other teams from across the state.

Training remains a cornerstone of the Dunellen OEM mission. On May 22, the Borough hosted an Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) training at the Living Hope Outreach Center. The session brought together representatives from Dunellen Public Schools, the Dunellen Police Department, Piscataway OEM, and other municipal agencies to enhance coordinated response strategies in high-risk incidents. Special thanks are extended to Rev. Roy Carryl for generously providing his church facility for the event, and to Middlesex County OEM Trainer Eric Martin for organizing and facilitating the session.

CERT volunteers were instrumental during Dunellen's 2025 Memorial Day Parade, providing vital safety and logistical support to ensure a secure environment for participants and spectators. Their presence underscored the professionalism and dedication of the CERT team in supporting community events. OEM, together with the Dunellen Police Department, Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, Dunellen Rescue Squad, and the Borough Business Administrator, collaborated in the planning and execution of the Incident Action Plan (IAP), showcasing strong

...Continued on page 10

No Deposit. No Interest. No Payments
For 1 Year (for qualified buyers)

SunSetter
America's #1 Awning
Authorized Awning
Dealer

weather-tek
HOME REMODELING CENTER
123 North Washington Avenue, Dunellen
732-752-0313 • WEATHERTEKNJ.COM

For 57 Years, The Most Trusted Name in Home Improvement
Family Owned and Operated - NJ LIC NO 13VH00343600

WINDOW SPECIAL
Buy 2 Windows Get One **FREE**
(Vinyl Double Hung)
Not valid on current contracts. Cannot be combined. Expires 09-30-25 DUN

\$1,000 OFF
Complete Job
Kitchen or Bath Remodeling,
Siding or Roofing Job
Not valid on current contracts. Cannot be combined. Expires 09-30-25 DUN

\$500 OFF
Complete Deck Job
Not valid on current contracts. Cannot be combined. Expires 09-30-25 DUN

10% OFF
\$500 Maximum
Any Home Improvement
Not valid on current contracts. Cannot be combined. Expires 09-30-25 DUN

Message from the Mayor

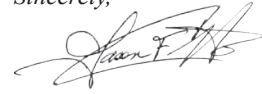
Continued from cover...

speed signs to provide data to our police department and serve as a speed calming measure, and a new crossing guard at Madison Avenue & Dunellen Avenue to increase pedestrian safety.

I would like to thank the Finance Committee; Council President, Daniel Cole Sigmon, who also serves as Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Council Members Terri Albertson, and Crisol-Iris Lantz for their hard work and dedication to helping our CFO Scott Olsen, Business Administrator Alex Miller,

and my office develop a budget that is fiscally responsible and ensures that our Borough continues to grow and thrive. It is my great honor to serve as your Mayor, and I thank you for the opportunity to continue to work toward the betterment of our Miracle Mile.

Sincerely,



Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen

Office of Emergency Management

Continued from page 9...

interagency cooperation that was critical to the parade's success.

On June 2, CERT member Chuck Lopez delivered a presentation to the Dunellen Parent Teacher Organization, outlining the CERT program and promoting local emergency preparedness initiatives. The presentation sparked strong interest, generating several potential recruits for the upcoming CERT Basic Training program. Mr. Lopez was also recently appointed as an Assistant to CERT Coordinator Bill Carlson.

These recent activities reflect Dunellen's strong commitment to building a resilient, well-prepared community. Residents interested in volunteering with CERT or learning more about local emergency preparedness are encouraged to get involved.

For more information, please contact the Dunellen Office of Emergency Management at OEM@DunellenBorough.com.

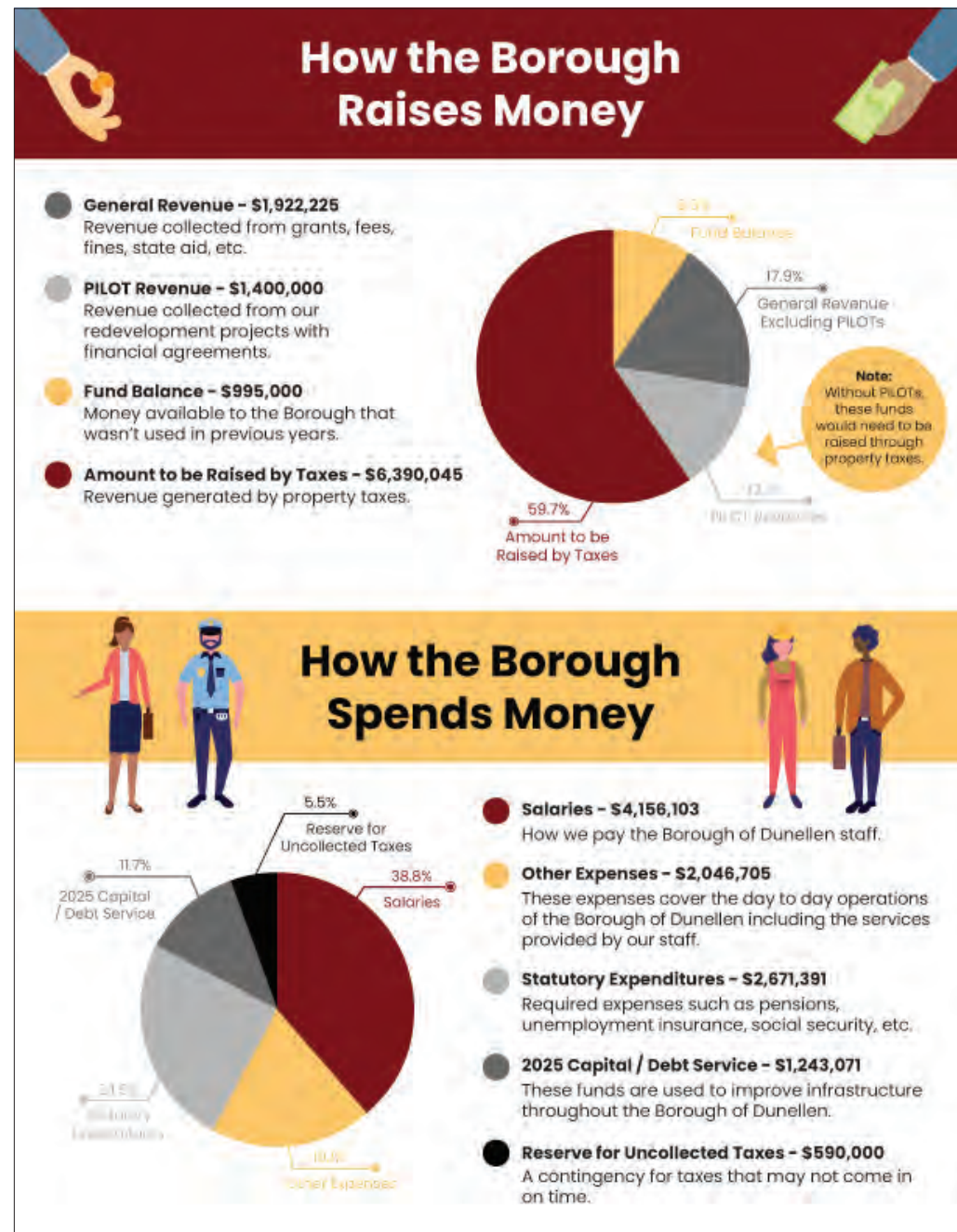
2025 Third Quarter Estimated Tax Bill Details

An estimated tax bill is used when at least one taxing district has not had its tax rate certified by the State of New Jersey in time for issuing the quarterly tax bill. For the Borough of Dunellen, there are three districts: the Borough itself, including the Public Library; the Board of Education; and the County, including County Open Space. At the time of this letter's original publication in early July, the State of New Jersey had not yet approved any set rate. This is most likely due to the State of New Jersey delaying adoption of its own budget. The estimated tax bill still needs to be issued within the timeframe of collection dates because the Borough must pay the other taxing districts – both the School and County – as well as continue providing services to our residents.

While it is tempting to multiply the Estimated Third Quarter bill by four to approximate the tax increase for the year, doing so is inaccurate. This is because the calculation of the Estimated Third Quarter bill subtracts what has already been charged to date. For example, the average assessment of a home in Dunellen is approximately \$461,656, and at the estimated tax rate of \$2.475 per \$100 of assessed value, this calculates to \$11,425.99 for calendar year 2025. In this example, the first and second quarter tax bills for 2025 are \$2,730.60, respectively. The Third Quarter Estimated Bill subtracts these two amounts before dividing the remainder by two. $\$11,425.99 - 2,730.60 - 2,730.60 = \$5,964.79 / 2 = \$2,982.40$, the amount of your estimated 3rd Quarter bill.

Multiplying \$2,982.40 by 4 yields \$11,929.60, which overstates the actual amount due for 2025 by over \$503. (Compare \$11,929.60 to the estimated amount of \$11,425.99). If you have any question, you can contact the Tax Collector's office for more specific information about your property taxes, or the Tax Assessor's office for more specific information concerning the value of your property. Additionally, you can determine the estimated taxes based on your own home's assessed value by downloading the Third Quarter Estimated Tax Excel Sheet Calculator by visiting www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/TaxCalculator or by scanning the QR Code below.

Visit Dunellen-NJ.gov/TaxCalculator or scan the QR code to calculate your Third Quarter Estimated Tax Bill



2025 Budget Highlights

- ✓ Fiscal Responsibility**
Five departments experienced no increase in operational expenses from 2024 to 2025 while providing the same quality of services and adding several new services. Despite difficult financial times throughout the country, the Borough only anticipates a small \$0.01 tax increase, demonstrating our commitment to fiscal discipline and responsible governance.
- ✓ Diversifying Tax Base**
With nearly 91% of the tax burden on our residents compared to other types of taxpayers, it's imperative to focus on diversifying our tax base through business attraction and commercial redevelopment. This will help alleviate the burden on residents while ensuring sustainable revenue streams for the Borough, including the use of PILOTs.
- ✓ Borough Restructuring**
In 2024, as part of our ongoing review of municipal operations, we identified staffing deficiencies across various departments. To address these issues, we hired a Communications Coordinator and a Director of Community Development, who have already made a significant positive impact on the Borough. This has been a necessary investment that has enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. Additionally, we will continue to seek out new shared services agreements, as well as find means of cost reductions while improving operational efficiencies.

Goals for 2025

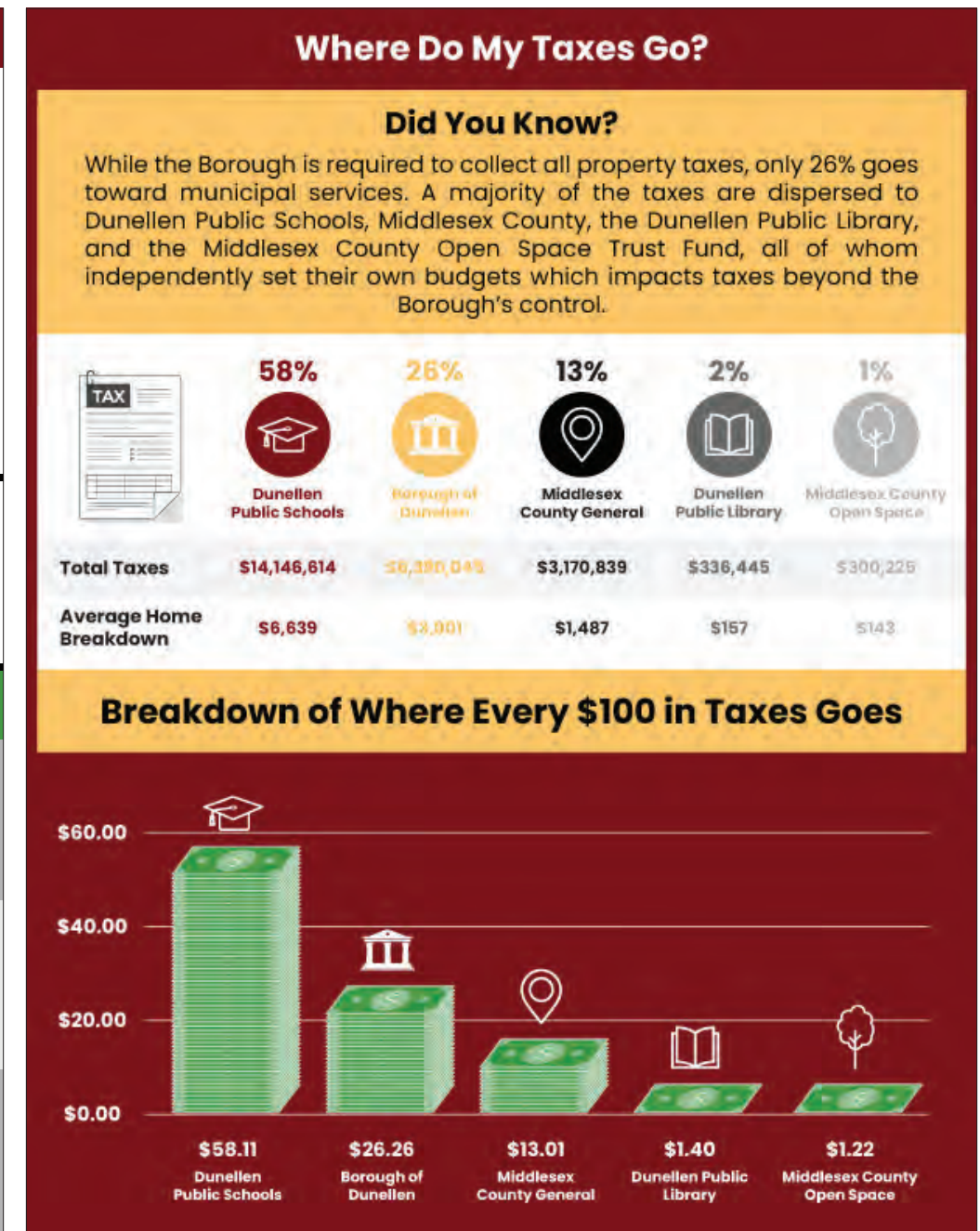
- ◆ Road Improvement Projects**
We have outlined several road improvement projects, including NJDOT Second Street Phase One, a Middlesex County Mill and Pave program on Jackson Avenue, and the Bound Brook Road Street Scope Project from Madison Avenue to the Dunellen/Middlesex border. These projects aim to enhance infrastructure and improve traffic flow in key areas.
- ◆ Park Improvements**
The engineering phase for Gavornik Park Improvements will continue as we coordinate with the Borough's engineers, RVE, and the NJDEP. Additionally, new, ADA-compliant playground equipment will be installed at Morecraft Park to enrich recreational opportunities for residents.
- ◆ Safety Improvements**
To continue practicing pedestrian safety, Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon Lights will be installed at South Washington Avenue & Orange Street and New Market Road & Grove Street. Four radar speed check signs will also be purchased to provide data to our Police Department and serve as part of speed calming measures. A crossing guard will also be placed at Madison Avenue & Dunellen Avenue.

So, where exactly do my property taxes go?

After collecting property taxes, the Borough disperses 74% of the funds to Dunellen Public Schools, Middlesex County, the Dunellen Public Library, and Middlesex County Open Space.

The average Dunellen home pays about \$8.22 per day in municipal taxes. For about the price of a large cappuccino, you get...

Public Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Protection - Responded to over 20,144 calls for service in 2024 • Fire Safety - Responded to 310 incidents in 2024 • First Aid Support - Responded to over 300 emergency calls in 2024 • Building & Code Enforcement - Over 687 inspections conducted in 2024 	Public Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curbside branch and leaf bag pick up • Park, courts, and ball field maintenance • 310 miles cleaned via Street Sweeping • Plowing and winterizing streets • Repaired 10 damaged catch basins • Inspection and cleaning of all 321 catch basins
Emergency Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost / Missing Persons • Tree Removal & Clearing • Flooding Mitigation 	Administration of Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Elections • Insurance & Utilities • Equipment & Supplies • Vital Statistics - Birth, Marriage, & Death • Pet Licensing
Community Events & Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Sports and Summer Camp • Senior Programs & Bus Service • Music, Movies, & Plays in the Park • Memorial Day Parade, Halloween Parade, Founders' Day, Tree Lighting Ceremony 	Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and service repairs to sanitary and stormwater systems • Installation of 17 new stormwater catch basins • Installed, removed, and replaced 1,100 ft of linear curbing • Enhanced pedestrian and traffic safety • 1.8 miles of newly paved roads in 2024



Dunellen Borough Police Department

Bike & Roll to School

On Wednesday, May 7th, the Borough hosted another successful “Bike & Roll to School” event. The event was a collaborative effort, led by RWJ and coordinated with the Dunellen Police Department and school administrators from Faber School. The route commenced at Columbia Park and concluded safely at Faber School.

Local PBA 146 Cornhole Event



The Dunellen PBA Local 146 would like to express our sincere gratitude for the wonderful support we received at our 1st Annual Cornhole Tournament on April 5th.

The event was a resounding success, and this would not have been possible without the generous assistance of our local community. We would like to extend a special thank you to Forno on Wheels, located at 33 Technology Dr S, Warren, NJ 07059, for providing the wonderful food options that made our event so enjoyable. Your delicious offerings were a highlight of the day.

A special note of appreciation also goes to the American Legion Post 119, located at 137 New Market Rd, Dunellen, NJ 08812, for being such a gracious host. Your hospitality and support played a vital role in the success of our event. Thank you both for your generosity and community spirit!

National Police Week



The Dunellen Police Department would like to extend its sincere gratitude to everyone for your support and recognition during National

Police Week, which took place from May 11th to May 17th, 2025.

We would also like to acknowledge Shine Bright Auto for their generous donation of time in providing complimentary full cleanings to all Dunellen Police Department vehicles. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

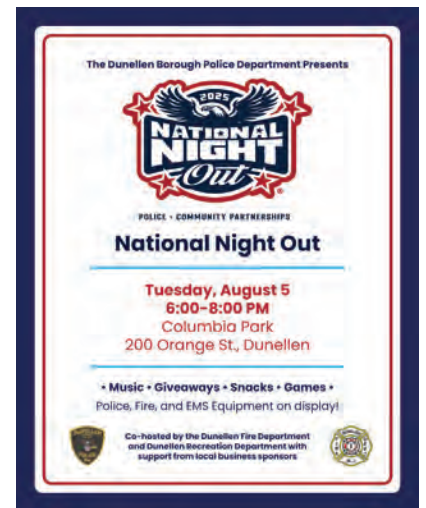
Police Unity Tour

The Dunellen Police Department is proud to share the participation of Active Dunellen Officer Michael Lowder in the Police Unity Tour, Chapter 7 on May 10th. He was joined by support member and retired Dunellen Detective Joe Dudley. The Police Unity Tour is a significant 300-mile bicycle ride from New Jersey to Washington, D.C., dedicated to honoring law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. On May 13th in Washington, D.C., Officer Lowder also took part in the survivor escorts during the annual vigil.

National Night Out

The Dunellen Police Department, in collaboration with local community supporters, is pleased to announce its 19th Annual National Night Out. The event will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Columbia Park.

We invite all our local supporters and community members to join us and help make this year another successful celebration.



New Jersey Law Enforcement Torch Run

On Friday, June 6, members of the Dunellen Borough Police Department participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run and braved the heat for a great cause. Officers ran the “Flame of Hope” throughout the state to raise awareness for Special Olympics New Jersey. The Dunellen Borough Police Department was part of Route 2, which saw the torch starting in Elizabeth and making its way down to Hillsborough. Our officers ran the torch from Plainfield to Middlesex.



CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY OF BUSINESSES & SERVICES

BATHROOMS

\$10,000 Complete Bathroom Remodel



22 Plainfield Ave, Piscataway
www.my5DB.com
732-369-6387

Angi Super Service Award
2015 - 2024

Email us at: sales@
aprpublishations.com or
Call: 732-529-4010

HOME IMPROVEMENT

STEVEN BUHLER CARPENTRY & HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Full Service Contracting, large or small jobs. Dependable, quality work at affordable prices. Fully insured, free estimates, handyman services available. 908-722-7316 Lic#13VH06466500 Email: sbuhlercarpentry@gmail ktf

PLUMBING

SPECIAN PLUMBING & HEATING

All types. Bathroom and kitchen repairs. Water heaters. Oil to gas tune-ups, installations and conversions. NJMP License #10353. Call 908-285-8090. ktf

HOME IMPROVEMENT

star22 home
(732) 369-6387
www.star22home.com
22 Plainfield Ave, Piscataway

KITCHENS * BATHROOMS
Showroom & Design Center
(by appointment)

Angi Super Service Award
2015 - 2024

free estimates & design consultation since 1997
licensed (Lic# 13VH03537700)

TRASH REMOVAL

The Canhandlers Residential & Commercial Trash Removal



Dunellen, NJ
732-752-5912

- Competitive Rates
- Fully Licensed & Insured

Commerical & Residential
Roll Off Services & Recycling

1 1/2 to 30 Yard Containers Available

Locally Owned & Operated for Over 20 Years

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Hess toy truck collection. 1975 to 2010 many mint in the box never opened. Call Tony 908-385-6518.

SITUATION WANTED

CAREGIVER FOR ELDERLY LOOKING FOR LIVE-IN OR LIVE-OUT JOB – I have a car and will do shopping etc. 26 years experience with excellent references. Call Nana cell 732-887-7036 or home 732-302-5866.

WANTED

OLD COMICS & TOYS – CASH PAID.
732-406-6762

HELP WANTED

FILL THAT VACANT JOB!
List Your Job
Opening Here

Email: sales@aprpublishations.com

The Dunellen Quarterly is Published by

APR Publications
DESIGN, PRINT AND MAIL

2 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 202 • Piscataway, NJ 08854

To Advertise In The Next Edition Please Call:

732-529-4010

or email: sales@aprpublishations.com

The opinions expressed in this publication, whether by paid advertisement or editorial content, do not necessarily reflect the views of APR Publications Inc., or its staff. APR Publications Inc. and staff are not responsible for content accuracy. None of the articles found within belong to the staff in any way. All content is supplied. The staff reserves the right to edit any submission for length and content.

CLASSIFIED PRICES

BOXED DISPLAY AD

1 col wide x 2" high

- Manville Monthly • Dunellen Report (quarterly)

\$45.00 per newsletter

\$35.00/each 2 or more

.....

CONTACT:

APR Publications
DESIGN, PRINT AND MAIL

email: sales@aprpublishations.com

or call: **732-529-4010**

TEXT LISTING

**Businesses & Services
or General Classified**

- Merchandise For Sale
- Autos for Sale
- Help Wanted
- Situation Wanted
- Real Estate Sale/Rent

**\$20*/per newsletter
25 words or less**

**additional words – 25¢ per word*



DUNELLEN PARKS AND RECREATION

Dunellen Recreation Summer Camp Kicks Off Another Season of Fun



The Dunellen Recreation Department has officially launched its annual Summer Camp program, welcoming children from across the Borough for a season filled with friendship, adventure, and community spirit.

Running through the summer months, the camp offers a wide range of activities designed to keep children active, engaged, and inspired. From sports and games to arts and crafts, water play, themed events, and weekly field trips, campers have countless opportunities to learn new skills and make lasting memories.

Each summer, we aim to provide a safe, welcoming environment where every child can have fun and grow. It's not just about keeping kids busy; it's about giving them a place where they can connect, try new things, and truly enjoy their summer.

This year's camp also features special events such as a Welcome Luau, theme days, and weekly field trips to exciting destinations including Jenkinson's Aquarium, Keansburg Waterpark, and Branchburg Sports Arena. Safety remains a top priority, with trained staff, daily routines, and thoughtful

programming to ensure campers stay cool and cared for during hot days

The camp is held at Columbia Park and serves children ages 5-12. More than just a place to play, the program is rooted in community values, encouraging teamwork, friendship, and a strong sense of belonging. Campers build connections not only with their peers but also with counselors and community volunteers, creating a supportive environment where everyone is included and respected. Through group activities, collaborative games, and spirit days, Dunellen Summer Camp helps young residents grow as individuals while fostering pride in their community

Enrollment remains open on a rolling basis, and parents are encouraged to visit the Dunellen Recreation Department's website www.dunellenparksandrecreation.com for further information and to register!

For families looking for an unforgettable summer experience close to home, Dunellen's Summer Camp continues to be a local tradition of fun, friendship, and growth.



Dunellen Recreation Fall Soccer Kicks Off Soon — Register by August 11

Get ready to lace up your cleats! Dunellen Recreation's Fall Soccer Program is back and better than ever! Open to children from PreK (age 4) through 8th grade, the program offers a fun, skill-building experience where players will learn the fundamentals of the game through drills, teamwork, and exciting Saturday games. Dribble, pass, shoot, and score big on fun this fall!

The season runs from mid-September to mid-November, with one weekly evening practice and Saturday games (some older divisions may also play occasional weeknight games). Game times and locations vary by age group.

Registration is now open at www.dunellenparksandrecreation.com and closes August 15. Late registrations will be placed on a waiting list and are not guaranteed placement or a team uniform.

The cost is \$65 for Dunellen residents and \$80 for non-residents for Pre-K to 3rd Grade, and \$75/\$90, respectively, for Grades 4-8. Refunds (minus a \$15 admin fee) are available through August 23. No refunds will be issued after that date.

All players must wear shin guards and appropriate soccer attire. Team shirts and socks will be provided.

Coaches Needed!

The program depends on dedicated parent and guardian volunteers to serve as coaches and assistants. At least two coaches are needed per team to start the season!

Volunteers must complete a Borough background check and a one-time Rutgers SAFETY certification (reimbursable). Interested? Contact Kelly Seader at kseader@dunellenborough.com for more information.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this exciting community tradition. Register today and join us for another season of fun on the field!





DUNELLEN PARKS AND RECREATION

Serve Up Some Summer Fun with the Youth Tennis Academy

Dunellen Recreation is excited to once again offer the Youth Tennis Academy, an engaging five-week program designed to help young athletes learn the fundamentals of tennis or advance their existing skills. Whether your child is picking up a racket for the first time or working to improve their game, this program provides the perfect opportunity to grow in a fun, supportive environment.

Participants will learn tennis strategy, tactics, technique, athleticism, and the mental and emotional aspects of the game, all while building character. Sessions are held twice a week, with options on Mondays or Saturdays to best suit your schedule.

The program is led by renowned instructor Larry Dillon, PTR International Master of Tennis in Youth Development, USTA National Trainer, and USTA Eastern Lead Clinician.

Session Options and Times:

Mondays (July 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18)

- 4:30–5:30 PM – Ages 6–8
- 5:30–6:30 PM – Ages 9–11
- 6:30–7:30 PM – Ages 12 and up

Saturdays (July 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23)

- 9:00–10:00 AM – Ages 6–8
- 10:00–11:00 AM – Ages 9–11
- 11:00 AM–12:00 PM – Ages 12 and up



For more information or to register, visit:
www.dunellenparksandrecreation.com

Don't miss this chance to serve up some summer fun on the courts!

DUNELLEN, N.J.

Dunellen Recreation Department and Tennis & Technology Present

2025 SUMMER YOUTH TENNIS ACADEMY

Program supervised by Coach Larry Dillon
PTR International Master of Tennis, Youth Development, USTA National Trainer, & USTA Eastern Lead Clinician

5 WEEKS: JULY 21 – AUGUST 23
COLUMBIA PARK, DUNELLEN

MONDAYS
Ages 6-9, 4:30 PM | Ages 9-11, 5:30 PM | Ages 12+, 6:30 PM

SATURDAYS
Ages 6-9, 9:00 AM | Ages 9-11, 10:00 AM | Ages 12+, 11:00 AM

\$60 per Player (Resident) or \$70 per Player (Non-Resident) for one 5-week session (Monday or Saturday)
Receive a discount if you play more than once per week or join with a sibling.

REGISTER ONLINE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR VISITING
www.DunellenParksandRecreation.com



When was the last time you checked your house value?

Isn't it time?



Contact Me To Get Your Complimentary
2025 MARKET ANALYSIS



Boniakowski REAL ESTATE

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO WHEN SELLING YOUR HOME:

#1. Call Me
(I'll handle the other 9)

call **732-529-0308**

text **732-236-4781**

email **bseif@eabrealty.com**



Barbara Seif, Realtor
Awarded the NJ Realtors®
Circle of Excellence
Sales Award 26 times –
1990-1993, 1995-2007,
2009-2010, 2012-2017, 2019



Dunellen Unveils Community Mural, Bright Day, Every Day by Olga Tapia at Madison Avenue Underpass

On Saturday, June 21, the Borough of Dunellen proudly unveiled its new public art installation, *Bright Day, Every Day* by local artist Olga Tapia, at the Madison Avenue underpass, 14 Madison Avenue, Dunellen. The mural has transformed this highly traveled pedestrian route, used by students walking to and from school each day, into an inspiring and vibrant path showcasing our community's creativity.

Bright Day, Every Day consists of 16 panels forming eight pieces that showcase characters from diverse backgrounds engaging in a variety of activities. The artwork is created in Tapia's signature anime-inspired style.

"The true celebration of this mural is that Dunellen is a bright, beautiful town that believes in the arts. The heart of the artwork is Dunellen itself," said artist Olga Tapia.

The project began when the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission (DAICC), an organization comprised entirely of volunteers, applied for and received a summer art camp grant from Middlesex County. With the funds secured, DAICC reached out to Olga Tapia, whose artwork can also be seen in the windows of Bubz Boba Bar in Downtown Dunellen.

"In 2024, the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission was awarded a grant from the Arts Institute to support the Commission's summer arts camp for children and teens between the ages of 8 and 17. In this art camp, students explored visual arts, elements, concepts, and media, including color theory, color mixing, pointillism, texture, 2D & 3D art, and much more. Students also learned what it takes to bring public artwork to life. These kinds of experiences, as we all know, don't just result in great artwork; they develop participants' social skills and their creative and critical thinking. They build confidence and empower students with agency to make their mark in the world, and that's why we're all here today," said Richard Simon, Grants Administration Manager at the Arts Institute of Middlesex County.



"We're thrilled to unveil *Bright Day, Every Day* in such a meaningful location. This mural is a reflection of DAICC's mission to promote and celebrate the arts for all members of our community. We're incredibly grateful to Olga Tapia for sharing her talent, passion, and mentorship and to all of our supporters for their help in bringing this project to life," said Peg Lockwood, Secretary of the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission.

After presenting several design concepts, Tapia's artwork was approved by the Dunellen Borough Council

and NJ Transit. As an instructor for DAICC's Summer Art Camp, she sketched the final artwork on the mural boards and guided her students and local families through the process of painting the completed murals.

"This mural is a testament to the power of creativity and community, and I am grateful to the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, & Culture Commission, the Dunellen Borough Council, Olga Tapia, Middlesex County, NJ Transit, and the Facciponti family for making this possible. The Borough is excited to have this wonderful public art piece in an area where so many of our residents, especially students, pass through every day," said Mayor Jason F. Cilento.

Following the success of this project, DAICC has begun developing another mural for the Prospect Avenue underpass, with a theme honoring the Borough's first responders, including Police, Fire, EMS, OEM, the American Legion, and VFW. The Prospect Avenue Mural is anticipated to be unveiled in the spring of 2026.

The Madison Avenue Mural Project was sponsored by the Dunellen Arts, Inclusion, and Culture Commission, with support from Mayor Jason F. Cilento, the Dunellen Borough Council, the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, NJ Transit, and the Facciponti family.



Steven Buhler Carpentry & Home Improvements Handyman Services



- Custom Carpentry
- Decks
- Design & Build
- Kitchens & Baths
- Painting
- Windows & Doors
- Powerwashing
- Laminate Flooring
- Tile & Masonry
- Yard Clean-Ups & Debris Removal

FREE ESTIMATES
FULLY INSURED
Serving Central Jersey • Lic# 13VH06466500

908-722-7316

sbuhlercarpentry@gmail.com • References Available

2025



Calendar of Events

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
- 19 Plays in the Park - High School Musical**
2:00 PM at Washington Park
DAICC & Adams Theater Company
- 19 Plays in the Park - High School Musical**
7:00 PM at Washington Park
DAICC & Adams Theater Company
- 20 Plays in the Park - High School Musical**
7:00 PM at Washington Park
DAICC & Adams Theater Company
- 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

- TBD Storm Preparedness Town Hall**
TBD at George W. Hodulik Firehouse
OEM & CERT

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

OCTOBER

- 4 Walks & Talks with the Mayor**
9:30 AM at Columbia Park
Office of the Mayor and DOCC
- 5 Open Air Market**
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Washington Park
Friends of the Dunellen Public Library
- 10 Haunted Trail**
7:00 AM - 10:00 PM at Columbia Park
Dunellen Recreation
- 11 Haunted Trail**
7:00 AM - 10:00 PM at Columbia Park
Dunellen Recreation
- 12 HarvestFest**
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Washington Park
DDMO
- 26 Halloween Parade**
12:00 PM at Dunellen Public Library
Dunellen Recreation
- 26 Founders' Day**
12:00 - 5:00 PM at Washington Park
Dunellen Recreation

NOVEMBER

- 1 Walks & Talks with the Mayor**
9:30 AM at Columbia Park
Office of the Mayor and DOCC

- 11 Veterans Day Ceremony**
11:00 AM at Washington Park
Dunellen Recreation, VFW, & American Legion
- 29 Small Business Saturday**
All Day During Business Hours
DDMO
- TBD Winter Window Decorating Contest**
All Dunellen Businesses
DDMO

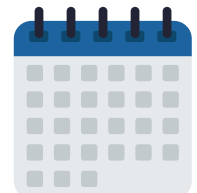
DECEMBER

- 7 Christmas Tree Lighting**
6:00 PM at Washington Park
Dunellen Recreation
- 14 Hannukah Menorah Lighting**
6:00 PM at Washington Park
Dunellen Recreation
- 24 Santa Around Town**
Throughout Dunellen
Dunellen Fire Department & Recreation
- TBD Faber School Winter Concert**
TBD at Faber School
Faber Elementary School
- TBD DHS & LMS Winter Concert**
TBD at Dunellen High School
Dunellen High & Lincoln Middle Schools
- TBD Redevelopment Town Hall**
TBD at George W. Hodulik Firehouse
Borough of Dunellen

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



Dunellen Downtown Management Organization

Gentle Family Dentistry Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

Congratulations to Gentle Family Dentistry on celebrating their 10th anniversary! On Saturday, April 5, Dr. Saima Mian and her staff celebrated this milestone alongside Mayor Cilento, members of the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization, Councilwoman Trina Rios, and Director of Community Development Derryck White with an official ribbon cutting.

Starting as a part-time practice in April 2015, Gentle Family Dentistry has grown into a thriving full-time dental office, providing quality dental care to our community for a full decade. Gentle Family Dentistry is located at 220 N. Washington Avenue and is open 6 days a week, including evening hours.

We are proud that they call our Miracle Mile home and wish them continued success in the years ahead.



Uncle Louie G Grand Reopening & Ribbon Cutting

Congratulations to Uncle Louie G on celebrating their official grand reopening with new owners, Mike and Paul! On Saturday, June 21, the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially welcome Mike, Paul, and their families and staff to the Dunellen community alongside Mayor Cilento and Dunellen Borough Council Members.

Uncle Louie G is located at 500 North Avenue, Dunellen, and offers a variety of Italian ice, ice cream, floats, ice cream cakes, and more. Be sure to stop in and cool off this summer!



**FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DUNELLEN!
SEE PAGE 17 FOR THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*Since 1933, our philosophy has remained the same.
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.*

*Over 90 Years of Providing Sensitive Service to
Your Families and Community*

732-968-4227 • www.sheenanfh.com
233 Dunellen Ave, Dunellen, NJ 08812
Thomas E. Sheenan, Manager, Lic. No. 2592

HONOR our HEROES

Save the Date: Haunted Trail Returns to Dunellen This October!



Get ready for chills and thrills—Dunellen’s Annual Haunted Trail is back and spookier than ever! Mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM at Columbia Park**, and prepare to be scared (in the best way possible).

This beloved Halloween tradition transforms our town into a hauntingly fun experience for all ages. But we can’t do it without you—**volunteers are needed!** Whether you want to act on the trail, assist with makeup, help with set-up and breakdown, or lend a hand at the front gate, there’s a place for everyone on the Haunted Trail team.

Join the fun and be a part of something magical! If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact **Kelly Seader** at kseader@dunellenborough.com.

Celebrate Dunellen’s Heritage at Founders Day on October 26

Dunellen is proud to announce that this year’s *Founders’ Day Festival* will take place on **Saturday, October 26**, honoring the rich history and vibrant spirit of our Borough!

This community tradition celebrates Dunellen’s founding with a day full of fun, music, food, and local pride. Plans are already underway for an unforgettable event, and the Borough is currently seeking **live bands, food trucks, and vendors** to be part of the celebration.

Whether you’re a performer looking to share your sound, a small business owner eager to showcase your products, or a local foodie with a truck ready to roll, we’d love to have you join us for this special day.

Interested participants should contact **Kelly Seader** at kseader@dunellenborough.com to learn more about how to get involved.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details as October 26 approaches. Let’s come together to honor Dunellen’s past and celebrate its future!



Boro Hall

PHARMACY

YOUR VACCINE CENTER:

Flu, New COVID, RSV, Shingles, Pneumonia, etc.

Most vaccines are covered by commercial insurance, Medicare and Medicaid at no charge to the patient.

UNABLE TO COME IN? WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS FOR THOSE BEDRIDDEN.

Call to schedule, same day, no prescription needed!

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PHARMACY

- 50% OFF Our New Designer Greeting Card Line: *Everyday, Holiday, ALL Your Special Occasions*
- Newly Refreshed Parking Lot for Your Convenience
- We MATCH and BEAT the Competitor's Prices

Your Local, Independently Owned Pharmacy with Friendly Staff Waiting To Help Serve You and Your Loved Ones

10% OFF For Seniors 65+ On Over the Counter Items

5% OFF For Veterans On Over the Counter Items

THERE IS HOPE!

We can help you or your loved one fight against Opioid addiction.

Naloxone is now available at Boro Hall Pharmacy.

NO Prescription!
Completely Anonymous!

*Must be 14 or older.

Mon-Fri 8:30am-9pm • Saturday 9am-6pm • Sunday 9am-1pm

565 Bound Brook Rd
Middlesex, NJ 08846

Tel: 732-968-0414
Fax: 732-424-1988

www.borohallpharmacy.com

\$12.00 OFF ANY PURCHASE

For New Customers Who Present Prescription For The First Time

Not valid on prescriptions, cigarettes or lottery. Must present this original coupon (photocopies/reproductions not valid) to cashier in-store at time of purchase. May not be combined with other offers. Expires 09/30/25

FREE PRESCRIPTION PICK-UP & DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

GoodRx SingleCare

Dunellen Shop Local

AMERICAN RESTAURANT & RATHSKELLER
OLD WORLD PUB

DUNELLENHOTEL
120 N. Washington Ave, Dunellen
732-968-2900
www.dunellenhotel.com

PRIVATE PARTIES • CATERING • BANQUET FACILITIES

YOSPIN PAINT STORE & WALLCOVERING

- expert paint matching system
- family owned & operated
- serving customers since 1919

Benjamin Moore Paints

386 North Ave • Dunellen
(between Washington & Dunellen North)
Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30am-5pm
Saturday 7:30am-12pm

732.968.0686

Sal's Auto Body Inc.
Collision & Refinishing Specialists

Family Owned & Operated
for Over 36 Years

732-968-2214
315 Hwy 22 E
Green Brook, NJ 08812
NJ REF. NO. 00342A

"Where Quality Repairs Are No Accident"

ERA Boniakowski REAL ESTATE
SERVICE • INTEGRITY • EXPERIENCE

732-968-0700
www.ERABoniakowski.com

Helping families BUY and SELL
their homes for over 75 years!
We know our Community, we can help
you EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

CALL US TODAY FOR A
NO-OBLIGATION CONSULTATION!

Your **AD HERE**

Actual Ad Size
2.25" x 2.25"

DUNELLEN AUTO GLASS
732-752-5740
148 North Avenue • Dunellen

▼ Cars ▼ Trucks ▼ Heavy Equipment

- ▼ Expert Glass Installation
- ▼ 25 Years Experience
- ▼ Certified Installers
- ▼ Mobile Service
- ▼ Insurance Work

see the difference new customers can make

\$75 CALL 732-529-4010
EMAIL SALES@APRPUBLICATIONS.COM

ADVERTISE ON THE NEXT SHOP LOCAL