

Message from the Mayor

MAYOR JASON F. CILENTO
October 2025

Hello Neighbors,

Once again this year, for October's Message from the Mayor, I'd like to highlight Dunellen's ongoing redevelopment projects, explain the role of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs), and share how these efforts are helping us continue to grow and strengthen our Miracle Mile. I revisit this topic every year because redevelopment plays such a critical role in our Borough's future and directly impacts our residents. As such, I want to ensure that everyone understands the process and how these projects can benefit our community.

Redevelopment in the Borough of Dunellen dates back to 2001, when downtown areas were first designated for revitalization. After many years of planning, we have seen and continue to make major progress as those long-term goals become a reality. Recent examples include the newly completed "Gateway" at 745 Bound Brook Road, which proudly symbolizes the entrance to our borough with its turret feature, as well as Metro 526, which was built on the site once occupied by several long-vacant buildings. These redevelopments breathe new life into unused spaces, boost property values across the Borough, and contribute to a more active, welcoming downtown. In the long run, they also help stabilize the tax burden on residents by increasing commercial property values, which is extremely beneficial, as roughly 91% of our tax base currently relies on residential properties.

Much of this success has been made possible through the use of PILOTs. PILOT programs are strategic, long-term agreements that help ease residential taxes, attract new businesses, and improve the quality of life here in Dunellen. Normally, only about 26% of your property tax bill stays with the Borough, while the rest is divided between the

...Continued on page 4

9/11 Commemoration Ceremony with Middlesex

Members of the Dunellen Borough Council, Dunellen Borough Police Department, Dunellen Defender Fire Company #1, Dunellen Rescue Squad, Dunellen OEM, and Mayor Cilento joined the Borough of Middlesex, NJ, at Victor Crowell Park on the 24th anniversary of September 11, 2001, for the annual September 11 Commemoration Ceremony. Together, we honored the nearly 3,000 lives lost, remembered those who continue to suffer from the lasting effects of that fateful day, and paid tribute to the heroes who responded with courage and compassion on that fateful day and those who went off to war to protect our country against terror. We will never forget.

Thank you to Mayor Jack Mikolajczyk, the Middlesex Borough Council, Sherley Penrose, and the 9/11 Commemorative Committee for ensuring this ceremony continues each year and for inviting Dunellen to participate. We also extend a special thank you to Assemblywoman Nancy Muñoz for joining us.





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DUNELLEN GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

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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

Public Information Officer:

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

Starlet Sherrod, Assistant Tax Collector

ssherrrod@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 Director:

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

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Message from the Mayor

Continued from cover...

school district (58%), Middlesex County (13%), the Dunellen Public Library (2%), and County Open Space (1%). With PILOT agreements, however, Dunellen retains 95% of the revenue, with the County receiving 5%. This means more resources are available locally for infrastructure and municipal services. It's important to emphasize that PILOTs do not reduce funding for our schools. Dunellen Public Schools always receives 100% of their approved budget, regardless of what the Borough collects. Additionally, PILOTs are only approved after our financial advisors carefully review each project and confirm it passes the "But For" test, meaning the project could not realistically move forward without this tool.

In short, PILOTs have been a key factor in making our redevelopment efforts possible and ensuring they benefit the entire community. For a deeper dive into the history of redevelopment in Dunellen and a more detailed look at PILOTs, please visit www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/PILOTs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's message. As always, I welcome your thoughts, questions, and feedback. Please feel free to reach me at my Borough cell phone, (732) 882-4551, or by email at jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov.



Sincerely,

*Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen*

Dunellen Outings Community Committee



The Dunellen Outings Community Committee (DOCC) is a subcommittee of the Dunellen Recreation Department. We have been around for over four years now, planning activities and outings for Dunellen residents, mostly ages 18+; however, many of our activities are family-friendly. Primarily, we spread the word of our activities through our Facebook page, - DOCC – Dunellen Outings Community Committee, and town Facebook groups such as Dunellen 411 and Dunellen Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Feel free to share our flyers and announcements with your friends and other town groups.



Most recently, we hosted two Nights Out at local restaurants, Roscoe's Eatery and Il Forno a Legna. These are family-friendly events, and the food and company are always great. We love patronizing our local establishments and meeting new friends.

In August, we held a trip up to Von Thun Farms in Washington, NJ. It was a beautiful day with a lovely stroll through the wild flowers section, the sunflower patch, and a winding trail with many photo ops. Everyone came home with an armful of beautiful flowers. There were also a few food trucks, a petting zoo, and activities for younger children available.

To finish out the year, we hosted a two-night crafting event, making/ decorating wooden trays that were donated to McAuley Hall Health Care Center's Art Department in Watchung for use by their seniors, have a meetup scheduled for Saturday, November 15th to Peddlers Village for lunch and shopping - watch for our flyer soon as reservations for the lunch will be required in advance, and we're working on another crafting/donation event for early January.

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. If you love planning and organizing fun events, reach out to us. We'd love to have you!

In Memory of Harold "Hal" VanDermark



The Borough of Dunellen remembers Councilman Harold "Hal" VanDermark, a dedicated public servant, Navy veteran, business owner, and proud resident of our community for nearly four decades.

Hal first moved to Dunellen with his wife, Liz, and their children, Joan and Hal Jr., in 1987, and quickly became active in the community. Over the years, Hal gave back to the Borough he so dearly loved by coaching Dunellen Recreation Baseball and Softball, serving as a volunteer on the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization and the Dunellen Arts & Culture Commission, and opening his own small business, the Inspire Art Gallery & Studio, where he celebrated the arts.

Hal ran for the Dunellen Borough Council and was unanimously appointed in 2021, serving for the past four years. During his time

on Council, he was a member of the Finance Committee, served as liaison to the Office of Emergency Management and CERT, and worked to strengthen public safety as part of the Police Committee. He also collaborated with the Recreation Commission to enhance programs for children, adults, and seniors, ensuring that residents of all ages and interests would have the opportunity to connect, grow, and get involved.

Hal always gave his heart and soul to the Dunellen community, bringing with him a willingness to listen, a firm desire to see our Miracle Mile become all it could be, and a deep love for all who call it home. Throughout his life, he had an unbreakable commitment to service, from his country to his town to his neighbors.

Hal will be dearly missed. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the VanDermark family and all who knew and loved him.

DDMO Events

HarvestFest

Fall is here, and you know what that means—it's almost time for Dunellen's Annual HarvestFest! Join us on Sunday, October 12, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Washington Memorial Park for crafts, art, food, entertainment, and more! Admission is free and will take place, rain or shine. Don't miss out on yearly favorites like the Apple Pie Baking Contest and Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Vendor registration is now open.

Visit tinyurl.com/DunellenHarvestFest for more information, to submit your vendor application, and to see the rules for the Apple Pie Baking Contest and Pumpkin Decorating Contest.

DUNELLEN, NJ
Dunellen Downtown Management Organization's
Dunellen HarvestFest
Crafts • Art • Food • Entertainment
Sunday, October 12
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Washington Memorial Park
Free Admission | Rain or Shine
Apple Pie Baking Contest
Pumpkin Decorating Contest
For more information and to register as a vendor, visit:
tinyurl.com/DunellenHarvestFest
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7th Annual Dunellen Station Car Show

The Dunellen Downtown Management Organization is excited to partner with Karl's Custom Classics for the Seventh Annual Fall Dunellen Station Car Show on Sunday, October 12, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Dunellen Train Station! Join us for a day filled with classic, vintage, and custom cars on display. The event will also feature Diecast Jimmy, Dirty Rat Apparel, and music by DJ Richie Flash.

Sponsorship and vendor opportunities are now available! For more information, contact Karl Jackson at (908) 500 1837.

Seventh Annual Fall
Dunellen Station Car Show
October 12 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Dunellen Train Station Parking Lot
Free Admission to the public!
Day of Show Car Entry Fee: \$20
Featuring Diecast Jimmy, Dirty Rat Apparel, & music by DJ Richie Flash
For more information, contact Karl Jackson: (908) 500-1837

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Dunellen Train Station Update & Ongoing Advocacy for RVL Commuters

FROM MAYOR JASON F. CILENTO



On Wednesday, September 17, Borough officials and I met with State Senator Jon Bramnick, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz, Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis, Sue Altman from U.S. Senator Andy Kim’s Office, and NJ TRANSIT to once again discuss long-awaited improvements to the Dunellen Train Station.

NJ TRANSIT has visited Dunellen several times throughout the last few years, and while progress has been slower than we’d like, we have been persistent with continued advocacy and ongoing conversations since I first took office. Each subsequent visit has reinforced the urgent need for upgrades, which they saw firsthand again, leading to productive discussion and planning.

The focus was on both immediate repairs and long-term upgrades that will make the station safer, more reliable, and accessible to all. Following this meeting, NJ TRANSIT has identified the following goals to modernize and improve the station.

- Short-term: enhanced cleaning of the station, removal of vegetation overgrowth, and stairwell repairs.
- Mid-term: installation of new railings on the platform to increase commuter safety and possible improvements to the gravel portions of the platform.
- Long-term: installation of elevators and construction of a new platform to achieve full ADA accessibility.

While full ADA-compliance will require time and a mix of both state and federal funding, NJ TRANSIT reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing these upgrades and applying for federal grants as they become available. Additionally, in my conversations with NJ TRANSIT President & CEO Kris Kolluri, he indicated that he will advance a concept plan for a new Dunellen Train Station, which would be a critical step in the process, and I will continue to advocate for its completion prior to the end of Governor Phil Murphy’s term.

I would like to thank Governor Murphy and President Kolluri for their role in making this meeting possible, the team at NJ TRANSIT for their attention to this matter, our state representatives, Senator Bramnick, Assemblywoman Munoz, and Assemblywoman Matsikoudis who have been with us since the beginning on this endeavor, and our federal representatives for their commitment to improving the Dunellen Train Station for all who rely on it.

In addition to improvements at the station, it’s important to recognize the broader needs of commuters in Dunellen and throughout the region who rely not just on a modernized station, but also on enhanced express and direct service to and from New York City.

As a member of the **Raritan Valley Line Mayors’ Alliance (RVLMA)**, alongside my fellow mayors from municipalities along the line, we continue to advocate for increased service. Over the past few months, the RVLMA has met with state and federal leaders, including representatives from NJ TRANSIT (including President & CEO Kris Kolluri), Amtrak, the Regional Plan Association, U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim, the office of U.S. Congressman Tom Kean, Jr., and the office of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman.

Together, we are working to identify short-, mid-, and long-term goals to improve service on the Raritan Valley Line.

The most critical goal is the completion of Gateway Project Phase 1, which includes the construction of a new tunnel to ensure more reliable service. Phase 2 will increase capacity on the New York side, and we are also advocating for funding for the **Hunter Flyover**, which would eliminate the need for RVL trains to cross eight tracks in Newark — a major source of delays — ultimately increasing capacity for both NJ TRANSIT and Amtrak.

How you can help:

Residents are encouraged to contact our state and federal representatives, including those in Legislative District 21, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, and U.S. Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim, to voice support for these improvements.

We remain committed to ensuring Dunellen’s train station and the broader Raritan Valley Line are brought into the 21st century, safe, modern, accessible, and efficient for all who depend on them.

You may contact Legislative District 21 by calling +1-800-792-8630 or by visiting <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/district-21>

To contact Congresswoman Watson Coleman’s office, please visit: <https://watsoncoleman.house.gov/contact>

To contact U.S. Senator Booker, please visit: <https://www.booker.senate.gov/contact>

To contact U.S. Senator Kim, please visit: <https://www.kim.senate.gov/contact/>

To contact the NJ Transit Customer Advocate, please visit: https://njtransit.my.salesforce-sites.com/customerservice/site_app#/advocate

Lastly, in my role as President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, we established a legislative subcommittee on NJ Transit, Gateway, and Infrastructure. This subcommittee, chaired by Mayor Shelley Brindle of Westfield, an RVLMA member and founder, was created to highlight the importance of the Gateway projects for the entire state.



Mayor's Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Task Force

The Mayor's Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Task Force (MTAPS) is sponsoring Walk to School Wednesdays for the students of Faber Elementary School! The second session of the fall season takes place from October 15 to November 5. Students who walk all four Wednesdays in a session will earn one raffle entry for a chance to win this fall!

Additionally, volunteers are needed to join a member of MTAPS at Faber Elementary School from 7:30-8:15 AM to assist with the students' punch cards. You can volunteer by visiting tinyurl.com/FaberWTSW.

Faber Elementary School
Walk to School Wednesdays

What's it all about?

- Encourage your friends and family to walk to school with you every Wednesday.
- Every step you take helps you, your community, and the planet!

How it works!

- Have your punch card stamped every Wednesday you walk to school.
- Walk to School Wednesdays will take place in two 4-week sessions. Students who walk all four Wednesdays in a session will earn one raffle entry, giving you two chances to win this fall!

Session 1: Sept. 17 - Oct. 8 **Session 2:** Oct. 15 - Nov. 5

Sponsored by the Mayor's Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Task Force

Mayoral Town Hall – Emergency Services & Response

Save the date for the next Mayoral Town Hall! On Thursday, October 16, join us at 7:00 PM at the George W. Hodulik Firehouse for a presentation on Emergency Services & Preparedness. Learn more about the Dunellen Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Office of Emergency Management, and the American Red Cross. Representatives will be sharing details about their organization and their role in emergency response and preparedness.

Attendees can join in person or virtually. RSVP at tinyurl.com/DunellenTownHall.

Mayoral Town Hall
Emergency Services & Preparedness
 Hosted by Mayor Jason F. Cilento

Police Fire EMS OEM

Learn more about the Dunellen Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and Office of Emergency Management. Representatives will be sharing details about their organization and their role in emergency response and preparedness.

Thursday, October 16 | 7:00 PM
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231 S. Madison Avenue, Dunellen, NJ

RSVP at tinyurl.com/DunellenTownHall

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 And to provide your family with peace of mind going forward.*

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Improvement Projects

North Avenue Street Lighting

At the Borough's request, PSE&G has upgraded the decorative lights in the downtown along North Avenue between Jackson Avenue & Madison Avenue from high-pressure sodium lights to new LED lights. These LEDs offer clearer, brighter lighting, longer-lasting bulbs, and improved energy efficiency.



Second Street DOT

The Second Street DOT Project took place in August on Second Street from Schwartz Place to Madison Avenue. During Phase 1, severely damaged curbs and sidewalks were removed and replaced, six new ADA-compliant sidewalks, two solar-powered radar speed signs, and push-button rapid flashing beacon cross signs at the intersection of Second Street & Sanford Avenue were installed, and the street was milled and paved.



Second Street Mill & Pave

The Second Street Mill & Pave project between Schwartz Place and the Dunellen/Middlesex border was completed in August. As part of this project, severely damaged curbs and sidewalks were removed and replaced, concrete/asphalt aprons were replaced with new concrete aprons, the road was milled and paved, and enhanced road striping was added. Additional road striping will be added in the near future and will not impact traffic.



Jackson Avenue Mill & Pave

The Jackson Avenue Mill & Pave Project took place in September on Jackson Avenue from the dead end of the street to North Avenue. During Phase 1, ADA-compliant sidewalk entrances were replaced at each intersection, and severely damaged curbs between Front Street & North Avenue were replaced. During Phase 2, the entire length of the street was milled and paved.



Remember to Set Your Clocks BACK 1-hour November 2

Photo by freepik

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New Jersey American Water Milling & Paving Scheduled for Spring 2026

New Jersey American Water (NJAW) has informed the Borough of Dunellen that paving restoration associated with their recent projects will be scheduled for the spring of 2026. This timeline was chosen in order to avoid weather-related risks during the fall and winter months and allow for a necessary ground settlement period, ensuring a higher-quality pavement surface with greater longevity.

The following streets will be milled and paved in spring 2026:

- Bache Place
- Grove Street
- Lehigh Street
- Maple Avenue
- New Market Road
- Oak Parkway (previously paved portion)
- Penfield Place (from South Washington Avenue to Maple Avenue)
- Prospect Avenue
- South Avenue
- Walnut Street
- Whittier Avenue

We appreciate our residents' patience and understanding. NJAW and the Borough will send notices in the spring prior to the start of each project.

Dunellen Borough Police Department

Congratulations to Sgt. Keith Irons on his well-deserved promotion to Sergeant at the September 15 Dunellen Borough Council Meeting. Sgt. Irons has been proudly serving our Miracle Mile since 2018. He has served as a Field Training Officer, earned statewide recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and contributed to the Middlesex County Rapid Deployment Team.

We wish Sgt. Irons all the best as he enters this new chapter in his career!



TextMyGov

Dunellen to Launch TextMyGov Service

The Borough of Dunellen is excited to announce that TextMyGov is coming soon! This new text messaging service will make it easy for residents to receive important notifications and access information about the Borough.

Residents can sign up by texting "DUNELLEN" to 91896 and replying "YES" to confirm. You may opt out at any time by texting STOP.

Soon, residents will also be able to request information 24/7 by texting keywords to (732) 629-9887 for updates on events, news, forms, and other Borough information.

Stay connected and informed with Dunellen's new TextMyGov service!

View terms and privacy policy info at textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions Msg & Data rates apply. Please visit: <https://textmygov.com/>

TextMyGov.com

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Borough of Dunellen
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Miracle Mile In Motion: How Redevelopment is Moving Our Community Forward

Redevelopment continues to play a vital role in strengthening Dunellen and shaping the future of our community. Several projects are in progress, bringing new housing options and mixed-use spaces that are drawing both residents and businesses to town, all while resulting in lower-than-expected effects on school enrollment. These efforts go beyond construction; they are about building a thriving and sustainable Dunellen that balances growth with affordability and ensures an improved quality of life for everyone who calls our Borough home.

Building the Future: Before & After



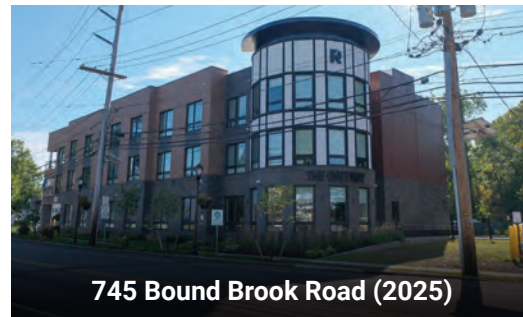
526 North Avenue (2018)



526 North Avenue (2025)



745 Bound Brook Road (2021)



745 Bound Brook Road (2025)

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

\$1,400,000

Anticipated PILOT Revenue in 2025

\$4,900,000

Total Gross PILOT Revenue to Date

This funding helps offset what would otherwise need to be collected through property taxes, providing stability for homeowners while supporting long-term growth. In addition, redevelopment projects tied to Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) are contributing substantial funds for community improvements, such as traffic & pedestrian safety initiatives, infrastructure upgrades, and improvements to parks and playgrounds.

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



Community Contributions in Action



One example of how redevelopment directly benefits the Borough can be seen with the installation of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) along North Avenue at the intersections of Jackson Avenue, Prospect Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, and Sanford Avenue. These important pedestrian safety improvements were made possible through community contributions provided by several recent redevelopment projects. By reinvesting funds generated through redevelopment into projects that enhance safety and quality of life, the Borough of Dunellen ensures that growth not only supports economic development but also provides tangible improvements for residents and visitors alike.

“

"The Break has been here in Dunellen since 1973, and we know firsthand how the community has changed and grown over the years. The recent redevelopment efforts have been great for business, and it's exciting to see so many people experiencing our downtown."

- Chris Cotty, Owner of The Break

”



Mayoral Town Hall
Hosted by Mayor Jason F. Cilento

Redevelopment in the Borough of Dunellen

December 10, 2025

George W. Hodulik Firehouse | 7:00 PM

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



“

"As a long-time established restaurant in Dunellen, we are happy to see the new customers as well as the familiar faces that frequent the Dunellen Hotel & Rathskeller. It is great that the Borough is continuing to grow. This will be great for business!"

- Rich Hendricks, Co-Owner of Dunellen Hotel & Rathskeller

”

Dunellen Seniors Gather for Annual Fall Picnic



On Friday, September 19, 2025, Dunellen’s senior community came together for the Annual Senior Citizen Fall Picnic, held at American Legion Post 119.

Guests were treated to an afternoon of music, delicious food, lively conversation, and beautiful fall weather. The event offered seniors the chance to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and enjoy a relaxing day of fellowship in a welcoming atmosphere.

The Annual Fall Picnic is one of the highlights of the year for Dunellen’s senior community, bringing together neighbors in celebration of the season and the spirit of togetherness.

For further information regarding senior citizen programs and events, please contact Recreation Director Kelly Seader at kseader@dunellenborough.com.



Dunellen Code Enforcement Reminder

To keep Dunellen beautiful and your home safe, 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.
- Snow removal from sidewalks must be completed within 24 hours from the end of the storm.

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.

Structure Safety

- Borough zoning areas need to be adhered to.
- Permits must be applied for.
- Construction codes need to be followed.
- Inspections of improvements are required.

Random inspections of properties may be requested by the borough code enforcer and/or construction office if there is reason to believe there are violations. These inspections are permitted by law, and we appreciate your cooperation in allowing access when required.

Visit www.Dunellen-NJ.gov/MunicipalCode or scan the QR code to view Dunellen’s Municipal Code



Carol Fest

On August 24th, the Dunellen American Legion hosted Carol Fest, a music festival to raise money for the Carol Fund. This event was held from 1:00–9:00 PM with 25 musicians donating their time to entertain those in attendance. Student and adult volunteers, along with donations of food and gift cards from local businesses, helped to make this event a huge success. Monies collected went directly to the Carol Fund to assist families in our community.

The Carol Fund is a charity established in memory of Carol Byelick, a special education aide in the Dunellen School District who died of cancer in 2002. Their mission is to help the students and families in Dunellen. Families affected by flood, fire, unexpected health issues, and personal struggles can receive aid to help them through these difficult times.

Families receive everything they need, from a holiday meal to nonperishable foods from our Thanksgiving and Holiday food drives. Our Angel Tree project provides multiple gifts to children in Dunellen.

Each year, we pay for yearbooks, caps and gowns, prom tickets, and senior field trip fees for graduating seniors who are unable to afford these extra expenses. Each August, they collect school supplies to be distributed to local students. They are also working to support families affected by the recent storms.

Through the generosity of school staff, students, and community members, we continue to provide assistance to local families.

Donations to the Carol Fund can be dropped off at Faber Elementary School, Lincoln Middle School, or Dunellen High School, or mailed to The Carol Fund, % Dunellen High School, 411 First Street, Dunellen, NJ 08812.

Checks should be made out to the Dunellen Board of Education with Carol Fund on the memo line.



Tree Permits are Required

FROM THE DUNELLEN SHADE TREE COMMISSION

To preserve the tree canopy throughout the borough, it is important to remind everyone that permits are required to remove and prune any tree on borough property. The permit applications are taken by the construction office.

Please refer to code 275 of the Municipal Code Book, which can be found on the borough home page, www.Dunellen-NJ.gov, under "Municipal Code."

275-5 Permit required to remove trees one or more trees within public rights-of-way.

- No person shall remove or destroy or cause to be removed or destroyed any tree with a DBH of 2.5" or more without first having obtained a tree removal and site clearing permit, except as otherwise provided herein.
- Notwithstanding any other provisions to be contrary, nothing contained herein shall require the Borough of Dunellen, its agents, representatives or employees to obtain a tree removal and site clearing permit before removing or destroying or causing to be removed or destroyed any tree.

275-11 Required permits for non-utility operations.

No person shall do any of the following acts to any tree or shrub on a public right-of-way without the prior approval and permit issued from the Borough of Dunellen Construction Office which will solicit comment from the Dunellen Shade Tree Commission, when appropriate:

- Cut, disturb or interfere in any way with any truck, root or branch.
- Spray with any chemical.

- Remove or damage any guard or device placed to protect any tree or shrub.
- Conduct razing, removal or renovation of any structure if deemed by the Dunellen Shade Tree Commission to be damaging to neighboring street trees or other trees in the public right of way.
- Place or distribute chemicals, including but not limited to salt, which chemical or combination of chemicals is deleterious to tree health.
- Remove soil, either for trenching or otherwise.
- Apply mulch, bricks, pavers or any other material in a manner that may affect the roots and proper growth of a tree.

PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Any street, avenue, boulevard, road, parkway, viaduct, drive or other way which is an existing state, county or municipal roadway or which is shown upon a plat heretofore approved pursuant to law or which is approved by official action as provided by the Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.) or which is shown on a plat duly filed and recorded in the office of the County Recording Officer prior to the appointment of a Planning Board and the grant to such Board of the power to review plats and includes the land between the street lines, whether improved or unimproved, and may comprise pavement, shoulders, gutters, curbs, sidewalks, parking areas, planting strips, and other areas within the street lines.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Decorate Your Way to a Howling Good Halloween

(Family Features) Costumes and candy may be mainstays of Halloween, but decorating is a fun way to set the mood and add a little extra excitement in the weeks leading up to the holiday. These spooktacular ideas can help dial up the drama and delight for all ages.

Pumpkins aplenty: A traditional glowing jack-o'-lantern may be one of Halloween's most recognized icons, but pumpkins can be used in plenty of other fun ways. You can dress them up with glitter and ribbon for a more elegant look or group a series of pumpkins in varied shapes and colors for a seasonal centerpiece. You can even give a pumpkin a coat of chalkboard paint and count down the days until Halloween.

Creepy kids' crafts: Get little ghosts and goblins into the Halloween spirit with hand-made decorations that make your seasonal decor equal parts sweet and spooky. Fold a black piece of construction paper down the middle and trace a child's hand and wrist, with the wrist extending over the folded edge. Cut along the traced line, leaving the fold intact,



Photo courtesy of Getty Images



Designed by Freepik

and when you unfold the paper, you'll have a bat to decorate. Add eyes and attach string to the top of the wings to hang and display.

Gross and ghoulish: Some of the best Halloween displays have something in common: attention to detail. Get creative with your props and decorations to incorporate some unexpected attention-grabbers like brains in a jar. Place bunches of cauliflower in a clear glass container and cover with water died red.

Spooky serving: If you're entertaining for Halloween, incorporate spooky decor with your food and drinks to keep the theme going throughout the party.

Use cauldrons as serving bowls and skeleton hands as serving spoons. Add plenty of cobwebs and other spooky accents to the table, and search for easy recipes that fit your theme. One fun idea for kids is baking sugar cookies in fun Halloween shapes and serving them with a selection of food-safe syringes pre-filled with colored frosting.

Ghostly greetings: All the tricks and treats indoors make for plenty of good spirit, but don't forget to set the scene outside, too. Dressing up your front door lets visitors know they're in for a real treat. A haunted graveyard scene or a spooky spider den with lots of critters dangling from fake cobwebs are sure to show all who dare to enter that a howling good time lies ahead.

Find more frightfully fun ideas to make your home Halloween ready at eLivingtoday.com.



DUNELLEN PARKS AND RECREATION

Dunellen Founders' Day Festival 2025: A Celebration of Dunellen's Heritage and Community

As Dunellen's birthday approaches, the Dunellen Recreation Department invites the community to come together for **Founders' Day**, a festival honoring the town's history, people, and vibrant spirit.

The **Dunellen Founders' Day Festival 2025** will take place on **Sunday, October 26**, from **12:00 PM to 4:00 PM** at **Washington Park**. This community-wide event promises fun for all ages with live entertainment, local vendors, children's activities, delicious food, and more.

Festival Highlights:

- **Vendor Marketplace** featuring local crafts, food, and services
- **Live Performances** by local musicians, actors, and artists
- **Professional Wrestling** with Independent Superstars of Pro Wrestling (ISPW)
- **Children's Entertainment** including face painting and games
- **Family Fun** designed to bring the whole community together

"Founders Day is more than just a festival—it's a chance for us to honor Dunellen's rich history while creating new memories as a community," said Recreation Director Kelly Seader.

Vendor Opportunities

The Recreation Department is currently accepting vendor applications. This is a great opportunity to support local businesses and showcase your work.

- Vendor Fee: **\$30 per space**
- Food Vendor Fee: \$50 per space

For vendor registration and details, please contact Recreation Director Kelly Seader at kseader@dunellenborough.com.

With music, entertainment, shopping, and activities for kids and adults alike, Dunellen Founders' Day Festival 2025 is the perfect way to celebrate the town's birthday.

Don't miss this day of fun, community, and celebration—join us at Washington Park on October 26!



Dunellen's 76th Annual Halloween Parade Returns October 26

Dunellen's beloved Halloween tradition is back! The 76th Annual Dunellen Halloween Parade will take place on Sunday, October 26, 2025, bringing spooky spirit, festive costumes, and community pride to our streets.

Parade registration will be held from 12:00–12:45 PM in the Dunellen Library Parking Lot. After sign-in, participants will march up Washington Avenue to Washington Park, showcasing their creative costumes along the way.

This cherished event is open to all ages, and prizes will be awarded for standout costumes. Whether you're dressing up in a silly, scary, or original outfit, the Halloween Parade is the perfect way to celebrate the season with family, friends, and neighbors.

But the fun doesn't stop there—stay after the parade for Dunellen Founders' Day festivities, featuring live entertainment, vendors, food, and a special treat: professional wrestling in the park!

Come join us for an afternoon filled with community spirit, fall fun, and unforgettable memories at one of Dunellen's longest-standing traditions.



designed by freepik





DUNELLEN PARKS AND RECREATION

Dunellen Fall Sports Off to a Smashing Start

The fall sports season is officially underway in Dunellen, and both our youth tennis and soccer programs are off to a smashing start. With crisp autumn weather setting in, our athletes, coaches, and families are bringing excitement and energy to the courts and fields.

The Dunellen Recreation Tennis Program has seen strong participation this year, with players sharpening their skills and enjoying a mix of instruction, drills, and match play. Whether they are beginners learning the fundamentals or returning players looking to build on their game, everyone is showing great progress while enjoying a fun and supportive atmosphere.

Soccer, our largest program, is bigger than ever this season with over 150 athletes taking the field. From preschool to eighth grade, the season is filled with enthusiastic competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Coaches are working hard to ensure players develop their skills while having fun, and parents are filling the sidelines with cheers of encouragement.

Both programs highlight the spirit of community in Dunellen. The Recreation Commission, dedicated coaches, and supportive families have all helped create an environment where young athletes can thrive. With several weeks of the season still ahead, there is plenty to look forward to as our players continue to grow, compete, and enjoy the game.

This fall, Dunellen's sports programs are more than just about wins and losses—they're about building confidence, fostering friendships, and celebrating the love of the game.



Dunellen Recreation Seeks Volunteer Coaches

The Dunellen Recreation Department is always looking for dedicated volunteers to help coach youth sports programs. These programs are the heart of our community and can only run successfully with the support of volunteer coaches.

Coaches play an important role in shaping young athletes, not only teaching skills and teamwork, but also helping to build confidence, sportsmanship, and a love of the game. Whether you have years of experience or are simply looking for a way to give back to the community, Dunellen Recreation welcomes anyone interested in stepping into this rewarding role.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer coach for the current season or an upcoming season, please contact Recreation Director Kelly Seader at kseader@dunellenborough.com.

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DDMO Welcome New Businesses

In the Cut Barbershop

Congratulations to Carlos Baloco and his family and team at In The Cut Barbershop, who celebrated their grand re-opening at their new location, 366 North Avenue, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, August 30 with Mayor Cilento and members of the Dunellen Borough Council and the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization.

In The Cut has been in Dunellen for over 21 years and specializes in high-quality haircuts for clients of all ages, hair types, and hair textures. We wish them great success and many years ahead in their new shop.



Total Wireless Ribbon Cutting

Congratulations to Krunal Patel and Mehul Patel, co-owners of Total Wireless, on their official ribbon-cutting and grand opening! On Saturday, September 13, Mayor Cilento was joined by members of the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization and the Dunellen Borough Council to welcome them to their new location at 260 North Avenue. Total Wireless is excited to provide high-quality wireless services at an affordable price for families. We wish you great success!



Sweet Flowers Ribbon Cutting

On Saturday, September 20, members of the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization, the Dunellen Borough Council, and Mayor Cilento officially welcomed Sweet Flowers to Dunellen with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Co-owners Ethan and Steven Galdamez proudly offer a wide range of floral arrangements, bouquets, small gifts, and more that are perfect for any occasion! Sweet Flowers is located at 376 North Avenue, Suite B. Stop in to see what they have to offer or place an order online through their website, www.SweetFlowersNJ.com.





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Dunellen Parking Authority Public Parking

The Parking Authority at Work

Modernization of public parking within the borough became a reality on February 3, 2025, when Ordinance 2025-01 was adopted by the Dunellen Borough Council. Codified as the new Chapter 202 Public Parking, it is an all-inclusive, comprehensive parking regulation that better serves our residents. Prior to this update, parking regulations were spelled out in 5 different code chapters and various ordinances. By compiling an “all-in-one” chapter, confusion is eliminated. From an enforcement aspect, this update was required as our borough’s parking needs changed.

“Public Parking” is defined as on-street parking, metered parking downtown, public lots, and handicapped parking. Enforcement of this code chapter is the responsibility of both the Parking Authority and the Police Department. The police department does not typically perform parking enforcement duties during our operating hours, however, parking enforcement can be performed legally by both organizations. Laws researched by the authority to ensure legal requirements are met for this ordinance are those pursuant to Parking Enforcement Officers’ duties as spelled out in two laws: N.J.S.A. 40A:9-154-7 and N.J.S.A. 40:11A-22, where enforcement of all public parking laws, ordinances, and regulations falls within their duties.

Metered Parking

Parking meters with a two-hour time limit were installed within the downtown area to provide businesses with ample parking for the convenience of their customers. Enforcement hours are from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Currently, \$0.25 per hour is required to be paid during the enforcement hours. The fine for overtime parking in accordance with 202-6K is \$25.00. There are 15-minute free parking spaces for those who just want to pick up food or beverages, or mail a letter.

Public Lots

The public lots are for commuter parkers using New Jersey Transit. There are five lots that provide both permit and daily parking, which are dependent upon the number of days commuters use the transit system. The hours are from 4:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. After 5:00 PM, free parking is provided for a more customer-friendly parking experience for the downtown business district customers. Fees for parking in the public lots are spelled out in Chapter 202-C. Several prohibitions were added to ensure parking is not abused in these lots, such as no commercial vehicles or making repairs to vehicles. In addition to the prohibitions, there are also fines for parking in a permit space without a permit and overtime parking in a daily space. Chapter 202-17 contains the fines imposed for various violations of the regulations.

2-Hour Non-Resident Parking

Since 2000, this section has been in effect on certain streets. With this new code, section 202-9 limits parking time on all borough streets for non-residents Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Patrols are conducted in areas around the lots. Complaints received are investigated on all streets where it is believed a non-resident is parking and commuting. This is done via the vehicle’s registration. Resident’s guests are offered guest passes. The whole town is covered as a result of finding commuters parking all over and just outside the 2-hour area, making it unfair to our residents by prohibiting them from parking in front of their homes all day long.

Resident On-Street Parking

A new section of this code was implemented as a result of complaints from our residents regarding vehicles parked in front of their homes for days without moving. Under section 202-10, your neighbor can only park in front of your house for no more than 72 hours. This section is enforced by complaints only to the parking authority and not

the police department. 72 hours was chosen because under N.J.S.A. 39:4-5, a vehicle parked for more than 48 hours is presumed to be abandoned. There is a current parking authority policy on handling these situations. The vehicle has to be in front of your home. We will then chalk the tires while running the vehicle’s registration to determine the owner’s address. After that, if the vehicle is not removed, it is our job to contact the owner for its removal. A notice of violation will be issued via certified mail, and after the tenth day, a summons will be issued with a set fine of \$50.00.

Parking Prohibitions

Throughout the borough, there are a number of prohibited parking spots along streets or sections of streets. These are identified in Section 202-16. The best example of parking prohibited is South Madison Avenue on the west side of the street from South Avenue to Walnut, specifically so that Fire Trucks can get out to respond to incidents. New Market Road is another example, as parking is prohibited on both sides of the street to the Piscataway border. Parking during a Snow event is another.

There are two ways to identify these prohibitions: yellow curb markings and signs. Without one or the other, no violation exists.

Other new sections listed in Chapter 202 under parking prohibitions include:

1. Repairs to vehicles are prohibited on streets except for minor repairs.
2. Parking vehicles over 4 tons (8000lbs) is prohibited.
3. Parking boats, trailers, tow trucks, recreational vehicles, and dealer vehicles is prohibited after 2 hours.
4. Parking is prohibited for street sweeping in the 100 block of North Washington Avenue, and North Avenue from Jefferson Avenue to Madison Avenue, Monday through Friday, 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM.

Lastly, New Jersey state statute 39:4-138, places where parking is prohibited, such as parking within ten (10) feet of a fire hydrant, have been incorporated into this ordinance.

Feel free to call on the authority for any questions, concerns, or complaints regarding your public parking concerns.



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