



BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
355 North Avenue
Dunellen, New Jersey 08812

TELEPHONE: (732) 882-4551
EMAIL: jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov

Message from the Mayor Jason F. Cilento December 2020

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the Borough Council, employees of the Borough of Dunellen and myself, we wish all the residents and businesses of Dunellen a Happy and Pleasant Holiday Season.

While we are spending time with our families and friends, I hope we can use this opportunity to reflect on the importance of all the people with whom we share life's journey. This past year has been challenging for us all with COVID-19 – even more so now as we enjoy the bounties of the holiday season. Let us remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent further spread of the Coronavirus, remember why we wear masks, practice social distancing, and engage in smaller gatherings. Taking these actions shows that we respect, protect, and cherish one another.

Although 2020 has been very different from past years, Dunellen's spirit is resilient, and we as individuals, and your municipality, will continue to share in our traditional civic occasions. The Dunellen Parks and Recreation Commission will host a virtual tree lighting ceremony at Washington Memorial Park's gazebo on Sunday, December 6th at 6:00 pm. You may view the ceremony live on their Facebook page at: Dunellen Parks and Recreation. The custom of "Santa Around Town" will be observed on Christmas Eve, December 24th starting at 9:30 am with Santa being safely escorted around town by the Dunellen Fire Department, who will be following safety provisions to protect themselves.

The Dunellen Parks and Recreation Commission will again host its annual House Decorating Contest. For information on this, please contact Alex Miller at amiller@dunellenborough.com. The Dunellen Arts and Culture Commission has initiated a Winter Scenes display on storefront windows and the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization has placed the annual Christmas Trees around downtown. Finally, the Holiday Season display with the cut-out characters in Washington Memorial Park along North Washington Avenue will still be seen by everyone who drives and walks past the park. As you can see, Dunellen is still celebrating the holidays during the pandemic, but in a simplified and safer manner.

As we move into 2021, I am optimistic about what we will accomplish together as a community. In future communications such as this newsletter, I look forward to comprehensively highlighting what the Borough accomplished during 2020. For now, I want to focus on the importance of volunteering in Dunellen. Last year, before being sworn-in as Mayor, I worked

with the Borough Council on initiating a digitized volunteer application on our borough website to make signing up to volunteer easier and more accessible to residents of Dunellen. Paper copies of the volunteer form are also available at Borough Hall. Currently, there are limited seats available on one of our many Boards, Commissions or Committees in Dunellen. If you are interested in an appointed seat and/or simply volunteering with one of our committees, please visit http://www.dunellen-nj.gov/volunteer_sign-up/index.php, and read more about volunteer opportunities. Dunellen's success is truly measured by the countless volunteers who serve our community. I hope you will consider applying to volunteer for our great borough.

As I conclude this Message from the Mayor, I want to thank the residents of Dunellen for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. I am thankful to Dunellen's community and I am always in awe of our people's generosity toward one another. It is an honor to serve as Mayor of the town that raised me. We are truly the Miracle Mile, and for that, I am thankful.

Happy Holiday Season to you and your families. Be well and stay safe.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason F. Cilento". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen
Facebook: @mayorcilento
Instagram: mayorcilento
YouTube: Mayor Jason F. Cilento, Dunellen, NJ