



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 July 2021

I hope my July 2021 Message from the Mayor finds you and your families in good health. As we embark on the Fourth of July, the celebration of the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, may we be reminded of the sacrifice that so many brave service members in our armed forces have made to protect our nation's independence and our individual rights and freedoms. Please know my door is always open for comments, questions and concerns. The best ways to reach me is to call my Borough cellphone at (732) 882-4551 or email me at jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov.

Congratulations to Dunellen's very own Sydney McLaughlin!

Dunellen could not be prouder of our hometown Olympian, Sydney McLaughlin! On Sunday, June 27, she broke the world record for the women's 400m hurdles at the US Olympic trials by clocking in at 51.90 seconds. We know the Miracle Mile will be rooting for her as she makes her journey this summer to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. The Borough of Dunellen is planning a celebration of her achievements. More news will follow in the coming weeks.

Welcome to Dunellen! Recent Grand Openings:

The Borough of Dunellen loves to support its downtown businesses by celebrating grand openings or re-openings (with the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions). I am always proud to join the Dunellen Downtown Management Organization and Council Members in participating in these celebrations - we bring red ribbon and large, oversized scissors to each event.

In the past year and a half, we have welcomed the new Mattress store on North Avenue, Cafe Nune, Inspire Art Gallery & Studio, Wing Brothers, Weapons 9 Muay Thai Gym, AC Vintage Clothing, Generation Dance Company and The Soupery. Dunellen places great value on the uniqueness of our small businesses and recognizes that a healthy and vibrant downtown is good for our community. As partners in the economic health of downtown Dunellen, the governing body, administration and official agencies demonstrate wide ranging support of our local business owners. We hope that everyone continues to visit our fantastic mom and pop shops and helps us welcome Dunellen's new businesses as well – we are #DunellenStrong!

PSE&G Work in Dunellen:

Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) will be upgrading gas lines in Dunellen over the next several months. Each workday, a trench will be dug to receive the new pipe and then covered at day's end to minimize disruptions. The trenches will also be covered by protective plates. Disturbances to public or private property will be remedied by the company; possible remedies may include repairing and re-seeding damaged grass areas and/or replacing broken concrete or asphalt openings.

After construction, PSE&G technicians will need access to homes to connect the service line and gas meter to the new gas main. The company will contact homeowners to arrange a convenient date and time to do this work. During the reconnection, it is possible that the property will be without gas service for about four hours. If the meter is inside, PSE&G will move it to the outside of the home. All PSE&G technicians will be wearing personal protective equipment and will maintain physical distancing throughout the appointment.

PSE&G's upgrades will be mainly located in areas where road improvement projects will be occurring this year such as: Lincoln Avenue, South Avenue, Madison Avenue (between North Ave and South Ave), South Madison Avenue (between Walnut Street and South Avenue), Pulaski Street and Lehigh Street. In addition, New Jersey American Water will be making similar upgrades along these same roads. This work is part of the Borough's road improvement plan, which incorporates enhanced coordination between underground utility work and road improvement projects.

If you have any questions, please contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at (732) 968-3033.

Unsolicited Handbills and Circulars:

As I have previously noted, the Borough of Dunellen continues to make efforts to keep Dunellen a clean community. We passed an ordinance (2021-15) to assist in discouraging unwanted solicitation materials issued to properties, most notably, the delivery of the STAR-LEDGER EXTRA which is distributed by CBA Industries.

Recently, Borough Administrator William Robins and I met with officials from CBA Industries to discuss this recently enacted ordinance. We explained the goals of this policy are to minimize pollution to our storm water system and to maintain the aesthetic value of our properties. While many residents welcome the printed materials, others find them a nuisance. Working together, the Borough and CBA Industries agreed that CBA Industries will develop a protocol for ensuring their materials do not end up in our catch basins or otherwise result in unwanted litter. We are looking forward to hearing CBA Industries' plan and continuing this dialogue.

If you would like to discontinue the delivery of the STAR-LEDGER EXTRA advertising material to your home, contact CBA Industries via email at basantos@cbaol.com or call 1-800-376-6222 and ask to be removed from their list.

Third Quarter Estimated Tax Bill Mailer:

The Third Quarter Estimated Tax Bills will be mailed soon. The mailing will contain: an infographic of the breakdown of the Municipality's CY2021 Budget and budget goals; a letter explaining the impact of the CY2021 budget, which effects the third quarter property taxes that are due by August 1; and a description of what an Estimated Tax Bill means to property owners. The governing body and I believe communication and transparency are important and it is our responsibility to present clear information so you know where your tax dollars are being spent. Please take the time to read the materials contained in the upcoming mailing. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office, Council Members, the Chief Financial Officer Scott Olsen or Borough Administrator William Robins. For more information, you may call Borough Hall at (732) 968-3033.

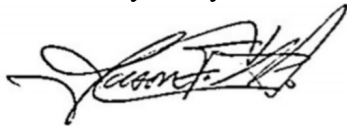
Dunellen Borough Council Meetings:

The Borough of Dunellen has begun hosting a hybrid version of Council meetings. The Council chambers in Borough Hall will offer limited in-person seating. Council meetings will still be viewable live online and the public will still be able to participate via telephone. Dunellen Borough Council meeting dates and meeting access information can be found on the Borough website at: www.dunellen-nj.gov.

I hope you have a wonderful and safe Fourth of July weekend!

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Yours Very Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason F. Cilento". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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