



## BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

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### Message from the Mayor Jason F. Cilento June 2021

I hope my June 2021 Message from the Mayor finds you and your families in good health. I look forward to continuing to report to you throughout the year on the happenings around the Borough of Dunellen. Please always know my office door is open to you for your comments, questions or concerns. You can call my Borough Cell at (732) 882-4551 or email me at: [jcilentto@dunellen-nj.gov](mailto:jcilentto@dunellen-nj.gov).

Here are some important things happening in the Borough of Dunellen.

**Memorial Day in Dunellen:** I am proud that the Borough of Dunellen returned to an in-person Memorial Day event on Monday, May 31st. Last year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Dunellen community marked the day with a video honoring those who served to protect our country and made the ultimate sacrifice. This year, we decided to move forward with an in-person event – we remain committed to preserving the memories of our fallen heroes. Thank you to the Dunellen Recreation Department, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5479 and American Legion Post 119 for organizing the event and making sure we honored our fallen heroes in person. In addition, thank you to all the civic organizations, dignitaries, speakers, and all who participated in helping make this year's Memorial Day parade and ceremony a beautiful and memorable event. I would also like to extend thanks to our first ever Mayor for the Day, Aiden Meyer, who was able to walk in the Memorial Day parade and whose interview with me will appear in next month's *Next Stop! Dunellen!* e-newsletter. We truly showed what the Miracle Mile is all about!

**Dunellen COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic – June 19, 2021:** The Borough of Dunellen is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, June 19, 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Middlesex County Health Department will be administering the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine by Johnson & Johnson from a mobile clinic vehicle at Dunellen's NJ TRANSIT train station parking lot, Skinner Plaza. This vaccine requires only a single dose.

The clinic is open to all Middlesex County residents ages 18 and up, regardless of immigration and insurance status. It is strictly confidential; all personal information is safe, private and protected by law through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and will only be used to maintain personal health records. There is no registration for the clinic - those interested in obtaining a free vaccination need only walk up to the tent during the hours noted above. Bring one of the following as proof of identity: driver's license, passport, utility bill or other official mail in your name to verify who you are.

Members of the Middlesex County Sheriff's Department, Dunellen Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Middlesex Borough CERT team, borough administration and officials, Dunellen Police Department and Dunellen Rescue Squad will assist in logistics and traffic control.

For questions, please call the Mayor's liaison Alex Miller at 732-968-3033, x 8 or the Middlesex County Vaccine Call Center at 732-745-3100. More information is also available at [middlesexcountynj.gov/vaccine](http://middlesexcountynj.gov/vaccine).

**Dunellen High School Graduates of 2021:** On behalf of the Dunellen Borough Council and Administration, I wish to congratulate the Dunellen High School graduates of 2021. These past 15 months were not easy on you, but you persevered and proved what it means to be a Destroyer! You will be the 85<sup>th</sup> class to graduate from Dunellen High School. You continue a rich history since the first graduating class in 1937. Many have walked before you, including myself, and many will come after you. But we will always share something in common, that of being a Dunellen Destroyer. Dunellen is a great place to have grown up in, and to come back to visit family or raise a family yourself. Always know that our Miracle Mile will be a place for you to come home to. Congratulations again. I look forward to hearing all the great things you will all accomplish in life!

In addition, congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students graduating from Lincoln Middle School to Dunellen High School and our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who are being promoted to Lincoln Middle School. You will now get to create new memories as you progress through Dunellen's great school system and embark on a new journey.

**South Madison Avenue Project:** All road work has been completed. The only outstanding item is the installation of the LED pedestrian crossing signs, which will be located at the intersection of Walnut Street and South Madison Avenue. This final part of the project will be completed soon.

Some residents have inquired about the new bicycle symbols, known as sharrows, which have been striped on the newly paved South Madison Avenue. The purpose of sharrows is to remind drivers that bicyclists use Dunellen's streets too. This type of signage is part of the strategy to help bring awareness to drivers that Dunellen's streets have multiple types of users.

I am currently working with Council Member Stacy Narvesen and the Mayor's Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Task on a public education campaign about the pedestrian and traffic safety infrastructure improvements that were added during the South Madison Avenue project. We are also working to identify additional pedestrian and traffic safety measures with the use of striping which may be implemented on future road projects.

**Dunellen Pop-Up Park:** While I am always proud and honored to be the Mayor of the town that helped raise me, there are some moments in particular that have stood out. For example, Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>'s grand opening of the Dunellen Pop-Up Park was a genuine reminder of how we as a community are able to accomplish great things when working together. It's why we call ourselves the Miracle Mile and why the Dunellen Pop-Up Park's tagline is "Miracle Mile Means Community." This project came together so beautifully through the hard work and dedication of many volunteers. Now, this place-making space is available to all of our

community members throughout the summer and fall months for activities, programming, or to simply meet up with friends!

Thank you to our Dunellen Pop-Up Park team for working so hard to take this idea and vision and making it a reality. We truly hope this becomes an annual occasion for our community in support of our downtown businesses. Thank you to Councilwoman Trina Rios, Councilman Cole Sigmon, Borough of Dunellen Administrator William Robins, Alex Miller (Dunellen Parks and Recreation), Dunellen DPW, Daniel Vigilante, Greg Kiel, Sheri Muha, Autumn Barbato, Heidi Heleniak (Dunellen Arts & Culture Commission/Dunellen Downtown Management Organization), Nicole Goodling-Turczak from Yoga Essence of Dunellen, and Hal Vandermark from Inspire Art Gallery & Studio for your volunteer efforts, from the planning to the manual labor needed to get the project done. Additionally, thank you to our sponsors, DMR Architects, Provident Bank, and CME Associates.

Dunellen, please enjoy the Pop-Up Park. Grab a bite to eat and enjoy your dinner downtown! We enjoyed Rome Pizza for lunch at the park and then enjoyed ourselves at The Break - Arcade after the event to celebrate the grand opening! Let's continue to support our downtown businesses! If Dunellen businesses or organizations are interested in scheduling time to use the space now that it is open, please contact Parks and Recreation Director Alex Miller at (732) 968-3033, x8 or [amiller@dunellenborough.com](mailto:amiller@dunellenborough.com).

**COVID-19 Information:** For the very latest in COVID-19 information, please consult the NJ COVID-19 Information Hub, <https://covid19.nj.gov/>

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Yours very truly,  
Jason F. Cilento, Mayor  
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