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**Message from the Mayor
Jason F. Cilento
May 2023**

In this May Message from the Mayor, I share information about planning for the future in Dunellen, the Memorial Day Parade and ceremony, rebuilding the Firehouse, Mondays with Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis, and more.

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony: Dunellen's annual Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Monday, May 29 and will begin at 10 am at the American Legion Post 119 on New Market Road and end at Washington Memorial Park with a ceremony. Organizations that wish to walk in the parade should contact the Dunellen Recreation Department's Director Alex Miller at amiller@dunellenborough.com or (732) 968-3033, x8.

Planning for the Future: The Borough's planning consultant, DMR Architects, presented the Master Plan Reexamination and Climate Resiliency Plan at the Council meeting on May 1. The presentation was given as a courtesy to elected officials and the public. These plans will be presented to the Dunellen Planning Board during an in-person special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 13 at 7 pm in Council chambers at Borough Hall at 355 North Avenue. All material is posted on the Borough website at: https://www.dunellen-nj.gov/news_detail_T30_R49.php

Hometown Heroes Banners: There are more than 100 Dunellen Hometown Heroes banners hanging on the light posts in downtown Dunellen. Please visit the Dunellen Parks and Recreation Department's Facebook page to see a special project organized by Recreation Commission Chairman Jim Brennan. The project is called: *A Tribute for Memorial Day - Sergeant Earle V. von Schondorf and Sergeant Charles T. Connolly*. We offer our gratitude to Jim for organizing this project and to the families for sharing their touching stories. We would like to recognize Recreation Commission member Kelly Seader and Recreation Director Alex Miller for their efforts in establishing the Dunellen Hometown Heroes Banner program.

Rebuilding the Firehouse: A pre-construction meeting for the rebuilding of the Dunellen Firehouse was held on May 3. Representatives from the contractor H&S Mechanical and Contracting, the architect Alloy5, the Dunellen Fire Department, insurance agencies, Borough officials and Dunellen's Firehouse Construction Manager, Scott Brescher, were in attendance. Logistics were discussed in preparation for the rebuild. As of this week, contracts have been signed by all parties and a Notice to Proceed has been issued.

#MondaysWithMichele: I am excited to share that I was a special guest on Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis's #MondaysWithMichele on May 15 where we discussed our joint plans for improvements to the Dunellen train station. To watch the 2-minute video of our talk, use the QR code or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/AswMatsikoudis/videos/255343960313635>



For context, New Jersey's 21st Legislative District's (LD21) Senator Jon Bramnick, Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz and Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis share a vision with the Borough of Dunellen to modernize the Dunellen train station and to make it more accessible. We will continue to advocate as a unified team to ensure it gets done! To stay up to date with Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis's work, head on over to her Facebook page @ Assemblywoman Michele Matsikoudis; sign up for her office newsletter and find her other social media handles at: <https://linktr.ee/aswmatsikoudis>.

Mayor's Alliance for a Clean Green Brook Waterway: On Sunday, May 7, the Borough of Dunellen participated in the fourth annual Green Brook Clean-Up which was led by the Lower Raritan Watershed Project. The event spanned the municipalities of Dunellen, Green Brook, Middlesex, Bound Brook, Plainfield, North Plainfield, and Scotch Plains. A fantastic group of thirty-five hard-working volunteers showed up to help in Dunellen. Accumulating two trucks worth of garbage, the volunteers cleaned sections of the Green Brook along the perimeter of McCoy Park and near sections of Madison Avenue. Pulling a tire out of the mud is no easy task and they removed 32 of them from the brook that day! A big thanks to Recreation Director and DPW Manager Alex Miller, the Dunellen Department of Public Works, the team from the Lower Raritan Watershed Project, the Boy & Girl Scouts, and all the volunteers.

Walks & Talks with Mayor Jason Cilento: Join me on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 am at Columbia Park's 1/2 mile walking path for "Walks & Talks with the Mayor." These monthly events are part of my Mayor's Wellness Campaign and are being held in partnership with the Dunellen Outings Community Committee (DOCC). Hope to see you there!

Thank you for your time in reading this month's Message from the Mayor. I am always available to listen to your ideas and concerns. My Borough cell phone number is (732) 882-4551 and my email is jcilento@dunellen-nj.gov.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason F. Cilento".

Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen