



BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

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Message from the Mayor Jason F. Cilento March 2021

Dunellen Updates with Mayor Cilento: As Mayor, I will be enhancing my communication with the public by the introduction of a regular video series called *Dunellen Updates with Mayor Cilento*. I will use this platform to update the public on borough hall matters, redevelopment efforts, meetings with the business community, as well as bringing on Council Members and department heads from time to time to discuss the various areas of our municipal government. The purpose of this supplemental form of communication is to educate and communicate to the public topics of the day here in Dunellen. Although this will be an added way of communication, I ask the public to not substitute this video series for Council meetings, where vital Council discussion and decision-making occurs. Your input and involvement in Council meetings is an important part of our municipal government and I encourage you to participate in them. You may watch the video series on the Dunellen Borough website (www.dunellen-nj.gov) under Messages from the Mayor section or via Mayor Jason F. Cilento's YouTube Channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaJZZjyYNnZRQOGQOvDYv1g>

Redevelopment: The Dunellen Station project (Art Color Complex) will begin to start back up this spring. We have held meetings with multi-stakeholders regarding the work to start on the force main and pumping station along North Washington Avenue beginning any week now. Onsite construction is scheduled to begin shortly thereafter. I have been working with our Borough Administrator William Robins and Administrative Assistant Julie Grof on updating the redevelopment section of our website. We are working on creating the landing page to be reflective of general redevelopment information and creating sub-sections of this page to highlight each development project by providing the public descriptions of each project, as well as elevation designs of the redevelopment projects. All redevelopment information can be found here: <http://www.dunellen-nj.gov/redevelopment/index.php>

Infrastructure Projects: We had a pre-construction meeting for the South Madison Avenue Culvert project on January 12th. The project also received a notice to proceed starting March 1st. On February 25th test pits were dug to locate underground utilities. We hope the actual work will begin in late Spring and be completed by end of Summer. The School District has been fully informed and adequate preparations have been made for school children, pedestrians, and traffic flow.

Downtown Dunellen Visual Preference Survey: In November 2020, the Borough of Dunellen worked with our Municipal Planner, DMR Architects, in developing and issuing the survey to residents, business-owners and visitors to better understand the community's preferences as we

continue to welcome the redevelopment of Dunellen's downtown. As part of the process, we hosted a virtual public engagement session on February 25, 2021 to present the findings of the survey. Following this session, the Borough of Dunellen will work on a strategic plan on enhancing our redevelopment plan to reflect the community's vision. You may view the February 25th presentation on the Borough of Dunellen Social Media YouTube Channel here: <https://youtu.be/vvqyQJUWa08>

NJ Board of Public Utilities Regarding the Public Hearings on Optimum (Altice USA): In September 2020, I, along with the mayors of Piscataway Township, Robbinsville Township, Green Brook Township and Hamilton Township, wrote a strongly worded letter to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) detailing our grievances with Optimum (Altice USA) and the shabby treatment this company has displayed toward its customers. We requested an investigation into the behavior exhibited by Altice. I am pleased to share with you that the BPU has heard our calls for relief and announced in February that they will hold a public hearing about Altice's poor service and unfair consumer pricing. Members of the public who wish to submit comments for the March 16th public hearing on the "Operations of Altice USA in New Jersey" investigation can do so by emailing board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov in PDF or Word format and must contain in the subject the caption "Docket No. CX21020139" or submitting comments through the Board's External Access Portal. Directions for e-filing can be found on the Board's website at: <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/>

COVID-19 Information: Please consider the value to yourself and others of being vaccinated and take the opportunity when it is offered. This will help in continuing to protect ourselves, our friends and family-members, and most importantly, those who are most vulnerable in our community. If you have not yet signed up, please consider doing so at: covidvaccine.nj.gov. The State of New Jersey has a Vaccination Helpline. The number is (855) 568-0545. Middlesex County has also set up a Call Center at (732) 745-3100. If you know someone who does not have access to the Internet or a computer, please assist them with signing up for the vaccine and/or making a phone call to the above contact information. Please continue to practice social distancing, wear a mask, and maintain good hand hygiene.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Yours very truly,
Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen
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