

HHHS PastTimes

Howell Heritage & Historical Society

Meetings 4th Friday, 7 pm, Ardena Baptist Church Gym, Adelphia Rd. Howell

December 2025 Newsletter

Message from HHHS President

Greetings Friends,

Brrrr, winter is here!

Ardena welcomed Santa Claus for a visit. All pets were invited to have their pictures taken with Mr. & Mrs. Claus.

A special thanks to Eric & Margaret and their son for being a great Santa family. Many Trustees were on hand to help and enjoy the event. Debbie, Anne, Lynn, Vicky, Margaret, Catherine and others welcomed guests. Nestor, Gobi and Bandito also showed up to meet Santa. The goats displayed their agility on the picnic benches most of the time!

Debbie Frost set up a very special music time inside the school. A family from Debbie's church played their string instruments. They were fantastic.

We had our music benefit in Farmingdale. Leigh and Donna spearheaded this event.

Later this month the MacKenzie Crew will have a Christmas tour with a sing-along on the pump organ with Donna. HHHS is definitely in the Christmas Spirit. Many thanks and blessings, Jude.

Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Sincerely,
Jude Meehan, President
(732) 433-3359

Follow us on Social Media for the latest HHHS events!

Our **NEW** Facebook Page

Howell Heritage and Historical Society of NJ

Our Website

www.howellheritagehistoricalsociety.org

You can reach us anytime by email:

**HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@g
mail.com**

By snail mail:

**Howell Heritage and
Historical Society
2 Ardmore Road, Freehold,
NJ 07728**

Upcoming Events – Join Us

MacKenzie House Museum & Library Open House

427 Lakewood Farmingdale Road, Howell

Saturday, December 20 from 1pm to 4pm

There will be gold bells and a live pump organ "Sing-Along" of Christmas Carols in the cozy warmth of the parlor. All voices are invited!

Membership Meeting & Installation of Officers

January 23, 2026 at 7pm

Ardena Baptist Church

Officers to be installed for 2026

President: Jude Meehan

Vice President: Margaret Winkleman

Secretary: Debbie Frost

Treasurer: Leigh Shaffer

Trustee: Catherine Schwier

Trustee: Donna Terkildsen

Trustee: Vicky Arose

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NEWS

MacKenzie House Museum & Library Update

The Open House on November 15th provided a view of the olden days featuring the miller's family Thanksgiving preparations. Thanksgiving was cozy and warm this year, due to the new mini-split heating system. We enjoyed visiting with our company! Please check out the photos later in the newsletter.

We are looking forward to December 20th when the miller's family will celebrate the Christmas season. There will be gold bells and a live pump organ "Sing-Along" of Christmas Carols in the cozy Warmth of the parlor. All voices are invited!

We are also looking forward to the exciting 250th Anniversary of our Wonderful America! We will be focusing on celebrating our military and some of the events that occurred in Howell Township as America was born. We hope you will join us often in the coming year! Happy 2026!

For general questions or the scheduling of a private tour, you can contact the MacKenzie committee members at:

HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

Larry Lastra, Leigh Shaffer and Ron Alessi

Leigh Shaffer, HHHS Board Vice-President

Old Ardena School Update

Thanksgiving weekend was a busy time at Ardena Schoolhouse. On November 30, 2025, visitors were welcomed for tours of the school. They were invited to help decorate our school for our visit from the Claus family. At the end of the Open House the Howell Heritage and Historical Society's (HHHS) 50/50 Raffle drawing was held at 4pm with 3 lucky winners receiving 25%, 15%, and 10% of the proceeds from sold tickets. The remaining 50% of the funds collected will be used by the HHHS to maintain our buildings.



The Claus family arrived at noon on December 6th, to visit with our touring guests. Everyone was eager to have their pictures taken with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. They were also entertained by a donkey and two goats, outside. The school was decked out for the winter holidays, and a small ornament making area allowed children to make and take an ornament home. There were musical performances, as well, arranged by Debbie Frost. From Freehold we had two stringed instrumentalists, Daniel and Chloe Jeon. Donna Terkildsen played carols on the keyboard during the afternoon. Thanks to Lynn Barral and Margaret Winkelman, we had a small holiday gift shop with handmade gifts for purchase.

We are looking forward to 2026 and the celebration of America's 250th birthday. Please join us when we reopen, from 1-4pm, the last Sunday of each month, March thru December.



For general questions or scheduling of a private tour of Ardena # 2, the School Committee members are:
Anne Hartmann, Debbie Frost, Margaret Winkelman and Vicky Arose



HHHS Monthly Meetings

As always, we need people to present programs as part of our monthly meeting. Lynn Barrel is scheduling our programs. She will be able to answer questions you may have about presenting a program at one of our meetings.

If you are interested in presenting at a Society Meeting in 2026, please contact HHHS via email at HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

New Facebook Page

Our new Facebook page - "Howell Heritage & Historical Society of New Jersey"

We also have a new Facebook page. If you are on Facebook, please consider following and sharing our new page. It can be found here. [HHHS New Facebook Page](#)

50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 drawing was held at the Old Ardena School on Sunday, November 30th. The drawing was pulled at the end of the Old Ardena School Open House and proceeds were divided at 25%, 15%, and 10% to the three winners. HHHS retained 50% of the amount sold.

Grants

The Monmouth County Historical Commission has informed us that our organization is receiving a Regrant Award. Meg Walton Sharp, on the behalf of the Commission wished us a Happy Thanksgiving and will be forwarding details in December.



TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH November 30, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: HHHS TREASURER, MARGARET WINKELMAN

HOWELL HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly Treasurer's Report

For month ending: November 2025

Prepared by: Winkelman, Margaret

Peer Reviewed by:

Balance as of:	October 31, 2025	Operating	Improvements	Total
		\$2,302.77	\$4,531.23	\$6,834.00

INCOME	DESCRIPTION	INCOME TYPE	AMOUNT	DEPOSIT DATE	CLEARED BANK	Earmarked for Payable	NOTE
Date Received							
10/26/2025	Ardena Open House	Donations	\$50.00	11/7/2025	11/7/2025	\$0.00	Cash
11/27/2025	Deposit	Donations	\$60.00	11/27/2025		\$0.00	Leigh S. Deposit

INCOME TOTAL	Operating	Improvements	Total
	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$110.00
COMBINED TOTAL	\$2,412.77	\$4,531.23	\$6,944.00

EXPENSES	DESCRIPTION	EXPENSE TYPE	AMOUNT	PROCESSED DATE	CLEARED BANK	BUILDING DESCRIPTION	NOTE
Date Received							
10/30/2025	JCP&L	Power	\$97.64	11/5/2025	11/6/2025	MacKenzie Museum	X2MJZ-ZS2RG
11/17/2025	JCP&L	Power	\$24.70	11/20/2025		Ardena Schoolhouse	Y14WR-FLS7D
11/28/2025	JCP&L	Power	\$346.94	12/2/25		MacKenzie Museum	Y2GTS-HR3L4
		EXPENSES TOTAL	Operating		Improvements	Total	
			\$469.28		\$0.00	\$469.28	
		COMBINED TOTAL	Operating		Improvements	Total	
Balance as of:	November 30, 2025		\$1,943.49		\$4,531.23	\$6,474.72	

HHHS Virtual MEETING MINUTES –

Wednesday, November 19 starting at 6pm

Our first Society meeting, virtually!

SUBMITTED BY: HHHS SECRETARY, DEBORAH FROST

The winning tickets will be pulled on November 30th. Open house at the school is from 1:00-4:00 pm that day. The holiday open house at the school on December 6th will be from noon until 3:00pm. Jude offered to come earlier. He thanked Ellen for her donations of items for the yard sale.

Jude and Catherine will cover the fee for the League of Historical Societies.

Ron and Larry would like to have a yard sale in the spring. They need volunteers, especially youth with muscle.

Last December, Margaret gave a donation of \$300 to Ardena Baptist Church to cover 2023 and 2024. Jude will make a donation on behalf of HHHS. Lynn will get the address for Jude.

Lynn visited the Monmouth County Library and told us there was a display of local Monmouth County Patriots and Loyalists. She mentioned panels, including the Covenhoven name.

Jude encouraged members to call him anytime if we need help with anything.

It was verified that we are on Ardena Baptist's Calander for meetings next year.





THE WONDERFULLY HEATED MACKENZIE MUSEUM
IS WAITING FOR YOUR VISIT!

THE GRIST MILLER'S HOUSE IS BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED
FOR CHRISTMAS!

THE ANTIQUE PUMP-ORGAN IS WAITING TO HEAR YOUR
VOICE SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS FUN-FILLED EVENT!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH

1 – 4 pm



ARDENA BAPTIST CHURCH GYM ~ 593 ADELPHIA RD, HOWELL
4TH FRIDAY ~ PROGRAM 7 P.M. ~ BUSINESS MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

HHHS PROGRAM CALENDAR FOR 2026

January 23rd Program: HHHS Installation of Officers

Refreshments:

February 27th Program:

Refreshments:

March 27th Program:

Refreshments:

April 24th Program:

Refreshments:

May 22nd Program:

Celebrate 7th Anniversary of HHHS Inc.

Refreshments:

Special Activities: Weekend in Old Monmouth, May 2 and 3 & Farmingdale-Howell Memorial Day Parade, May 25

June 26th Program:

Refreshments:

July 24th Program:

Refreshments:

Special Activity: Monmouth County Fair at East Freehold Showgrounds

August 28nd Program:

Refreshments:

September 25th Program:

Slate of Officers Presented by Nominating Committee

Refreshments:

Special Activity: Howell Day & Green Fair

October 24th Program:

Nominating/Election Committee - Slate of Officers for 2026

Refreshments:

Special Activity: Monmouth County Archives & History Day

November, December — No Meetings Wreaths Across America: December 19, 2026

If you are interested in presenting at a Society Meeting in 2026, please contact HHHS via email
at

HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com



2026 Membership / Donation Form

An important way to grow our membership is through word of mouth.
Please consider sharing this form with friends and family who may be interested in joining.

I would like to enroll as a member in the category below:

\$20 individual \$30 family \$50 sponsor \$100 patron

I would like to make a general donation:

Amount: \$ donation

I would like to be added to your email distribution list only:

Name

Street

City State Zip

Phone Email

Please send this form & your check, payable to:

Howell Heritage & Historical Society, 2 Ardmore Road, Freehold NJ 07728

Email: howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com

HHHS is a recognized 501c organization under EIN: 83-4488067



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Thank You

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT



1894 VICTORIAN GOTHIC CHURCH



A message from a family that attended the concert:

What a DELIGHTFUL Christmas treat for everyone at the Victorian Christmas Carol program on December 12th! The Howell and Farmingdale Historical Societies did an amazing job setting the scene with inviting candle lit paths, welcoming greeters in period costumes, a delicious cookie buffet and “Believe” jingle bell favors for everyone!

The many period Christmas Carols were magnificently performed by a combination of choir, soloists, trumpet, guitar, violin and piano, and the presentation of the history of each Carol was so interesting and informative! What a blessed evening!

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported our local historical societies! As Dickens himself would say...

“God Bless us every one!”

THANKSGIVING AT THE HISTORIC MILLER'S HOME



