

HHHS PasTimes

Howell Heritage & Historical Society

Meetings 4th Friday, 7 pm, Ardena Baptist Church Gym, 593 Adelpia Rd. Howell

February 2026 Newsletter

Message from HHHS President

Winter has its icy hold on us. Ardena & MacKenzie look beautiful decked out on Father Frost's blanket of snow. I do like a cold snap, but I have had my fill now. I can't wait to start on projects at the school & MacKenzie.

At our meeting we talked about trying to get an article in The Howell Times to get some publicity and hopefully new members. Please let us know if you have any other ideas on increasing membership.

Bear it out a little longer everyone. The groundhog saw his shadow. Six more weeks of winter.

Thank you everyone,

Jude Meehan, President

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ways to reach HHHS

Our Website

www.howellheritagehistoricalsociety.org

By email

HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

By snail mail:

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

Follow us on Social Media for the latest HHHS events!

Facebook

Howell Heritage & Historical Society of NJ

Upcoming Events – Join Us

Mackenzie House Museum & Library Open House

427 Lakewood Farmingdale Road, Howell

Sat., February 21, 2026, 1pm to 4pm

Program: Abner Thorp, Revolutionary War soldier

Membership Meeting

February 27, 2026, at 7pm

Program: Show and Tell

Refreshments: Lynn Barrel

Ardena Baptist Church GYM

Our NEWS

Mackenzie House Museum & Library Update

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America, we will be highlighting events that affected people who lived in Howell during the Revolution, and we will highlight some of the stories and artwork that help us remember our history.

At the February Open House on Sat. the 21st, we will be discussing Abner Thorp, who is buried in the Abner Thorp Family Burial Ground near the reservoir on Southard Ave. After serving with George Washington in the Revolution, he retired to the farm in Howell. We're anxious to share more information about him with you!

We hope you will visit us often during 2026 to enjoy the celebrations!

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



Old Ardena School Update

School closings in winter are always an unexpected treat for children to get out their sled and head to the nearest hill, or find their ice skates and head to the nearest frozen over pond. Our school remains closed for winter, however it will reopen in March when we get another visit from Peter Rabbit. The event takes place during the time Howell Township runs the Easter Egg Hunt across the street from our schoolhouse. We look forward to sharing Howell's past school history with the next generation of children. Please share the word that we are reopening, Saturday, March 21 from 11:00 AM to 3:00PM and hosting a special guest. Peter Rabbit will be hopping around the school grounds to greet visitors.

Our first regular OPEN HOUSE will be on Sunday, March 29, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. As the date comes closer, we will share more on the programs we will be conducting.

Look for details about these upcoming events and others in future newsletters and on our Facebook page.

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

The Howell Booster

Thank you Ann Malsbury for providing the following information on this local Howell publication. **The early volumes, 1948-1955, are available to read at Mackenzie House Museum and Library.**

The Howell Booster was first published in November, 1948. Firman Ward was the publisher and editor. Local high school graduates were in their employ. On November 6, 1958, they celebrated their 10th anniversary. The paper was published in Farmingdale. By 1957, a local high school sophomore had a weekly column. On January 15, 1959, the Booster started to print the weekly schedule of local church services.

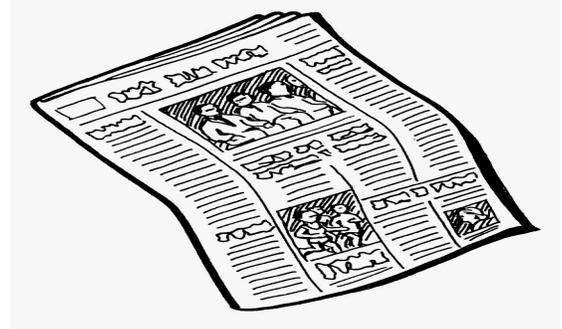
The Booster was a civic minded paper. In 1957, they reminded the public of township ordinances when a controversy came up over trailer parks. In 1953, they conducted a "shower of greetings" for Mayor and Mrs. E.O. Murphy of Farmingdale on their golden anniversary. The Booster was named the official newspaper of Farmingdale in 1957 and the official newspaper of the Howell Board of Education in 1972. In 1961, the Booster held a fishing contest.

Ward sold the paper to Mary Jane Kennedy in 1962. In 1979, Dan Massa (a mayor of Howell) bought the Booster and then sold it in 1984 although he remained a columnist through 1989 and wrote his columns in long hand. Along the way, the newspaper was bought and sold to John Stewart in 1971 with a circulation of 1700 and then in 1974 sold to

Stephen Jankowski and John Hickey for \$40,000 with a weekly circulation of 3100.

The Booster reported on Howell Township Committee meetings. When the Ku Klux Klan wrote letters to the editor in the '70's, the editor printed them and had controversial discussions in the paper. When Dan Massa was the editor, he printed articles of awareness of local special projects.

In my own research into the 7 volumes in the museum, I found national news on page one of each issue. There were columns from each area of the township with the news of the people who lived there such as illnesses, visitations, vacations, relocations, etc. on the other pages along with many advertisements from local businesses. There was a crossword puzzle, sewing patterns, recipes, news for farmers, obituaries, and a photo of the newest Chevrolet at Matthews Chevrolet in Farmingdale. There were photos and a photo contest to see who could name a Howell farm from an aerial photo. In the papers from the late '40's were references to World War II and how the people were currently protecting themselves from a possible invasion. I also learned when I had chicken pox, when our family had dinner with relatives, when we went on vacation and where my father worked. The amount of local news and genealogy in these volumes is astounding!!! I took about 26 pages of notes of just my relatives alone.





Facebook Page

Have a piece of Howell history to share?

Our new Facebook page, **Howell Heritage & Historical Society of New Jersey**, is up and running, and we want it to reflect the memories and knowledge of our members.

If you have historic photos, local snapshots, or intriguing Howell-related topics, please email them to **howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com** Attn: **Margaret Winkelman**. Along with each photo, **please include a brief write-up** sharing any details, background, or stories connected to it.

We'll post submissions periodically on Facebook to spark conversation and help keep our local history alive.

FYI:

Monmouth County Library System is celebrating America's 250th

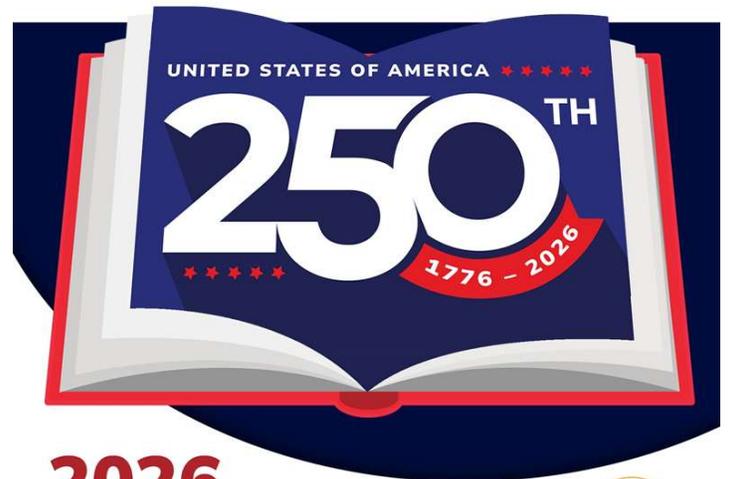
The County Library system, including the Howell branch, has a number of free programs throughout 2026, to look back at Monmouth County's significance during the American Revolution. The programs focus on the American Revolution's impact on the colonial people and how they shaped our nation's past, present and future. Monmouth County was much larger then, and Howell Township was still part of a much larger Shrewsbury Township at the time of the Revolution.

One of the many programs you may be interested in is at the Manalapan Library: **George Washington is Here!** Michael Grillo is a dedicated Living Historian who specializes in portraying George Washington in curated period appropriate clothing. He has portrayed Washington at the Battle of Monmouth and other prestigious historical sites and events. After his presentation, Washington (Grillo) will take questions from the audience. **Thursday, February 26 at 2:00 pm Headquarters, Manalapan**



MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY HISTORY RUNS THROUGH US

From Allentown to Manalapan to Shrewsbury, every corner of the county fought for independence.



2026 PROGRAM GUIDE



The complete 2026 Program Guide, listing the programs and activities planned can be found on line at:

<https://monmouthnj250.org/monmouth-county-library/>

Installation of 2026 Officers



President: Jude Meehan
Vice President: Margaret Winkelman
Secretary: Debbie Frost
Treasurer: Leigh Shaffer
Trustee: Catherine Schwier
Trustee: Donna Terkildsen
Trustee: Vicky Arose

January Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: HHHS Recording Secretary: Deborah Frost

Call to order at 7:00 by Jude

Flag salute and moment of silence led by Catherine

Installation of officers: Jude, Margaret, Catherine, Vicky, Donna, and Debbie took part in the oath which was led by Catherine. Frank took pictures of the group.

Motion to accept group reports from December by Vicky, 2nd by Frank. Motion to accept November reports by Vicky, 2nd by Catherine

Finance: Margaret gave passwords and information to Leigh. We will be getting an open grant in February.

Jude reported that Evelyn set up a meeting with the administrator to, at least, help with fees that we are required to pay. Jude will speak to the mayor to see what we can get on a yearly basis.

Fundraising: Margaret called Old Monmouth. They are not doing the candy sale with nonprofits any more. We could put up a flyer about half cases & full cases. Maybe we can find a replacement. Catherine was concerned about minimums being met. Frank, and Vicky weighed in. Maybe Margaret can look into the most popular items.

MacKenzie House: Heat and AC are working great. American water sent Jude information. There is a crew that will help with the installation. Donna informed us that Robert wants to move the thermostat. He is not thrilled about the electric bill and suggested shutting off the upstairs and lowering the heat downstairs. Jude told us the bulbs were blown in the basement and is using his

forehead light. Jude and Catherine will look into the timer to provide more light in the building. Jude expressed his thanks to Donna's kids.

Schoolhouse: Jude plans to work on the stone walkway in the spring. Jude and Vicky discussed the popping circuit when too many things were plugged in. Margaret mentioned the electric bill was \$8 a month. Vicky referred to the dehumidifier set up and also said she wants to work with the binder. Jude spoke about the Christmas event and the good turnout.

Jude complimented the 2 groups. He sounded confident that there must be some family who would like volunteer to dress in period clothing at the building and mentioned places that do that, including Allaire.

Library: Vicky would like someone to write up information on the Boosters for the newsletter. Ann Hartman was recommended by Jude. Catherine suggested something be posted on Facebook.

Margaret has set up a new Facebook page due to administrative rights. There are 60 followers and she started to tag some pages and has responded to comments. She will post most of the newsletter and has started a 12 week series on schools. Donna has pictures she can provide. Margaret has been posting information using the heading, "This Day in Howell History". People can comment on things, but please email photos and stories to Margaret for possible inclusion on social media.

Jude invited us to have refreshments that were provided by Vicky.

Vicky explained the Calander of Events and spoke about checking what the town had planned during the year. She spoke about the tree giveaway and would like to ask if we could have some saplings to give away. We could give extras away at the following event if there were leftovers. She mentioned Old Monmouth weekend, Howell Day, and the reading of the Declaration of Independence in June. Inviting a Boy Scout to dress up and inviting the ROTC of Colts Neck are possibilities. The Statue of Liberty was opened in October of 1886. Donna volunteered to play patriotic music if Debbie was willing to bring her keyboard. Debbie agreed.

December music fundraiser for Farmingdale and HHHS societies: Donna informed us that local businesses had allowed postings, but she had hoped for donations. She thought that maybe next time ads could be included in the program handouts. It was a beautiful event, and she complimented the group on the refreshments and was appreciative of Leigh's hard work. She was glad she did it but was disappointed that the \$1000 mark she had hoped for was not reached.

A yard sale is planned. Margaret also mentioned a previous antique sale. It was a big undertaking, but worth it.

Margaret mentioned the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. She suggested that we set aside funds Mac and the school. Leigh has already bought some things for MacKenzie. Leaks and repairs could happen.

Jude spoke about how much had gotten done in a short period of time. Donna wondered how we could get more people to join meetings. She also wondered about the possibility of having a talent show and a "school day". Vicky mentioned a planned August event at the school. She mentioned a past event hosting a Brownie Troup.

Vicky suggested that \$250 be set aside for MacKenzie and the schoolhouse to share to use to celebrate the 250 year Anniversary. Vicky had gotten 100 coloring books and could send some over to MacKenzie as well. Vicky motioned that we dedicate \$250 to celebrate the 250th birthday, 2nd by Debbie. Vicky mentioned that it was also Howell's 225th Anniversary.

Jude will continue to do yard work. He is generously donating \$250 earmarked for the school. Margaret complimented us that we are a small group, but a great group!

Motion to adjourn by Jude, Donna 2nd

JANUARY



MacKenzie Museum & Library Open House

January 17th - 1pm to 4pm
427 Lakewood Farmingdale Rd, Howell NJ

Monthly Society Meeting

January 23rd – 7pm
Ardena Baptist Church Gym, Howell NJ

FEBRUARY



MacKenzie Museum & Library Open House

February 21st - 1pm to 4pm
427 Lakewood Farmingdale Rd, Howell NJ

Monthly Society Meeting

February 27th – 7pm
Ardena Baptist Church Gym, Howell NJ

MARCH



MacKenzie Museum & Library Open House

March 21st - 1pm to 4pm
427 Lakewood Farmingdale Rd, Howell NJ

Old Ardena School #2 Easter Bunny Visit

March 21st - 11am to 3pm
Preventorium & Old Tavern Roads, Howell NJ

Old Ardena School #2 Open House

March 29th - 1pm to 4pm
Preventorium & Old Tavern Roads, Howell NJ

Monthly Society Meeting

March 27th – 7pm
Ardena Baptist Church Gym, Howell NJ

Mackenzie House Museum and Library is ready for visitors!

Next Open House, February 21, 2026, 1:00PM to 4:00PM



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