

HHHS PasTimes

Howell Heritage & Historical Society

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

October 2026 Newsletter

A Message from our HHHS President

Celebrating the Fall Season

As we welcome the beautiful colors and cooler temperatures of autumn, I am looking forward to another wonderful season at our Historical Society.

We are currently working on landscaping improvements at the **Ardena Schoolhouse**, particularly around the front steps and our sign. These improvements will help enhance the appearance of this treasured historic building and make it even more welcoming to our visitors.

Although we are already well into the fall season, I would like to encourage all of our members to help decorate the outside of our two historic buildings. Simple seasonal decorations that will

carry us through the autumn months can make such a difference in creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Whether it's pumpkins, mums, cornstalks, or other fall touches, everyone's contributions are welcome and appreciated. Many hands make light work, and together we can make both properties look their very best!

We are also looking forward to a wonderful fall season of tours. It is always a pleasure to welcome visitors, share the rich history of our community, and showcase the buildings that we work so hard to preserve.

Thank you to all of our dedicated members and volunteers for your continued time, enthusiasm, and support. It is through everyone's efforts that our Historical Society continues to thrive. Wishing everyone a beautiful and enjoyable fall season!

Warm regards,
Jude Meehan
President

Upcoming Events – Join Us

Membership Meeting

October 23, 2026, 7PM

Program: Graves of the Celebrities

presented by TJ Fallon

Light Refreshments

Ardena Baptist Church GYM

MacKenzie House Museum & Library Open House

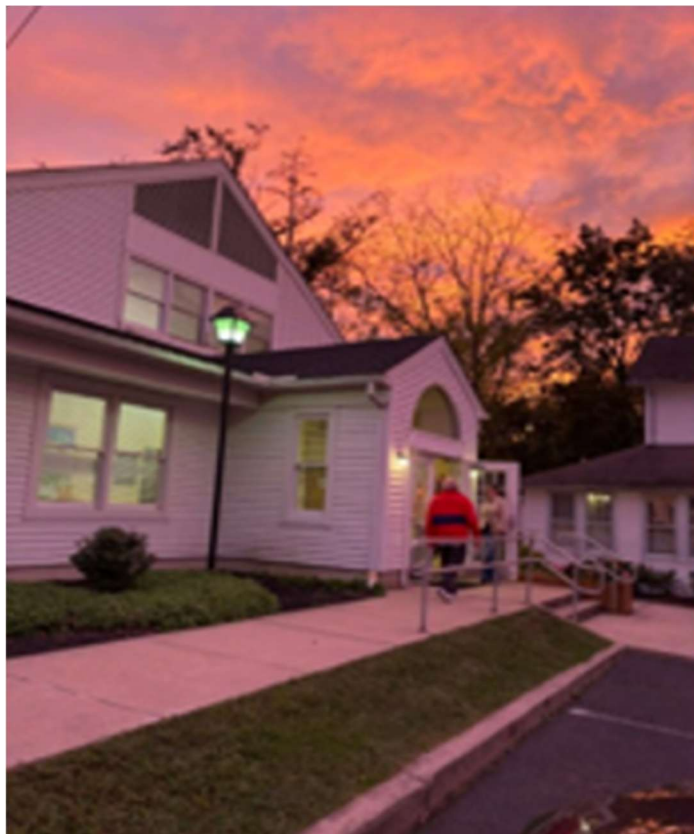
427 Lakewood Farmingdale Road, Howell

Sat., October 17, 2026, 1 pm-4 pm

Ardena School House Open House

Sun., October 25, 2026, 1pm to 4 pm

Celebrating America's Statue of
Liberty



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

Facebook



Have a piece of Howell history to share?

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 help keep our local history
alive.





Howell Day

Margaret & Vicky attended Howell Day with a table representing HHHS. They saw over 150 children and their families and gave out coloring books, bookmarks, candy and more!

It's always a great opportunity to be out in the community where we can let residents know who we are and the important work that needs to be done everyday.



MacKenzie House Open October 17, 2026, 1-4 PM To visitors of all ages!

We continue to learn more about the Civil War and the two notable families connected to the Civil War, the Nesbits and the Prickitts, who were the fascinating owners of the Grist Mill, Sawmill and Cannery. They also lived in the MacKenzie House and the beautiful house across the street sitting very close to the road. New information makes its way into our need to find out more.

Did you know that rather than finding their eternal resting place in a family plot, most Civil War soldiers were buried in fields where they died. The astronomical rate of death during the Civil War often hindered the mourning process and transformed the ways in which individuals and communities responded to deaths.

If you are able to join us on October 17th, between the hours of 1-4, you will see how the Civil War reshaped the funeral industry, how funerals were held, and you may have the opportunity to pay your respects to one of the fallen...

We hope to see you there! Larry, Ron, Leigh and Donna – funeral directors!

For general questions or scheduling of a private tour, you can contact the MacKenzie Museum committee at
HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

Old Ardena School

Open October 25, 2026, 1-4 PM

To visitors of all ages!

Rain, rain, go away.....a familiar chant to children and the committee at the schoolhouse. We managed to work outside during September and planted bulbs in the new flower beds by the stairs. We look forward to seeing the blooms next spring! However, the rains that the Nor'easter brought caused us to cancel our September opening.

Come visit us this month and learn the story, behind the gift from France, of the Statue of Liberty. Dedicated in 1886, she is a symbol known throughout the world.

During the month of October we are collecting new holiday items to help make local families during the upcoming Holiday Season. Items can be brought to Ardena's Open House. They will be brought to Joshua House in Farmingdale and distributed through their Thanksgiving basket program.

For general questions or scheduling of a private tour of Ardena # 2, contact any of the School Committee members (Anne Hartmann, Debbie Frost, Margaret Winkelman and Vicky Arose) or email HHHS at:
HowellHeritageandHistoricalSoc@gmail.com

Casino Night

Margaret Winkelman held a Casino Night at her house on Friday, October 9th in support of HHHS. Margaret sold 137 of our 50/50 tickets and also collected general donations of \$100. If you haven't received your 50/50 tickets yet, please contact us at howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com. 50/50 will be drawn at the MacKenzie Museum December open house.

The Squankum School Bus (memories of a time Past)

Enjoy this remembrance as you take a journey through rural Howell, almost 100 years ago.

Submitted by Ann Malsbury

The following remembrance by Jesse F. Smith, and was first published in the May 2003 edition of the Howell Heritage Newsletter. Jesse and his brother Harold were sons of Jesse MacKenzie who owned the house now known as the MacKenzie Museum.

How fondly reminiscent it was to read Isabel Kittleson's brief biographic sketch in the March Howell Heritage. What made it so nostalgic to me was her reference to Squankum School. I was about three years behind Isabel, but I remember her and her Easy Street school bus stop (although I didn't know it was Easy Street until years later). That school bus trip was almost as memorable as the one-room school. I contacted Isabel to help me with some of the article.

I attended Squankum School for only two years- 1930-1932. My brother, Harold, and I were living in Maxim with a kind and gentle person, Mrs. Ella Woolley. She was a patient and caring guardian of two active boys. I was in the third grade, and Harold was in the fourth grade with the stalwart teacher, Mrs. Conover. My fourth grade was with one of the best teachers I ever had- Marian Stankle, while Harold went to fifth grade in Farmingdale.

The school bus ride and the students are what are so poignant in my memory. I'd like to use my fourth grade year in trying to remember everyone I knew at the Squankum School as well as others on the Squankum school bus run. To help with chronology, I'll refer to students in my grade, those who were younger, the ones who went to upper grade school in Farmingdale, and those who went to high school in Lakewood.

Our bus driver was Bill Patterson- a tall lanky man with a deep voice, a warm smile, and a big

adam's apple. His route started at the Bert Woolley (no relation to Ella Woolley) farm in lower Maxim picking up the Woolley kids: Calvin (in Harold's grade) and Virginia (in my grade), followed by Wanda, Aneke, and Robert. The second stop was at Ostrander's for Charles (in my grade) and his two younger sisters, Thelma and Levina. One or two houses beyond, Bill picked up the Gunther sisters, Margaret (in my grade) and Mildred (a year younger).

After leaving Gunther's, the bus crossed the Jersey Central track, which is where the Maxim flag station stood- a stark and dark one-room shelter. About two hundred yards beyond the crossing on the graveled Maxim Road, Harold and I boarded the bus at our door along with Ruth Longdon, Mrs. Woolley's daughter, who went to Lakewood High School. The last stop on Maxim Road was at the lane to Van Schoick's dairy farm for Buster Van Schoick (in Harold's grade) and his sister, Toots, who also went to Lakewood High.

The bus turned toward Lakewood at the Lakewood-Farmingdale road (a tarred road now) and drove approximately one half mile before stopping for Raymond Marks (in my grade). The bus run continued on to the Nisi farm where Jimmy Nisi (in Harold's grade) boarded the bus. At this stop, the high school students changed to another school bus bound for Lakewood. Bill then turned our bus around and headed back on Lakewood Road toward Squankum.

On this backtrack, the bus stopped for Gladys Dickerson (younger than me) and, I believe, James Mikkelson (in my grade). (I remember him, but I don't recall where he lived; he may have lived in Squankum.) Then boarding the bus on Easy Street was Isabel Burdge, bound for Farmingdale School, and her little sister, Alice (younger than me). There was one more stop

before Squankum School at the Johnson dairy farm lane for Roy and his brother, also Harold, who both attended Farmingdale School.

At Squankum School, the students who attended the(n) "debussed". John Spence and Earl Havens (both Harold's grade) boarded the bus to go to Farmingdale. John's younger sister, Marietta (in my grade), and their younger brother, Robert, were Squankum "walkers", as were Earl's brother, Osborn (in my grade), and their younger sister, Rose. Other Squankum "walkers" included James VanBenthysen (in my grade) and his younger sister, Ellen; Esther Fenimore (also younger); and Lawrence Morton, Thelma Morton's younger brother, who lived two doors up from the MacKenzie House.

Sophie Spinapont and her younger brother, Billy, walked from Allaire Park area to Squankum School, where Sophie got on the bus to ride to Farmingdale. Sammy Kellar walked from the Kellar store at the junction of Allaire Road. (Billy and Sammy were both younger than me.)

Finally, one Squankum sister and brother (whose last name escapes me) were Geneva (in my grade) and her little brother, Felix (a beginner- it wasn't called kindergarten then). He was a cute little boy and the "darling" of Squankum School.

A memorable addendum to the Squankum school bus was Bert Woolley's farm truck that he used for hauling produce to market. Sunday mornings he loaded the Woolley kids and others from Maxim, including Harold and me, into the back of his truck- all of us standing in the back holding on to the racks and all trying to keep our Sunday clothes neat. That was the Maxim bus for the Squankum Church Sunday School. Our Sunday school teachers were Margaret Bills and the very personable pillar, Thelma Morton Spence.



HOWELL HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



50/50
Raffle

- FIRST PRIZE 25%
- SECOND PRIZE 15%
- THIRD PRIZE 10%

\$5/each

Proceeds: For Capital Improvements at Old Ardena Schoolhouse
and MacKenzie Museum & Library

Drawing to be held:

MacKenzie Museum & Library

427 Lakewood Farmingdale Road, Howell, NJ 07731

Saturday, December 19, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Purchase by contacting the Society at

HOWELLHERITAGEANDHISTORICALSOC@GMAIL.COM

(Tickets cannot be purchased online per NJ State Law)

Disclosures

This is a 50/50 cash raffle and the winner will receive the noted percent of the amount received for all tickets or rights to participate.

Winner need not be present. No substitution of offered prize may be made. Ticket holder/purchaser must be 18 years of age or older.

RL #046 • ID# 223-5-42995

Thank you for supporting us!

Howell Heritage & Historical Society

HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE

HELP MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE BRIGHTER

We are collecting donations to help local families with some of the extra expenses of the holiday season.

All donations will be distributed through Joshua House's Thanksgiving basket program.

ITEMS NEEDED

Please consider donating NEW items unless otherwise noted.



TOYS & GIFTS

- New, unwrapped toys & games
- Books (children & teens)
- Puzzles & crafts
- Gift cards (for teens, if appropriate)



WINTER WARMTH

- Hats
- Gloves & mittens
- Scarves
- Warm socks
- Pajamas
- (All sizes – children & teens)



HOLIDAY SUPPLIES

- Wrapping paper
- Gift bags / boxes
- Bows & ribbon
- Gift tags
- Tape
- Tissue paper



HOW TO DONATE



With a society member



At our September or October monthly meeting
at Ardena Baptist Church, Freehold



Or by setting up a private drop-off
(email us for details)

howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com



DONATIONS NEEDED BY OCTOBER 31



Thank you for helping local families enjoy a brighter holiday season!



Support our Holiday Drive

Supporting Joshua House, Farmingdale NJ



Toys/Stocking Stuffers/Mittens/Gloves/Gift Wrapping

Last day to donate - October 31st

Drop Off at October 23rd meeting or email us for special pickup

Howellheritageandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com

Attend our last HHHS Seminar in 2026!



Military Leaders Gravesites, Presented by TJ Fallon

Friday, October 23rd – 7pm

Ardena Baptist Church Gym

Admission is Free

MacKenzie Museum & Library Open House



427 Lakewood Farmingdale Rd, Howell NJ

Third Saturday of each month, 1pm to 4pm

Saturday, October 17th

Saturday, November 21st

Saturday, December 19th – 50/50 drawing will be held!

Old Ardena School #2 Open House



Preventorium & Old Tavern Roads, Howell NJ

Last Sunday of each month, 1pm to 4pm

Sunday, October 25th

Sunday, November 29th

Saturday, December 5th – Special Event – Photos with Santa

Bring the whole family, including your furry family members!

2027 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

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*Thank
you*