

# The Scoop

Happenings from Howell Plaza Shopping Center



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## A Gift of Life

**W**hy the red heart balloons festooning Howell Plaza's columns on Black Friday? It was to help bring attention to Turn Black Friday Red, and it worked—along with word-of-mouth, flyers, social media and a special edition of Howell Scoop! The Howell community turned out and continued to do so throughout December to donate blood at the **Central Jersey Blood Center (CJBC)** in Howell Plaza.

A heartfelt thank you to those who gave blood and to the generous souls who continue to drop coins into the plexiglass collection box on select store counters. Every cent goes to **CJBC's Foundation**, the mission of which is to support education and advocacy.

Many stores went above and beyond by offering distinctive coupons to blood donors and urging patrons to give money to the Foundation. At the top of the list were: Joe of **Nonno's Pizza** who gave each donor a \$10 coupon redeemable at his restaurant; Sarath of **Wine-O-Land** who presented a check to CJBC for \$500; and Steven of **NailTech** who matched donations made at his store.



"The need is year round; please make a New Year's resolution to donate in 2018!" urges Alyssa Drown, Marketing Manager, CJBC.

### Want to make a pledge to help save lives?

Call Central Jersey Blood Center at (888)712-5663 or visit [www.cjbcblood.org](http://www.cjbcblood.org)



**Happy New Year!**  
Shoppers share some of their resolutions for 2018.

Read more on our website!

*"Lessen the stress in my life while being more patient at work, at home and throughout my life" — Rich P.*

*"Win the lottery with a large payout" — Jesse C.*

*"Enter a nursing program" — Maria F.*

*"Not to drink more than five cups of coffee each day!" — Karen B.*

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# Behind-the-Scenes

with **Reggie Spaho** and **Art Cupi**



## Styling Hair: A Family Affair

**A** long Route 9 in the small town of Howell, NJ, is **Niri Barber and Family Salon**. Run and managed by brothers-in-law **Reggie Spaho** and **Art Cupi**, this little shop is renowned for its great haircuts and loyal following.

*"This is our passion,"* says Reggie (*on right*). Neither can imagine ever doing anything else. Born and raised in Albania, but met in Howell, the brothers-in-law have practiced their craft for a combined total of over 40 years.

Reggie trained with **Niri Bomova**, the master himself who had his own salon in Staten Island and later bought an existing shop in the Howell Plaza Shopping Center. While learning the trade, Reggie met and fell in love with a coworker, Niri's daughter **Dolly**. Art began cutting hair back in Albania, took a break to work in a restaurant in the US and eventually came to work at Howell. He was mentored by Niri's other daughter, **April**, married her and has never looked back.

Reggie describes cutting hair as a process and collaboration. He recalled a man who came in with long hair and wanted something different. With each step, he looked with the man into the mirror, and together, step by step, they went shorter. *"The perfect haircut is like drawing a picture. It emerges in its own time as a work of art. This is my favorite type of haircut – from no expectations to something magical."*

**Bob Herring**, a former marine and a sergeant in the Manalapan Township Police Department swears by Reggie's artistry for his weekly skin fade haircut. *"I've been coming here for 13 years. When you find someone you trust and enjoy, you keep on coming. To be honest, they do the best haircut in the area, there's never a long wait, and the conversation is always entertaining."*

While Reggie and Art specialize in men's styles, **James "Jimmy" Falton** is the expert on women's. He was the original owner of the salon and continues to work at Niri's.



Working with people of all ages, they philosophically agree that one-year-olds are easy, but two- and three-year-olds are harder because they know what's going on and prefer to attempt escape. A successful boys' haircut is always rewarded with a lollipop – but it's the adults that are more challenging. *"Even if we don't offer them any, it's the grown-ups who demand a piece of candy,"* chuckles Art.

Already a family affair, the future looks secure at Niri's. Reggie's two older sons (he has four children), ages 16 and 17, are interested in the family business. They come in and sweep the floor and plan to enroll in cosmetology school. Their father and uncle couldn't be prouder.

For tips and to read the entire article  
at [www.HowellPlaza.com](http://www.HowellPlaza.com)

### Deborah's Valentine's Day Hair Special

Buy a \$50 gift certificate at  
**Precision Family Hair Care**  
February 1-14th and receive a \$5 bonus;  
\$100 gift certificate = \$10 bonus certificate!

