

The Scoop

Happenings from Howell Plaza Shopping Center



VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 1

Smoothie Versus Juice:

Howell Mayor & Councilman Battle to Benefit Blood Center

Ready Set Juice is now open: it's already a hit on media and with local VIPs. After helping to cut the ribbon on April 30th, Howell Mayor **Theresa Berger** and Councilman **John Bonevich** set off with samples to sway the public on which of their beverages was better—the Mayor Smoothie or the Councilman Juice.

Over the two weeks following the opening, for each one sold, Ready Set Juice has collected \$2 to donate to **New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS)**, also at Howell Plaza Shopping Center. The winner's creation, based on sales, continued to sell until June 1st to benefit NJBS.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Clearly New Jersey Blood Services... but was it the Mayor or the Councilman? **To find out who has the bragging rights and why, visit www.HowellPlaza.com.**

REFRESHINGLY HEALTHY

The husband/wife owners **Johnny and Mangeli Rodriguez** are on a quest to improve health with the debut of their juice bar. Mangeli came up with name and tagline,



(If-rt above) Mayor Theresa Berger, owners Johnny and Mangeli Rodriguez, Councilman John Bonevich, New Jersey Blood Services' Lynne Ross, children Camilla and Gabriel Rodriguez (photo credit: Stephen Dobbins)



Drink What Your Body Deserves, to convey energy, exercise and a nutritious way of life.

Their wide array of natural juices and smoothies, along with seasonal open-faced toasts and salads, provide healthy alternatives for lunch or dinner during or after a long day at work. In addition to a menu of smoothie ingredients, try the shot bar that features juicy concoctions of fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs and probiotics tailored to your preference. The space is designed with bright, clean colors and a relaxing vibe to encourage people to hang out and talk.

Ready Set Juice is located between **Bob's Sports Cards** and **Howell Kitchen**. Stop by and try a refreshing drink and meet Mangeli and Johnny.

Visit Stores & Services on **www.HowellPlaza.com** for hours, menu and the full article.

Find what you're looking for at Howell Plaza

AND FITNESS FOR ALL • ATLANTIC PHYSICAL THERAPY • BOB'S SPORTS CARDS & MEMORABILIA • CENTRAL JERSEY TAX SERVICES • CODE NINJAS • COSMOPROF • CPR CELL PHONE REPAIR • CTRL V-HOWELL • EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS • HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS • HOWELL ACADEMY OF DANCE • HOWELL KITCHEN • JEENA JAY • KING OF BAGELS • LESLIE'S POOLMART • NAIL TECH • NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES • NIRI BARBER SHOP • NONNO'S PIZZERIA • PHILLY PRETZEL FACTORY • POKE BURRITOS • READY SET JUICE • RIVERSIDE URGENT CARE • SHORE SUDS LAUNDROMAT • SWEET MUSIC ACADEMY • SWEET PERFORMING ARTS • US POST OFFICE • WINE-O-LAND



I See a (Super) Moon a Risin’

On **June 24th**, the full moon will look larger and brighter since its orbit will be closest to the Earth. This resulting supermoon is known as the **Strawberry Moon** (a signal to gather the ripening fruit of wild strawberries), the **Rose Moon** (those flowers are in full form) and the **Honey Moon** (due to ancient customs of the giving and drinking of mead...honey wine).

Poke Burritos Is Coming to Howell Plaza

What is a poke burrito, you ask? Imagine a seafood burrito but swap out the bread with a seaweed wrap. It will be a fun and healthy change of pace, which is what this restaurant will be all about. The atmosphere will match the array of foods—unexpected, fresh and refreshing. In addition to its namesake dish, the restaurant will feature poke bowls, sushi on rice and rolls, bubble tea, Japanese-style ramen noodles, hibachi cooking and sushi rolls. **Poke Burritos** is slated to open this summer. This will be the first restaurant in Howell that focuses on poke.

Visit www.HowellPlaza.com for more details about **Poke Burritos’** opening.



June is National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month

Get creative and smother your pizza with extra veggies. Whip up a smoothie or juice. What about extra peppers in that western omelet? Snow peas, carrots and broccoli with your lo mein? Or make it easy and order from one of the delicious food spots at Howell Plaza Shopping Center.



Placing Folks in New Jobs Means “We Need More Space!”



Families moved from cities to communities like Howell, some came home to take care of their loved ones; others returned due to paused or shuttered workplaces. Employees found that some of their jobs became obsolete, others wanted to try something new. This migration, of sorts, opened the doors to a surge in new job opportunities.

Over the past six months, **Anna Santucci**, the owner of **Express Employment Professionals (EEP)** at Howell Plaza Shopping Center, has observed a tremendous growth of employment offerings in manufacturing, real estate, warehousing, logistics, medical support services and insurance.

EEP, which specializes in employment within Monmouth and Ocean counties, continues to pivot to meet the twists and turns of 2020-2021’s evolving demands. When asked how her team has nimbly responded to the growing need for more talent, Anna smiles. *“As it turns out, we had one of those ‘good problems.’ We added more space to accommodate our larger team and visitors—with a sensitivity to health and safety precautions—and hired and trained more employment specialists and support staff.”*

Anna signed a lease for the storefront next door, which doubles the office space. As construction proceeds, she envisions *“an environment with modern, cool vibe, efficiency and ease of process for all visitors — and some whimsical touches. We can’t wait to hold a reveal!”*



They’re Back and Hotter than Ever!

The Pokémon card craze from its origins in 1996 is back in full force. Both old and new are increasing in value from a collector’s perspective, some by 10 to 20 times their pre-pandemic worth. Many stores have placed a pause on sales, yet **Bob’s Sports Cards** has them in stock!

Sports card collectibles are increasing too. Got a boxful or want to add more? Talk to owner **Bob Colello** — just not on Tuesdays when he’s on the hunt looking to increase his own collection.



June 14th Think Red, White and Blue

It’s **Flag Day**. The first official United States flag was adopted by an Act of Congress on June 14, 1777. June 14th is also the United Nations-recognized **World Blood Donor Day**. In honor of both (since giving blood is patriotic, especially with July 4th around the corner), schedule an appointment at the **New Jersey Blood Services** by calling (800) 933-2566 or visit www.nybc.org/donate-blood and look for the Howell location.

July: National Culinary Arts AND National Picnic Month



With all the new and existing culinary choices at Howell Plaza Shopping Center, what better way to celebrate than by trying one of each as take out and enjoying a global picnic?

Howell Kitchen (Chinese)

Jeena Jay (convenience store with an array of ice cream bars and snacks)

King of Bagels (sandwiches, wraps, paninis and bagel creations with lamb gyros, smashed avocado with eggs on toast, veggie omelets and feta salads...)

Nonno’s Pizzeria (Italian specialties and salads, wraps, pasta...)

Philly Pretzel Factory (party trays, dips, “minidogs”...)

Poke Burrito (poke bowls, sushi on rice and rolls, bubble tea, Japanese-style ramen noodles, hibachi cooking and sushi rolls...)

Ready Set Juice (smoothies, juices, salads, fruits and toasts)

Wine-O-Land (round out your meal with alcoholic and/or nonalcoholic beverages)



In Person, Remote and Virtual Music Lessons

It's summer weather time — get outside! Port your instrument anywhere you can carry it and access the internet to take a virtual music lesson.

While you can also be taught in person, for many, the convenience of anytime anywhere may just be the way to go. Regardless of in-person or remote, you'll still receive the quality professional instruction for which **Sweet Music Academy** is known.

In addition to the Academy's staff of university top-trained professionals, we feature adjunct music instructors who are at the top of their respective instruments and/or fields. Whether they're full time gigging musicians, performers on Broadway, professional recording artists or have notable musical achievements, their experience and expertise are unparalleled. This provides students with unique learning experiences never previously possible due to physical distance or available time.

Call owner **Jay Sweet** or his team at (732) 905-9095 to learn more.

Advantages of Remote Virtual Lessons

- Learn from university top-trained professionals
- Learn from the comfort of your home or outside
- Schedule lessons based around your availability
- Receive written assignments and evaluations
- Record and archive lessons directly from your screen