

# The Scoop

Happenings from Howell Plaza Shopping Center



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## Kindness Transcends the Holidays

Over the past few weeks, we spoke with Howell Plaza Shopping Center shoppers, store owners and team members seeking what they do to make others feel good and what others have done for them.

Inspired by their insights, we hope your families will join ours in doing good deeds and being thoughtful throughout 2023. Here's to a healthy, happy and laughter-filled year.

*"Give a hand of assistance to Elderly; provide spare change when someone is short."* -Kadijah, Post Office

*"Pay for someone's coffee."*  
-Shopper Stephanie

*"Contact social services to find a family in need and buy gifts."*  
-Ed, Central Jersey Tax Services

*"Say hi to people and be especially nice to overworked retail/service staff."*  
-Teresa, Cosmo Professional Beauty Supply



**Soma Pharmacy**, a locally owned, mom-and-pop community pharmacy, will open soon. The team is dedicated to providing personalized service at an affordable price and offers a wide variety of services, including COVID-19 testing, free delivery, durable medical equipment, immunizations and much more.

## 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 • EDWARD LICCIARDI INSURANCE AGENCY • EXPRESS EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS • HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS • HOWELL DANCE COMPANY • HOWELL KITCHEN • JEENA JAY • KING OF BAGELS • LESLIE'S POOLMART • NAILS TECH • NEW JERSEY BLOOD SERVICES • NIRI BARBER SHOP • NONNO'S PIZZERIA • PHILLY PRETZEL FACTORY • POKE BURRITOS • PRIORITYVET • READY SET JUICE • RIVERSIDE URGENT CARE • SHORE SUDS LAUNDROMAT • SOMA PHARMACY • SWEET MUSIC ACADEMY • SWEET PERFORMING ARTS • US POST OFFICE • WINE-O-LAND

# Last Minute Stocking Stuffers without the lines and stress



**T**ick tock, the countdown is upon us. But, imagine: no stress purchasing of clever gifts that won't gather dust the rest of the year.

Our small town, family-owned businesses have cornered the market on stocking stuffers that match your budget and your loved ones' interests. In fact, these gift ideas work equally for birthdays, mother/father/grandparents celebrations and even for the simple "I'm thinking of you" days.

## Car Enthusiast? DIY-selver? Tool Fanatic? Hobbyiest? Off Roader?

**Harbor Freight** has a pretty nifty holiday guide on its website ([www.harborfreight.com/product-finder/holiday-gifts](http://www.harborfreight.com/product-finder/holiday-gifts)). Fun to use, you plug in the category of your gift recipient, choose a price, click finish and voilà, on-target suggestions.

Get creative and slip some funky Forever stamps from the **US Post Office** into that gift certificate envelope you've hand-decorated and perhaps a lottery ticket or two (**Jenna Jay Convenience** has a terrific array).



There's an entire store, **Bob's Sports Cards & Memorabilia**, dedicated to the perfect gift. Choose from autographed collectibles, ones to open right away for hands-on fun, card packs with surprise contents and items you didn't even know existed!

## Nothing Beats the Beat:

Dance and music go together like peanut butter and jelly...or a horse and buggy as the nostalgic song goes. Consider the powerhouse duo of dance AND music lessons. The recently renamed **Howell Dance Company** is expanding in 2023, has a nationally award-winning team and offers classes to youth aged 18 months to 18 years. **Sweet Music Academy** and its next door **Sweet Performing Arts Center** provide music instruction on all instruments to students of all ages and multiple types of group workshops, respectively.

## Give a Foodie a Gift Certificate:

**Howell Kitchen** (authentic Chinese food in a newly renovated restaurant)

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

**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** (Cold pressed Juices, smoothies, juice cleanses, special membership, fruit bouquets and chocolate strawberries)

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

## Practical Gifts for a Good Life:

**Phone Love:** Otterbox charging cables and a Zagg Invisible Shield, both with limited lifetime warranties at **CPR Cell Phone Repair**.

**Free Consultations:** Insurance coverage adequate or superb? What about tax prep? While this is an unusual gift, bringing your loved one in to meet with an expert from **Edward Licciardi Insurance Agency** or **Central Jersey Tax Services** can provide peace of mind.

**A Gift of Life:** There's always a shortage of blood. One hour of your time at **New Jersey Blood Services** will save up to three lives.

**Does a Body Good:** Hair and nail beauty treatments at **Nails Tech** and **Niri Barber Shop & Family Salon** will guarantee smiles from your recipient.

**Create a Career:** Become inspired with a new job, gain more skills and meet new people. This isn't just a gift for you; recommend **Express Employment Professionals** to a friend or loved one and change a life.

## Attention all Minecraft Lovers!

Join **Code Ninjas** this winter break and help build an unforgettable Minecraft Winter Village. Campers, ages 5-14, will create ice palaces, gingerbread houses and so much more! Contact **Code Ninjas** at [howellnj@codeninjas.com](mailto:howellnj@codeninjas.com), drop by or call 732-595-2633 to sign up.



"Say thank you."

–Young Pretzel Maven Lucas

"Try not to be rude; you never know what someone else is going through."

–Elizabeth, Pretzel Maven's mother

"Be all ears. Sometimes a person just needs to share and know that a friend is simply listening."

–Mangeli, Ready, Set, Juice

"I'm truly touched when my customers wish me a great day."

–Bob, Bob's Sports Cards

"Make a meal for someone and deliver it."

–Shopper Samantha:

"If someone needs help, give them a hand. I noticed an elderly woman struggling with groceries and ran to help put them in her car."

Others just watched." –Carmen, Express Employment Professionals

"Give money when it's needed."

–Nailtech

"Donate to charities; there are many people in the world who are hungry."

–Maraiah, WineOland

"Surprise someone with a good deed. My neighbor has back issues."

Whenever the paper is delivered, I'll pick up his as well as mine at the end of the driveway. Each morning, I place it on a chair on his stoop."

–George, New Jersey Blood Services



# Opening Early January



**T**he cats and dogs of Howell Township are already eagerly awaiting the opening of **PriorityVet**, slated for early January 2023—now they only need to share with their human caregivers why they're so excited.

The new hospital will be a fully equipped, state-of-the-art facility in which dogs and cats will receive urgent assistance. The hours are 4pm–11pm, seven days a week.

PriorityVet is the only dedicated after-hours urgent pet care in the country. In an effort to focus its resources on pets requiring immediate attention, PriorityVet does not offer primary care services such as vaccinations, parasite control and routine surgical procedures. Rest assured, your family primary care veterinarian will receive a complete report of your pets' care, including available results of all tests, usually by the morning following your visit.

An official grand opening will be held in April, but please don't wait until then. Visit [www.priorityvet.com](http://www.priorityvet.com) to learn more.



*"Cook eggs and bacon for your loved one...  
in my case, that's my wife."*

*-Howell Shopper Tom*

*"Visit an animal shelter to spend some  
time with the cats and dogs."*

*-Joe, Leslie's Pool Mart*

*"Help elderly cross the road and carry  
packages."*

*-Christi, WineOland*

*"Say thank you to the police or firefighters."*

*-Fadi, King of Bagels*

*"Teach your children by example—open  
a door; offer a seat."*

*-Dolly, Niri Barber Shop*

*"Communicate with others. Make a new  
friend. By not speaking, you won't learn."*

*-Shopper Eugene*

*"Reach out to an old friend."*

*-Laura, Atlantic Physical Therapy*

*"Give someone a genuine compliment.  
Give others a chance to tell their story,  
and don't dismiss their feelings."*

*-Megan, Atlantic Physical Therapy*

*"Make eye contact. Also, woman to woman,  
feel free to give a compliment to her and  
make her and your day."*

*-Jill, Philly Pretzel Factory.*

*"When out and about, smile. Smile when  
you're on the phone; while they can't see  
you, it translates through your voice."*

*-Katie, Atlantic Physical Therapy*