

PREVENTION PRESS

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The Howell Alliance collaborates with community stakeholders to promote substance use prevention, mental well-being and a stigma-free community.

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www.facebook.com/groups/howellalliancefriends



Youth Essay & Oratorical Contests Focus on the Value of Optimism!



Essay Contest Winners

The Howell Alliance congratulates this year's Howell Optimist Club essay and oratorical contest winners from the Howell Township Public School District and Farmingdale Borough School District!

Each year, contest themes focus on the value of optimism in life, along with cultivating positive decision-making, communication, and life skills.

For the 2022-2023 contest, an impressive total of 76 essay entries and 32 speech entries were submitted. Two Optimist Club of Howell oratorical winners and one essay winner advanced to the district competition, with district-level contest winners having the opportunity to go on to compete in Optimist International's regional and international contests.



Oratorical Contest Winners

2022-2023 Essay Contest Winners:

1st place: Cindy Wu, Middle School South

2nd place: Sofia Mendez, Middle School South

3rd Place: Sandra Abuelyamin, Middle School South

2022-2023 Oratorical Contest Winners:

1st place: Justin Douglas, Middle School North

2nd place: Alexa Leone, Middle School North

3rd place: Michael Natilli, Farmingdale School

The top 10 oratorical speeches were presented at the Howell Optimist Club's contest held the evening of February 6th at town hall.

For the past five years, the Howell Optimist Club has partnered with the Howell Alliance and Howell Township Public School District to bring these contest opportunities to our Howell Middle School North and Howell Middle School South students. This year, Farmingdale students also participated. The Howell Alliance annually sponsors awards for the top three essay and oratorical winners.

What's Inside?

Pages 2: "Howell Passes Updated Smoking in Public Places; Electronic Smoking Device Use and Sales; Tobacco Sales Ordinance"

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Howell Passes Updated Smoking in Public Places; Electronic Smoking Device Use and Sales; Tobacco Sales Ordinance



Motivated by the youth vaping epidemic and underage sales of all nicotine and tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices (also known as e-cigarettes or vapes), Howell Township has updated its smoking ordinance, which is now entitled “Smoking in Public Places; Electronic Smoking Device Use and Sales; Tobacco Sales.” The previous smoking ordinance was decades old.

At the April 4th Howell Township council meeting, the new ordinance passed with a 5-0 vote.

Flavors, strong concentrates of nicotine, and disposable e-cigarettes have fueled the teen and young adult vaping epidemic. Nicotine, marijuana, alcohol, and other mind-altering substances can cause serious short- and long-term consequences for the brain, which develops until at least age 25.

The legal age for purchasing tobacco/nicotine is 21, which includes all oral, tobacco, nicotine, and synthetic nicotine products. To legally purchase and possess alcohol and marijuana/cannabis, a person must also be 21 years of age.

The updated smoking, electronic smoking device, and tobacco/nicotine sales ordinance addresses the following key points:

Enforcement of smoking on public property:

- Howell Township Police Department officers will enforce smoking on public property and in public places by issuing violations, no matter what substance is being smoked (the substance being smoked will not need to be checked).
- Violators will be fined, and in lieu of the 1st offense, Howell Township’s Judge Susan Schroeder Clark can use her discretion to waive the \$250 fee with proof of completion of RWJ Barnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery’s 8-week Nicotine and Tobacco Recovery Program, or another similar, accredited cessation program. Parents will be responsible for minors’ fines.
- Fines for smoking on public property are as follows: \$250 for the 1st offense; \$500 for the 2nd offense; and \$1,000 for the 3rd and subsequent offenses.

Enforcement of retail electronic smoking device product sales:

- Howell Township code enforcement officers and police officers will enforce electronic smoking device product sales violations for selling, distributing, or giving any e-cigarette product to anyone under 21.
- Operating a business that sells any type of e-cigarette products without securing and keeping in good standing a township license to do so will result in fines.
- Fines for retail electronic smoking device product sales are as follows: \$1,000 for the 1st offense; \$1,500 for the 2nd offense; and \$2,000 for the 3rd and subsequent offenses.
- Any establishment with 2 violations/year or 5 total violations is subject to permanent license revocation at the discretion of the mayor and council.
- Inspections of retail electronic smoking device product establishments will be made by code enforcement and police officers as deemed necessary, to check for compliance with proper signage, underage and flavored product sales, and other regulations.

In New Jersey, regardless of the age of the purchaser, all e-cigarette flavors are illegal to sell. This does not apply to traditional combustible cigarettes (menthol are still allowed, but that may change in the near future). Disposable e-cigarettes are also not subject to the flavor ban. It is unlawful for any retailer to give away e-cigarette products or to accept e-cigarette coupons.

There is no nicotine potency cap, and electronic cigarette pods and e-liquids use stronger nicotine salts and higher nicotine concentrates than traditional combustible cigarettes. Some youth vape 2 to 3 nicotine pods per day, as well as high potency marijuana products with THC levels of up to almost 100%. Marijuana in the 1970s and 1980s contained 3 to 5% THC, the psychoactive chemical in marijuana (also known as cannabis).

E-cigarettes are also used for THC consumption, with some marijuana/cannabis products having THC potency levels nearing 100%.

Howell does not permit retail cannabis dispensaries, so marijuana sales are not addressed in this ordinance.

HOOKED ON FISHING, NOT ON DRUGS & BAXTER'S FISHING DERBY

FREE FISHING DAY FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

EVENT TIME & DETAILS

7:30am - 9:00am: Registration & Learning Stations

* First 100 registrations receive drawstring bag

9:00am - 12:00pm: Fishing Derby Contest

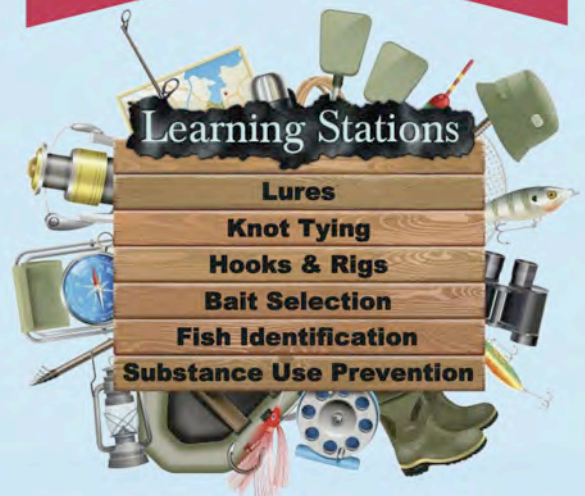
12:15pm: Trophies, Awards & Prizes

PLUS

- * Grab & Go Breakfast
- * Picnic Style Lunch
- * Rain or Shine

**SATURDAY
JUNE 3, 2023**

**ALFRED C.
SAUER PARK @
ECHO LAKE
(1225 Maxim-Southard Rd, Howell)**



Participants are encouraged to bring their own fishing pole and supplies.
Bait: Mealworms and night crawlers provided.



Sponsored By:



For More Information
Department of Community Relations
(732) 938-4500 ext. 2106
sfecher@twp.howell.nj.us

Substance Use & Mental Health Information for Prevention & Support Resources

Substance Use & Mental Health Resources

Howell Alliance: 732-938-4500 ext. 4012

Howell Police: 732-938-4575 ext. 2237

Suicide Prevention & Mental Health/Substance
Use Crisis Lifeline: 9-8-8 (call/text)

Jeanna Ribon, Howell School District SAC (K-8):
732-919-0095 ext. 8204

Julie Adkins, Howell High School SAC: 732-938-2131 ext. 4022

Substance Use Referral & Education (SURE): 732-542-6422
<https://mentalhealthmonmouth.org/programs/education/sure-program/>

NJ Connect: 855-652-3737

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration's
(SAMHSA) National Helpline: 800-662-4357

2nd Floor Youth Helpline: 888-222-2228 (text or call)

For a comprehensive list of support services,
visit the Alliance website:

www.twp.howell.nj.us/540/Substance-UseMental-Health-Support-Servi

CALL 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES!

**For a digital copy of
Prevention Press, visit:**

www.twp.howell.nj.us/173/Prevention-Press

**For more information
about the Howell Alliance, visit:**

www.twp.howell.nj.us/alliance



**Clean out your medicine cabinet,
save a life! Use the 24/7, anonymous
Project Medicine Drop box at Howell
Police Dept. (300 Old Tavern Rd.),
or call 732-938-4111 for at-home
pick-up by the Howell police.**

www.twp.howell.nj.us/537/Safe-Prescription-Disposal

**For parent/caregiver informational webinars
on youth-centered topics such as vaping, underage
drinking/cannabis use, marijuana use risks, mental health
challenges, and safe relationships,
visit the Alliance website**

<http://www.twp.howell.nj.us/585/Parent-Support-Workshops>

(Newsletter production by Linda Coppolino
of Little Hat Marketing & Design.)



**SAVE A LIFE!
CALL 911**



In case of an overdose or alcohol poisoning

- CALL 9-1-1 for HELP
- You MUST stay with the person
- Talk with authorities
- Neither you or the individual will be charged as per the NJ Good Samaritan and Lifeline Legislation

GGCADA Governor's Council on
ALCOHOLISM & DRUG ABUSE



If a Medical Emergency exists, Call 911 Immediately

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*Howell Township and the Howell Alliance do NOT endorse or
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