

March 9, 2016

A Work Session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Avalon was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 4:08 p.m. in the Meeting Room, 3100 Dune Drive, Avalon, New Jersey.

Attendance: Public ----- 6 Reporters ----- 2

The Meeting was called to order by Council President Dean.

Pledge of allegiance.

<u>Roll call:</u>	Council President Dean	Present
	Councilman Burns	Absent
	Councilman Covington	Present
	Council Vice President Hudanich	Present
	Councilman McCorristin	Present

Also present:

Scott Wahl, Business Administrator
 Stephen D. Barse, Esquire, Borough Solicitor
 Paul Short, Code Enforcement Official
 Jim Waldron, Assistant Business Administrator
 Captain Jeffrey Christopher
 William Macomber, Public Works Director
 Thomas R. Thornton, P.E., Borough Engineer, Hatch Mott Macdonald, LLC
 Monica Coskey, 7 Mile Publishing
 Norman Gluckman, Library Director
 Nina Ranalli, Director, Avalon History Center

Notice of this Work Session was included in the Annual Schedule of Meetings dated June 24, 2015. It was given to the news media and posted on the Official Bulletin Board as required by law.

Council President Dean read the Open Public Meetings Act Announcement.

Power Point Presentation of the annual State of the Avalon Free Public Library by Norman Gluckman, Library Director.

Norman Gluckman, Library Director, thanked the Council and all Borough Departments for their support over the last year and gave a very detailed report via Power Point presentation, as attached.

Councilman Burns entered the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Nina Ranalli, Director, Avalon History Center, introduced herself to the Council and gave a detailed report of accomplishments and goals of the History Center through a Power Point presentation, attached.

The Council thanked Norman Gluckman and Nina Ranalli for their presentations.

Councilman Covington inquired about the patron count of the library and asked how the patron count is calculated.

Norman Gluckman explained the patron count is based on the actual number of records of patrons from their patron database. He noted visits have increased, however the number of individuals that hold library cards has decreased.

Councilman Covington asked when events are held at the Avalon Historical Center.

Nina Ranalli stated events are held every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., and will send Council a schedule of events.

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Discussion regarding Resolution amending the 2016 Cash Management Plan

Brief discussion was held. A Resolution to amend the 2016 Cash Management Plan will be considered by Council at tonight's regular meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution authorizing Sale of surplus property with an online auction service

Councilman Burns questioned why there were brand new items on the list of items to be sold.

Bill Macomber explained the new items were chain ladders originally purchased for the purpose of rescues on the jetty, however they have been in the warehouse for approximately ten to fifteen years and have not been used. A truck mirror is also on the list which was acquired through the government for Earth Movers and has not been used in approximately eight years.

Councilman Burns asked about the rocks that are on the list of items to be sold.

Bill Macomber explained the rocks were originally on parts of the island along Dune Drive and are now on 39th Street at the greenhouse and is hoping they will be sold to save the Borough the cost of tipping fees.

Council Vice President Hudanich suggested offering the rocks to the school.

Bill Macomber will explore that option and report back to Council if the rocks need to be removed from the list of items to be sold.

A Resolution to be prepared for the March 23, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Professional Services Contract with 7 Mile Publishing for public relations and advertising services

Scott Wahl discussed the 2016 proposal from 7 Mile Publishing for public relations and advertising services and explained the proposal includes spring and fall newsletters and informational recreation guide, which will be mailed to residents. He explained costs for Snowfest Saturday will be decreasing, due to better management of expenses and the removal of a contingency item. A new item that has been added to the proposal is a Bike Safety Initiative. He attended the November meeting of AHLOA, where bike safety was a primary concern. The Borough agrees and has been working closely with AHLOA and 7 Mile Publishing toward a marriage of public information efforts to help inform residents and visitors of bike safety.

The Council commended Mickey Coskey and Scott Wahl for their efforts to keep the costs similar to prior years and thanked them for their diligence.

Scott Wahl announced new things to be accomplished in the coming year including placing a QR Code on correspondence to residents and visitors to enable individuals to have information directly on their phones as well as publishing all items online to communicate changes and updates to any printed publications. He also expressed confidence that the proposal will meet all goals and objectives for the coming year.

Mickey Coskey noted in 2015 there were approximately 50,000 pages viewed in the information guide, which provides an estimated figure of how many printed guides are needed and also indicates there is a far reach electronically.

Scott Wahl added all online publications include links to pages with more information on specific events and activities to help keep residents and visitors informed.

A Resolution to be prepared for the March 23, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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Discussion regarding Shared Services Agreement with Sea Isle City and Stone Harbor for local access Channel 97

Scott Wahl reported he has had conversations with contacts in both Sea Isle City and Stone Harbor, and all would like to continue to participate in this highly successful Shared Services Agreement. All equipment and software for local access Channel 97 is located and maintained in Avalon Borough Hall. Sea Isle City pays Avalon a stipend of \$2,000.00 annually and Stone Harbor Borough pays a stipend of \$5,000.00 annually to Avalon for the maintenance of the channel. Avalon manages all informational slides and emergency management for Stone Harbor Borough, while Sea Isle City manages their own slides and asks Avalon to only manage emergency management information on their behalf. He explained he takes care of any technical glitches or equipment failures in Avalon Borough Hall as well as any communications with Comcast. Grant money covers the management agreement for the software and portal to upload information to the local access channel as well as other related television expenses. He reported there is still plenty of money left in the grant to cover expenses. He thanked Sea Isle City and Stone Harbor Borough for their trust in Avalon.

Council Vice President Hudanich asked why the local access channel has been changed from Channel 2 to Channel 97.

Scott Wahl explained MeTV recently moved to Channel 2, and per FCC Regulations, the local access channel needed to be changed.

Councilman Covington noted the allocation report provided implies Stone Harbor Borough has run out of funding to offset the costs of the Agreement and asked if this was the case.

Scott Wahl responded when the agreement was initiated, all three municipalities were awarded seed money, and costs for the channel are deducted from that money. When the seed money is depleted, each municipality will be responsible for funding the costs directly out of their budget.

Council Vice President Hudanich suggested opening this Shared Services Agreement to other agencies in the future.

Scott Wahl agreed and noted as technology changes, it enables the Borough to provide more unique services to a larger spectrum of individuals.

A Resolution to be prepared for the March 23, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding the following:

a) 2016 Backpassing project

Tom Thornton, Borough Engineer, reported despite a very large project last year, the beach has lost approximately 75,000 cubic yards in the fill area of the north end due to Winter Storm Jonas. A survey conducted by Stockton found there is approximately 40,000 cubic yards available in the borrow area between 32nd and 40th Streets. It is possible that figure has increased to approximately 50,000 cubic yards which could be used to offset what was lost. Plans, volume and location of the fill will need to be reported to both the DEP and the Army Corp to fulfill the requirements of the existing permits. He feels this project could be accomplished in advance of the summer. While the volume is not sufficient to replace what was lost during Winter Storm Jonas, if the material is placed strategically, it will protect the critical areas where material was lost as well as restore some degree of a recreational beach.

Councilman McCorristin asked when this project could be completed.

Tom Thornton expressed hopes to have the project bid and ready for Council's consideration at the April 12, 2016 Council Meeting and the project completed within 45 days, with the project completion date being in late May. The bid specifications would include requirements for the contractor to have cleaned up all equipment before Memorial Day weekend.

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Councilman Covington asked if it would be possible to have the project ready for Council's consideration by the March 23, 2016 meeting.

Tom Thornton stated it would be very difficult to achieve that timeline, as the project would need to be bid.

Scott Wahl explained he recently attended a meeting place with Bill Macomber, Tom Thornton and Wayne Whilden regarding the possibility of the Public Works Department completing the work associated with the backpassing project, which would save the Borough money as well as time, as the project would not need to be bid.

Bill Macomber explained the schedule of shifts is currently being reviewed to keep up with the tides. Options for necessary equipment rentals as well as off-shore sand purchases are also being explored.

Councilman Covington and Council Vice President Hudanich stressed the importance of the beach paths as well as the walls to ensure safety.

Bill Macomber stated these concerns will be addressed if the Public Works Department completes the work associated with the project, however is not promising the Public Works Department will be able to complete the work at this time.

Council Vice President Hudanich asked if the material will be moved from the borrow area to the beach by truck on the beach or on the roads.

Bill Macomber explained the material will be transported on the beach, very similarly to how previous projects have been done.

Council Vice President Hudanich spoke in support of completing the project in-house versus going out to bid for the project.

Councilman Covington asked if everything could be completed and ready for Council's consideration by the March 23, 2016 meeting.

Tom Thornton stated the deadline of March 23, 2016 is something that they can strive for, however, it would not be enough time to go out to bid for the project, if that is necessary.

Councilman McCorristin questioned when the permits would be ready.

Tom Thornton explained the work being done now is to prepare the plan design and permit documents. If the design can be completed in two weeks, the permit application would also then be eligible to be submitted. He stated there will be cost savings to the Borough in the event the project does not need to go out to bid.

b) Permitting Services Graven's Island CDF Access Road

Tom Thornton reported this has been discussed in the past, and he feels now is the time to pursue this road as a permanent road. Multiple forums have taken place regarding the difficulty of finding locations for dredging material. The current contract between the Borough and South State requires the road to be removed and the wetlands restored, however due to a request from the Army Corp to keep the road, the project has not yet been eligible to comply with that contract. If the road were to stay in place, the project could be closed and a credit would be given to the Borough for not removing it. The credit could then be used to offset costs involved with keeping the road permanently, such as making the physical modifications to stabilize it. However, the road destroyed wetlands and the Borough would have to mitigate for those two acres of lost wetlands by locating uplands and converting them to wetlands. He has contacted Simpson's Mitigation Bank, which is a "bank" that was established whereby uplands have already been restored, meeting the strict requirements of the agencies. The Borough has the option to purchase credits from the "bank" and not be required to convert any uplands to wetlands. The cost associated with doing this would be approximately \$1 million.

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Council Vice President Hudanich asked which agency wants to keep the road in place.

Tom Thornton explained the operational side Army Corp has asked to keep the road in place to help with a project they are currently completing. The regulatory side of the Army Corp had previously wanted the temporary road to be demolished and restored to wetlands by 2015 prior to modifying the permit.

Council Vice President Hudanich question where the physical location of the wetlands from the mitigation bank would be.

Tom Thornton stated he does not know where they would be located. He noted some board members of this "bank" are Army Corps staff. He expressed the opinion that if land was mitigated, it would pay for itself long term, as the Borough could make money through Shared Service Agreements with agencies looking to use the road.

Councilman Burns asked how much of a credit the Borough would receive from South State if the road was not demolished.

Tom Thornton reported the credit would amount to approximately \$330,000.00, which would reduce the cost of mitigating the lands to \$670,000.00.

Council Vice President Hudanich noted Dr. Tedesco is using a new spray with dredging and suggested entering into a Memorandum of Agreement to participate under that grant which would help convert uplands to wetlands without needing to mitigate and possibly spend less money in the process.

Scott Wahl stated he will explore that option and reported that since the temporary road was constructed, five agencies have used and inquired about the road including the Department Of Transportation, the Borough of Avalon, Middle Township, Stone Harbor and the Army Corp.

Councilman Burns spoke in agreement with Council Vice President Hudanich and Scott Wahl regarding contacting Dr. Tedesco and addressed a concern that the mud banks along the bay are collapsing and reducing the area of uplands.

Tom Thornton explained Dr. Tedesco and his team are spraying the material over the wetlands to increase the elevation to mitigate against future subsidence and sea level rise, however the process is very expensive.

Councilman Burns stated he would rather spend the money in the back bay rather than mitigate lands that may not be in the area.

Tom Thornton reported he approached the Army Corp, and was informed the back bay is not eligible for mitigation.

Councilman Burns asked who would own the road if it was made permanent and the Borough paid the mitigation bank for wetlands credit.

Tom Thornton stated the Borough would own the road.

A Resolution to be prepared for the March 23, 2016 Regular Meeting.

- c) NJ DEP Application Beach & Dune Maintenance and 30th Street Beach Access Improvements

Tom Thornton reported the current permit held for Beach and Dune Maintenance is valid for a term of five years and will be expiring in June of this year. Normally, this is a general permit, however the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will not approve a general permit unless the Municipal Public Access Plan has been approved by the DEP. Individual permits would need to be obtained for each type of improvement and maintenance items.

Councilman Covington asked if the Borough has a Municipal Public Access Plan as a part of the Beach Management Plan.

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Scott Wahl explained the Municipal Public Access Plan was presented to Council in December by Steve Morey and has been submitted to the State, however it has not yet been approved.

Tom Thornton explained since individual permits are now required, there will be a cost savings if all individual items for the 30th Street beach access improvements are included in one application. When applying for the individual permit, the application would include all of the items normally included with the general permitting, and would be approximately the same cost, however permit fees are now based upon larger areas where work will be done.

A Resolution to be prepared for the March 23, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Discussion regarding Resolution accepting the Southern Pine Beetle Grant in the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection

Councilman Covington asked how much work the grant will cover.

Bill Macomber explained the work has already started and this grant will help to offset some of those costs. The grant will also help pay for the removal of larger trees the Department of Public Works cannot handle.

Councilman Burns asked if the methods used to dispose of the trees will increase the probability of the problem spreading.

Bill Macomber stated he has been told the disposal of the trees will help to eradicate the problem, rather than cause the problem to increase. The disposal method chosen is to grind up the dead trees, but leave the roots in the ground to maintain structural integrity. This grant covers all trees affected by these Southern Pine Beetles, however the main focus of this project are trees in the areas surrounding the dunes.

Public Comments:

Martha Wright, 632 7th Street, commented on the Southern Pine Beetle Grant and objected to the acceptance of the grant because the grant is written to allow the "clear cutting" of all Japanese Black Pines within a 75 foot radius of an affected tree.

Bill Macomber explained the focus of the Borough is not to "clear cut" any trees, but rather to only remove affected trees.

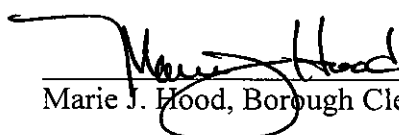
Jim Waldron noted while the grant is written to allow "clear cutting", the selection of trees to remove is up to the Borough and agrees that the focus is to only remove affected trees.

Motion made by Councilman Covington, seconded by Councilman McCorristin to adjourn the Work Session.

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE:</u>	Councilman Burns	Aye
	Councilman Covington	Aye
	Council Vice President Hudanich	Aye
	Councilman McCorristin	Aye
	Council President Dean	Aye

Work Session adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie J. Hood, Borough Clerk

Richard E. Dean, Council President



State of the Library

Jacque Ewing
President, Avalon Free Public Library Board of Trustees

Norman Gluckman
Library Director

www.avalonfreelibrary.org

2015 Highlights

January



- 585 views of library produced videos on YouTube
- Begin using new library logo

February




- Digitized John Fallon's article "WWII Memories of a Combat Engineer"

April



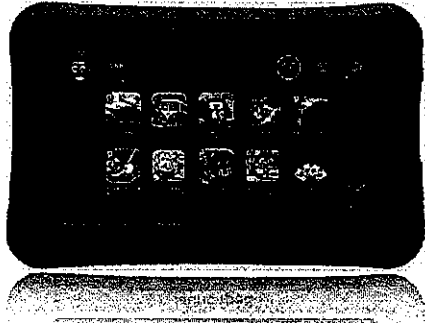
- Added Battleship New Jersey to museum pass program

May



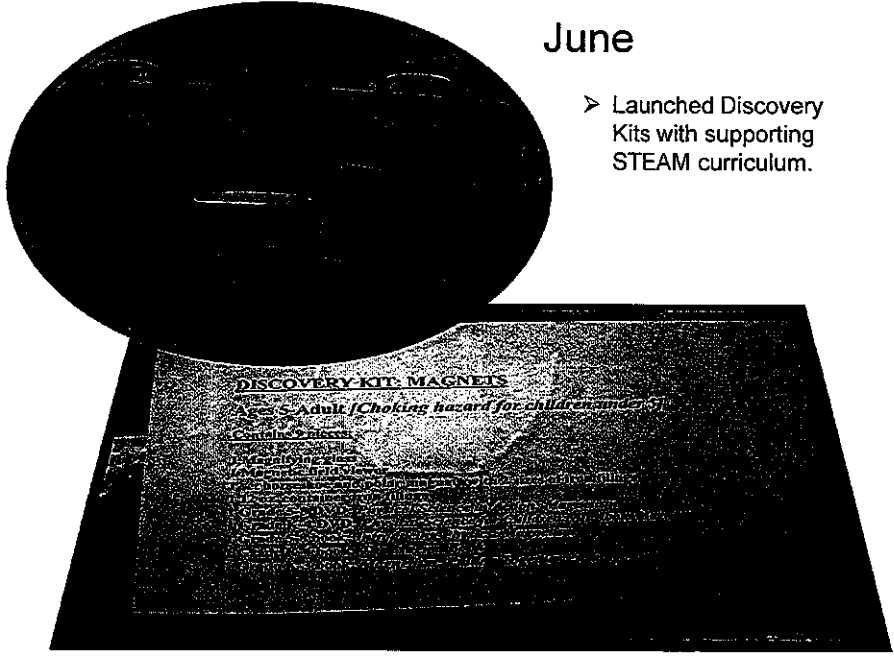
- > Library-by-Mail program becomes more expensive. Postal rates for the merchandise return program increase by 120%

June



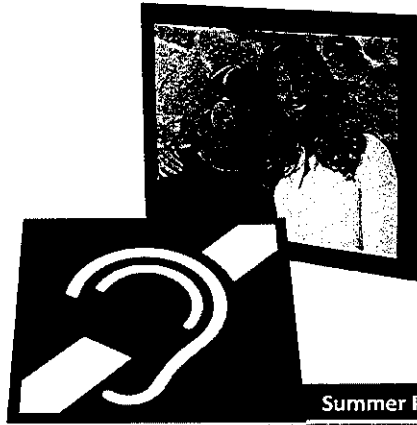
- > Introduce Playaway Launchpads, a ruggedized children's tablet populated by educational apps which are age and content specific.

June



- > Launched Discovery Kits with supporting STEAM curriculum.

July



- 12 author visits starting in July with a surprise visit from Lisa Scottoline and her Francesca.
- Purchase and installation assisted listening systems in the gym with mobile use in the all-purpose room and classrooms
- Used a CART stenographer at major lectures

Summer Programs Wrap Up

August

Children's Programs Sessions	58
Children's Attendance	2,693
Adult Program Sessions	123
Adult Attendance	4632
Total Programs	181
Total Attendance	7325

September

- New Instructional and informational videos released on library's YouTube Channel



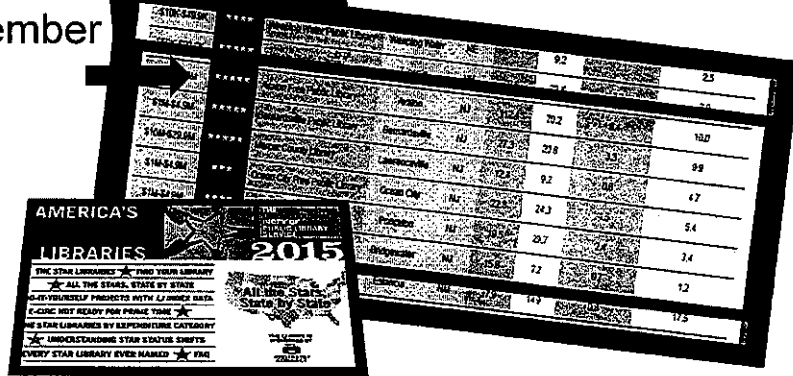
October

The New Jim Crow

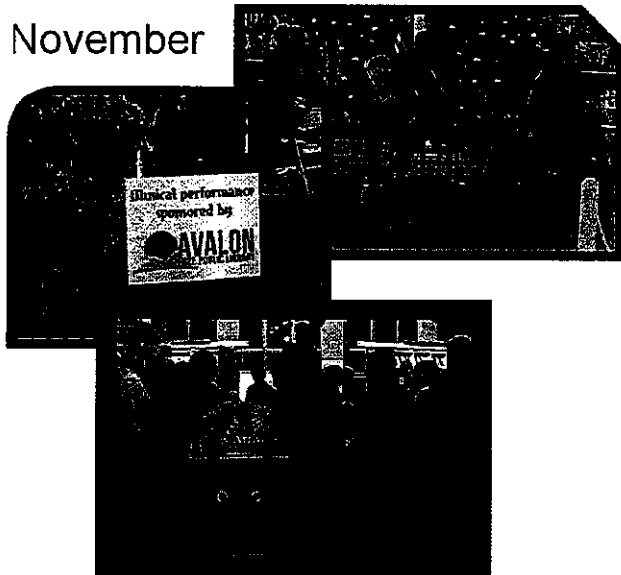
➤ Launched history bookclub

➤ Five Star Status

November



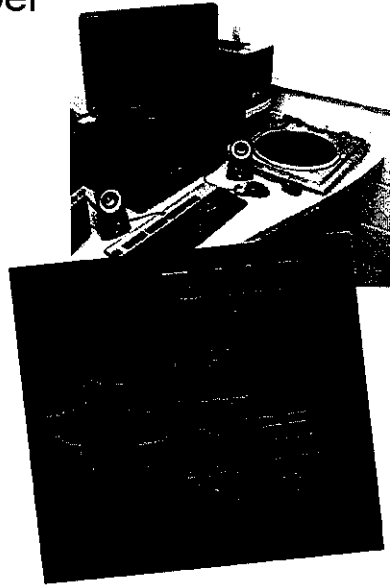
November



➤ Library sponsored 2 concerts on Festive Friday

➤ Open house celebrating 10 Years of providing Avalon with library services

November



➤ Record / Cassette
Digitization workstation

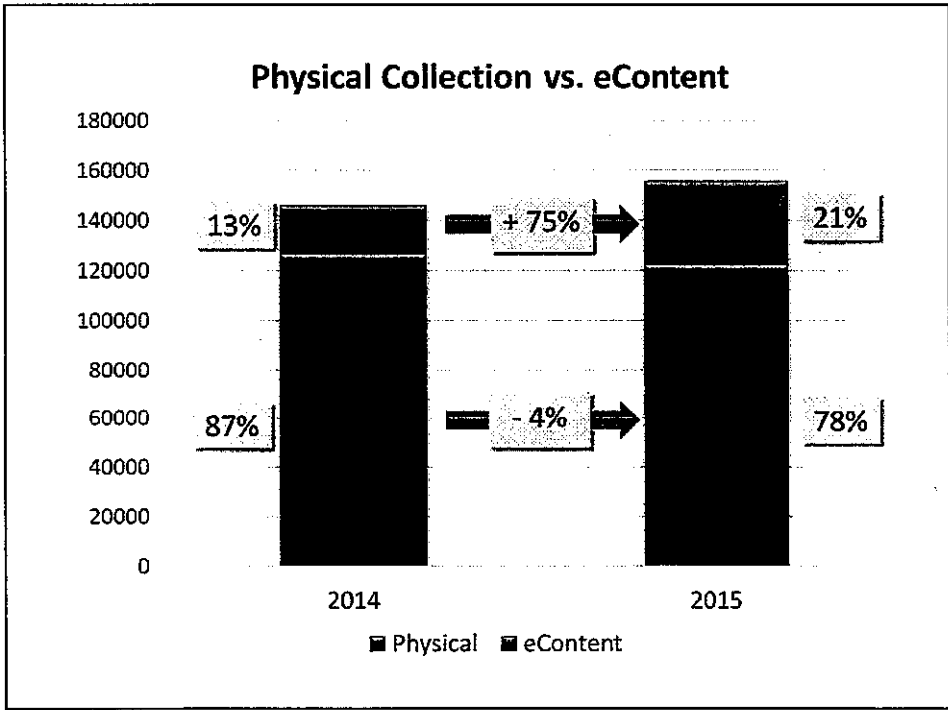
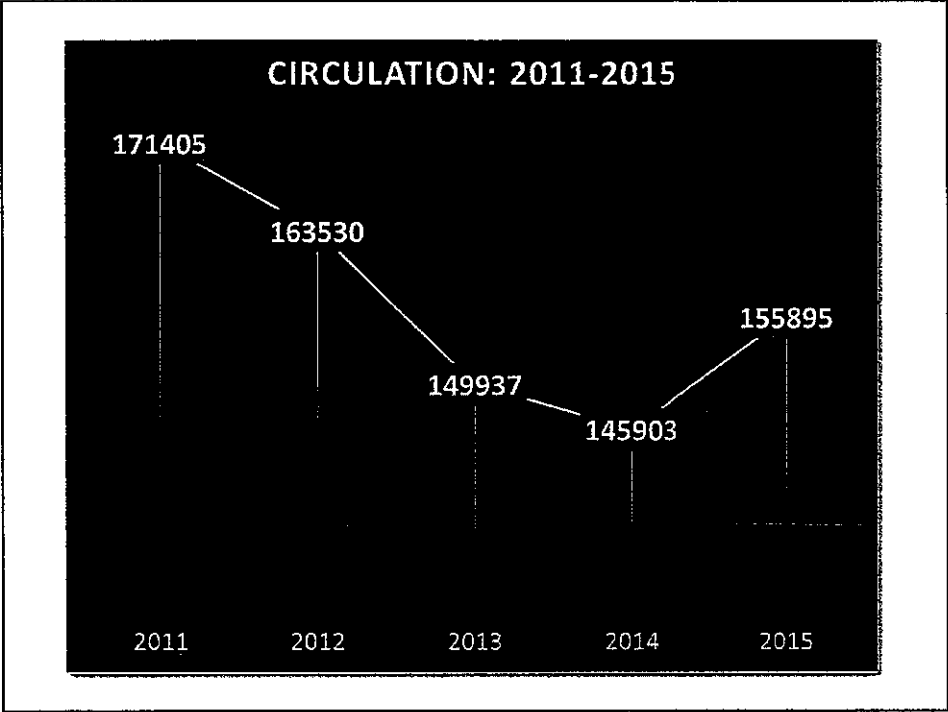
➤ Collection point for annual
community food drive

December

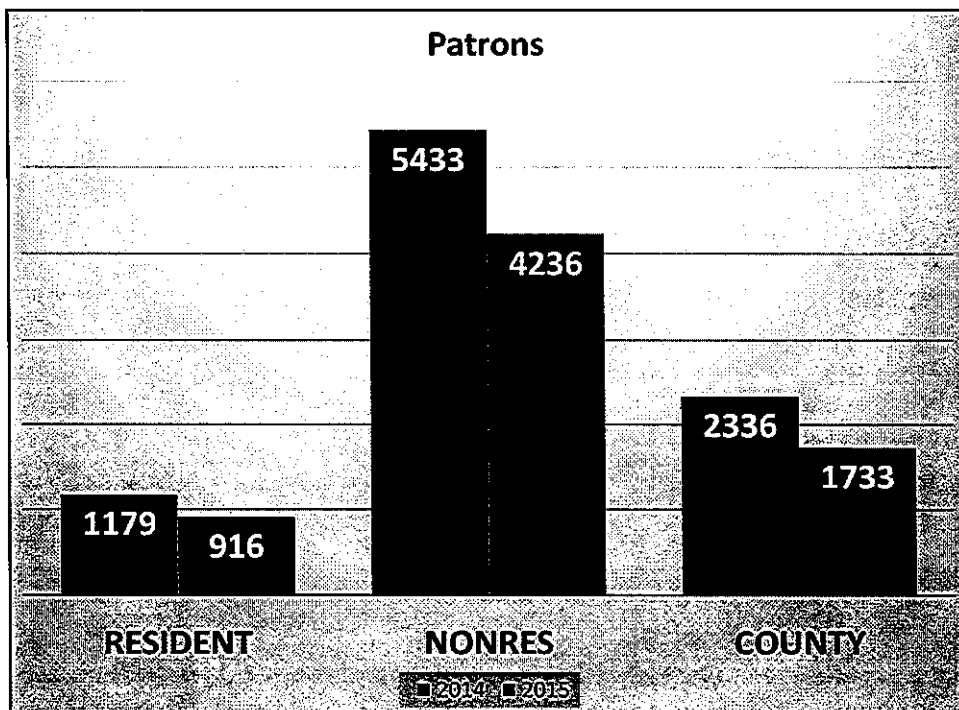
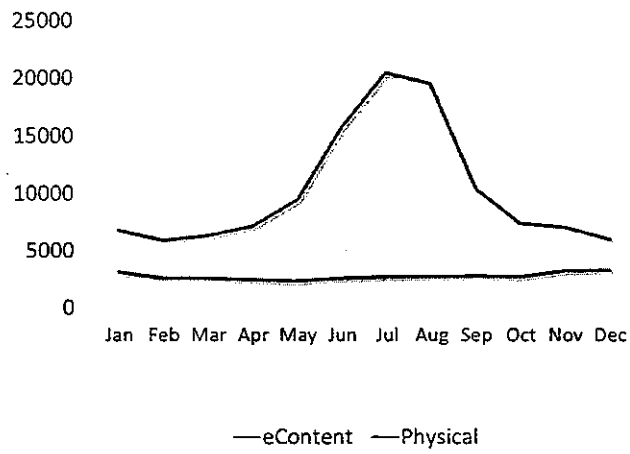


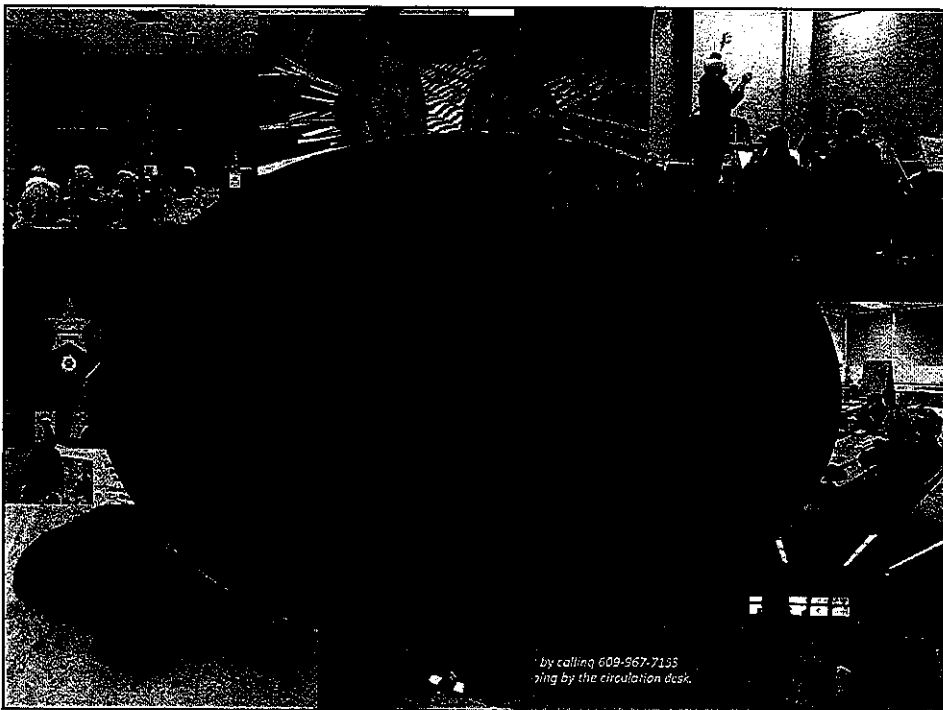
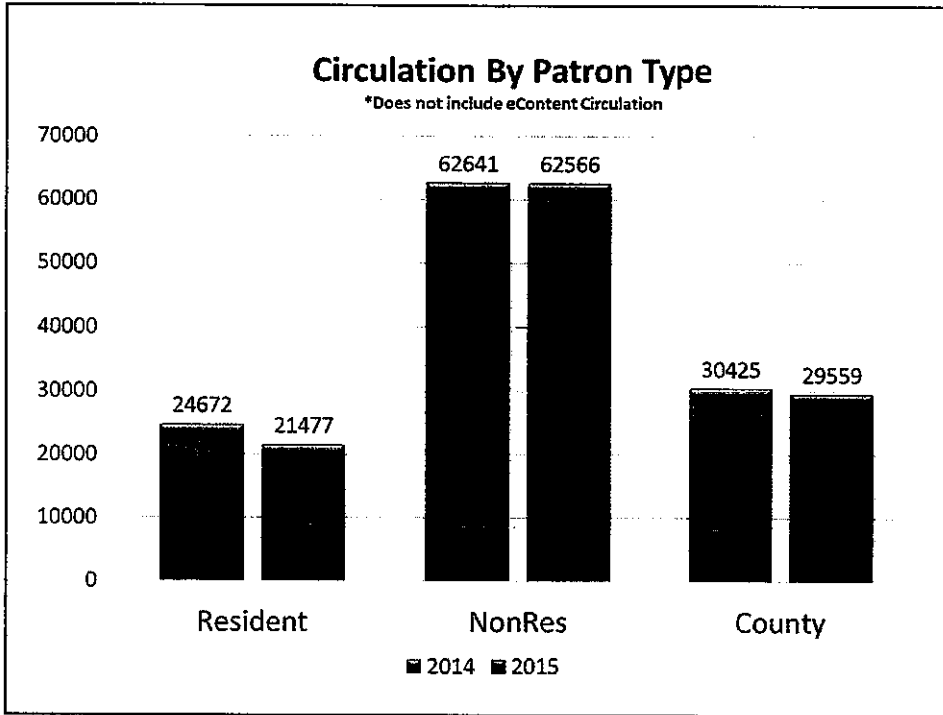
➤ Stream music on
Freegal






Circulation of Physical Collection vs. eContent 2015











Check it Out!
at the AVALON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Beatlemania Lecture



Wed., April 20 6-7:30 pm



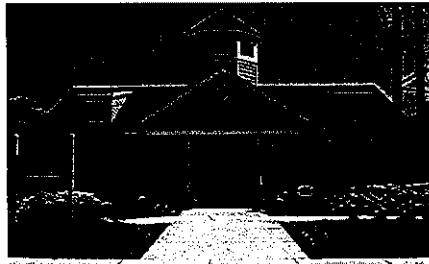
**AVALON
HISTORY CENTER**

2015 Highlights

Statistics

- Number of on-site visitors: 1,074
- Digital reach: 137,578
- Objects catalogued: 696
- Objects digitized: 1,193

Building Improvements



- Refurbished fascia including gable siding/trim, porch columns
- Small kitchen area
- Security cameras
- Replacement fire suppression system compressor
- Restored Avalon Cottage (circa 1900)



AVALON
HISTORY CENTER

2015 Highlights

Collections



- Major acquisitions:
 - 1925 Avalon Lifeboat
 - 1889 Landscape painting of Avalon
- 500+ object donations

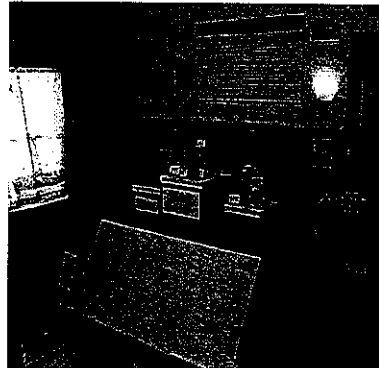


AVALON
HISTORY CENTER

2015 Highlights

Collections

- New exhibits:
 - Avalon's Fire Equipment
 - Club/Team Sports in Avalon
- Other exhibits updated/improved

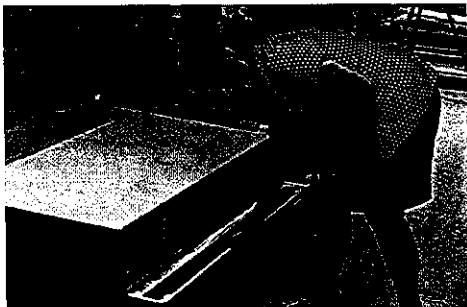




AVALON
HISTORY CENTER

2015 Highlights

Collections



- Collections management policy
- New garment cabinet, flat file
- Photography equipment

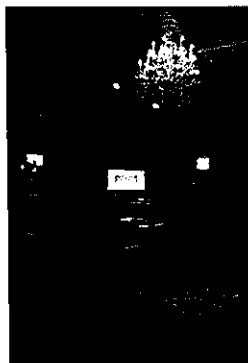


AVALON
HISTORY CENTER

2015 Highlights

Programs & Outreach

- Oral History interviews
- Hometown Heroes veteran recognition program
- Events in partnership with other local organizations: Bocce Tournament, Trivia Night, Clamshell Pitch, and others



AVALON HISTORY CENTER **2015 Highlights**

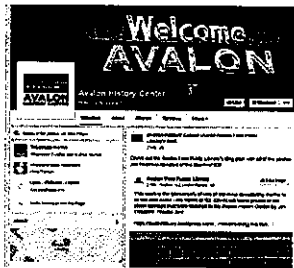
Programs & Outreach

- Recurring program: Teatime
- Summer Historical/Cultural lectures
- School program for Avalon/Stone Harbor 4th graders



AVALON HISTORY CENTER **2015 Highlights**

Marketing



- Tri-fold brochure
- Print and web ads
- New website
- Press releases
- Print newsletters for AHS membership
- Social media

AVALON
HISTORY CENTER **2015 Highlights**

Looking Ahead



- "On the Way to Cape May" Lecture series
- Avalon in the 1940s exhibit
- 26th Street Schoolhouse



Thank you!