

Tidings

Official Newsletter of the Avalon History Center and Avalon Historical Society

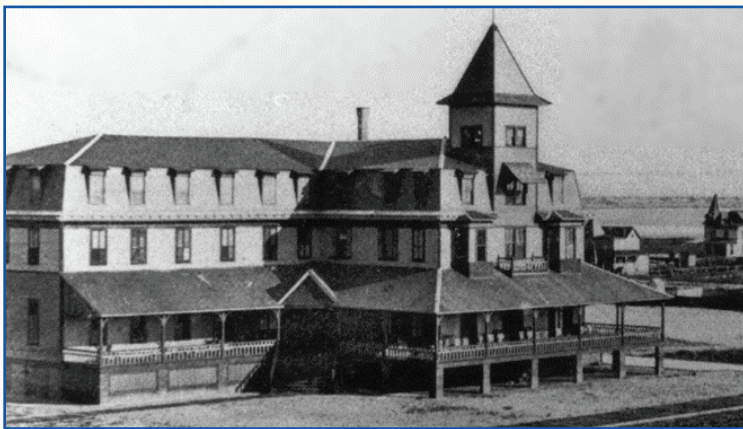
Summer 2017 Issue

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CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF AVALON!

The first recorded discussions of incorporating Avalon occurred in early 1890, when Senator Leaming introduced a bill to the New Jersey Legislature proposing that small communities be permitted to incorporate upon collection of 200 resident signatures. Avalonians protested this arrangement, as they had less than 100 residents at the time.

As discussion of incorporation progressed, one issue divided residents: temperance. Anti-alcohol sentiment, largely based in religious fervor, was prevalent throughout the United States, and Avalon was no exception. Local correspondents of Avalon's early newspapers argued that the town should model itself after the temperate Ocean City, rather than lush Sea Isle. However, hotel proprietors were skeptical of their capacity for success without a liquor license, and preferred the absence of laws governing the use of alcohol to an incorporated but "dry" town!



Early photo of the Avalon Hotel

Incorporation finally occurred in April of 1892. The first meeting of Avalon's government was held at the Avalon Hotel, and a motion to accept liquor licenses was approved immediately after the elected officials were sworn into office. In fact, liquor-related motions were proposed and accepted at each of the subsequent two meetings (and certainly many to follow), decidedly indicating the outcome of Avalon's temperance debate!



History Center Director Nina Ranalli and Recreation Director Chuck McDonnell present a commemorative plaque to Mayor Pagliughi and Councilman Covington.

For more information on early Avalon and the founding of the Borough, see the new exhibit at the History Center!

Avalonians celebrated the 125th Anniversary on May 20, with a ceremony, exhibit opening, and joining in on the second annual Mayors Cup Bocce Tournament!



COMING UP SOON: Tuesday, June 13 at 7pm

Join us for the Third Annual Paper Peddler Trivia Night! Bring a team of friends and demonstrate your knowledge of Avalon's history and culture in a Quizzo-inspired trivia game. Enjoy old photos and memorabilia. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. Call (609) 967-0090 to reserve a table for your team of up to four people.

Look inside for our Summer Events & Program Schedule!

Check *it* Out!

at the AVALON HISTORY CENTER

HISTORY CENTER SUMMER HOURS

Begin Memorial Day Weekend!

Tuesday-Sunday 10am to 4pm
Closed Mondays

SUMMER 2017 EVENTS & PROGRAMS!

Check out "Avalon's Churches," our 2017 summer Historic Lecture Series!

Tuesday, June 20th at 7pm Sacred Heart Church (formerly Maris Stella Chapel) has a rich history. Father Mark will share the history of the church and its importance to Avalon. Event address: Sacred Heart Church, 25th Street & First Avenue

Tuesday, July 18th at 7pm Episcopal Church lecture, pending confirmation. Call or check our website for finalized information!

Tuesday, August 8th at 7pm The Development of Avalon & Founding of Wells Memorial Presbyterian Church, by History Center Interpreter Bill Mengel (at Wells Memorial)

Tuesday, August 15th at 7pm Founding of the First United Methodist Church of Avalon (at the Methodist Church)

Plus, lots of other great events and programs!

Throughout June Avalon Historical Society Photography Contest photos displayed at the History Center

June 10 at 9am Avalon Historical Society Mini Golf Competition at GoFish

June 17 at 1pm Avalon Historical Society Olde House Tour

June 26 at 7pm All Aboard! How the Railroad Made Avalon. History Center Interpreter Bill Mengel talks about the history of the Avalon Railroad, and shows great old photos of its construction and operation. Location: Avalon Free Public Library, 235 32nd St., Avalon, NJ 08202

Did you know?

Avalon has started a recognition program for houses that are 50+ years old, and meet other criteria. You could apply to be listed on the Avalon Register of Historic Places, and receive the right to display an official plaque recognizing that status! Visit our website for more information and application.



Kids' Mini-Camps for 2017!

9am to 12pm; pre-registration required.

July 10: Police/Fire/Rescue Learn about (and meet!) Avalon's first responders and emergency vehicles. Plus, explore related museum exhibits, and enjoy games, crafts, and activities. All children aged 8+ welcome, but this session recommended for ages 8-10.

July 24: Then & Now Learn about life in the Avalon of yesteryear, including the riding the railroad into town, living in tiny cottages, and wearing wool swimsuits! Explore related museum exhibits, and enjoy games, crafts, and activities. All children aged 8+ welcome, but this session recommended for ages 9-11.

August 7: Go Green! The Changing Landscape of Avalon Learn about Avalon's native plants, historic gardens, and the landscape of the island prior to settlement. Plus, do your own sustainable seed planting! All children aged 8+ welcome, but this session recommended for ages 10-12.



The New Avalon Assembly Chautauqua at the Jersey Shore 5th Anniversary Programs: Tuesday, June 27th at 7pm

Nathan L. Bryson, Curator of Organs at Boardwalk Hall, on the restoration, preservation, and importance of the two pipe organs of Historic Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Location: First United Methodist Church of Avalon, 3344 Dune Drive. Check back for descriptions of other Chautauqua programs, to be held Tuesdays, July 11 and July 25.

July 22 Avalon Historical Society Clam Shell Pitch Competition, 30th St. Beach

August 21 at 7pm Historic Gardens lecture by History Center Collections Coordinator Bonita Risley. Location: Avalon Free Public Library, 235 32nd St., Avalon, NJ 08202

NEW EXHIBITS FOR 2017!

Shop Talk: Support Your Local Businesses!

The stories of Avalon's local businesses are inseparable from the stories of Avalon as a community and the families that helped build and continue to maintain it. Browse this new exhibit to see photos and ephemera from many Avalon businesses of times past!



Thin Blue Line (History of the Avalon Police Department)

Have you noticed the THIN BLUE LINE running in between the double yellows on Avalon Boulevard as you come into town? It's part of a growing trend in New Jersey to honor the hard work, dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women in blue, as Avalon Mayor Marty Pagliughi said it's "a show of gratitude by our residents, property owners, and visitors for the tremendous level of public service provided to our community by the Avalon Police Department." Follow our own Thin Blue Line through this exhibit to find out the story of Avalon's Police Department.



599 Avalon Police Dept.: Shute, Erkhert, McDowell, Foley, Reynolds, Weed, ? and Quinn. Photo Donated by Art and Sandy Ridler.

EMS to the Rescue! (History of the Avalon Emergency Medical Service)

Before 1979, Avalon's medical emergencies were handled by the Police Department. Follow the journey, beginning in 1978, of a group of dedicated residents who came to establish what started as the volunteer "Rescue Service Unit" and grew into the fully professional Emergency Medical Service present in Avalon today.



This Cadillac Superior ambulance rode the streets of Avalon in the 1970s.

Celebrating Avalon's 125th Anniversary: The Founding of Seven Mile Island

Check the front page of this newsletter for a sample of this exhibit, and visit the History Center to see more!

Time to renew!

Memberships to the Avalon Historical Society run from June 1 – May 31. Please return the enclosed membership application with your annual donation. Your membership contributions allow the Avalon History Center to pursue special projects and collections acquisitions. They are much appreciated. Thank you!



**Did you attend
the old two-room
Avalon School on
26th Street?**

If so, History Center staff would like to talk with you. Please visit our new website page about the schoolhouse. Then, get in touch with us to share your story!

avalonshistorycenter.org



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