

AVALON LIBRARY & HISTORY CENTER REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026



Areas of Focus

- Building Project – Coordinating with Borough regarding next steps for funding for a potential project.
- Summer 2026 – Planning for summer events, personnel, and marketing is ongoing.
- Personnel – Opened position for a year-round PT library assistant.
- State Report – Prepared annual report for submission in March.
- Return of Surplus – Began preparing components of the annual return application, including the strategic status report and technology plan.

Strategic Goals

Strengthening Community Connection (Library & History Center use and facilities, Collections, and Digital Resources)

- Library & Museum YTD Use - Through February 2026, overall borrowing remains stable compared to 2025, with a modest shift from digital to physical materials. Membership continues to grow, particularly among non-resident homeowners and county borrowers. Programming volume has increased year-over-year; however, average attendance in the winter months is not recovering to past visits. In-person visits remain below pre-2020 levels, while digital engagement continues to rise, reinforcing our attention to balancing in-person and digital users.
- HC Initiatives and Projects
 - Finalizing a new self-guided walking tour - identifies historical sites from the Library at 32nd St. to the History Center at 39th St.
 - Completing interpretation boards for two additions to Notable Women of Avalon – Ruth Sofronej and Arlette Michaelis.
 - Finalizing layout and content for new exhibit – Avalon and the Environment.
 - Working with students from Avalon and Stone Harbor Schools:
 - 5th-8th Grade Presentation: “Cape May County and the Revolutionary War”
 - 4th Grade Living History project in progress
- Collection Management – Reviewing existing library policies, procedures, and forms to ensure compliance with NJ’s Freedom to Read Act.
- Public Notices – Completing process to comply with revised process for legal notice posting in NJ.
- Audit – Annual library audit onsite work anticipated in March.
- History Center Collections Committee – Recommended for Accession on 3/3/26
 - Ursula Michel – Audio CD entitled “Chestnuts from Cape May”
 - Al Haring – local restaurant menus dating from 2013 onwards
 - Brenda Ann Dolhanczyk – watercolor of Avalon History Center

Cultivating Culture in the Community (Marketing, Community & Staff Engagement, and Events)

- Summer 2026 – Program coordination includes special event series, weekday kids’ programs, along with lectures, classes, and more. Lining up marketing items, from promotional pieces to advertising. Coordinating plans for seasonal employment.
- Spring into Summer 2026 – Assisting with coordination of this community initiative. Supporting various anchor and special events.
- Personnel & Onboarding tools – Refined and organized documentation related to hiring.
- Strategic Plan 2027-2029 – Initiated process for new upcoming strategic plan. Data gathering anticipated for spring and summer 2026.