

Delaware Libraries

Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Laurel Public Library

Address:

101 E. Fourth St.

Laurel, DE 19956

(Note: Library is in temporary quarters elsewhere at present.)

Contact Information:

(302) 875-3184

(302) 875-4519 FAX

Library Exterior:



Estimated Size: 5,100 SF (will increase to 16,168 SF)

Hours:

Monday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Sunday	CLOSED

Estimated Hours Open 2003:

2,652 hours



Laurel Adult
Stack Area

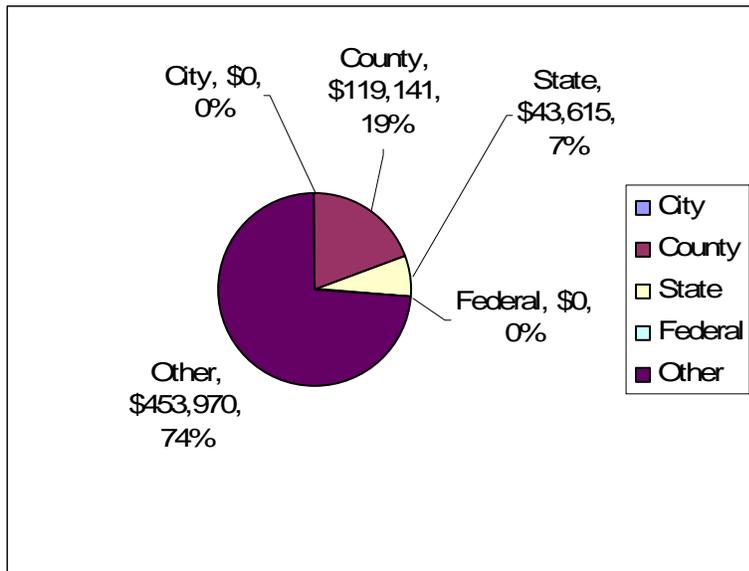


Laurel
Interior



Laurel
Children's Area

Financial Breakdown – Income:



History:

Since 1909, the town of Laurel has enjoyed a library facility. Around the turn of the century, the Laurel New Century Club established a small library. Initially, the women of the New Century Club staffed the library, processed the books, and provided library services.

From 1909 through 1924, the library was located in the Century Club rooms in the Masonic Hall. The growing library collection then moved to the Community House across the street from its present site.

In 1932, the New Century Club relinquished management and the Laurel Public Library became affiliated with the Delaware State Library Commission.

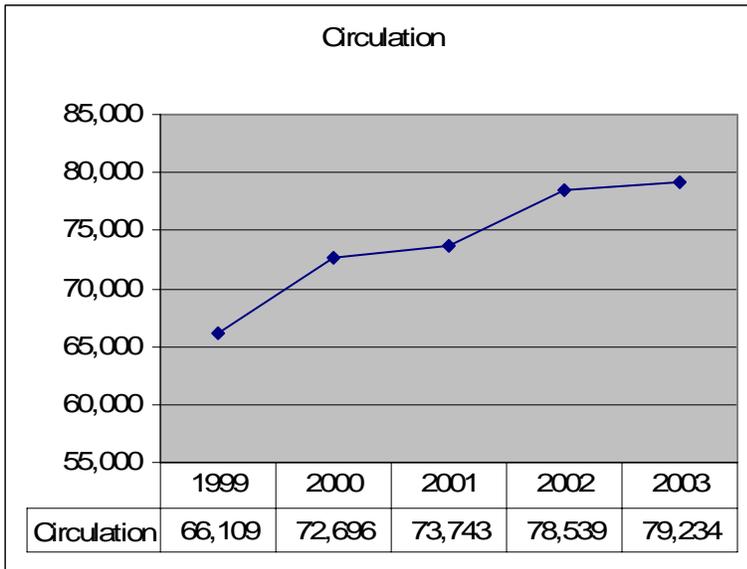
The current library, located on East Fourth Street, was built as a memorial to Mary Wootten Carpenter by her late husband, Walter Samuel Carpenter, Jr., and their three sons, John, Sam, and Edward (known as Ned). Mary Wootten was born in 1888 and grew up in Laurel. As a young woman, she left Laurel for Wilmington to work as a governess for the children of the DuPont family. She eventually married Walter Samuel Carpenter, Jr., who went on to become the first non-duPont president of the DuPont Company.

The Laurel Public Library is considered a valuable resource by the local community. The library patrons visit the centrally located library not only to check out books and videos, but also to access the Internet and attend special children's and adult programs.

General Description:

The Laurel Library is located in an attractive brick structure just off a major thoroughfare near the heart of the community. Unfortunately, the Library has no off-street dedicated parking whatsoever. An expansion that will more than double the existing facility is under construction. When it is complete, the Library facility itself will occupy nearly the entire property. The Library is currently housed in a temporary facility.

Five Year Circulation History:



Five Year Circulation History

- 1999 – 66,109
- 2000 – 72,696
- 2001 – 73,743
- 2002 – 78,539
- 2003 – 79,234

Five Year Circulation Trend:

Circulation increased by twenty percent (19.9%) between 1999 and 2003. It has increased each year over the previous year.

2003 Library Visits: 82,342

2003 Registered Borrowers: 4,547

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)

Total Holdings	44,219
Audio Holdings	388
Video Holdings	971
Periodical Titles	89

Holdings per Capita:

3.3 items per person in service area
Sussex County mean is 2.8; Delaware mean is 2.8
State target is 3.09

2003 Circulation Breakdown:

Total Circulation	79,234
Juvenile Circulation	38,468
Adult Circulation	40,766

2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)

Turnover 1.79
Sussex County mean is 2.26; Delaware mean is 2.43

Total Operating Expenditures: \$ 266,932

Estimated Service Population:

2004/05 (Estimate)	13,548
2009/10 (Projection)	15,398
2015 (Projection)	16,843
2020 (Projection)	18,153
2025 (Projection)	19,257

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: \$ 19.70 per capita

Cost per Circulation: \$ 3.37

Cost per Hour Open: \$ 100.65 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 17 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 15.54 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 29.88 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.38 SF per person
(will increase to over 1.0 with new facility)
State target is 1.0

Library Visits per Capita: 6.1 visits per capita

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 33.56%

Total Units of Service*: 187,456

Total Units of Service per capita: 13.84

*Total Units of Service includes circulation, library visits, reference transactions, and number of persons attending programs.