Delaware Libraries
Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Claymont Public Library

Address:
3303 Green St.
Claymont, DE 19703

Contact Information:
(302) 798-4164
(302) 798-6329  FAX

Library Exterior:

Estimated Size:  3,600 SF

Hours:
Monday       12:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Tuesday      12:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Wednesday    10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday     12:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Friday       CLOSED
Saturday     10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday       1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Estimated Hours Open 2003:
2,335 hours
**Financial Breakdown – Income**

In 1929, Mrs. Ethel A. Carty Woman’s Club of Claymont began the first library in Claymont’s Stone Schoolhouse with approximately 600 donated books. By 1945, the library officially became the Claymont Public Library.

Initially, volunteers staffed the Claymont Public Library, until 1975, when the New Castle County Department of Libraries assumed responsibility for the library and a professional staff was hired. But, it was not until 1988 that the Library was moved from the Stone School to the Claymont Community Center.

In May 1997, a tragic arson fire destroyed 32,000 books, almost the entire collection, just as the library was about to relocate. Later that same year, the Claymont Public Library reopened in its present, larger, 65,000 square foot facility in the southeast corner of the Claymont Community Center. After the fire, the Claymont community came forward and overwhelmed the library staff with their generosity, donating books from their own shelves. Many in Claymont refer to the library as the Phoenix Project, because out of the ashes of the old library has risen a new, expanded library — one that exists because of the goodwill, support, and dedication of the surrounding community.

Most recently, the Claymont Public Library was joined with the Concord Pike Library under one library manager.
General Description:

The Claymont Library is located in a former school building that has been converted into a community center. The Library shares the facility with a number of community services including the Boys and Girls Club, a Head Start program, and Family Health Services. Off street parking is provided although competition for parking spaces is stiff due to the large number of agencies residing in the building. The entrance to the Library is not highly visible. There is very little natural light and, in spite of efforts to brighten the interior by having white walls and light color wood finishes, the Library still seems a bit dark. The density of shelving units leaves relatively little room for user seating.

Six Year Circulation History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 1999</td>
<td>113,057</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2000</td>
<td>116,287</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2001</td>
<td>141,067</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2002</td>
<td>176,064</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2003</td>
<td>176,114</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2004</td>
<td>123,610</td>
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</tbody>
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Six Year Circulation Trend:

Circulation increased significantly between FY 2000 and FY 2002, stayed steady in FY 2003 and then dropped by thirty percent (29.8%) in FY 2004. The increase in circulation happened during the time that Concord Pike was closed and Brandywine Hundred was not yet open. FY 2004 circulation is a return to a more representative ongoing circulation for Claymont. It represents a six percent (6.3%) increase over FY 2000 circulation.
2003 Library Visits: 129,371

2003 Registered Borrowers: 11,632

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)
- Total Holdings: 49,751
- Audio Holdings: 3,954
- Video Holdings: 2,221
- Periodical Titles: 150

Holdings per Capita:
- 2.5 items per person in service area
- New Castle County mean is 3.2; Delaware mean is 2.8
- State target is 3.09

2003 Circulation Breakdown:
- Total Circulation: 176,114
- Juvenile Circulation: 62,397
- Adult Circulation: 113,717

2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)
- Turnover: 3.54
- New Castle County mean is 2.71; Delaware mean is 2.43

Total Operating Expenditures: $411,239

Estimated Service Population:
- 2004/05 (Estimate): 20,085
- 2009/10 (Projection): 19,944
- 2015 (Projection): 20,667
- 2020 (Projection): 21,279
- 2025 (Projection): 21,766

2003 Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: $20.47 per capita

2003 Cost per Circulation: $2.34

Cost per Hour Open: $176.12 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 8.8 circulations per person

Circulation per SF: 48.92 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 75.42 circulations per hour
SF per Person in Service Area: 0.18 SF per capita  State target is 1.0

Library Visits per Capita: 6.4 visits per person

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 57.91%

Total Units of Service: 348,635

Total Units of Service per capita: 17.36

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