

Status of Library Services



Update on the Interim Libraries

Benning - The building for the Benning Interim Library will be delivered to its site at 41st and Benning Road, NE on Thursday, April 12. After digging began it was discovered that the site had long ago been used as a land fill. This was a surprise to the Library and to the U.S. Park Service. Work that should have taken days turned into weeks because contractors had to find solid ground on which to construct the 40 concrete foundation bases. In late February the pre-fabricated building was shipped to the area and has been in storage in Manassas, VA awaiting completion of the foundation work. The Benning Interim Library is now scheduled to open to the public in mid-June 2007.

Watha T. Daniel/Shaw - The building for the Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Interim Library will be delivered to its site at 925 Rhode Island Avenue, NW on Thursday, April 12. Work has begun to remove and replace the existing foundation with concrete bases that meet District Code. To protect students and pedestrians, a 6-foot fence has been erected around the site temporarily until the work is completed. The interim library is expected to open in mid-June 2007.

Anacostia - The Anacostia Interim Library, located at 1800 Good Hope Road, SE, opened on Monday, March 12. An all-day grand opening - attended by Mayor Fenty, Chairman Gray and Anacostia civic leaders, was held on Wednesday, March 28. Nearly 100 elementary school students, along with young adults and adults, helped inaugurate the new interim library. Later, the Board of Library Trustees conducted their bi-monthly meeting in the building. The new library has been extremely active since opening, including issuing hundreds of new library cards to visitors. Hours are: Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm / Tue & Thu, 9:30 am to 9:00 pm / Sun, 1 pm to 5 pm.

Tenley - The Tenley Interim Library, at 4200 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, offers computers, new programs for children, young adults and adults; Wi-Fi Internet access, new book and multi-media collections and more! Check www.dclibrary.org for hours.

Plans to Build Permanent Libraries

All four closed libraries will be demolished by the end of July 2007. Contracts were awarded to two D.C.-based construction firms. Preliminary work begins this week, with the bulk of the demolition work commencing in early May.

A schedule for building new Anacostia, Benning, Tenley-Friendship and Watha T. Daniel/Shaw neighborhood libraries has been finalized. The evaluation process is underway for the selection of the architectural/engineering firm(s) that will provide design services. A series of community meetings at each location will be scheduled soon.