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Fulton County Commissioners Authorize Bond Referendum

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Fulton County commissioners authorize bond referendum

On Nov. 4, Fulton County voters will vote on a \$275 million bond referendum for the construction, expansion and renovation of public libraries.

If approved, the bonds would provide funding for the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's master plan, which includes eight new libraries, expansion of two facilities and renovation of 23 more.

The bond issue also includes \$84 million for the construction of a new Central Library, with the remaining (approximately \$85 million) coming from private funds.

The library's master plan was developed over the course of 24 months and included a series of public input sessions throughout the county. The plan maintains 34 libraries, the current number of libraries in the system, by eliminating leased spaces and its oldest libraries. Fulton County last issued a library bond in 1988.

"I am thrilled that voters will have the opportunity to make this decision affecting the future of our library system," said Fulton County Commission Chairman John Eaves, who also serves on the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System's board of trustees. "Libraries represent an investment in the future of this county, and there has been a great deal of public interest in improvement to our libraries."

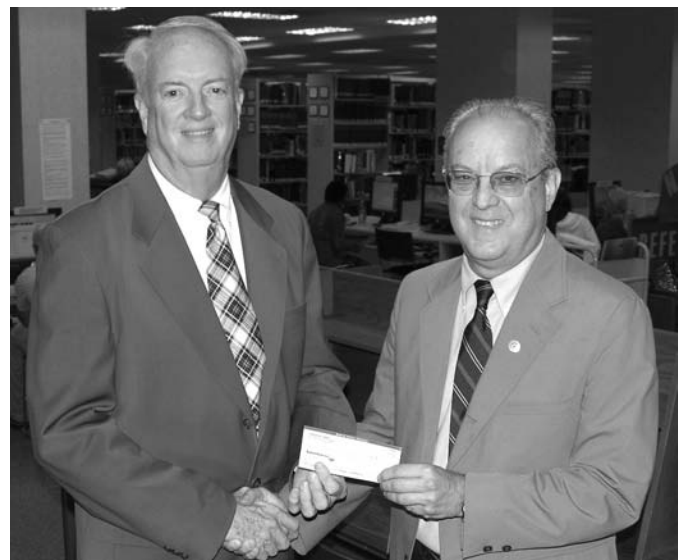
John Szabo, director of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System, said, "This is a great day for libraries and for the Fulton County citizens who value what libraries bring to their community. We are grateful for the leadership of the Board of Commissioners in recognizing the importance of public libraries and to the citizens who continue to voice their support and opinions. We are one step closer to having the world-class library system we know Fulton County residents want and deserve." A summary of the plan is available online at www.afpls.org. ►►

Eames Scholarship Fund set up at Waycross College

An endowed scholarship has been created for Waycross College students through the generosity of a retired local librarian.

Charles B. Eames Jr., former director of the Okefenokee Regional Library System (ORLS), established the Eames Scholarship Fund to honor the memory of his parents and to benefit students majoring in library science, information studies or related fields. Students experiencing financial difficulties are also eligible to benefit from the scholarship.

"I wanted to give back to the Waycross community in a significant way. I felt the creation of this scholarship was appropriate," said Eames. "I want to be able to help those that are less fortunate than I am. It's my hope that



Charles B. Eames Jr. of Waycross (right) presents a check for \$20,000 to Dr. David Palmer, president of Waycross College, to establish the Eames Scholarship Fund.