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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.

many future Waycross College students can take advantage of this scholarship."

James Willis, president of the Waycross College Foundation — which will administer the scholarship each year — is looking forward to seeing many WC students benefit from the scholarship.

"We (the board of trustees) are extremely honored that Mr. Eames has chosen the Waycross College Foundation and its students as recipients of this most charitable gift," he said. "We thank him not only for his previous service to our community (through) the Okefenokee Regional Library System but for the many more lives he will influence through his most gracious generosity."

Dr. David Palmer, president of Waycross College, is grateful for Eames' gift. "Mr. Eames is a marvelous example of a public servant. He's modest, quiet and takes great delight in serving others," said Dr. Palmer. "He valued his parents' education, and he valued his own higher education. We will proudly award scholarship assistance to future generations of students in his family's name for years and years to come."

Hailing from Cleveland, Ohio, Eames was named reference librarian with the ORLS in Waycross in March 1988. Over the next 15 years with the ORLS, until his retirement in 2003, Eames was promoted to children's librarian, was named interim director and eventually became full-time director. Although he is no longer employed full time, Eames still enjoys volunteering at the Waycross-Ware County Public Library shelving books. He also reads stories to approximately 240 children at the DAFFODIL Center in Waycross every academic year.

"Reading at DAFFODIL has had a tremendous effect on my life," Eames said. "I will always give credit to (former ORLS director) Susan Roberts for allowing me to switch from a reference librarian to children's librarian."

The principal donation to create the Eames Scholarship Fund, which is held in perpetuity, is being invested and managed by the Waycross College Foundation. Earnings generated from the principal amount will be awarded by the foundation to students who meet the scholarship's criteria and are approved by Mr. Eames.

The foundation has 49 endowed scholarships and 25 currently active general scholarships.

Waycross College has been a proud member of the University System of Georgia since its founding date in 1976. ►►

University and public libraries receive Connecting to Collections

Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington, D.C., has announced that 21 Georgia libraries, museums and archives have been selected to receive the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf. The contents of the bookshelf were selected by a blue-ribbon panel of conservation experts; it includes an essential set of books, online resources and a user's guide that can profoundly affect the ability of small libraries and museums to care for their collections.

Georgia institutions receiving the bookshelf are Albany State University in Albany; the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center in Atlanta; Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries in Atlanta; the Delta Heritage Museum in Atlanta; the Augusta Museum of History; Historic Augusta, Inc.; the Cherokee County Historical Society; Brenau University in Gainesville; the Kennesaw State University Library's Bentley Rare Book Room in Kennesaw; the Cherokee Regional Library System in LaFayette; the Lee County Library in Leesburg; the Middle Georgia Archives, which is located in the Macon-Bibb County Library and is part of the Middle Georgia Regional Library System; the Tubman African American Museum in Macon; the Pioneer Arts and Historical Society in McRae; the Midway Museum, the Historic Dorchester Academy/Museum of African American History and Seabrook Village, all in Midway; the McDaniel-Tichenor House in Monroe; Jack Hadley Black History Memorabilia in Thomasville; the Odum Library at Valdosta State University; and the Ochopee Regional Library System in Vidalia.

"The Connecting to Collections Bookshelf provides museums, libraries and archives essential instructions on how to rescue treasures of yesteryear that they hold in trust," said Radice. "These bookshelves, once they are all distributed, will touch institutions around the nation."

The IMLS Bookshelf was made possible by a cooperative agreement with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) with support from the Getty Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. It is part of Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, a strategic initiative by IMLS to address the challenges described in *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections*.

The report concluded that:

■ 190 million objects need conservation treatment,