

Item Title: Recognition of Recent Awards

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners recognizes recent statewide award winners.

Item Summary:

Wake County Public Libraries recently received a pair of awards from the North Carolina Public Library Directors' Association (NCPLDA), recognizing achievements in facilities and promotions.

Best Facility Renovation or New Construction: Cary Regional Library

Wake Forest Community Library was recognized as the state's Best New or Renovated Large Library Facility for 2020.

WCPL opened Cary Regional Library on Nov. 3, 2019, replacing the former Cary Community Library and more than doubling the size and staffing of the facility. Located in Downtown Cary Park as part of the Town of Cary's revitalization plan, the library provides an inviting gathering place for town and county citizens

The community has embraced the new library, greatly increasing the number of people visiting the library, participating in programs and checking out materials. On opening day, the new library welcomed more than 3,700 patrons. In just three hours, those patrons checked out almost 4,000 books. By the time the facility was closed on March 15, 2020 due to the pandemic, the library had welcomed nearly 200,000 visitors and circulated more than 300,000 materials.

Best Promotional Campaign for Large Libraries: Fine Fee Free 3,2,1,0

As part of Wake County's priority to decrease barriers to library service, WCPL eliminated late fees on library materials. Effective Jan. 2, 2019, existing late fees were removed and late fees were no longer charged.

In addition to removing late fees, WCPL examined and updated several policies related to renewals and loan periods. Checkout periods are now three weeks, and each checkout can be renewed twice.

Together, these changes have made it easier for all residents to access library services and benefit from all that WCPL has to offer.

Attachments:

None.