



Board Meeting Agenda Abstract

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Location:

Agenda Item

Award - Best Non-Print Media - 2026 North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events - Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources - Teen Council - (Cox) - Item 4.E

Item Explanation

The purpose of this agenda item is to recognize the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department and members of the Teen Council for receiving the 2026 North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events award for Best Non-Print Media.

Staff Comments

The Town's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department and Teen Council have been awarded the 2026 Best Non-Print Media award by the North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events. The NCAFE is the leading 501(c)(3) organization that supports festival and event professionals. This award recognizes the innovative 8-minute promotional film created by the department for the 2025 Haunted Trail titled "The Trail."

"The Trail" tells the tale of a girl who as a child had a scary encounter in the woods, only to be revisited by the same entity in her teen years. Key event details of the Haunted Trail, such as date, time, parking instructions, and trail access, were seamlessly woven into the films dialogue and imagery. The film was produced totally in-house with a minimum budget of less than \$50 and starred members of the Fuquay-Varina Teen Council: Savannah Kurtz, Holden DeVente, Salem DeVente, and Laine Staskowski. Recreation Superintendent Leslie Poole played the forest entity and Assistant Director Chris Newsom, Marketing and Special Events Coordinator Trey Baggett, Recreation Program Specialist Cassidy Scarzava, and Athletic Program Support Specialist Anna Bellefeuil provided production support. Assistant Director Anthony DiMarzio wrote, directed, filmed, edited, and scored the film with original music.

The Town received this award on February 17, 2026, at the Showfest 2026 Event Innovators Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC.

Fiscal Note

No

Recommendation

No Action Required

ATTACHMENTS