

SEBEWAING TOWNSHIP LIBRARY GOES FINE-FREE APRIL 1, 2020.

Are overdue fines keeping you or your family from using the library? Sebewaing Township Library is proud to join a long list of other libraries in going fine free. We look forward to welcoming back patrons who have stopped using the library because of overdue fines. Starting April, 1, 2020, overdue fines will no longer be charged on general materials. Most patrons' existing overdue balances will be wiped clean to give them a fresh start.

Why is STL going fine-free?

Going fine-free is aligned with our mission to provide all individuals in the community with a carefully selected books and other materials to aid the individual in the pursuit of education, information research, pleasure, and the creative use of leisure time.

What does Fine-Free at STL mean?

- On April 1, all current overdue fines will be removed. Patrons will still be responsible for paying fees for lost and/or damaged items.
- No more daily fines for most overdue materials. Due to demand, we will still charge overdue fees on DVDs. Old DVDs are \$1.00/a day, New DVDs are \$2.00/a day.
- Items that are more than 30 days overdue will result in an account be blocked until the items are renewed or returned
- When items are 60 days overdue, patrons will be billed for the replacement cost of the item, plus a \$5.00 processing charge. However, once these items are returned, the entire bill is removed from the patron's account.

How does having lost item fees on my account affect my ability to use the library?

Patrons cannot checkout items, including our digital collections until lost items are returned or paid for. If an item has been damaged in your possession, or if you want to talk about replacement of lost items, please give us a call.

If a patron's card is blocked, they can still visit the library to use the computers, attend programs, get answers to questions, or just sit and read, regardless of what they may owe the library.

But will patrons turn their materials in on time?

A series of reminders to return overdue materials will be sent. Plus, research shows, libraries that have eliminated overdue fines have found that return rates actually go up. By removing the threat of daily accumulating late fines, people are less likely to avoid returning to the library more likely to bring back any overdue items they've checked out. No late fines mean more people are using the library.

Will existing overdue fines be removed on April 1, 2020?

Yes, any existing overdue fines will be waived on April 1, 2020. Bills for lost items will remain on patron records.

If you have any questions about this, or any other library service or program, **please call 989.883.3520.**