

EDGERTON PUBLIC LIBRARY GOES FINE FREE!

Submitted by Kirsten Almo, Edgerton Public Library Director

The Edgerton Public Library Board of Trustees is happy to announce that effective January 1, 2021, the library is no longer charging overdue fees on library materials. We are proud to be following the practice of many libraries around the country and removing this potential barrier to library services.

In April, 2019, the Edgerton Public Library eliminated fines on all juvenile materials that were checked out at the library. This change has been well received by our community and we have not seen an increase in materials that aren't being returned in a timely manner. The elimination of overdue fines is now being extended to adult materials in addition to juvenile items. Fine free materials include books, audiobooks, magazines, and DVDs.

"The Edgerton Public Library is committed to equity and to supporting literacy efforts in our community," stressed Library Board President Michelle Counter "A fine of \$5 can feel very different to families with different economic situations. With the additional burden of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want everyone in our community to feel encouraged to check out reading material for their families. We also want to avoid penalizing busy families who might accidentally miss a due date, but to help encourage them to read and make the library an important part of their active lives."

"We feel confident in adopting this fine free practice, because our community members support the social contract that libraries require. Our staff can attest that the vast majority of patrons are respectful of each other and return materials promptly when finished so that everyone may enjoy them. We don't anticipate this practice changing," shared Kirsten Almo, Library Director. "Our staff will also save time by no longer needing to process small fines and the corresponding paperwork that goes along with those transactions."

Lost or damaged items, overdue materials from other libraries, and some speciality items will still incur fines and replacement costs.

The Edgerton Public Library, located at 101 Albion Street, is part of the Arrowhead Library System and a member of the SHARE consortium. For more information on the library and library services, please visit the EPL website at <http://als.lib.wi.us/EPL> or contact Kirsten Almo at 608-884-4511.



Edgerton Public Library

101 Albion Street | 608-884-4511 | www.als.lib.wi.us/epl