



PRESS RELEASE

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July 17, 2019

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PLEASANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY IS NOW FINES FREE *City Council Votes to Update Library Fee Schedule to Remove Barriers for Patrons*

PLEASANTON, Calif. — Pleasanton Public Library is pleased to announce that it will be joining other Northern California libraries, and libraries nationally, to eliminate daily overdue fines in efforts to remove common barriers for library members and provide greater access to information for all. After a majority vote for the City Council at last night’s council meeting, with support from the Library Commission, an update to the Library Fee Schedule will go into effect today and daily overdue fines will be eliminated.

“At a time when the Pleasanton Public Library is working to grow its community connection and reach more people in the community, turning each of those negative transactions into positive interactions could have an impact on the perception and role of the library in our community,” said Heidi Murphy, library and recreation director.

In an effort to align current Pleasanton Public Library practices with strategic goals and objectives, staff conducted extensive research on moving to a materials recovery model and away from an overdue fines model that penalizes members for not returning items on time and can discourage further use of the library by creating negative customer interactions.

This policy change is a trend from libraries throughout California including Contra Costa County, Alameda County, San Mateo County, Berkeley and Livermore Public Libraries, and countless other libraries throughout the country. Library patrons can expect to see the elimination of daily overdue fines, and existing daily fines waived from accounts. Lost and damaged materials would continue to be charged a replacement fee. In the new model, eligible items will be automatically renewed. This materials recovery model will further enhance the mission of the Pleasanton Library by increasing access, circulation and recovery of the materials and the many resources it has to offer, while eliminating barriers to usage.

For more information, contact Heidi Murphy, Director of Library and Recreation at hmurphy@cityofpleasantonca.gov. To view the full Council agenda report, visit the City's homepage at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

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