Troy Public Library goes fine-free starting April 3

By AILEEN WINGBLAD | awingblad@medianewsgroup.com | The Oakland Press
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The Troy Public Library is joining other libraries in Oakland County and elsewhere which have gone fine-free, beginning next month.

Effective April 3, the library’s patrons will no longer be charged late fines for most overdue items.

Items still subject to late fines will be those designated as HiTs (High Interest Titles) and those on interlibrary loan. Items on loan from another library will be subject to late fee policies from the originating library.
For all other items, they can be renewed up to three times without penalty as long as they aren’t on hold by another patron. Items not returned after three renewals will be marked as lost and the borrower will be charged the cost of the item and a processing fee.

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As stated in a news release, by eliminating most late fees the Troy Public Library hopes to:

• Encourage patrons to readily use the library

• Foster good will with the community by showing trust that they will return items

• Create a positive, rather than punitive, association for the library with our patrons

• Cultivate an atmosphere where staff can concentrate on improving customer service and providing positive interactions with our community
• Eliminate any additional budgetary burden on patrons — as they already support the library through its dedicated millage

• Remove monetary barriers to access, a tenant of the public library as an institution

• Continue a policy that has been in practice for two years (due to the building closure) which has been shown to work well

Records show fines collected accounted for less than 1 percent of the library's budget.

“April 3 through 9 is National Library Week, and what better way to celebrate than to make coming to the library an easy, pleasant and welcoming experience for everyone,” said Emily Dumas, library director. “Here’s to many happy returns.”

Find more information at troypl.org/FineFree or by calling 248.524.3544.

Troy Public Library is located at 510 W. Big Beaver Rd., just northeast of the city hall.