

## Fine Free Details

Reed Library is now fine free for thousands of in-demand items including all books, DVDs, magazines, CDs and audio books.

Fines have become a very small part of our library income, for the entire month of March it was less than \$10. This decrease may be related to the introduction of auto-renew which extends the borrow time for items not in demand and the shift in library users borrowing fewer physical items and more digital titles from the library. Digital titles return automatically on their due date.

Even without fines, there is a financial liability attached to not returning items. Two weeks after a borrower receives a formal overdue notice for an item that item is billed to the borrower. If a borrower owes more than \$10, their library account is locked and cannot be used until the item is returned or paid for in full.

High cost items or items that have a small number available – museum passes, hot spots, ice cream maker, waffle maker, telescope – will still carry fines to encourage the prompt return of these special items.

You may be wondering, “What about fines on my library account now? Will I have to pay those?” Everyone will start with a clean slate – all overdue fines will be waived.

Libraries across the country have been eliminating overdue fines – more than half the libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System are fine free – with no reported negative effects. We are happy to join them.

