



1112 W. 21st Avenue, Covington, LA 70433

Contact: Jackie Riecke

(985) 871-1220 ext. 2007

jacquelyn.riecke@stpl.us

CORRECTION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 8/3/2026

CORRECTION: ST. TAMMANY PARISH LIBRARY GOES FINE-FREE TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR ALL PATRONS

Covington, LA (August 3) – In the July 27 release, details pertaining to the policy and on patron blocks from fees required clarification. The complete, corrected release follows:

The St. Tammany Parish Library (STPL) Board of Control unanimously passed a resolution to remove late fines for library patrons at their July meeting. Starting August 3, no new late fee charges will accrue.

Patrons are encouraged to return or renew materials before the due date; however, any items not returned 45 days past the due date will result in a replacement fee equal to the cost of the item. Returning the item will erase the fee from the patron account.

Under the current policy, patrons will still receive a block on their account if they accrue \$5 or more in fees. However, simply returning the late materials will now remove the block. Previously, under the old fine-based system, patrons remained blocked from checking out any items, including digital materials and museum passes, until the fines were paid, even after the materials had been returned.

STPL Director Trevor Collings feels positive about the change: “The library belongs to everyone, and we want to make it as welcoming and accessible as possible. Removing overdue fines helps eliminate unnecessary barriers while continuing to encourage the responsible return of materials. Libraries across the country have seen positive results with fine-free policies, and we believe this change will help more people discover everything the St. Tammany Parish Library has to offer. Additionally, this change keeps more money in the hands of library patrons while supporting the Parish's broader tax-neutral funding initiative.”

Fees for other services will still stay in place, such as out-of-parish library cards, card replacement fees, Makerspace fees and printing. Printing for veterans and active members of the military has been waived since July 2025.

###

The St. Tammany Parish Library has been serving the citizens of St. Tammany Parish for over seventy-five years. Our twelve branches offer over 542,000 loanable items, including books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, and magazines. We have a thirteenth branch, the Mobile Library, that brings library resources to our elderly and homebound patrons with our Books-by-Mail and Lobby Stop services. The library's website offers 24/7 access to downloadable audio and e-books, music downloads, research tools, magazines, and newspapers. Our programs and services are designed to meet residents' cultural, informational, educational, and recreational needs.

www.sttammanylibrary.org