

Elk Grove Village Library Sets New Sliding Scale - Elk Grove Journal (IL) - November 29, 2018

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Elk Grove Village Public Library trustees unanimously approved a plan to set non-resident library card rates on a sliding scale.

The plan approved Nov. 13 would charge a homeowner living outside the district the amount they would pay the library in property taxes based on the assessed value of their home. The program would charge renters 15 percent of their rental costs.

Several manufactured home parks in unincorporated Elk Grove Township, including Oasis and Blackhawk Estates, sit between Elk Grove Village and Des Plaines. Both towns run their own municipal public libraries, but the unincorporated residents are left without a library to call their own.

Residents of Elk Grove Village pay for library services through property taxes. Those living in unincorporated areas, many of whom are low income residents, do not pay those taxes.

Library trustees discussed setting a higher fee based on a general mathematical equation, setting the average regional charge of \$141, or charging a fee based on rent or a property's value.

Debate centered on how to provide an affordable library option to those living outside the village, while not having those same people pay less than those living in the village. Several making public comments at the meeting, who identified themselves as homeowners, decried the idea some might pay less for a library card.

Library trustee and former long time library director Lee Maternowski said **Elk Grove Village library** officials have struggled to come up with a solution to this issue for 30 years.

Before the meeting, the library charged \$200 for a non-resident library card. The library will continue to offer a monthly payment plan option.

What could change for some is the cost. If a renter pays \$1,000 a month in rent for housing, the 15 percent equation would charge them \$150 in annual fees for a card.

Non-residents are allowed some access to the library, but can't check out materials. Some programs are also restricted to library card holders only.

Trustees discussed options other libraries use to serve non-residents. Rolling Meadows and Palatine use the percentage model.

They said the other area libraries charge on a sliding scale. Des Plaines library charges an annual fee of more than \$200, generally, but charges Rosemont residents living in Maine Township off

Touhy Avenue less. Mount Prospect charges more than \$500 a year for a non-residents to use their library. Arlington Heights charges more than \$400 and Park Ridge charges \$165 for six months or \$330 for a year.

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