

September 22, 2009

Dear Non-Resident patron of the Galena Public Library District,

The Board of Trustees of the Galena Public Library District has adopted a new billing policy, the tax bill method, for non-resident patrons of the Galena Public Library District. Public libraries in Illinois are supported by property taxes. State law requires libraries to charge a fee to persons residing outside the library district because they do not pay taxes that support the library.

The Board of Trustees has chosen to follow a non-resident billing policy that 80% of public libraries in Illinois have adopted because it equals the amount you would pay in taxes if you lived in the library district. Your fee is determined by the net taxable value of your residential property multiplied by the current tax rate of .0017317. This tax rate is in effect till June 30, 2010. Residents of East and West Galena who are in the library's district pay taxes to the Galena Public Library according to this tax rate.

Each family member of a household is eligible to get a card, which is valid for one year from the date of application. This library card does not only give you access to the Galena Public Library's collection but to 90 more libraries that are directly connected through the online card catalog. You can place holds from your computer at home and receive e-mails about items that are coming due or are on hold for you.

The Galena Public Library District has 2,496 scheduled public library services hours per year. The Galena Public Library offers a collection of 23,205 books, subscriptions to 110 magazines, 1,200 audio recording (books on CD and music), more than 2,000 DVDs and 28 licensed databases.

Please bring a copy of your tax bill when you renew your membership. If you have any questions, the library staff will gladly assist you. Check the library website www.galenalibrary.org for the non-resident policy.

Sincerely,

Susanna Ludwig-Ruppert
Library Director