



**October 6, 2025**

**For Immediate Release**

**Bay City Public Library Implements Non-Resident Account Fees**

*Bay City, Texas* — The Bay City Public Library has implemented a new fee for non-resident library accounts following the Bay City Council’s approval of the updated Fee Ordinance on September 23, 2025. The change took effect October 1, 2025.

Previously, individuals living outside of Matagorda County or without a permanent local address could obtain a Limited Account at no cost, offering restricted access to library materials and services. With the updated ordinance, non-resident accounts will now require a \$20 annual fee, providing full borrowing privileges, access to digital collections, and participation in library programs. The Limited Account type will be phased out for general use, remaining available only in extreme circumstances as determined by library administration.

Residents -- defined as individuals residing or owning property within Matagorda County -- will continue to receive free library cards with full access to all resources.

Current Limited Account holders with verified, active addresses will transition immediately to non-resident status. However, the \$20 annual fee will not apply until their next renewal date.

“The Bay City Public Library is proud to serve everyone, but we also have a responsibility to the residents and taxpayers who make our services possible,” said Samantha Denbow, Communications and Cultural Arts Director. “We never want cost to be a barrier to discovery. This small adjustment ensures that our local tax dollars continue to strengthen library services while keeping the door open for everyone to participate.”

The Student Library Card program will not be affected by this change. Students attending participating schools within Matagorda County will continue to have access to free library cards that support their educational and research needs. These cards must be opted into by a parent or guardian through their school district.

**More Information**

Library staff are available to assist patrons with renewals or to answer questions about account options. For details, please contact:

**Bay City Public Library**

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Email: [library@cityofbaycity.org](mailto:library@cityofbaycity.org)

Website: [www.baycitylibrary.org](http://www.baycitylibrary.org)

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: [@baycitylibrary](https://www.facebook.com/baycitylibrary)

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