
NEWS RELEASE



April 5, 2023

Contact: [Mary Getchell](#), Marketing and Communications Director
253-548-3428-office; 253-229-4477-mobile

Pierce County Library Board to discuss removing fines and other topics

PIERCE COUNTY, Washington – At the Pierce County Library System’s [Board of Trustees’ Wednesday, April 12, 3:30 p.m.](#) regular monthly meeting, the Board will discuss eliminating fines on books and other overdue materials, updates about Lakewood Pierce County Library, and results from public opinion research and other topics.

The meeting will be held in person at the Library’s Administrative Center 3005 112th St E, Tacoma WA 98446. Optional virtual attendance is available via <https://www.piercecountylibrary.org/about-us/board-trustees/board-agenda-packets/Default.htm>.

At the meeting, Library System administrators will share results from a study to stop charging fines on overdue books, movies and other materials. Since 2020, the Library System has not assessed fines on materials people return past the due date. At that time, the Library stopped charging fines to reduce further burdens on people during the pandemic and resulting economic turmoil. Since that time, the Library has analyzed this practice and concluded eliminating fines at this time is warranted and will continue to remove barriers to using and enjoying library services by all people, especially for individuals in asset-limited households. At the meeting, the Board will consider a resolution to remove fines.

At the March Board of Trustees meeting, trustees approved a bid award for Modern Building Systems to construct an interim library in Lakewood. At the April Board meeting, Library administrators will give an update on the interim library.

Also, at the Board meeting, analysts with EMC Research will share more in-depth results from public opinion research it conducted for the Library System during the first part of 2023. The Library System conducts biennial public opinion research to learn the public’s awareness and preference for the Library System and understand residents’ priorities for library services. In all, the survey resulted in 500 responses, for a 95% confidence level in the responses representing the Library’s service area.

For **more information:** <https://www.piercecountylibrary.org/about-us/board-trustees/board-agenda-packets/Default.htm>

About Pierce County Library System

The nationally acclaimed [Pierce County Library System](#) serves 655,000 people throughout Pierce County with 19 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. People may choose from more than one million books, e-books, audiobooks, movies and other materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. More than 2 million people visit Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in

NEWS RELEASE



April 5, 2023

Contact: [Mary Getchell](#), Marketing and Communications Director
253-548-3428-office; 253-229-4477-mobile

adult care facilities, people who are homebound, and to children in childcare centers and schools. [Pierce County Libraries are located](#) at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

piercecountylibrary.org

facebook.com/PierceCoLibrary

twitter.com/PierceCoLibrary