WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR A LIBRARY CARD?

Public libraries are funded mainly through property taxes paid annually by the residents within their boundaries. This entitles the taxpayers to a free library card. In Illinois, over 6% of residents live outside of a public library's territory and therefore, they do not support a library with their taxes. Under Illinois law, "non-residents" are not eligible to receive a library card for free.

The fee is based upon a formula specified in Illinois law to make it fair to everyone and must be, "at least equal to the cost paid by residents." (75 ILCS 16/30-55.60). A library card purchased by a non-resident provides an entire family with all of the services offered at the Cherry Valley Public Library, as well as checkout privileges at most public libraries in the state.

Non-resident library cards may be paid for in two installments. The value of the fee can be recovered in just one or two visits to the library based on the cost of items available to borrow. Benefits that are only available to Cherry Valley Public Library cardholders include:

- Ability to place holds on items that are currently checked out
- Ability to request items from other libraries (interlibrary loan)
- Full access to programming and special events
- 24/7 access to most databases
- Access to e-Read Illinois and Libby for e-books and audiobooks
- Access to Hoopla for access to e-books, audiobooks, music and movies
- Receipt of quarterly library newsletter
- Free computer usage in library

We hope that you consider purchasing a library card and taking advantage of all of the resources, programs, and services that the Cherry Valley Public Library has to offer!