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For more information: Erin Foley

efoley@adamscountylibrary.info

Adams County Library Goes Fine Free October 1

Adams, WI: Fines for overdue items will become a thing of the past for Adams County Library patrons beginning October 1. That's the date chosen by the Library Board to have the library go totally Fine Free.

This change follows an American Library Association resolution that identified fines as a barrier to library services, especially for people on low or fixed incomes. Libraries across the county that have eliminated fines report an increase in circulation of library materials and increased customer satisfaction.

Although the Adams County Library does count overdue fines as revenue, it is expected that the loss of this money will be offset by freeing staff to spend more time working on other library projects. In 2018, overdue fines accounted for only 0.32% of ACL's total budget.

There are still records of overdue fines going back several years. Anyone who believes he or she has such a fine is encouraged to contact the Library. Library staff will work with patrons to waive the old overdue fines and to update the contact information on the account.

The Library will also work with patrons who have fines from another library or who have charges for lost or damaged items. "These are not fines Adams County Library has the authority to remove," stated Library Director Erin Foley, "but we will do whatever we can to help our patrons reduce or eliminate old fees."

Although fines for late returns will be eliminated, the Library still will assign a due date to all materials checked out. Patrons will receive notices when items are overdue, and be billed for items not returned within a month after the due date. Although the patron's borrowing privileges will be suspended when a lost item is on the account, the account will be restored as soon as the item is returned, as long as it is returned within a reasonable time.

For further information, please contact the Library at 608-339-4250.