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**The Worcester Public Library Trades Food for Fines  
During the Entire Month of December**  
*In support of the Worcester County Food Bank.*

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library will launch its “Food for Fines” program on Thursday, December 1. As part of the program, the library will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items. For patrons with overdue library fines, every food item will equal \$1 removed from their account. Collected food will be donated to the Worcester County Food Bank.

“Unfortunately, there are still people right here in Worcester who don’t have enough to eat, and it’s up to all of us to help change that,” said City Manager Edward M. Augustus, Jr. “Whether or not you have any overdue books, I hope you’ll join me in helping the Worcester County Food Bank help the needy in our community.”

The items will be collected at the Main Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester. For every food item donated, \$1 will be removed from the overdue fines on the patron’s account.

“This program is a win-win,” said Head Librarian Geoffrey Dickinson. “Holding a Food for Fines program at the Worcester Public Library allows us to offer those patrons who may have lost access to library services (from excessive overdue fees) an opportunity to regain their privileges by “paying” with food rather than cash. It also helps the community by collecting much needed food for the Worcester County Food Bank.”

The Worcester Food Bank's list of recommended items includes cereal, rice, beans, soup, stew, chili, dry and canned pasta, macaroni and cheese, canned fruits and vegetables, canned tuna and chicken, and peanut butter and jelly. The library will not be able to accept food items in glass containers, home-canned items, opened foods, or foods past their expiration dates.

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit [mywpl.org](http://mywpl.org). For more information on the Worcester County Food Bank visit <https://foodbank.org/>. For more information on the Food for Fines program at the Worcester Public Library visit [mywpl.org](http://mywpl.org) or contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654.

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Worcester Public Library, a Department of the City of Worcester  
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