

**TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**THRU: *Linda Norris*  
LINDA NORRIS, INTERIM CITY MANAGER**

**FROM: *Gail P. Warner*  
GAIL P. WARNER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: FOOD FOR FINES WEEK**

**ISSUE:**

Should the library schedule a period when food contributions for the Marion-Polk Food Share will be accepted in lieu of fines?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council authorize "Food for Fines Week" at the central library and West Salem branch library, March 24 through March 30, 2008 during the Marion - Polk Food Share Food Drive. The bookmobile "Food for Fines" would run March 18 through March 30, 2008 due to the cycle of stops.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Council authorized the first "Food for Fines Week" in 1991. It has been authorized each spring since.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

From 1991 - 2000, the program generated 68,730 pounds of food. The program continues to generate thousands of pounds of food for Marion-Polk Foodshare, allows patrons to clear fines that might otherwise not have been paid, and results in the return of library materials. Lost book fees are not waived. Statistics for the past six years indicate the success of the program.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Pounds of Food Collected</b>	<b>Items Returned</b>	<b>Number of Cards Cleared</b>
2002	5,655		677
2003	5,100		483
2004	4,540	3,760*	489
2005	4,480	3,892	541
2006	6,100	5,780	576
2007	5,972	4,763	592

\* Began collecting statistics on number of items returned in 2004.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Historically, revenue from fines does not drop during Food for Fines week. In addition, a significant number of overdue items are returned to the library collection for use by other patrons.