**Lanesborough Library Fines policy - effective October 15, 2019**

In order to keep the library and its services more accessible to ALL members of our community, the Lanesborough Library Board of Trustees and Director have voted to remove overdue fines from many items in the catalog. There will no longer be a late fee assessed on Adult, Children’s, or Young Adult Books, Magazines, Audiobooks, and Music CD’s. Patrons will still be billed for the replacement cost of lost or damaged items. Per CW MARS policy, a patron’s account will be blocked once an item is overdue for 28 days (at which time it is marked as “lost” in the system), or there is a fee of $10 or more on their account.

Because of the popularity and high replacement costs of DVD’s and Museum Passes, there will still be a $1.00 per day late fee assessed on these items. **Any items borrowed through the Inter-Library Loan system may have late fees assessed according to the fines policy of the lending institution.**

This new policy will also include an amnesty on any Lanesborough fines on a patron’s account as of the effective date. As we have a very small staff, there will be a time lag from the effective date of the new policy and removal of fines from patron’s accounts. We appreciate your patience in this matter. Fines from other libraries will **not** be removed and will still need to be paid to that institution.

We hope that our patrons will appreciate this new policy and that those of you who may have avoided the library due to owing fines will come visit again soon! Please be respectful of other patrons who may be waiting for a particular item that you have borrowed and return it in a timely manner. We will institute a Donations jar at the front desk for any patrons who choose to donate a “late fee” when returning a late item. Donations will be used for materials and library supply purchases only-- at the discretion of the director.

Thank you.