

For immediate release: Nov. 20, 2009



CONTACT: Pat Morgan, Municipal Court Manager

PHONE: 552-6175 for news media; 552-6180 for questions from the public

E-MAIL: pmorgan@ci.missoula.mt.us

FOOD FOR FINES DAY COMING DEC. 3

In the spirit of community benefit, Missoula Municipal Court will accept nonperishable food items for payment of fines on one day only, Thursday, Dec. 3. The food will go to the Missoula Food Bank.

Municipal Court staff tried the idea two years ago and collected a mountain of food.

“It was a huge success last time,” said court manager Pat Morgan. “Over 10,000 pounds of food.”

Some rules apply:

- The maximum donation is five nonperishable food items; each will receive a \$5 credit with a maximum \$25 credit.
- For people who are not current with their monthly fine payments, a \$25 payment on past due fines will be required before the court staff is able to credit any amount for the food donation.
- The food credit will apply to December payments only. January payments will be due as scheduled.
- The credits may only be applied to fines. Food donations may not be applied to victim restitution payments or to court fees such as surcharges.

Court hours on Dec. 3 will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The program gives a boost to the Missoula Food Bank at an important time of the year. Donations slow during the summer, but the need is constant all year, said Nick Roberts, development director at the Food Bank.

“We really depend on the holiday giving season,” he said.

Questions from the public can be answered at the main court number, 552-6180.

#