

# New director brings something new to Lanesboro Public Library

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By News Team  
[ads@fillmorecountyjournal.com](mailto:ads@fillmorecountyjournal.com)

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The Lanesboro Public Library has recently hired Tara Johnson as its library director. Johnson brings a wealth of work experience and enthusiasm to the position. She is excited to continue the library's current programs and to also set goals for increased services to benefit all members of the community.

Johnson, who lives with her family near Spring Grove, previously worked eleven years at the Mabel-Canton School library, and most recently was the director of the public library in West Union, Iowa, for three years. She joins present library part-time staff, Eliza Mitchell and Laura Gudmundson.

Johnson, along with Friends of the Library Board and the Lanesboro Public Library board, are working together to create goals for the library. "I am very interested in promoting literacy, ages preschool to adult," stated Johnson. "Another of my goals is to increase the library's visibility and collaboration with the school, civic and other groups within the community."

To reach those goals, Johnson further explains, "I believe that it is very important to 'know' the community that the library serves. We are able to offer library programs that enhance and entertain when we know our customers! The library board is currently working on a community survey to investigate this matter!"

The library offers something for everyone. Johnson has been busy ordering new materials and magazines for the library. Johnson noted that a nice collection on Norwegian history and books on greater Minnesota exists. A preschool storytime, with Lynn Susag, is held monthly usually on the second Tuesday. Storytime will be held on Tuesday, November 23, from 9:30 - 10 a.m. featuring the ABC's of Nature.

Additionally, the library has five public use computers, wireless, a fax/copier machine, interlibrary loan, as well the expected multitude of books, magazines, dvd's and vhs tapes available for check-out. The website, [www.library.lib.mn.us](http://www.library.lib.mn.us), allows users to explore the library's programs and check out books from other libraries via interlibrary loan.

David Hennessey, chair of the Lanesboro Public Library Board, stated, "The library board is very pleased with Tara's performance since she started just over two months ago. She is already putting her own stamp on services, and we invite people to get to know her, as well as the library, better. We hope our recent moratorium on fines for the rest of the year will encourage them to come in."

Brian Luna, chair of the Friends of the Library Board, enthusiastically endorsed Johnson and the library programs. "I would add that Tara has embraced projects and that the library is a great community space. The library is a place to get great information for research but also a great place to enjoy and have fun. The library is a place to meet your friends, neighbors and new people we have yet to say hello to. The library is a great place to see a variety of people of many ages using and enjoying books, cd's, computers and utilizing the Rose Bell Memorial Room. The library is a central place where communities can come

together and grow. The library is a great starting place for many opportunities! All you have to do is come and visit the library! Books are not the only adventure you can find at the Lanesboro Community Library."

Johnson is very interested in learning more about the history of library. She found a quote from the 1994 Lanesboro Public Library Cookbook that intrigued her: "A group of visionary women formed the Lanesboro Public Library in 1927." She would love to find out who they were and if they have descendants currently living in Lanesboro. If you are someone who might know the answers please contact her.

It is a great and exciting time at the Lanesboro Public Library! All are encouraged to partake in all the great programs and services of this great community asset. Remember, the library is currently forgiving all fines on late materials, so it is a great time to make time to visit the Lanesboro Public Library and greet Tara Johnson!