



**25 July
2024**

Welcome to FREEPOD, a local news source for everyone in the Freeport area. This weekly podcast is brought to you by a large volunteer group dedicated to providing to objective, unbiased news specific to our community.

Please continue to share about us on your social media and thank you for your enthusiasm – now here's local news you've been missing.

City news

In City news, Locust Avenue from South Street to Lincoln Boulevard got a fresh hot mix asphalt overlay over the weekend and work on miscellaneous projects will continue for the next couple of weeks to ensure a complete opening before school starts.

Com-Ed is also conducting vegetation management activities around Freeport over the next several weeks. If they are planning a visit to your property, they will notify you with a statement of what types of activities are planned and contact information for any concerns you may have. The City has a map on their website at www.cityoffreeport.org of the areas that are scheduled for maintenance. Also included are some types of trees that are appropriate for planting around power lines, which may be of interest as planting season for most types of trees will be coming up this fall. Here's a link to more information and the map: <https://cityoffreeport.org/comed-preventative-tree-trimming-map-and-notice/>

In related tree news, street and forestry crews responded to 50 storm calls Monday night. At the height of the storm, over 3700 customers were without power in the City of Freeport. There will not be any City-wide storm cleanup, although residents may take woody yard waste to Timber Industries at 2133 S. Walnut Avenue.

City-wide clean-up

Also in city-wide news, Greater Freeport Partnership is once again organizing a city-wide cleanup event to make Freeport beautiful. City residents can sign up to help during the cleanup, which will take place from Monday July 29th through Sunday August 4th. The focus will be on picking up litter, pulling weeds, and making neighborhoods look good.

You can work as long as you want on days that work for you. Cleanup kits are available at the Greater Freeport Partnership office at 110 W Main Street from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call GFP for more information on how to sign up at 815-233-1350. That's 815-233-1350.

Freeport Art Museum Mini Masterpieces 2024

The Freeport Art Museum Mini Masterpieces exhibit begins next Friday, August 2nd and continues through Saturday, August 24th. The Museum is joining forces with Momentum Art Guild's Summer Exhibition for this every-other-year fundraiser, beginning with an extraordinary night of art on August 2nd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Freeport Art Museum, located at 121 N Harlem Avenue in Freeport.

Mini Masterpieces is a unique exhibition featuring donated works from talented local, regional, and international artists that each measure 6 x 6 inches or less. These mini masterpieces are for sale with competitive bids starting at \$25. Most of the works sell before the silent auction ends at 7:30 p.m. the night of the opening but remain on display through the end of the exhibit on August 24th.

Momentum Art Guild, also known as MAG, is a regional organization dedicated to enhancing interest in the visual arts and supporting the development of individual artists. MAG members always deliver an eclectic exhibition of pieces that showcase a wide range of amazing talent in our area.

Join MAG and the Freeport Art Museum for an evening of art, community, and support for artists and the museum!

MORT'S anniversary

Mort's Bar and Grill is celebrating 40 years of business this Saturday July 27th!

Since its beginning as Mort and Saint's Tavern in 1984, this family business continues to be a mainstay in downtown Freeport, and a popular destination in our community. There will be live music all day with acoustic act Dave Schmidt starting at noon, and local favorite *Jukebox Baby* playing at 4:00 p.m. To end the night, DJ Dom will be playing favorites starting at 8:00 p.m.

Josh Elliott and Dan Murley of Zealous Tattoo Shop will be set up to give customers Mort's themed flash tattoos and local racecar driver Noah Eisenhower and his team will have his car on display.

If you're really hungry and up to the challenge, you can be part of the inaugural Mort's Cheeseburger Eating Contest with cash and great prizes on the line. Otherwise, you can always enjoy cheeseburgers and other famed Mort's menu items along with soda, tap beer, and mixed drinks, at your own pace.

Please join Mort's Bar and Grill on Saturday, July 27th to help them celebrate their 40th year in business!

Freeport Anti-Gun Violence Peace March

FREEPOD is proud to present an interview with Freeport resident William Brown, who is working with the City of Freeport and other local groups to organize an Anti-Gun Violence Peace March on Saturday,

August 3rd. The event will feature residents speaking on the impact of gun violence and sharing personal local stories. FREEPOD and TimBeck2 host Tim Connors sat down with William to learn more.

(interview)

The Anti-Gun Violence Peach March will kick off at the corner of Main and Adams Streets at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday the 3rd. We hope our listeners will support this event.

VOICES book sale

Grab a good book and help a good cause by attending the annual VOICES of Stephenson County Book Nook Summer Half Price Sale. The sale will run from August 1st through the 10th with proceeds benefiting services offered to survivors of domestic and sexual violence through VOICES of Stephenson County. The organization serves nearly 800 survivors and their families annually and just marked its 42nd anniversary.

According to VOICES Book Nook Manager Diane Leverton, the Summer Half Price Sale is one of their three major sales of the year. It features gently used hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, records, puzzles and books on CDs. Some rare and collectible books will also be available.

A silent auction of vintage magazines, prints, albums and historical books is already open. The auction includes a package of Beatles albums and books plus a signed NASCAR magazine as well as a rare signed album by a local group the NOMADDS and a sealed set of "Little House on the Prairie" books.

Leverton reminds the public that no donations of books or materials will be accepted after today until Tuesday, August 13th, explaining that it's too hectic during the sale to accept donations of items, and we need a few days before and after the sale to get everything in order. Monetary gifts are always welcome.

The VOICES Book Nook is located in Lincoln Mall, 1265 W. Galena Avenue in Freeport. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thursdays. The VOICES Book Nook is closed on Sundays. For more information on the sale, please contact the VOICES of Stephenson County Book Nook at 815-821-2665.

Cruise Night

Freeport Cruise Night, a very popular late summer event, returns to Downtown Freeport on Saturday, August 14, beginning with the car show, commercial vendors and food vendors. Cars are displayed in the municipal lot along Douglas Street, east lot at the corner of Adams and Stephenson Street and additional parking on Stephenson Street. Reserved parking spaces are still available for the east lot for \$12 and can be purchased online at greaterfreeport.com/events. Parking spots will also be for sale the day of the event for \$10 on a first-come, first-served basis.

The ever-popular burn-out contest will also return along with some other special activities, with registration for contests on site before each event begins. As one of the original and remaining true

“cruises,” the Freeport cruise will begin its extended route through Freeport at 7:00 p.m. and the day will end with a band performing at the Ferguson Freeport Arts Plaza.

We’ll have more details in our next newscasts, so stay tuned!

Freeport connections to the Olympics

Many of you are probably looking forward to the opening ceremony tomorrow, Friday the 26th, for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. We are too, and we’re proud of some Freeport connections to past Olympics!

Carl Cain, a member of the 1951 State Championship Pretzel basketball team, is probably the most well-known Freeport connection to the Olympics. He played on the 1956 American Olympic Basketball Team after playing for the Iowa Hawkeyes in college.

Mark Hollis, who grew up in Freeport, was at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic trials for pole vaulting, but didn't make the team either time. He did, though, compete in the 2015 Pan American Games. Hollis’s father was Pastor of the Nazarene Church in Freeport. Here’s a link to his Wikipedia page:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Hollis_\(athlete\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Hollis_(athlete))

Catherine Bohan Greene, wife of retired Freeport High School English teacher Alan Greene, competed on the women’s Olympic swimming team for her native Ireland in 1980. Her events were the 100- and 200-meter breast stroke and the 400-meter medley.

We also have a shout-out to Emily Infeld, whose father Michael Infeld graduated from Freeport High School, competed in the 2016 10,000-meter track event. The family was living in Ohio by the time Emily was born, but we’ll claim her since her Dad was a Pretzel. Here’s a link to her Wikipedia page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emily_Infeld

The Olympics are being broadcast on television and will continue through Sunday, August 11th.

The week ahead...

As we look at the week ahead, there are still great outdoor music events coming up! This week’s Music Under the Stars concert in Krape Park presents the Freeport Early Jazz Society conducted by Bill Petersen Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. Next week, Southpaw Stance performs for Music at Debate Square on Thursday, August 1st at 6:30, and Music on Chicago returns next Friday night, August 2nd, featuring Boogie & the Yo-Yoz with DJ Cup.

And finally, the next Wednesday Morning Movie at the Lindo Theatre is MIGRATION, an animated 2023 film about a family of ducks try to convince their overprotective father to go on the vacation of a lifetime. It will screen at 10:00 a.m. on July 31st and admission is only \$2. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. for entertainment and games, and one auditorium is at the theatre is dedicated for guests who may need more freedom to talk and move around than a traditional cinema setting allows.

Until next week

As we close, we're pleased to announce that next week's Tuesday In-Depth Interview will feature FREEPOD and TimBeck2 host Tim Connors speaking with Freeport High School Dean, Head Coach for the school's girls' soccer program, Foodie, and Pickleball Guru Nick Namio about the growing popularity of pickleball. Their conversation will post at noon on Tuesday, July 30th.

With that, time's up for this week but tune in again next week for news about Freeport businesses, City plans and progress, area rewards and recognition, local impacts for state and national news, and more.

As we say each week, FREEPOD couldn't come to you without the help of many local supporters. We're especially appreciative for the Mass Communications Department at Highland Community College for producing this podcast as well as our many liaisons and reporters for the time they volunteer to bring the news to you. Thank you, Highland and Team FREEPOD!

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