



**24 October
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 that's 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.

Ballot questions need your vote

There are three statewide Advisory questions that are on the ballot this year. All are stated in a format that only requires a simple yes or no response on your ballot.

The first one states "Should any candidate appearing on the Illinois ballot for federal, State, or local office be subject to civil penalties if the candidate interferes or attempts to interfere with an election worker's official duties?"

The second one says "Should the Illinois Constitution be amended to create an additional 3% tax on income greater than \$1,000,000 for the purpose of dedicating funds raised to property tax relief?"

The third one reads "Should all medically appropriate assisted reproductive treatments, including, but not limited to, in vitro fertilization, be covered by any health insurance plan in Illinois that provides coverage for pregnancy benefits, without limitation on the number of treatments?"

Advisory questions are nonbinding. They allow voters or lawmakers to place questions of public policy on the ballot to be voted for or against at a statewide general election. There is no limitation to the subject matter of advisory questions. Questions can range from local to national to international issues covering public safety, the environment, foreign policy and everything in between.

Don't forget that early voting for the November 2024 election continues from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Stewart Centre at 50 W Douglas Street in downtown Freeport.

Vote eligibility for those with criminal records

Regardless of your criminal record, in Illinois anyone who is not serving time for a conviction can vote if they are a U.S. citizen, are 18 years old by or on the date of the election, and have lived in Illinois for at least 30 days by the date of the next election.

However, you must re-register to vote online, by mail, or in person even if you were registered to vote before your conviction. For more information, contact the Stephenson County Clerk's office.

Drug Take Back Day

FHN and Freeport Police Department are partnering with the State of Illinois and local and national law enforcement agencies to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs at a Drug Take-Back Day in Freeport this Saturday, October 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Unused prescription medications thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold, and flushing unused medications down the drain or toilet can contaminate the groundwater supply.

The public is invited to bring unused prescription drugs to the Freeport Police Department at 320 W. Exchange Street in Freeport for safe drive-thru service to drop off pills or patches – liquids or needles and sharps cannot be accepted. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Highland Community College Fall Concert

Highland's instrumental music department will present their Fall Instrumental Music Concert next Friday, November 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Ferguson Fine Arts Center on campus. Tickets range from \$5 to \$12 and can be purchased online at the Highland website or by calling the HCC box office at 815-599-3718 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. That's 815-599-3718.

Jersey Mike's headed to Freeport

Jersey Mike's is coming to Freeport! The chain, best known for its "sliced fresh" grilled sub sandwiches and billing itself as a "sub above", is set to open a restaurant planned for 2705 Illinois Route 26, near Menards. No opening date has been set.

Jersey Mike's hosts an annual "Day of Giving" on March 27th, to raise money for non-profits such as The Literacy Council and the Special Olympics.



New Executive Director named for Freeport Park District

Bruce Cubberley (at right) has been named the new Executive Director of the Freeport Park District as of October 16th. Cubberley earned a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture at Purdue University and a Master of Science in Landscape Horticulture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cubberley has been the Superintendent of Parks and Natural Resources at the Park District for the last five years.

"It is an honor to serve the Park District Board of Commissioners and the residents of Freeport. I see our parks as an integral part of Freeport's identity and I look forward to providing high quality public spaces, recreation facilities, and programs for our community to enjoy." Cubberley said.

This is an exciting time for the Park District with new projects on the horizon including completion of a new multiuse path along the south bank of the Yellow Creek in Krape Park.



East side cleanup day

This City's Community Clean-Up Day is back next Friday, November 1st. The volunteer event welcomes individuals, families, and service groups to meet at the intersection of East Jackson Street and South Hancock Avenue to work on tidying up the Taylor Park area from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Clean-up materials like garbage bags and gloves will be provided while volunteers are encouraged to bring bug spray, boots, and wipes if desired.

Sign-ups are not required but appreciated and can be done by calling Randi Kohlbauer at 815-396-3548. That's 815-396-3548. Let's help keep Freeport looking great!

Last days for area Farmers Markets

The season is drawing to a close for our great local Farmers Markets so be sure to take another visit before they close for the season. The last day for Stephenson County Farmers Market on Exchange Street in downtown Freeport will be this Saturday morning, October 26th and there'll be Halloween treats for trick-or-treaters. The last morning for Freeport Illinois Farmers Market near the CVS on South Street in Freeport will also be this Saturday, while the Lena Farmers Market in downtown Lena will be open two more Saturday mornings with their last day on Saturday, November 9th.

Accessible Birding Event

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society and RAMP are celebrating Birdability Week this Sunday, October 27th with a free accessible birding event at Krape Park. From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. everyone is invited to this family-friendly event at the Gunkel Shelter and Community Building at the Park for a bird of prey show

with Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education, a mindful bird outing, arts and crafts opportunities, photo displays, and much more.

Birdability Week, which ends on Sunday, is an annual celebration dedicated to birders with disabilities and other health concerns. It serves as a platform to share resources and ideas, fostering an accessible, inclusive, and welcoming birding community that works to make birding a joyful and enriching experience for everyone.

FHN Festival of Trees Gala

Get ready to swing at All That Jazz, this year's FHN Festival of Trees Gala, on Friday, November 15th at the Freeport Masonic Temple.

As the name implies, jazz music is planned to create an eclectic mood with overtones of fusion, soul, and swing. You'll enjoy great tunes by the popular group The Groove Hotel, delicious delicacies, custom cocktails, and fascinating conversations with friends early in the evening when doors open at 7:00 p.m. Later in the evening, there will be plenty of opportunities to feel the groove on the dance floor, and both a silent and live auction will provide opportunities to treat yourself – or others!

The event supports the FHN Foundation's exciting campaign to raise funds for a new linear accelerator, an incredibly sophisticated piece of radiation equipment to enhance capabilities at the Leonard C. Ferguson Cancer Center at FHN Memorial Hospital. Your attendance helps FHN hit all the right notes so that scores of patients can beat the cancer blues.

For more info and to buy tickets online go to www.fhn.org or contact the FHN Foundation office through Friday, November 8, 2024. Advance ticket sales only – no tickets will be sold at the door.



Grant for Highland

Highland Community College is receiving an Adult Literacy grant of over \$81,000 through the Secretary of State's Adult Literacy Program. Funding for the program comes from both state and federal sources and will go far in providing valuable adult literacy programming for Highland's service areas. The program utilizes volunteer tutors to provide one-on-one instruction for adults who want to improve their reading, math, writing and language skills.

Leaf pickup

With all the wind we've had recently, many residents are beginning fall leaf cleanup. Leaf pickup begins next Friday, November 1st and here are a few reminders from the City about how to help support leaf pickup be as quick and efficient as possible.

First, leaf piles need to be on the curb line in straight line. Avoid placing piles near power poles and guy wires as well as storm drains, and don't park close to piles.

Crews will pass through the City four or five times from west to east, and pickup will continue until the first significant snowfall. A leaf collection map is posted on the City's website home page at www.cityoffreeport.org. The City updates it throughout the season but as the crews will make several rounds, a section marked as complete does not mean it will be left unattended for the rest of the season. Crews may just be done with that area for a time and will return again soon.

Plan your raking accordingly and remember, only leaves!

Halloween event at the Stephenson County Historical Museum

Spirits of Yesteryear, a spooky family-friendly Halloween event, is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Stephenson County Historical Museum at 1440 South Carroll Avenue in Freeport.

Guests can wander through the museum campus as storytellers, including paranormal author Terri Reid, captivate attendees with spooky stories and entertain you with fun activities. A 19th century hearse will also be on exhibit for the evening.

FREEPOD and TimBeck2 host Tim Connors caught up with Rachel Gastel, Social Media Director at the Stephenson County Historical Society, for a little more info about this Halloween event.

(audio clip)

Admission is \$10 for ages 10 and up and visitors under age 10 are free. Admission includes apple donuts and cider refreshments as well as all activities. Reduced admission will be offered for SCHS members. Proceeds benefit the Stephenson County Historical Society.

Bike Tour de Halloween

Another Halloween event for this weekend is the "Tour de Halloween" hosted by the ChainLink Cyclists group this Saturday, October 26th. This is a slow ride around some of Freeport's best-decorated houses to see their decorations and as such, it's an evening ride. Most cyclists will be wearing a costume and/or riding a decorated bike. It will be about an hour long ride and is followed by an "after party" to enjoy time with other cyclists.

All cyclists are welcome, but be sure to have lights on your bikes. Riders will meet at 1630 Gladewood Drive as early as 5:45 PM with the ride departure scheduled for 6:15 PM. The ride will end at the same address. RSVP's are very welcome and appreciated at chainlinkcyclists@gmail.com. The rain date for this spooky cycling event is Sunday, October 27th at the same time and location.

The week ahead

As we look to the week ahead, the spooky season is upon us with lots of ghoulish events so here's a quick reminder about a number of the upcoming Halloween happenings that we covered in more detail last week.

This Saturday, October 26th, is *Bootiful Saturday* in downtown Freeport. It's a great choice for young ghosts and goblins to enjoy a free Scooby Doo movie at the Lindo Theatre at 10:00 and then trick or treating at downtown businesses until 1:30. For further treats and costumed fun also on Saturday, the *Trick or Treat Trail at Krape Park* welcomes all from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Later in the evening, the Train of Terror hosted by the Stephenson County Antique Engine Club will take those who dare on a scary adventure with rides at 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 p.m. And then of course there's "official" trick or treating on Halloween itself from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31st. More detailed information is included in last week's newscast posted on our website at www.freepod.org. Happy Haunting, everyone!

If you are looking for something to do this week or any week, visit the Greater Freeport Partnership website at www.greaterfreeport.com and click on "weekly events" for a comprehensive listing of many more fun events and activities throughout Stephenson County. You can subscribe to their free weekly newsletter of events there too.

In closing...

In closing, we want to let you know that as promised, we've posted some great Northern Light photos from the Freeport area in the print version of this newscast on our website – they're spectacular! We also want to remind you that last week's in-depth interview, which is available on our website and through our new Facebook page, was FREEPOD and TimBeck2 host Becky Connors speaking with Joe and Jennifer Kanosky about the Save the Tabernacle effort to ensure the future of the 105-year-old Tabernacle. Next Tuesday, Connors has a very special, doubly spooky double feature for Halloween. You won't want to miss hearing about haunted venues in the area! These special interviews will come to life as they post at noon on Tuesday, October 29th.

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

As we say each week, FREEPOD couldn't come to you without the help of many others. We're especially appreciative for the assistance of the Mass Communication Department at Highland Community College for producing this podcast. We're also grateful to WNIJ and Northern Public Radio in DeKalb, a member station of NPR National Public Radio, for partnering with us in reaching even more listeners with news of events and activities in northwest Illinois. And of course, here's a big shout-out to our many liaisons and reporters for the time they volunteer to bring the news to you. Thank you, Team FREEPOD!

If you have story suggestions or would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support FREEPOD, visit our website at www.freepod.org.

Listen next week for more news you've been missing!

(Northern Lights photos on next page)

Northern Lights in Freeport area; 11 October2024





House of Wax (1953) – Vincent Price stars in a film about revenge and jealousy.

The Raven (1963) – Boris Karloff and Vincent Price in a film about wizards trying to best each other. Peter Lorre as the Raven.

The Tingler (1959) – This film is worth it only to hear Vincent Price say “The Tingler is in the theatre.” The only actor who could get away with that line without being mocked.

The Blob (1958) – Stars Steve McQueen. Worth watching just to see McQueen, but definitely better than the follow-on remakes.

The Innocents (1961) – Based on “The Turn of the Screw” (1898), this film is a gothic psychological horror picture about a governess who is driven to insanity by the two children she was hired to supervise. Deborah Kerr and Michael Redgrave.

The Village of the Damned (1960) – A sci-fi horror film in which the residents of a small British village suffered mass unconsciousness, and seven months later, all the women of the village give birth on the same day. The children all look remarkably alike and can communicate through telepathy.

Tremors (1990) – Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward – witless humans versus monsters in the Nevada desert.

Contagion (2011) – Matt Damon, Kate Winslet, and Laurence Fishburn. Honestly, this is the scariest film I have ever seen. When I saw it in 2011, I was haunted by the story line—until 2020.



Cat People (1942) – This atmospheric supernatural horror film uses shadowy visuals depict a woman who turns into a panther to stalk her victims.

The Thing from Another World (1951) – Scientists at a remote Arctic research station are threatened by a hostile interplanetary being they find frozen in the ice.

Them (1954) – Irradiated creatures found in the New Mexico desert threaten the general populace until the final, epic battle in the L.A. storm drains.

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956) – Extraterrestrial spores, assume human form, create nearly perfect people duplicates, and quietly take over a small California town.

The Haunting (1963) – This scary horror film depicts a small group of people who are invited by a paranormal detective to investigate a haunted house.

Night of the Living Dead (1968) – This realistic, landmark film follows seven people chased and trapped by reanimated corpses and popularized modern zombies.

Play Misty for Me (1971) – Clint Eastwood directed and stars in this psychological thriller about a radio disc jockey stalked by an obsessed female fan.

The Exorcist (1973) – This controversial movie about a young girl's demonic possession and her mother's attempts to rescue her was critically acclaimed.

Halloween (1978) – Considered one of the most influential horror films ever made, it is set in what could be anyone's neighborhood in any hometown.

Alien (1979) – Setting new standards for science fiction horror movies, this story features an alien creature tormenting the crew of a spaceship.

FREEPOD *Editorial's Halloween Picks*

Young Frankenstein (1974 comedy) -- As a respected researcher and physician, Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, the grandson of the more famous Dr. Victor Frankenstein, who did experiments on bringing back the dead, tries to disassociate himself from his more famous relative, even to the point of pronouncing their surname differently. Regardless, Frederick is drawn back to the small Transylvanian town and castle where Victor conducted his experiments, leaving behind his somewhat "untouchable" fiancée, and becomes drawn into his grandfather's research. As Frederick tries to reanimate a dead subject with the help of his hunchbacked aide Igor and his beautiful assistant Inga, rumors abound in the town of what he is doing and the townspeople try to stop him. Stars Gene Wilder, Cloris Leachman, Madeline Kahn, Peter Boyle, Marty Feldman, and Teri Garr.

Hocus Pocus (1993 comedy) -- 300 years have passed since the Sanderson sisters were executed for practicing dark witchcraft. Returning to life thanks to a combination of a spell spoken before their demise and the accidental actions of Max, the new-kid-in-town, the sisters have but one night to secure their continuing existence. Stars Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kathy Najimi

The Mummy (1999 adventure) -- English librarian Evelyn Carnahan becomes interested in starting an archaeological dig at the ancient city of Hamunaptra. She gains the help of adventurer Rick O'Connell and along with her brother Jonathan they set off, unaware that another group of explorers are interested in the same dig. Unfortunately for everyone, this group ends up unleashing a curse which been laid on the dead High Priest Imhotep. Now 'The Mummy' is awake and it's going to take a lot more than guns to send him back to where he came from. Stars Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, and Arnold Vosloo.

Arsenic and Old Lace (1944 comedy) -- Mortimer Brewster is a newspaperman and author known for his diatribes against marriage, but in the opening scene he is getting a marriage certificate at city hall. Now all that is required is a quick trip home to tell Mortimer's two maiden aunts. While trying to break the news, though, Mortimer finds out his aunts' hobby; killing lonely old men and burying them in the cellar. It gets worse. Stars Cary Grant, Priscilla Lane, Peter Lorre, Josephine Hull, and Jean Adair.

Van Helsing (2004 supernatural adventure) -- Monster hunter Van Helsing is in the world to rid all evil, even if not everyone agrees with him. The Vatican sends him and his ally, Carl, to Transylvania. They have been sent to this land to stop the powerful Count Dracula. While there they join forces with a Gypsy Princess called Anna Valerious, who is determined to end an ancient curse on her family by destroying the vampire. They just don't know how! Stars Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale

Death Becomes Her (1996 dark comedy) -- When a novelist loses her man to a movie star and former frenemy, she winds up in a psychiatric hospital. Years later, she returns home to confront the now-married couple, looking radiant. Her ex-fiance's wife wants to know her secret, and discovers that she took the same potion which grants eternal life to the person who drinks it as she herself already has taken. Stars Meryl Streep, Goldie Hawn, Bruce Willis, Isabella Rossellini