



The News You've Been Missing

Believing that local news is critical for any active community to thrive, a local volunteer group has launched FREEPOD as a short, free podcast to communicate local news. At just 8-10 minutes weekly, it is not intended to replace full-scale daily news media but by working with a broad group of community members for input, it is intended for everyone. We hope that FREEPOD will help the whole community — young families, neighborhoods, seniors, voters, and local businesses — stay informed on such topics as:

- Public entity news (school boards, County Board, City Council, Freeport Park District, Highland Community College, Freeport Public Library, etc.)
- Events of broad interest, including recreation, the arts, educational presentations, major school activities, etc.
- Significant local sports news
- Human interest stories and community history
- Business/organization news

Other topics may be added as the podcast develops. Individuals as well as local organizations and businesses are invited to suggest stories and send press releases for potential use. Opinion pieces will not be included.

WHY A PODCAST?

Compared to a home-delivered print piece, a podcast is a very cost-effective way to communicate broadly. As a free resource for anyone with a smart phone and/or internet connection, FREEPOD is recorded weekly, posted every Thursday, and can be listened to any time through multiple podcast platforms (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, etc.) as well as on www.freepod.org. Each episode is archived on the website and a printed transcript is also posted for those who prefer to read their news. We encourage individuals to promote FREEPOD through their own social media posts and hope that entities will post a link to FREEPOD on their websites.

WHAT ARE OUR JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS?

FREEPOD's goal is to become a trusted, transparent, local news resource for everyone in the community.* We will constantly strive for our coverage to be...

Objective – Open-minded and non-partisan where applicable

Accurate – Reliable integrity of content and sources, including open and quick error corrections

Inclusive – Topics of value to all segments of the community

Independent – Not obligated to specific interests or groups

We have incorporated ourselves as a non-profit organization and strongly believe that non-profit news is the way the news business will succeed in the future. As such, we do not plan to incorporate paid advertising so that we do not need to rely on advertising as a source of revenue.

WHO STARTED THIS?

The individuals beginning this venture are doing so on a voluntary, unpaid basis and are working to be a group whose members reflect and embody the above principles. Our members are Julie Beach, Becky Connors, Tim Connors, Kathy Eden, Lynn Feaver, Sandy Feaver, Thedford Jackson, Jane Lethlean, Patricia Norman, Marilyn Smit, Alan Wenzel, and Julie Wenzel.

If you would like to be involved, get in touch with any of us or reach us through our website at www.freepod.org. Please help us get going with a donation if you can: as a volunteer organization our expenses are minimal but we still do need to pay for things such as website production, web hosting, modest promotional marketing, and fees for posting to various podcast platforms. We welcome gifts of any size and greatly appreciate your support! We look forward to bringing important, current, valued news to all listeners of FREEPOD!

THANK YOU

FREEPOD happens with the help of too many community-minded folks to name individually, as well as the following...

Highland Community College's Mass Communications Department for recording, final production, and podcast distribution

M45 Marketing for webmaster services, promo support, and meeting space

Folgate Design for website design

Elliott Graphix for promotional assistance

State Bank of Freeport for banking services



*News changes over time. FREEPOD is a volunteer-run news podcast and while our team works to fact check and make reasonable efforts to confirm details of the news we share, we are reliant on our community to submit accurate information. We cannot and do not guarantee the accuracy of or endorse information from third party content providers, we reserve the right to make corrections, and we do not warrant that everything, all the time, is accurate or complete. There will certainly be times where we miss details or don't get the story quite right. In these instances, we will include a retraction or update in the episode's show notes, and include an update in the next episode at our discretion. If you believe we have missed something, please let us know through the "contact us" options on our website. In addition, we may suggest other Internet sites or resources that may be of interest to you but we do not take responsibility for their content. The content on this site and in our podcasts – including news, quotes, data and other information – is provided by FREEPOD for your personal information and should not be considered advice. This is a free service and by using it, you agree that this disclaimer is reasonable.