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## NEW LOCAL NEWS PODCAST LAUNCHED

FREEPORT, Ill., Dec. 19, 2023 – Beginning Thursday January 4, 2024, the Freeport-area community will have a new choice for local news. A local volunteer group has launched **FREEPOD**, 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. Anticipated topics include:

- 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

A free resource for anyone with a smart phone and/or internet connection, new episodes of **FREEPOD** will be posted every Thursday at noon beginning January 4, and can be listened to any time through multiple podcast platforms (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, etc.) as well as on the **FREEPOD** website ([www.freepod.org](http://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.

**FREEPOD** welcomes and needs community input: Please include **FREEPOD** on lists for press releases (send to [info@freepod.org](mailto:info@freepod.org)), or send ideas and feedback through the website at [www.freepod.org](http://www.freepod.org).

***FREEPOD's** goal is to become a trusted, transparent, local news resource for everyone in the community through objective, accurate, inclusive, and independent news coverage. Opinion pieces and advertising will not be included. **FREEPOD** is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization and welcomes donations to help fund minimal operating expenses. For more information, please visit [www.freepod.org](http://www.freepod.org)*

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