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Release

Eden Prairie Local News Fund

Fund Created to Support Eden Prairie news reporting

Eden Prairie, MN: Today, a group of Eden Prairie residents interested in ensuring local news reporting are announcing the creation of a charitable fund at the Eden Prairie Community Foundation to support a news start-up.

The Eden Prairie Local News Group (EP-LNG) is creating a nonprofit news model with a mission to create reader- and business-supported, public-service journalism in Eden Prairie. The nonprofit route will preserve local control and enable the start-up to tap additional revenue streams not available to for-profit models, including tax-deductible donations and foundation grants.

Since it's not yet a 501(c)(3), the group is using the Eden Prairie Community Foundation as its fiscal sponsor, as a number of other small local organizations do, including Eden Prairie Reads, Interfaith Circle, and Friends of the Eden Prairie Players.

The EP-LNG began meeting and organizing in May, not long after the 46-year-old Eden Prairie News was shut down by its new owner, Alden Global Capital.

The group recently conducted an online survey in Eden Prairie. Among more than 430 respondents, 99.5 percent favored the start of an organization focused on local news. Sixty-three percent are willing to pay a subscription for receiving local news.

More than 60 individuals offered to help in some other way, as an advertiser, writer, or advisor to the start-up. The EP-LNG will begin with a news website and grow, focusing on Eden Prairie with news generated by Eden Prairie residents.

To financially support the effort, make a tax-deductible contribution to the Eden Prairie Local News Fund at the Foundation. Contribute on the Foundation's website at www.epcommunityfoundation.org (type "EP Local News Fund" in the online donation form's Comment Box) or write a check to Eden Prairie Community Foundation (write "EP Local News Fund on the memo line) and mail it to: EPCF, 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

For more information about the fund, contact Foundation Executive Director Mark Weber at (952) 949-8499 or mweber@epcommunityfoundation.org.

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