

*For Immediate Release*  
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## **Public Radio Public Meeting**

There will be a public meeting at the Fayette Public Library, 855 S. Jefferson in LaGrange at 6:00PM on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to discuss local public radio issues. The free event, “Public Radio/Public Meeting,” is being presented by Austin Airwaves, a ten year old non-profit educational group dedicated to using FM radio to serve local communities.

Speaking at the event will be Phillip Goetz of Manor, Texas. Mr. Goetz is an audio and video technician who works on community media initiatives. He wrote his Master’s Thesis on “*Low Power Radio and Localism*” at the University of Texas at Austin.

During the closing days of the last session, Congress passed the Local Community Radio Act, often referred to as the “LPFM Bill.” This law directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to expand a class of low power, locally-licensed, non-commercial, educational stations. The FCC is expected to open a window for new LPFM applicants within the next two years.

“Dozens of these local, low power stations could become available to serve small town Texas in the coming years,” says Goetz.

Also speaking will be Jim Ellinger a longtime advocate for local and educational radio and television. Ellinger’s organization, Austin Airwaves, has put temporary and permanent, low and full power radio stations on in Austin, at the Houston AstroDome, post-Katrina, and most recently in Fondwa, Haiti, following the devastating 2009 earthquake.

Austin Airwaves applied to the FCC for a new full power public radio license for the Colorado Valley area in October, 2007. They are reasonably confident that they will be issued a Construction Permit for the new station this year. The station could be on the air at 891.FM; licensed to Ellinger, TX, in two years.

“This very well may be the last ever opportunity to put a full power, full service public radio station on the air in Texas,” says Ellinger. “The FCC has said that they are wrapping up new FM applications. Except for the new class of LPFMs, pretty much the last chance to apply for new FM educational station ended in 2007.”

The group has also applied for construction funds with the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program, (PTFP) a part of the Commerce Department, that provides matching funds for the construction and improvement of various non-commercial educational radio and TV projects.

Austin Airwaves is a prominent member of numerous national and international media organizations. Ellinger served as the Vice President for North America for AMARC, the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters from 2006 to 2010.