

Brief narrative describing the past, present, and future planned activities of The Redding Community Newspaper Foundation Inc.

The Town of Redding, Connecticut was incorporated in 1767 and is located in the southwest corner of the state. It has a population of 9,274 (2017). The Town's economic base is primarily residential with ~3,100 households. Redding has a land area of 32 square miles, of which 87% is existing watershed and over 37% of the Town's total land area is protected as permanent conservation and open space land. It has one elementary school, one middle school, and shares a high school with a neighboring town. It is a vibrant community with strong civic, cultural, and educational organizations including The Mark Twain Library, which was started by Mark Twain, one of Redding's most famous residents.

For over 50 years, the community was served by the Redding Pilot, a weekly local newspaper that kept townspeople informed of the news and activities of the Redding community and celebrated the special qualities of Redding that have often earned Redding the accolade as the "best small-town in Connecticut." The Pilot also served to educate Redding residents about the Town, its history and ongoing activities. The Pilot also provided free services to numerous charitable organizations in Redding, such as publishing, for free, letters about fundraising events, public events and other similar activities. After several years of struggling financial health, the Redding Pilot ceased operation in spring 2018. Since that time, the Town of Redding has suffered from a gap in local news and information coverage resulting in lower attendance levels at community events, a decline in awareness of contemporary town issues, and a palpable weakening of community spirit.

The Redding Community Newspaper Foundation was formed in 2019 with the purpose of resurrecting the Redding Pilot newspaper in order to achieve several charitable aims, including educating Town residents and providing a forum for other charitable organizations in and around Redding to publicize their activities, including fundraising activities. The Foundation is committed to fostering local community public service journalism, and producing and publishing a non-profit, tax exempt local community-based newspaper for the townspeople of Redding, Connecticut.

The Foundation is organized exclusively for, and will be operated exclusively for, the following purposes:

- *Charitable*: The Foundation will provide a free newspaper to the residents of Redding. The newspaper will provide free services to charities in Redding, including the Scouts, the Boys and Girls Club, local churches, and the Mark Twain community Library, among others. Those services will include the opportunity to publicize events, including charitable events, notice on ongoing activities, and publication of the goals and activities of the charitable organizations; and
- *Educational*: The Foundation intends to publish, in its newspaper, news articles covering local, state and national events and activities, as well as articles about the history of Redding (and the surrounding area), in an effort to inform and educate the public about their community, state, country and history. The Foundation also intends to make space available in the newspaper for other community charities and institutions (including the Redding public schools) to publish articles of educational importance to the community. In addition, by accepting and publishing articles and "Letters to the Editor" on important public topics, the Foundation will create a forum for public discussion on those topics. The Foundation may also organize public forums,

panels, and lectures around these public topics in order to engage the community and further public education.

No part of the organization's net earnings will inure to the benefit of private shareholders or individuals. The organization will be organized around a governing Board, representing the community and elected by members of the Foundation, in order to ensure that the Foundation will not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests.

The Foundation will not, as a substantial part of its activities, attempt to influence legislation or participate to any extent in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public office. The Foundation will operate a newspaper, which may publish, on a non-partisan basis and solely for informational and educational purposes, articles related to government functions at the local, state and national level, and will provide information related to elections and related activities. The newspaper will also serve as a community forum where members of the public may engage in political debate about ongoing issues, including election issues and candidates. However, as noted neither the Foundation itself nor the newspaper it intends to operate will attempt to influence legislation or participate in any political campaign.

The Foundation is in the organization stages of reintroducing the Redding Pilot. Open public meetings will be held during Q1 2020 to assemble volunteers interested in public service journalism, willing to help produce and publish the new Redding Pilot. The first issue of the new community newspaper is planned for April 2020. Eventually, the new Redding Pilot will be published weekly; the timing for weekly editions will be dependent on the level of volunteer support from the community and the success of the non-profit fundraising activities to support the printing and distribution costs.

Unlike a for profit newspaper that is subscription revenue-based, the Redding Community Newspaper Foundation will be largely funded through charitable grants, donations, and voluntary membership dues. All residents of Redding will receive the new Redding Pilot newspaper in the mail; distribution will not be limited to members or donors. The new Redding Pilot will be an education and civic resource for the entire community.

All of the grants, donations and voluntary dues, as well as any other payments received by the Foundation for any purpose will be used solely to operate the Foundation and publish the Redding Pilot. Further, the assets of the Foundation are, under its bylaws, permanently dedicated to the charitable and educational purposes described above. Those bylaws also provide that, should the Foundation dissolve, its assets must be distributed to one or more 501(c)(3) organizations located in or around Redding, Connecticut.

One hundred percent of the activities of the Foundation and its volunteers will be focused on publishing a community-based, local newspaper for the townspeople of Redding, Connecticut.

1/4/2020

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