

Audio file

Independent Perspective 1859 with Tracy LeBlanc on the three activities of Disability Pride Month

Transcript

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL). Our guest today is Tracy LeBlanc, chief community engagement officer of WNYIL. And I'm your host Ernie Churchwell. Welcome to the program, Tracy.

00:00:17 Speaker 2

Thank you, Ernie.

00:00:18 Speaker 1

And the month of July is something special for anyone connected with disability issues. It's Disability Pride Month. Can you tell us first the reason for that and what all takes place?

00:00:36 Speaker 2

Well, the original American with Disabilities Act was signed 35 years ago in 1990 on July 26th, and so July has been designated as Disability Pride Month. And there's a number of activities going on celebrating the month.

00:00:54 Speaker 1

Ah, well, is there a charge for any of these activities?

00:01:00 Speaker 2

There is for one of them starting on July 11th at our Niagara Falls Office at 746 Portage Rd. We're having an American Disabilities Act and Olmsted celebration.

00:01:16 Speaker 2

That's from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Now that one's free of charge. And will feature displays, music and food.

00:01:26 Speaker 1

Ah, alright. But that's not the only thing happening in Disability Pride Month. And not everyone is going to want to go to Niagara Falls. What else can they take advantage of?

00:01:39 Speaker 2

Well, our Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service is having a Disability Pride Summer Bash on July 19th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Buffalo Grove, which used to be Fontana's Grove at 2299 Clinton St. and tickets for that are \$40. It's a picnic buffet,

00:02:02

includes games, raffles and then the Boys of Summer Party Band is going to be playing all afternoon, so it's a real fun afternoon and all of that is included with your \$40 ticket.

00:02:15 Speaker 1

Wow, it sounds like quite the affair.

00:02:19

And those two things are not all that's happening in July, are they?

00:02:23 Speaker 2

No, we round out the month with our Disability Pride Festival and the mission of the Disability Pride Festival is it promotes awareness, celebrates individuality and champions the rights of people with disabilities, fostering community pride and inclusivity. So, this year, on July 26th,

00:02:43

from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., we'll be holding the Disability Pride Festival at Buffalo Riverworks, which is a new location for us this year.

00:02:53 Speaker 1

And what's the address of Buffalo Riverworks?

00:02:56 Speaker 2

It's 359 Ganson St. in Buffalo. It's right on the Buffalo River and it's a beautiful location.

00:03:04 Speaker 1

Terrific. And there isn't pre-registration required for any of these except maybe the one in Radio Reading, correct?

00:03:16 Speaker 2

Correct. Both the one in Niagara Falls and the Disability Pride Festival at Riverworks are free to the public. The Disability Pride festival, we have the Evergreen Health entertainment stage. We have a children's tent with various activities. We have over 60 resource community organizations and vendors. We're going to be having a unity walk, balloon artists, airbrush tattoos and superheroes. We'll be walking around, so it's a day full of activities for family.

00:03:51 Speaker 1

It certainly sounds like it. I imagine that there will be some people who weren't able to take down all this stuff if they didn't happen to have a pencil handy. How can they call to get more information?

00:04:05 Speaker 2

They can call 716-836-0822 ext. 146 asking for Christine.

00:04:14 Speaker 1

Terrific. Well, it sounds like you and everyone else in Community Engagement have really gone all out to make this an exciting event. And I tip my hat to you.

00:04:25 Speaker 2

Thank you. It'll be a great month.

00:04:28 Speaker 1

I dare say. Ah, thanks so much for being with us.

00:04:33 Speaker 2

OK. Thank you for having me.

00:04:36 Speaker 1

You've been listening to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of WNYIL. Our guest today has been Tracy LeBlanc, chief community engagement officer of WNYIL, and I've been your host, Ernie Churchwell.