

Transcript

00:00:01 Speaker 1

Welcome to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living (WNYIL).

00:00:08

Our guest today is Tracy LeBlanc, chief community engagement officer of WNYIL, and I'm your host, Ernie Churchwell. Welcome to the program, Tracy.

00:00:19 Speaker 2

Thank you, Ernie, and happy to be here.

00:00:22 Speaker 1

Delighted to have you. A few weeks back, you gave a kind of a general overview of what the Disability Pride Festival meant to the agency. I think it's time that people knew a bit more about the reason for it. What can you tell us about why disability advocates are particularly fond of the Disability Pride Fest.

00:00:47 Speaker 2

Well, the mission statement of the Disability Pride Festival is that it promotes awareness, celebrates individuality, and champions the rights of people with disabilities, fostering community pride and inclusivity, and our vision is celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion.

00:01:09

The Disability Pride Festival is one of Western New York's premier summer events, welcoming people of all abilities and cultures to experience community pride and empowerment.

00:01:18 Speaker 1

And of course, there is a particular reason why it was set for July 26. Do you want to tell us about the signing of the ADA?

00:01:26 Speaker 2

Yes. So, the Disability Pride Festival celebrates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which was signed on July 26th in 1990.

00:01:38

Our event will be this July 26th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Buffalo River works at 359 Ganson St.

00:01:49 Speaker 1

Ah, and it's actually one of several different celebrations that are happening at various places around Western New York. What are some of the highlights of the one at Riverworks?

00:02:07 Speaker 2

So, at Riverworks what you can expect is we have live entertainment on the Evergreen health stage.

00:02:14

We're having a unity walk at 1:00 PM to show our unity for people with disabilities this year. I Love New York is bringing their accessible tourism exhibit which will highlight all the accessible tourist destinations in New York State.

00:02:33

We have 60 plus resource tables from community organizations. We're having a speaker series featuring community leaders and disability advocates.

00:02:42

There's a children's tent filled with family friendly activities from Epic, Explore and More Children's Museum and the Parent Network. And then we also have balloon artists, airbrushed tattoo artists, superheroes will be walking around and lots of other activities.

00:03:01 Speaker 1

Boy, it sounds like an exciting activity for all concerned. How many different organizations are going to have information tables here at?

00:03:12 Speaker 2

We'll have more than 60 resource tables from community partners.

00:03:17 Speaker 1

Boy, talk about one stop shopping. Anything you want to know about disability efforts just come on down.

00:03:23 Speaker 2

Yeah, and new this new this year, we have a free shuttle service.

00:03:29

The NFA's MTC at 181 Ellicott Street, so if you take transportation, all you have to do is get to the NAFTA MTC and then Cedar Bus will be providing shuttle service free shuttle service to Riverworks.

00:03:47 Speaker 1

Ah, is there a charge for participating in this event?

00:03:51 Speaker 2

Nope, everything is free. Open to the public, open to people of all abilities.

00:03:58 Speaker 1

Boy, can't beat that with a stick. I dare say it sounds like an exciting thing, but I suspect that they're probably going to be some people listening who didn't have a pencil handy to jot down all the details that they were interested in capturing. If people have questions on the event, how can they reach you?

00:04:20 Speaker 2

Well, they can go to our Facebook page, Disability Pride of Western New York. And that has all the details of the event up there.

00:04:29 Speaker 1

All right. And they should keep listening to this program and they'll be more on the entertainment stage, I believe.

Speaker 2

Yes.

0:04:38 Speaker 1

Thanks so much for being with us, Tracy.

00:04:41 Speaker 2

Thank you for having me.

00:04:43 Speaker 1

Our pleasure. 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.