

Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

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

00:00:05 Speaker 1

I'm your host, Tracy LeBlanc, Chief Community Engagement Officer at Western New York Independent Living.

00:00:10 Speaker 1

An affiliate of the WNYIL family of agencies since 2018, the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service is a volunteer-driven radio station that provides free audio versions of national and local newspapers, magazines, and books 24/7 for people who are blind or have another reading disability.

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To support their work,

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Radio Reading hosts fundraising events throughout the year.

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The Summer Bash fundraiser, coming at the end of June, is one of those events.

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Joining us today to tell us more about the event is Radio Reading's Marian Hetherly.

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Welcome to the program, Marian.

00:00:44 Speaker 2

Thanks very much, Tracy.

00:00:45 Speaker 1

Marian, let's start with an overview of Radio Reading.

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How do you serve people with reading disabilities?

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Well, you know, Radio Reading is an amazing community resource and the only service of its kind in New York State, west of Albany. We broadcast

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audio versions of some 80 national and local newspapers, magazines, and books, so people who can't read this information in print can listen to it instead.

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We're talking about the Daily Buffalo News, all the Weekly Bee newspapers, Time and People, and Sports Illustrated magazine, New York Times bestselling books from authors like John Grisham and Nora Roberts.

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We do this because there are more than 100,000 people across the western portion of the state unable to read print because of some health conditions, but they need to stay connected to

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information about the world around them, just like everybody else.

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And we particularly want people to know that Radio Reading is always free to those who need it, and all of our programming is produced by a team of 160 volunteer readers.

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How can someone get started using the programming that Radio Reading offers?

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Anyone who wants to listen to Radio Reading can just give us a call at 716-821-5555 extension 3.

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We'll bring one of our special radio receivers right to your home or

00:01:59 Speaker 2

living facility.

00:02:00 Speaker 2

If you live in Erie, Niagara or Chautauqua counties, our receivers are automatically tuned to Radio Reading.

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So, you just have to turn it on or turn it off.

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But for about the last six years, you can also listen online wherever you live.

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Anyone can listen free through our website, by downloading our mobile app and by surfing the major podcast services like Audible, iHeart and Spotify online.

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You can not only listen to what's broadcasting at the moment, but there's also a large archive of content listeners can pick and choose from on their own schedule.

00:02:31 Speaker 2

And if you have a smart speaker, you can even say, Alexa, open Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service and we'll be there 24/7.

00:02:38 Speaker 1

Great. Marian, you have your Summer Bash fundraiser coming up at the end of June for volunteers and the community at large.

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Can you provide us with the details on the Summer Bash?

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Sure, we're expecting a lot of our volunteers to attend.

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This is our annual thank you party for producing all the

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programming that Radio Reading offers.

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But the entire community is invited to join in the evening of fun.

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The Summer Bash is going to be held on Friday, June 26th from 6 to 9 p.m.

00:03:04 Speaker 2

at Creekside Banquet Facility and Grove that's located on Union Road at William Street in Cheektowaga.

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We'll have Western New York's favorite party band there, The Boys of Summer, performing in the Outdoor Grove, and a chicken and pasta buffet dinner and a basket raffle in the beautiful adjoining chandeliered banquet room.

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Admission also includes your first drink on us, beer, wine, or soda pop.

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And we want to say this special thank you to our sponsors, New Era Cap Foundation, Tyvion Law, and Perry's Ice Cream, who's providing dessert for the event.

00:03:34 Speaker 1

That's great.

00:03:35 Speaker 1

What type of raffle prizes will people have a chance to win?

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Oh, there's going to be all kinds of prizes.

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Maybe you'd like an overnight stay at downtown's four-star Westin Hotel with dinner at their delicious Patina 250 restaurant.

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Thank you to Delaware North for donating that.

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We'll have an overnight hotel stay at Batavia Downs with a \$50 restaurant voucher and \$25 in free play.

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Thank you, Batavia Downs.

00:04:00 Speaker 2

I know you're a Buffalo Bills fan, Tracy.

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The Bills have donated an autographed

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mini helmet by wide receiver Keon Coleman, and New Era has donated a variety of Bills caps and Team Apparel.

00:04:11 Speaker 2

Three-time Champion Buffalo Bandits have donated a beautiful 8 by 10 autograph photo of forward Josh Byrne, and we'll have theater tickets, restaurant gift cards, many more raffle prizes available, and all those proceeds will benefit Radio Reading's mission

00:04:26 Speaker 2

of serving people with reading disabilities.

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How can people buy tickets and get more information?

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So that's the most important message, right?

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The easiest way to buy tickets is to visit our website, nfradioreading.org.

00:04:39 Speaker 2

You can also call me at 716-821-5555, extension 3, or just e-mail us at read@nfradioreading.org for tickets or for more information.

00:04:53 Speaker 1

Great.

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That's all the time we have for this week.

00:04:55 Speaker 1

Thank you for

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joining us, Marion.

00:04:57 Speaker 1

You've been listening to Independent Perspective, a public affairs presentation of Western New York Independent Living.

00:05:02 Speaker 1

Our guest today was Marion Hetherly from the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service.

00:05:07 Speaker 1

And I have been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.