

Independent Perspective #1912 with April Fearby on the ILNC Block Party for Independence

## Transcript

00:00:00 Speaker 1

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

00:00:06 Speaker 1

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

00:00:13 Speaker 1

For the past few years in July, Independent Living of Niagara County hosts a public event to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Olmstead Act.

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The event is a day of celebration and togetherness and one the team at ILNC looks forward to hosting.

00:00:32 Speaker 1

Joining us today to talk about ILNC's upcoming Block Party for Independence is April Fearby, the Director at ILNC.

00:00:40 Speaker 1

Welcome to the program, April.

00:00:42 Speaker 2

Thanks for having me, Tracy.

00:00:45 Speaker 1

April, let's start with the basics.

00:00:47 Speaker 1

What is the Block Party for Independence and when and where is it taking place?

00:00:52 Speaker 2

So, the Block Party is a community event that celebrates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

00:00:58 Speaker 2

And the event also raises awareness about the important work that the Independent Living Centers are doing as we continue to support accessibility, inclusion, and equity in our communities.

00:01:10 Speaker 2

And we allow individuals freedom to live the way they choose.

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The event will take place July 10th from 11 a.m.

00:01:19 Speaker 2

till 2 p.m.

00:01:21 Speaker 2

And it will be right here at our Niagara Falls location in our parking lot at 746 Portage Road in Niagara Falls.

00:01:29 Speaker 1

What types of activities will be taking place during the block party?

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We're going to have a vendor bingo.

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So, individuals are invited to come get a bingo card and visit us at the different vendors that'll be here in the parking lot and agencies to learn more about the resources our community has to offer.

00:01:48 Speaker 2

The person will be able to turn their ticket in for free food at our ILNC food booth.

00:01:54 Speaker 2

And while the adults are learning about services, children and young people are invited to play their own bingo card by visiting each booth with their parent and playing a game at the booth.

00:02:03 Speaker 2

They'll also get a free meal, but a special prize.

00:02:06 Speaker 2

In addition to food and vendors, we'll also have some music and opportunity to socialize with other members of the community, as well as the ILNC staff to get to know what services we have to offer.

00:02:18 Speaker 2

There will be some games and things laid out around the area so that everybody can find something to have fun.

00:02:26 Speaker 1

Great.

00:02:26 Speaker 1

Is there a cost to attend?

00:02:29 Speaker 2

Nope, it's completely free.

00:02:30 Speaker 2

No cost.

00:02:31 Speaker 1

So, you mentioned free food.

00:02:33 Speaker 1

What kind of food will you be serving?

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We'll be serving hot dogs, a bag of chips of your choice, water, and a dessert so that you can take it back to your seat and socialize with us and enjoy the beautiful day.

00:02:48 Speaker 1

Why do you think it's important that ILNC hosts a community event like this one?

00:02:54 Speaker 2

Our center hosts these picnics or block parties to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act and the other acts that are signed in place, but also to combine that celebration with education and community connection in an accessible, welcoming way.

00:03:11 Speaker 2

We celebrate the ADA being signed into law in 1990.

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because it was a major civil rights milestone.

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We want to help the public to understand what the ADA is, why it matters, while raising awareness and educate on what us as the ILNC Center has to offer.

00:03:29 Speaker 2

We also want to bring those individuals together with disabilities, their family, our staff, and the wider community in a relaxed environment for people to connect and socialize in that accessible, barrier-free environment,

00:03:42 Speaker 2

and the importance of participation for all people regardless of their ability.

00:03:48 Speaker 1

Great.

00:03:49 Speaker 1

How can people find out more information about the Block Party for Independence?

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Well, you can give us a call here at the 716-284-4131, extension 200.

00:04:01 Speaker 2

Talk to my admin assistant, John Mancuso.

00:04:05 Speaker 2

Also, we're still accepting vendors and sponsorships or any donations if anybody wants to be involved in

00:04:12 Speaker 2

participating, you can give him a call, or you can even e-mail me at A, Fearby, F-E-A-R-B-Y, at wnyil.org.

00:04:22 Speaker 2

That's W-N-Y-I-L.org. ([afearby@wnyil.org](mailto:afearby@wnyil.org))

00:04:25 Speaker 1

Great.

00:04:27 Speaker 1

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

00:04:29 Speaker 1

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

00:04:36 Speaker 1

Our guest today was ILNC Director April Fearby, and I have been your host, Tracy LeBlanc.