

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY ReNU Niagara

Education That Makes a Difference

Winter 2014

Town Hall Meetings

ReNU Niagara has been involved in a series of meetings designed to solicit input from the community that could help shape the future of the program.

Summary reports are coming soon!

- Wed., Jan. 22 – 6 p.m.,
The NACC
(1201 Pine Ave.)
- Thurs., Jan. 30 – 6 p.m.,
Beloved Community
Administration Building
(1710 Calumet Ave.)
- Wed., Feb. 12 – 6 p.m.,
Niagara University
(Dunleavy Hall, Rm 127)
- Thurs., Feb 13 – 6pm
Father Maher Town Hall
Niagara Falls Conference
and Event Center
- Wed., Feb. 19 – 6 p.m.,
Niagara Falls Public
Library – LaSalle Branch
- TBD – Niagara Falls
High School Gov. Classes

Pints with a Purpose?

What started as a Happy Hour for Niagara Falls residents interested in moving the City forward, Pints For Progress (P4P) has turned into a fun and constructive micro-funding event for small, community improvement projects.

For centuries, people have been getting together to break bread; gathering around a table to share a meal and conversation. The atmosphere created by the “dining room table” setting helps to set people at ease and to encourage free-flowing and valuable conversation. This notion is the basis for the creation of P4P. Sure the title emphasizes the “drink” as opposed to the “bread”, but the concept is the same. At Pints For Progress, individuals are invited to come have a drink, a meal, and to learn about new project ideas or to pitch one of their own.

Here’s how it works. P4P events are open for anyone to attend. Attendees are asked to pay \$10 at the door, which includes a meal, drinks, and one vote per person. The meals and drinks are always donated, either by individuals, businesses, or organizations that are supportive of the concept. After everyone has had a chance to eat and socialize, the attendees are invited to present a project idea to the group. There are no limitations on the types of projects presented. Once all those interested have pitched their ideas, each attendee votes on the project idea they favored the most, with the highest vote-getter taking home all funds collected at the door.

P4P is casual and grassroots, by design. There are very few ground rules in place, and it is up to the individual attendees to hold the P4P winners accountable for their projects and their use of funds, which are distributed only when the winning project is ready to be implemented.

Check out www.facebook.com/pintsforprogress to find out about upcoming P4P events!



The ReNU staff would like to extend a very special congratulations to our friends, Sister Beth Brosmer, O.S.F., and Barbara Malinowski, RN, MSN, for being recognized by the National Federation for Just Communities of WNY at their 2014 Community Leader Awards Luncheon.



From Blighted House to Adventure Pocket Park



A family friendly “Adventure Pocket Park” will be created at 730 Cedar Avenue as part of a grant awarded to Mayor Dyster’s Task Group to Create a Healthier Niagara Falls by the John R. Oishei Foundation.

The P2 Collaborative of Western New York and Niagara University joined forces with the City to apply for the grant in 2009 and oversee the community health model. “Our task group was created to offer new healthy living opportunities in Niagara Falls. What was once an abandoned house will now be a place for children to play, and neighbors to gather,” said Mayor Paul Dyster.

“We are incredibly pleased that this neighborhood’s vision is finally becoming a reality,” said Shelley Hirshberg, Executive Director of P2 Collaborative of Western New York and chair of the Mayor’s Task Group to Create a Healthier Niagara Falls.

With the help of residents, the design of this space was created. The end result will be a new natural play area that will be a safe and creative space for all residents. “For nearby residents, the demolition is not just about the knocking down of a vacant building. The property was also symbolic of the blight, neglect and criminal activity that plagued the neighborhood for a number of years,” said Dr. Dave Taylor, Director of Niagara University’s Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Institute for of Civic Engagement.

The Adventure Pocket Park will feature play areas, garden plantings, and seating areas, all with a Niagara Falls theme. Construction of the park is scheduled for Spring 2014. “Our citizens want to see blight cleared and future site planning done simultaneously,” said Seth Piccirillo, Director of Niagara Falls Community Development. “This Oishei grant is allowing us to turn an eyesore into a beneficial community space in one motion.”

Meet the Interns

Name: Asia Rosado

Major: Criminal Justice

Hometown: Niagara Falls, NY

More Info:

I love Niagara University because it has so many positive support systems that are willing to help students to succeed in the college atmosphere.

Name: Amanda Medole

Major: Communication Studies with a minor in International Studies

Hometown: Akron, NY

More Info:

Amanda not only loves the Niagara University campus but the City of Niagara Falls as well, including the multiple organizations that are working to enhance the beauty the city has to offer.

While hopefully continuing her education with Niagara University’s School Counseling graduate program next fall, she plans to volunteer at a local nonprofit organization.

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