

Niagara County Legislature funds USA 250th committee



The Niagara USA 250th committee, created to coordinate local celebrations, to garner interest in Niagara County's rich history and strengthen its status as a heritage tourism destination for this nation's 250th birthday in 2026, has received \$7,500 from the Niagara County Legislature to fund initial planning activities.

The 25-member committee is comprised of historical and cultural organizations, community leaders, tourism officials, elected officials and community volunteers. The funding came from the county's Community Partnership program.

"The Niagara USA 250th Committee is really looking to jumpstart efforts to get local governments, organizations and the public thinking about our nation's milestone birthday in 2026," said Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers, a member of the committee. "We hope to have a dedicated website up and running soon and significantly increase community engagement in planning activities."

This funding announcement coincides with the inaugural meeting of the New York 250 Commemoration Commission in Albany this past Wednesday. The state board named the years 2024-33 as the commemoration era, taking in the New York State Parks centennial in 2024, the Erie Canal bicentennial in 2025, and the nation's 250th in 2026. The commission will continue its work through 2033, the 250th anniversary of the treaty that ended the American Revolution.

The Niagara County committee is asking municipal officials and cultural organizations to begin thinking about events and programs to celebrate these significant anniversaries. Submit ideas to niagaraUSA250@gmail.com.

Pictured, from left: Ian Seppala, Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum; Tom Collier, Historical Association of Lewiston; Catherine Emerson, Niagara County historian; Lindsey Lauren Visser, Niagara Aerospace Museum; Marjorie Maggard, Lewiston historian; Irene Myers, Niagara County legislator; Robert Emerson, Old Fort Niagara; Clark Godshall, Niagara Orleans BOCES; Richard Andres, Niagara County legislator; and James Lester, Niagara County Historical Society.

Memorial's residency program brings smiles & health care to Bloneva Bond with teddy bear clinic

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center recently participated in a teddy bear clinic educational event at Bloneva Bond Primary School aimed at promoting wellness, good hygiene, and proper nutrition. The interactive clinic featured stations where 3- and 4-year-old students engaged in learning about various aspects of health care.

The medical residents said they were thrilled to interact with the 120 students, who eagerly showed off their teddy bears and participated in the activities.

As part of the clinic, NFMCC's residents set up four interactive stations where students engaged in learning various health care skills. The students measured vital signs, practiced good hygiene habits, explored healthy nutrition using plastic fruits and vegetables, and learned basic first aid to care for their teddy bears.

"The residents were impressed by the students' enthusiasm and willingness to learn," said Megan Wentland, NFMCC residency coordina-



Dr. Sara Maria Jensen, left, and Dr. Amrit Sarai-Kang guide Bloneva Bond Primary School students through a learning activity at one of the teddy bear clinic's interactive stations. (NFMCC photo)

tor. "We had a wonderful time sharing our health care knowledge and seeing how engaged the students were with the activities."

A press release noted, "NFMCC's participation in the teddy bear clinic demonstrates NFMCC's commitment to

promoting health care education and community outreach initiatives. The event served as an excellent opportunity for NFMCC's resident program to engage with the local community and raise awareness about the importance of health care education."

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