

GRADUATION PROJECT IDEAS

These ideas are presented by Redbank Renaissance. It is hoped that these ideas will help students find useful projects that will give them great satisfaction and be of benefit to the community. If you need assistance or have questions on any of the following projects, please contact Sandy or Terry Mateer at 275-1718 or Linda Stahlman at the high school library.

Community Improvement Projects

1. Organize Great PA Cleanup for Earth Day in April, see www.dep.state/pa.us or plan other community clean up, litter control and recycling events.
2. 1 or more students could work with a group of people on "Christmas in April" projects. (Student would coordinate with churches and Renaissance to find residents in need of assistance in maintaining their homes. Then organize a group of people to work one or two weekends on one house to provide improvements, such as repairing plumbing, painting, cleaning, landscaping.) This would be similar to a Habitat for Humanity Project or Extreme Home Makeover Project, but not as involved. Local contractors could be invited to help and would be paired with a student to teach the student how to do various projects.
3. Plan and design landscaping and amenities for water trail along Redbank Creek.
4. Design signage and trail improvements along Rails to Trails.
5. Work on river bank beautification.
6. Landscape the area to the left of the New Bethlehem/South Bethlehem elementary school. (Remove weeds, plant low maintenance perennials and bushes to improve safety and appearance.)
7. Design and maintain the garden plot near the basketball court in Gumtown Park.
8. Powerwash, waterproof and stain the tables in Gumtown Park. (Benches were done in '08).
9. Help the Civic Club ladies with tree decoration in the parklet for Christmas holiday.

Business & Economic Development Projects

10. Organize First Fridays Summer music program in Gumtown Park.
11. Help local businesses improve the facades of their stores or businesses. (Painting, cleaning and window design.)
12. Help local businesses create web pages to promote their businesses.
13. Help local businesses with grant applications for renovations, etc.
14. Help local businesses create a business plan.
15. Help Chamber of Commerce committees with projects and gain valuable experience (4th of July, Peanut Butter Festival, new Christmas events instead of parade, contests, advertising, newsletter articles or quarterly business column and website).
16. Design advertisements for and improvements to trash receptacles on Broad Street, such as advertisements for the Clarion County Fair and Peanut Butter Festival.
17. Run a table at the Farmer's Market as a fundraiser for class goals.
18. Videotape and produce a DVD for the Mountain Bike Race at the Peanut Butter Festival.
19. Produce a DVD promoting the Redbank Creek by kayaking and filming on the water.
20. Produce a DVD to help promote Redbank Renaissance revitalization project for New Bethlehem and the Redbank Valley. (A sample DVD from Irwin, PA is available that was produced by 3 11th grade students.)
21. Design and organize fund raising projects for Redbank Renaissance, such as car washes, plays, talent shows, music in the park, etc.
22. Work with the new Artists' and Crafters' Cooperative on organization and set up.

Borough Projects

23. Update the Borough's cemetery maps and computerize the records in a database.
24. Design and build lane markers for the cemetery. (The lanes have flower names.)
25. Assist Borough's Long Range Planning Committee and Redbank Renaissance with project planning and development (for example, apply for historic building or district status, work on research and data collection for updated comprehensive plan, research Route 28 access for Peanut Butter Plant).
26. Design and complete a database and spreadsheet showing long-term repair and replacement costs of New Bethlehem municipal equipment (police cars, Borough truck, overhead loader, plow, Borough building, public sidewalks, curbs, streets, park, etc.). Use current Borough budget information as a guide and then expand on it.
27. Serve as a junior Borough Council member.
28. Research feasibility of recycling in local municipalities and present ideas and plans to local governments.
29. Help Borough do a street sign inventory and work on grants for required replacements to meet new Federal reflectivity standards for implementation by 2012.

Community Assistance

30. Design and implement service projects to assist the elderly.
31. Mentor and tutor elementary school or younger children. (Big Sister/Big Brother)
32. Organize childcare for parents attending events at the high school.
33. Plan events, activities and entertainment for seniors at the area senior centers and nursing homes. (Edgewood Heights assisted living community in New Bethlehem is looking for volunteers to help with activities, crafts and games. Edgewood Heights is also looking for groups who can provide entertainment – music, drama, comedy, etc. Please contact Lori Smith at Edgewood Heights at 814-275-2790.)
34. Volunteer with the Redbank Valley Church Association Food Bank.

Historical Projects

35. Design and or contribute segments to a genealogy website for the library or Chamber of Commerce. Look at the websites in Potter County, PA, Tioga County, PA and Monmouth Co., NJ, or others as examples. (Possible group project.)
36. Prepare a database and listing of all the graves in a local cemetery to be added to the Chamber of Commerce or Library websites for genealogy information and for a cemetery display case. Connect the information to large genealogy websites. Look at Distantcousins.com as an example. (Possible group project.)
37. Help the library index and computerize old obituaries from the microfiche readers and The Leader-Vindicator records.
38. Write histories of area buildings or people or events in area history for inclusion in Chamber of Commerce website or in a town or county museum. (Search old newspapers, County Land Records and interview older residents.)
39. Research and design historical markers for buildings in New Bethlehem.
40. Assist The Leader-Vindicator in indexing old articles from their microfiche readers.
41. Gather information on people who have served in the Armed Forces, design a memorial and present to Borough Council, Township, Chamber of Commerce or other groups for construction of the memorial.
42. Write a history of a high school class (or some of the members of a class) to contribute to the library.
43. Design an historical mural showing important events in history of the area.
44. Assist the library in cataloging historic documents.