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NEWS > LOCAL NEWS Tuesday, Aug 11, 2009

Local News



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SocialEyes: Debut of community theater in Mansfield is announced

BY FAYE REEDER

Dreams come true in Mansfield: More good news about the latest development in the Mansfield arts scene. After many years of dreaming and planning, **Marty Fredrick** and **Scott Ferrell** announce the debut of Mansfield Community Theatre. Drawing on years of experience and training, and surrounded by dozens of enthusiastic thespians, they are convinced the time is right to make the dream a reality. "From huge, blockbuster Broadway musicals to small-cast plays, theatregoers can expect the finest costumes, sets, music and more. A great city like Mansfield, Texas, deserves great theater the whole family can enjoy — and we've got it," Fredrick says.

The inaugural show will be one of the best-loved family musicals of all time, *The Sound of Music*, with performances at 2 and 7 p.m. Aug. 8 in the Kennedale Performing Arts Center, 901 Wildcat Way. Fredrick adds, "In the future, the company hopes to perform at a new state-of-the-art theater — right here in Mansfield. Until that dream comes to fruition, performances will be staged at a number of exciting venues in the area." To get tickets, visit www.mansfieldcommunitytheatre.org or contact Fredrick at 682-518-1565.

College speak: Right about now is when hundreds of recent high school graduates realize that their lifelong dreams about college life will soon be a reality. After the all-consuming tasks of choosing the school and handling the myriad admission details, future freshmen can now turn their thoughts to the actual transition process and what it means. **Bennett Parsons**, who is a Texas Christian University student interning in the library's Teen Studio program, invites students, parents and educators to College Speak, a panel discussion about college life, at 7 p.m. Aug. 3 in the Community Room of the Central Library, 101 E. Abram St.

Six college students will lead a discussion about choosing a major, deciding on elective courses, handling homesickness, dating, dorm life, Greek life and lots of other topics that new freshmen are very concerned about. Erol Koymen, Teen Studio intern from Vanderbilt University, will team up with alumni of local Arlington and Mansfield high schools for what promises to be lively dialogue. Others on the panel include **Katherine Gnadinger** (Texas A&M University), **Valerie Hernandez** (Tarrant County College), **Matthew Pool** (University of Texas at Austin) and **Eleanor Khonje** (University of Texas at Arlington). For more information, contact Bennett at Bennett.Parsons@arlingtontx.gov or 817-459-6900.

Community impact: You can always count on the Junior League of Arlington to come up with great ideas for its community impact projects. Now in its second year, the league is presenting the Back-to-School Fair. Project chair **Lauren Tatum** is excited about the event, planned for Aug. 15, to assist students from several Arlington elementary schools. Parents attending the fair will have the chance to visit exhibitors from a number of local organizations who will answer questions about after-school care, mentoring and tutoring programs, library services, continuing education, CHIPS (Children's Medicaid) and more. Each student at the fair will take home backpacks filled with school supplies donated by local businesses and Junior League members. Committee members have thought of everything, including providing transportation to the event from each school campus for students and parents. Working hard behind the scenes are **Cyrese Austin**, **Bree Butler**, **Amy Hampton**, **Angela Jones**, **Paula Kurecka**, **Beth Sharp** and **Gretchen Greco**. If you want to contribute or need more details, visit www.jlarlington.org and click on the Back-to-School Fair link or call 817-277-9481.

Making the Most of Motherhood: That's the slogan for the Arlington Early Childhood PTA, and it is putting it to work in its annual new member drive. Families with little ones up to age 5 are invited to "Dunk and Donuts" from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Bicentennial Park, 3206 Smith Barry Road, Pantego. **Leslie Galloway** from the group says, "AECPTA strives to meet the needs of stay-at-home moms and their children by offering weekly social events and activities as well as community service projects." Guests will enjoy doughnuts, goody bags and door prizes, along with fun for the kids in the wading pool. Visit www.kidpta.com or call Leslie at 817-239-7323.

Please send your press releases or event information to freeder@star-telegram.com.

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