

SocialEyes: Look for family-friendly fun at After Dark in the Park

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By FAYE REEDER

The only thing scary is the thought of missing it: That's the tagline for the After Dark in the Park fall festival in River Legacy Parks, hosted by the River Legacy Foundation and Living Science Center. Pack up the kids and choose one night (or supersize your fun and go every night) Oct. 9-11. Experience the nightlife of River Legacy Parks at this family-friendly event for children 2 to 10. The pumpkin patch is a perennial favorite with the children, along with the Starlight Stroll. Storytelling under the stars and karaoke crooning sound like fun for any age, and the craft-making area, bounce houses, face painting and a host of cool games will make it a night to remember. Your young'un will be worn out after trying for a prize in the pumpkin roll maze, wacky web throw, ring the pumpkin and creepy crawlies contests.

Tommy Crumpton, Larry Fowler, Steve Cavender, Sylvia Greene, Tammy Greene and Bob Smith are committee chairs who have worked diligently to make sure After Dark in the Park retains its reputation as the best local fall event for the younger set. Kudos to the sponsors for funding a free preview night Thursday for disadvantaged and disabled children and their families that includes activities, food and drinks.

For the budget-conscious family (and who isn't?), new this year is the \$35 Family Fun Package that includes four admission tickets and 40 activity and concession coupons (a \$44 value). Packages must be purchased by Saturday at the Living Science Center, 701 N.W. Green Oaks Blvd. Regular admission (it includes most games and activities) at the gate is \$6 and children 2 and younger are admitted free. For more information, call 817-861-2576 or visit www.riverlegacy.org.

Rock the Star kickoff party: The "star," in this case, is none other than the Dallas Cowboys star, because the Cowboys Locker Room is the truly unique party venue for launching this year's Holiday Magic events. Event chair **Cristy Duke** loves the rock 'n' roll Christmas theme chosen and says, "The Rock the Star party is a casual event with great food and friends, silent and live auctions, as well as an amazing behind-the-scenes stadium tour. All Holiday Magic events are open to the public, so please come support the community projects of the Junior League and see the fabulous new stadium." You may want to ramp up your expectations for partying in a locker room, because this one definitely has plenty of wow factors. Partygoers will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails between tours and bidding in the auctions, and for bonus fun, a wine pull is on the agenda. For tickets, call 817-277-5751 or www.jlarlington.org

Perfect Pairings: Sound like a speed-dating event? Not this time, reports **Barbara Prabhu** of Arlington's League of Women Voters. Perfect Pairings refers to wines and liqueurs paired with the perfect dessert. "The wines and liqueurs will be introduced by **Scott Hurst**, and desserts will include Godiva chocolate cake, strawberries and cream, apple strudel and cheesecake," adds Barbara. LWVA President **Charlotte Foulkes** reports that seating is limited at this fundraiser Oct. 10 at Blue Danube European Restaurant, 2230 W. Park Row Drive in Pantego. To make reservations, call 817-472-5982 or visit www.lwvarlington-tx.org.

Freedom Fund banquet: Arlington's NAACP chapter is in its 19th year for this special event, so it knows the drill on how to make it an enjoyable evening. **Rita Sibert** announces that tickets are going fast for the Oct. 9 banquet at 7:30 p.m. in UTA's Bluebonnet Ballroom. Keynote speaker is former Texas legislator **Zan Wesley Holmes Jr.** Holmes is pastor emeritus of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church in Dallas, and his speeches are always an audience favorite. Call 817-654-5445 to reserve your seat.

Briefly: From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, check out the fundraising jewelry sale in the lobby of Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St. Hosted by **Cherise Burrett** of In Design Jewelry Co., the sale features jewelry, shawls, purses, scarves and clothing. Call the theater office at 817-275-7661 for details.

Also, Arlington Master Chorale presents "Great Hymns of Faith" at 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at St. Mark Episcopal Church, 2024 S. Collins St. in Arlington. Monday's concert features the Seguin High School Chamber Choir, and Tuesday, the Boles Junior High Chorale will join the chorale for a guest performance.

Please submit your event information to freeder@star-telegram.com so we can SocialEyes each Friday.