



**Calendar of events**

A LOOK AT THE WEEK AHEAD

**Friday, Feb. 15**

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church** in Lexington Park is offering **Lenten seafood dinners** from 4:30 to 7 p.m. each Friday in Lent. There will be crab cakes, fresh oysters, fresh fish of the day, steamed and fried shrimp and more.

**On Our Own** of St. Mary's meets daily at its new drop-in center in Leonardtown at 12 Courthouse Drive from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Our Own offers advocacy, education, social and peer support for the adult with a mental illness such as anxiety or depression. For more information, call the center at 301-997-1066.

**Shabbat Services** will be held at Beth Israel Synagogue on Friday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. Rabbi Kaiman will lead a special 30 minute service designed for young children and the family. For more information contact Beth Israel at 301-862-2021 or bethisraelsyna@geocities.com or visit the web page at www.geocities.com/bethisraelsyna. The synagogue is located at Bunker Hill and Midway Drives in Lexington Park.

**A Circle of Glory women's luncheon** is held the third Friday of each month from noon to 2 p.m. at 21124 Autumn Court in Leonardtown. The luncheon is free but donations will be accepted. R.S.V.P. at 301-997-0055.

**The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library** are holding their **annual Book Sale** Feb. 15-17 at San Souci Plaza. There will be a preview for members only on Friday, Feb. 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. The public is invited on Saturday, Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 17 from noon until 5 p.m. Proceeds from the book sale go to support the three county libraries.

**Saturday, Feb. 16**

**The entry deadline for artwork** to be judged by the Crafts Guild for the group to display and sell it is Feb. 16. Four items must be submitted by that date to be judged on Feb. 18. For more information call 301-997-1644 or 301-994-2621.

**Ms. Joan** will be helping kids **make crafts** at Old Towne Crafters from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. For more information call 301-997-1644.

**Morning Shabbat Services** will be held at Beth Israel Synagogue on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 9:30 a.m. The service will be tailored for those who wish to learn about the shabbat morning service. There will be transliterations, explanations and an abbreviated format to enhance your prayer experience. For more information contact Beth Israel at 301-862-2021 or bethisraelsyna@geocities.com or visit the web page at www.geocities.com/bethisraelsyna. The synagogue is located at Bunker Hill and Midway Drives in Lexington Park.

**An adult dance** is planned from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ridge. South Bound will play. Cost is \$8 per person or \$15 per couple, B.Y.O.B.

**The ALS Support Group** will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 at Hughesville Baptist Church on Leonardtown Road. For more information call 301-978-9855.

**Parents Without Partners** will sponsor a dance at the American Legion in Hughesville starting at 9 p.m. Feb. 16. Cost is \$6 per person for members or \$8 for non-members. For more information, call 301-884-5423 or 410-326-4272 between 5:30 and 8 p.m.

**The Mechanicsville Optimist Club** will hold their **annual auction** Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Mechanicsville Fire Department Social Hall. A huge yard sale will be held at 7 a.m. inside the firehouse, viewing of the auction items will begin at 8 a.m. and the auction will begin at 9 a.m. by auctioneers Billy Fitzgerald. Food and refreshments will be available. If anyone would like to donate items to the cause, call 301-884-3628.

**Brother Fox and the Redeeming Souls**, Brother Ross and The Mighty Gospel Trails and The Sewell Family and the Gospel Melodies will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Mechanicsville. Cost is \$9 in advance or \$10 at the door. There will be food and drinks for sale.

For tickets see any member of the church or call 301-884-8879 or 301-373-2751.

**The Southern Maryland Hay and Straw Auction** is planned for the first and third Saturday of the month, starting Jan. 19 and ending April 20.

## Play benefits regional club

BY JULIA CONDEN  
SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Just out of high school, Geri Ford had a passion for theater and the atmosphere surrounding it.

She did not have the money necessary for college so she decided to find a different outlet for her love. Because there was no community theater she decided to start one "for the people and by the people," she said. Along with two other people she began the Patuxent Playhouse in 1989 doing about two to three shows a year.

Today they are still actively performing to raise money for various events and organizations. They are a local non-profit theater group with members from St. Mary's and Calvert counties. "Extra money generated goes right back into the community," Ford said.

The Playhouse is community oriented, having performed to benefit a variety of organizations. They have done fundraising for HOSPICE, fire departments, Calvert High School, high school band boosters and the Boys and Girls Club. They have held rehearsals and shows at Chancellors Run regional park, local high schools, Southern Middle School and Nook and Monks Tavern. Their goal is to eventually have a theater of their own.

The vice president of the Playhouse, Stacy Oosterink, explained that the group began as a means "to bring culture a step up" and into the community. She described it as a place where those who love theater and helping others come together to benefit the community financially, socially and culturally. The group has invested about three months for each production. A lot of hard work and dedication is involved, rehearsing each week for about eight hours. "We bring service to the community anyway and anyhow we can," said Oosterink, a resident of St. Mary's county.

Another resident of St. Mary's County is Jack Reynolds, who assists the director with sets and production behind the scenes. He has been involved with the Playhouse since 1996 and said "the Playhouse brings local, professional-caliber theater to the community." He explained that everything they do is a team effort because everyone has specific roles and must work together.

Reynolds admires how Ford was motivated enough to follow through and thankful that she made her vision of a community theater a reality. "She is the most incredible person I have ever met," he said. She has been producing, directing and performing for 12 years. Reynolds appreciates how driven Ford is by wanting to do something for the community and youth, with three sons, a full-time job with the Boys and Girls Club, and director for the Playhouse.

A youth theatre summer camp, "Reflections" is a playgroup for children between the ages of 6 and 18 operated through the Playhouse, the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maryland and the Department of Juvenile Justice. The children work together and with instructors to learn how to write their own play that acts out social issues affecting young people today such as drinking and driving, smoking, racism and teen pregnancy. They are taught how to create their own set and advertise for the production of their play.

Those interested in volunteering with the Playhouse or the summer camp can call Stacy Oosterink at 301-863-5090 or Geri Ford at 410-326-2200 in the daytime or 410-326-14012 in the evening. For additional information visit their website, www.PatuxentPlayhouse.com. No experience is necessary because training is offered. Men are desperately needed for the upcoming performance of "South Pacific." The only requirements are an ability to work as a team, love of theater, and love for the community. They are in great need of volunteers and no one is turned away.

Ford is the area director for the Boys and Girls Clubs in Calvert County and decided it would be suitable for the Playhouse to perform a fundraiser to benefit the after school programs at the club. The Playhouse and the club are interested in providing kids with a safe place where they can learn and grow, especially during the hours between 3 and 7 p.m, the peak time for juvenile crime.

Their upcoming play, "A Bad Year For Tomatoes" is a dinner show written by John Patrick

**A Bad Year for Tomatoes**

Who: The Patuxent Playhouse

When: Feb. 23, doors open at 6:30 p.m., dinner begins at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m.

Where: Prince Frederick Fairgrounds

Cost: \$25 to benefit Boys and Girls Clubs



STAFF PHOTO BY DEAN GEISER

Stacy Oosterink, who plays Myra, sits in front of a mirror and creates Sister Sadie, her alternate character in "A Bad Year for Tomatoes."

and catered by Mom's in the Kitchen. There will be a buffet with salads, pastas, desserts, coffee and tea. It will be held at Prince Frederick Fairgrounds on Feb. 23. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the show will begin at 8 p.m. The cost is \$25 with the proceeds going to benefit youth programs at the Boys and Girls Club.

The play is an adult comedy about an actress who moves to a small New England town to get away from Hollywood and to write her autobiography. Oosterink, who plays Myra Marlowe, the main character, said it is a humorous play that illustrates how "insanity does not live only in California." The play revolves around the actress' creation of an imaginary half-witted and slightly insane sister, "Sister Sadie" in order to frighten her nosy and gossipy neighbors. Her plan is effective until she gets tired of the act and decides to pretend the sister went off to



STAFF PHOTO BY DEAN GEISER

Cast members for "A Bad Year for Tomatoes" are Leslie Downs as Willa Mae Wilcox; Stacy Oosterink as Myra and Sadie; Gordon Jones as Piney; Randy Geck as Tom Lamont; and Brandon Huse as the Sheriff.

Boston. With the sister's disappearance the town is left wondering what happened to her and believe she may have been murdered.

In "A Bad Year For Tomatoes," the cast consists of seven members. Oosterink, a Great Mills resident, is playing Marlowe and her self-created "Sister Sadie." Oosterink has been with the Playhouse since 1996 and has been as active behind the scenes as on stage. Karen Mattingly plays Cora Gump and is relatively new to the Playhouse and said that the best things she's found are her friends and a new avenue of herself to explore. Denise Shinn, who makes her home in Lusby, is a New York City native who is playing Reba Harper and has been with the Playhouse since 2000. Leslie Downs, the presi-

dent of the Board of Directors of the Playhouse, has been with the Playhouse for more than 10 years and is playing Willa Mae Wilcox in the upcoming show. She lives in Prince Frederick and helped as a counselor in the summer program for children. She also works with costumes, props and doing whatever else she can to help out.

Gordon Jones, Randy Geck and Brandon J. Huse play the three male roles. Jones, who is experienced with theatre but is doing his first play for the Playhouse, is playing Piney. Besides performing, Jones is also the unit director for Appeal Elementary with the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maryland. He also coaches youth and adult soccer teams. Randy Geck is a talented performer who recently joined the Playhouse and lives in Leonardtown. Most of his performing experience was gained in Europe, coming straight from Brussels for an audition. Huse is a 19-year-old Americorps member and is playing the Sheriff in his second play for the Playhouse. He previously has performed with the Three Elephants' Theatre.

There are several behind-the-scenes people who work equally as hard in making sure the theatrical productions run smoothly. Ford is the director for "A Bad Year For Tomatoes." The technical director, who aids in overseeing that all the technical aspects of the play are taken care of to ensure a great performance, is Carol Geck. Greg Rumpf is working lights and has been involved with the Playhouse since 1998, is on the Board of Directors and has had experience as a technical director. Monica White is the stage manager who helps with sets and props. Reynolds, Rumpf, White and Oosterink take care of set design and construction. Reynolds and Oosterink are also in charge of program design and layout. Reynolds is also responsible for logo design.

The Playhouse decided to do a comedy instead of a drama because of the recent events effecting society and the economy. They wanted to find something suitable for the time of year and what is going on in peoples' lives. The goal of this performance is to raise about \$2,000 for the club while offering the community a momentary escape from reality and to offer a couple hours of light-hearted entertainment.

Tickets must be purchased in advance due to limited seating. To buy tickets or for more information, stop by the Boys and Girls Club main office or call Geri Ford at 410-326-2200, in the daytime or at 410-326-1401 in the evening.