

Broadview Heights' Spotlights bring great theater to the community's doorstep

Broadview Heights is shining with great shows, great talent, and superior programming at Spotlights Community Theater.

Tucked behind City Hall on the City Campus, the 63-seat theater provides an intimate environment to enjoy some of today's leading productions.

"We do four shows a year, including a drama, musical, comedy, and youth production," said Annette Phelps, president of the Spotlights and assistant to the Mayor. "Productions usually run two or three weekends, and seats are just \$9 to \$12, depending on the production."

Upcoming shows include: *Don't Dress for Dinner*, which opens in late February; *On Golden Pond*, which opens in May; *The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip*, a youth show that opens in July; and *Clue, the Musical*, which runs in September.

According to Phelps, the Theater features talented performers from all over northern Ohio.

Dickens' characters brighten the season

During the holidays, The Spotlights have a traveling troop of costumed Dickens' carolers that make their stop at special events throughout Cleveland, most recently at the Disney Train Tour in downtown Cleveland. "For a donation to the theater, we will go anywhere and sing our classic holiday songs in three- or four-part harmony. From house parties to shopping centers, corporate events, and more, we help to brighten the season for people throughout our community," said Phelps.

Spotlights offer exciting opportunities and events

According to Phelps, the Spotlights are intro-

ducing a Cabaret Series in 2010.

"Aspiring artists can produce their own show for a weekend on our intimate stage and we'll promote it as part of our season."

In August, the Spotlights' weeklong Theater Camp attracts 75 children every year, and there is always a waiting list.



Each October, the community comes out for Enchanted Hollow-eeen. "We set up outdoor mini-stages and present two to three minute fairy-tale skits. There is also a hay-ride shuttle and cozy campfire. It attracts about 1,000 people," Phelps said.

With a focus on education, the group recently hired an education director to develop and implement theater classes for both children and adults. College scholarships are also given to four high school seniors each year.

The Broadview Heights' Spotlights Community Theater was founded in 1998 to enhance the well-roundedness of the city and give the "artistically-inclined an opportunity to showcase their talents." Thanks to the efforts of countless volunteers and generous donors, the theater became a reality and is now a true "spotlight" within the Broadview Heights' community. **LB**

