

local news

ARTISTS

Continued from C1

call the box office and talk to a Sharon employee about when a class is available.

Currently, a level one acting class is available for students ages 14 and up. "Basics for the Actor" is taught by The Sharon's artistic director, Whitney Morse.

"I usually have people anywhere from 17 years old all the way up to 80 (year olds)," Morse said. "It's great to have age diversity in the class."

Besides acting fundamentals, students also will learn about the parts of the stage and theater lingo, Morse said.

"I hope people walk away with a firm sense of the nuts and bolts of what it is an actor actually does to prepare for a role, and have a beginning sense of how to navigate playing a modern scene," Morse said.

"Basics for the Actor" is a six-week course that meets from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, from Aug. 14 to Sept. 18. The course is \$250 per student.

"I love getting to know my students and watching their work change and grow over the course of six weeks of training," Morse said.

Potential students can learn more or sign up by calling 352-751-7799 or visiting thesharon.com/academy.

"My classes are very fun, but I also expect a lot from my students," Morse said. "While we only meet once a week, it is required that students meet with their scene partners outside of class to rehearse their assigned scenes and to get off book."

Enrichment Academy

For those who would rather master a form of dance or learn an instrument, the Enrichment Academy has classes available.

The Enrichment Academy, a division of the Recreation and Parks Department, offers educational programming meant to complement resident lifestyle opportunities in The Villages.

"The program is going into its second year," said Melanie Sarakinis, recreation manager for the Enrichment Academy. "We've had a tremendous increase in course offerings. We had great success in our first year with a lot of requests to expand the program, which we have done."

Those interested in the



Submitted photo

British violin star Gary Lovini will teach a workshop for The Villages Charter Middle School students in Buffalo Strings a few days before his Aug. 25 performance at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

performing arts can learn a number of different styles of dance, such as chi dancing, ballet, ballroom and more.

Music classes also are available, from music history to learning instruments such as guitar, piano, ukulele and bagpipes.

Registration for fall/winter Enrichment Academy classes opened Aug. 2 for residents and will open to the general public Monday.

Those interested can register online by visiting districtgov.org and clicking on "Recreation" under the "Departments" tab.

From there, click on the Enrichment Academy logo to view the course catalog and register for classes.

Prospective students also can register by visiting Lake

Miona, La Hacienda, Eisenhower or Rohan recreation centers.

"Our residents love to expand their enrichment opportunities, especially in the arts," Sarakinis said. "It keeps them active in the community and gives them the opportunity to learn and expand their skills."

Violin Workshop at The Villages Charter School

Young performers have plenty of learning opportunities as well.

British violin star Gary Lovini will visit The Villages Charter Middle School to do a workshop with the Buffalo Strings group Aug. 20, a few days before his show at The Sharon on Aug. 25.

Buffalo Strings, which has been around for almost two decades, is a group that allows violin students at the charter school to expand their skills and perform for the community.

When Buffalo Strings director Janis Pascarella saw that Lovini would be performing in The Villages, she thought it would be a great idea for him to come do a workshop.

She contacted Lovini and he said he would be happy to visit the school.

"I always enjoy meeting young people who are interested in music, and hope my time with them will help to inspire them," Lovini said. "I want them to continue to play and progress and enjoy their music, and I'm more than happy to answer any questions they may have regarding my violin or showbiz career."

Pascarella said she is thrilled. "I'm so excited for the kids," she said. "This will be such a great opportunity for them. They'll see someone who started playing the violin the same time they did, now making a living and a career from it."

Lovini is known for his unique way of playing the violin and hopes to show the students that it is cool to play the instrument.

"I believe music is one of the most important things in a child's education," Pascarella said. "It makes their minds more active. It gets them involved in the community. I tell the kids all the time that you never know when you'll fall back on your music. Music brings out the best in everyone."

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

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