



Submitted photo

The highly-anticipated Grammy Award-winning show "Jersey Boys" brought a packed audience to the Sharon on Friday night with the first of three sold-out shows.

## Oh What a Night at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center

The first of three sold-out Jersey Boys' shows rocked The Sharon on Friday night.

By KRISTEN FIORE  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Lights flashed, sets moved and Four Seasons hits filled the The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center during Friday night's sold-out performance of the Tony and Grammy Award-winning show "Jersey Boys."

It was perhaps one of the biggest and most highly anticipated productions to hit The Sharon's stage, and the authentic vocals and dynamic set did not disappoint.

### Plot

"Jersey Boys" is an exploration of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons' rise to fame and eventual breakup.

The events unfold as members of the band take turns narrating and adding their own commentary to the story.

This behind-the-scenes perspective is a creative way for the audience to see the band's rise to fame and reflect on it all at once.

The story starts in early 1960s New Jersey, when Frankie Valli, the band's lead singer, is just a teenager who has been discovered by the older Tommy DeVito and his friend Nick Massi.

They perform gigs where they can, but it's difficult when they can't stay out of trouble

or find a name that sticks for their band.

It all comes together when Bob Gaudio and his song-writing and keyboard-playing capabilities are added to the group, which finally sticks with the name "Four Seasons," after a local bowling alley.

"Jersey Boys" gives backstories on how songs were written, how the band made its big break and how DeVito's illegal shenanigans lead to the band's eventual downfall.

### Set

The set, outfitted with a big screen and a ton of moving parts, was just as interesting as the show's storyline.

In seconds, the stage could go from a church to a bar, or a recording studio to a living room.

Everything moved fluidly and realistically, making the set an amazing asset to a powerful show.

### Music

The music, of course, was what it was all about. From "Sherry" and "December, 1963" to "Walk Like a Man" and "Bye Bye Baby," "Jersey Boys" covered it all.

Corey Greenan as Tommy, Tommaso Antico as Bob and Chris Stevens as Nick were all vocally talented and believably portrayed their characters.

Jonny Wexler, who played Frankie, was the icing on the cake.

Wexler's voice was authentically Frankie's, and his strong vocals stole the show.

### Audience Reaction

The theater was packed with an animated audience.

Kathy and Tom Campanelli, of the Village of St. James, thoroughly enjoyed the music.

"I'm very impressed," said Kathy. "It was really enjoyable and the singing was outstanding."

John Bulcroft, of the Village of Pine Hills, was impressed with the set.

"This stage works so well for a traveling show like this, because they can do decent lighting and decent sound," he said. "The crew is working their butts off."

His wife, Sandy, said she was glad for the chance to finally see the show.

"I've been wanting to see this show," Sandy said. "I tried to get tickets in New York when we lived there, but never could. I'm so happy to see it here."

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

## HAHNFELDT

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New for this year was the first "Don Hahnfeldt Service Award" in honor of The Village of Bridgeport at Lake Miona resident, who died in December 2017 at The Villages Regional Hospital, at the end of a battle with cancer.

"I truly don't know what to say," said Sandy Mott, a former VHA president herself from 1992 through 1994, while taking the podium.

The teary-eyed Village Del Mar resident was presented with the award by Hahnfeldt's widow, Cheryl, who also appeared full of emotion.

"What can I say? Yes — the VHA has always been, and always will be, very important to me," Mott continued. "To receive this award in memory of our past president, and good friend who we miss dearly, makes this very special."

Fred Briggs, current VHA president, said Mott was the perfect choice of recipients as she remains heavily involved with the organization even after all these years, acting as a director at large and editor of the group's "Village Voice" newsletter.

"She has made tremendous contribution to the success of the VHA for all these years," said Briggs, whose own relationship with Hahnfeldt goes back several years.

After assuming the VHA presidency in 2015, Briggs said he often turned to Hahnfeldt for advice.

Briggs went on to note Hahnfeldt's tendencies as a natural-born leader, pointing to a decorated 32-year career that



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Sandy Mott, of the Village Del Mar, reacts Friday as she is named the first recipient of the Don Hahnfeldt Service Award.

included working as a submarine commander in the United States Naval Submarine Service.

After serving as a county commissioner, Hahnfeldt went on to become a state representative in 2016.

The following organizations received this year's other awards:

» Partner of the Year: The Villages Recreation & Parks Department for its efforts in bringing The Enrichment Academy to local residents; presented by Village Community Development District Manager Janet Tutt

» Volunteer Organization of the Year: Special Friends club, which offers opportunities to Villagers and their adult-age children diagnosed with developmental disabilities to socialize; presented by Duane Johnson — president of the VHA Community Foundation Board. VHA also presented Special Friends with \$500 donation.

Also new were three awards presented to individuals who showed relentless efforts, often going far beyond their typical duties as VHA members.

Those awards included the following people, according to region.

» North — Linda Sanzone, Lake County director

» Central — Mark Gallo, Central Region 7 director

» South — Art Donnelly, assistant vice president South

Friday's awards ceremony concluded with naming the winners of a 50/50 chance drawing, before dozens of members and special guests to the largest resident-lifestyle organization — more than 16,000 strong — were treated to an ice cream social.

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