



Bask in the Spotlight

“Don’t Tell Nonnie” is an open-mic event at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center in which patrons can sign up to perform in the lobby of the venue. Tickets are on sale now.

By KRISTEN FIORE | *Daily Sun Senior Writer*

Most people who go to the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center go to see a show.

But what if you could be a part of a show?

At “Don’t Tell Nonnie,” the spotlight is all yours.

“Don’t Tell Nonnie” is an open-mic event created by The Sharon’s artistic director Whitney Morse. The event was inspired by the famous New York piano bar, Don’t Tell Mama, and was created to honor the memory of Morse’s grandmother, Sharon Morse, who Whitney and her cousins called “Nonnie.”

Whitney usually assures patrons that, despite the name of the event, they *could* tell Nonnie, who would’ve loved it and been right up there singing with them.

Please See **OPEN MIC, A7**

Life In Our Town



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Writers League of The Villages invites residents to attend an open house today.

Local News, C6



Plus

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LOVIN’ THE LIFESTYLE

Work up a sweat during cardio drumming. **D1**



OPEN MIC

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The next “Don’t Tell Nonnie” is at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 9 at The Sharon, and tickets, which typically sell out fast, are on sale now.

Tickets, which are \$20 and include a free beverage, can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

“Don’t Tell Nonnie” takes place at The Sharon every few months, and September’s event will be the first of The Sharon’s 2019-20 entertainment season.

Whitney usually hosts the event, opening with a song and then handing off the microphone to those who signed up to sing.

“I love the community it has fostered,” she said. “We have so many Nonnie regulars. I look forward to seeing them every time. I also really love seeing the talent that shows up. I’m always blown away by what people can do.”

B.J. Odendahl, of the Village of Glenbrook, has performed at the event with her vocal group, The LaLipops.

Odendahl said she felt comfortable performing.

“It was really a non-threatening atmosphere,” Odendahl said. “People were friendly and Whitney was great. I had an enjoyable experience.”

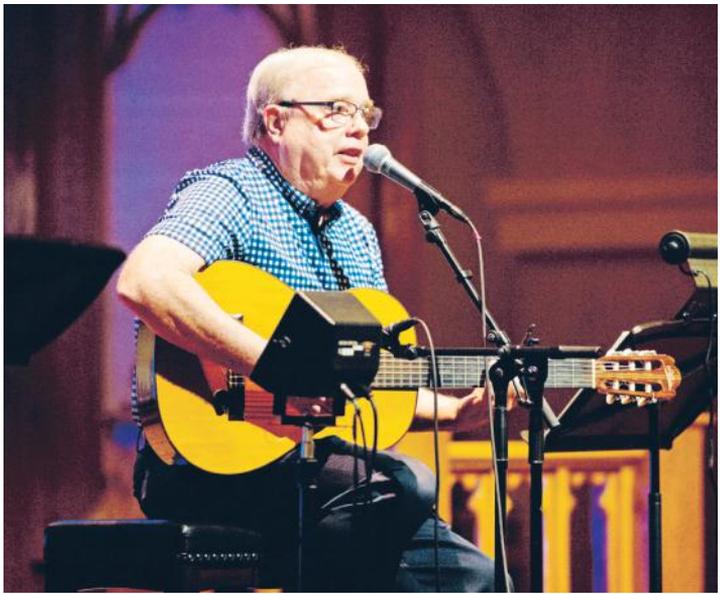
Whitney encourages everyone to sign up to sing.

“It’s a great place to try out a new song you’re working on in a supportive environment,” she said.

The event is backed by resident music director Gary Powell, who plays the piano as participants sing.

Those planning to perform should bring sheet music.

“I think it’s important for



Daily Sun

Jim Burns, of the Village De La Vista, sings and plays his original song “God gave you to me to love.”

people to know that we do our best to make things fair as we bring up singers,” Whitney said. “If you hand in three songs, we will spread them out across the night so new singers

get a chance on the stage.”

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