



# NEWSLETTER

## North Wall Repairs Completed



### WALL REPAIRS ARE DONE

Those having passed by the theatre will have noticed that the repairs by MSBI on the north wall have been completed. The entire wall was recoated with a protective material. However, the mural was saved with a clear protective layer. Lorraine Timmerman did a great job of repairing some of the art due to holes in the mural. The protective clear coat has made the mural more vibrant. The coating on the wall should help prevent interior mold and mildew caused by water seeping through the exposed brick. A freshening up to the front of the building is still in the plans. The funds for the roof project, also complete, as well as the wall were generated through the Arkansas Gives campaign and the refinancing of the building through Union Bank.



### Coming Attractions

Ouachita Little Theatre's plays will resume in the Fall. Scott O'Rear will direct "The Penultimate Problems of Sherlock Holmes", October 21-30, Auditions will be August 29 & 30. and Ladonna Van Wolf will direct "Eb Scrooge: A Southern Fried Carol" opening December 2. Auditions are scheduled for October 3 & 4

### NEW CUSTODIAN HIRED

Our custodian for the past year will be going of to college in August. Katie O'Rear has done a wonderful job keeping our theatre looking good. Best of luck to you Katie. Thursday night the OLT board accepted the recommendation of the search committee and hired Gini Burt to take over the custodial duties. There were four qualified applications and the committee had a difficult choice to make. However, Gini, has been active in OLT and should be able to hit the ground running. One of her goals is to increase our recycling activities.

**OLT SIGNS LEASE WITH THE CITY**

Ouachita Little Theatre owns the 25 feet of the parking lot next to the theatre building. At the annual meeting it was suggested that we contact the city about leasing them the property so that the entire parking lot can be paved. That has been done with favorable results. The city has a legal opinion that they can do this and our mortgage holder, Union Bank, is also on board with the idea. The city attorney prepared the lease agreement. Both the Union Bank and the City have signed the agreement. After voting to enter into the agreement at the board meeting, OLT became a signatory to the agreement and hopefully we will have a paved parking lot in the not too distant future. As part of the agreement the storage building and air-condition equipment will remain in place.

**ONLINE COMMITTEE CONTIUES ITS WORK**

The Online committee consisting of Jessica Kropp, Judy Thompson, Barry Mickelson, Robby Burt, Linda Johnson, Bill Hays, and Rudi Timmerman is studying the ways in which OLT can do some of its business online. It is felt that if folks could join OLT online we could increase our membership enough to more than offset the cost associated with online services. It could also eliminate the need to leave the house to get reserve tickets for our productions. At the last meeting a November deadline was set to start the program for 2017. The plan is to start small and expand as warranted.

**ADDITIONAL REPAIRS NEEDED**

Two problems needing attention have been identified. The floor in the south-west corner of the auditorium will have to have some floor joists replaced. MSBI will be doing the work with some help from our volunteers.

During a recent storm the north awning was blown off the building. There was only minor damage to the awning itself. However, we will wait to replace it until after any needed work is done on the front of the building

**PLANS FOR MOVIE NIGHT ARE DISCUSSED**

Will Hose and Tracey Prather have been investigating the possibility of having a regularly scheduled movie night at the theatre. The board voted to proceed and see if there is an interest. The plan is to show older classic movies, Jimmy Stewart, John Wayne, Alfred Hitchcock, etc. It would be OLT's contribution to the third Thursday celebrations in downtown Mena. Furthermore, admission will be a perk for OLT membership, while non-members would have to pay a small admission. If you have ideas, share them with Will and Tracey.

**PLAY SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The committee has met. They have proposed the following shows for next season:

**February** — Southern Comfort directed by Scotty Jenkins

**Spring Musical** — Mary Poppins directed by The Kropps and the Timmermans

**Fall** — Shakespeare (Hamlet?) directed by Brad Storey

Let chair, Lamar Austin know what you think.

**AUDITIONS**

Auditions for "The Penultimate Problems of Sherlock Holmes" will be held August 29 and 30 at the Ouachita Little Theatre. The director is Scott O'Rear.

**THE BENSON AWARDS**

This is the year for the Benson Awards where the excellence in our theatre is celebrated. Andy Arnold is our board Social Committee Chairman will be tasked with organizing this year's event. He will be looking for help, so please pitch in.