

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Treat Yourself To the Big-Band Sound of The Moonlighters

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Writer

Sit back or stand up and dance to the beat of drums, brass and keys on Nov. 29 at Eisenhower Recreation Center. The Moonlighters, a resident big band, will put on a show full of robust and jazzy flavors for Villagers who want to swing into the '20s, '30s and '40s for a couple hours.

"Big band music is written with a lot of instruments involved, and the vocal pieces tell a story," said Len Savery, the group's founder, director and trumpet player. "They don't repeat the same phrases over and over again. It's heart-felt, because a lot of the music was written during World War II."

Savery played the trumpet on and off throughout his lifetime until becoming involved in various concert and big bands in Cape Cod.

"I've always loved music even though I didn't have a professional music education," Savery said. "I kind of learned on the way. I read a lot of books about music theory and conducting."

He had a big band called The Moonlighters in Cape Cod, and brought the concept to The Villages after becoming a full-time resident in 2015.

"I was fortunate to be able to meet a lot of nice people and really great musicians here in The Villages," Savery said.

The Moonlighters is an

18-piece band, with 16 musicians and two vocalists.

They perform a variety of songs from successful big bands like those of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Harry James and Ben Pollack.

At their upcoming show, the group will perform about 36 songs over the course of the evening, and Savery said people are welcome to dance or just sit and soak it all in.

"A lot of people like to just sit

and listen to the music, because it's really just wonderful music that you can just sit back and enjoy," Savery said.

In a smooth and clear voice before each song, Savery gives a bit of background about the song's artist, creation and success.

"I find that the audience really appreciates this information," he said.

Savery said that he does his shows based on the Lawrence Welk theory.

"The audience wants to hear the melody," he said. "They want to hear the harmonies and they want to enjoy the music."

The show will go from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 29 at Eisenhower Recreation Center.

Tickets will be sold for \$10 per person at the door on a first come, first served basis.

There will be table seating for 220 people, and guests are encouraged to bring their own drinks and snacks.

Doors open around 5:20 p.m.



Submitted photo

The Moonlighters, a resident big band, will put on a show at 6 p.m. on Nov. 29 at Eisenhower Recreation Center.

