Village of Orland Park Theatre Troupe
Presents “A Christmas Carol”

ORLAND PARK, IL - Heart warming performances have become a holiday tradition for the Village of Orland Park Theatre Troupe, with this year’s presentation being “A Christmas Carol,” adapted by L. Don Swartz.

“We’re excited to present a unique adaptation of a holiday classic,” said Stephanie Simpson, the Recreation Department program supervisor who serves as executive producer for the village’s productions. “‘A Christmas Carol’ is a favorite for so many. We’re excited to bring it to the Orland Park stage,” she added.

This faithful yet unique adaptation of the Charles Dickens' holiday story begins in "another world" where Tiny Tim appears. More than just an employee's crippled son, he is a symbol of Scrooge's own infirmity. Scrooge's deceased business partner, Marley, is granted permission to return to Earth with a small but powerful army of holiday spirits on his adventure to convert the covetous old sinner into a Yuletide saint. The most popular scenes of the novel are dramatized, but especially powerful is the future scene of Bob Cratchit's gut-wrenching loss of his beloved Tim, as is the moment in reality when Scrooge hugs the boy's small form.

“Community theater is a wonderful option for so many people,” said Orland Park Theatre Troupe Resident Producer/Director Frann Carnivele-Sidlow. “With each of our shows, we have people from all walks of life who come together on stage to share their love of theater,” she added. “Our cast for ‘A Christmas Carol’ is a perfect example of this with our multi-generational cast from all over the region,” she said.

Three actors are playing the part of the cold-hearted Ebenezer Scrooge, appearing as a young boy, as an adult and as his older self. Orland Park residents David Ford, Dan Nevinger and Bryan Reiss appear as the young Scrooge, the adult and the elder man.

Ray Fischer, Tina Cucci Fischer and Grace Guzolek, of Orland Park, portray Bob Cratchit, Mrs. Cratchit and Tiny Tim Cratchit, respectively. The Cratchit family cannot afford medical treatment for the sickly boy because of the lowly wages Scrooge pays the elder Cratchit.

Joe Nowinski, of Chicago Ridge, appears as Jacob Marley, Scrooge's old business partner who shows him Christmas past, present and future. The ghost of Christmas past is played by Jamie Nowinski of Chicago Ridge while the roles of Christmas present and future are played by Orland Park’s Dan McMillan and Jake Mackey, respectively. Marley and the three ghosts are credited with inspiring emotional and ethical changes in Ebenezer Scrooge.
Orland Park residents appearing in the show include Nikolai, Camille, and Misha Auskalnis, Alexa Faille, Rose Foley, Mollie McCormick, Keelin Przybytek, Tom Sadzewicz and Anne Ostrowski. Frankfort residents include Lara, Alexis, Colleen, and Mark Lubienski. Other cast members in the show are Steve Horton (New Lenox), Amanda Stechly (Lockport), Alice Trull (Hickory Hills), and Ryan Wyrobek (Alsip).

“You don’t have to travel downtown and spend a lot of money for some high quality, holiday entertainment. Enjoying a classic holiday theater production is a wonderful way to experience the season,” Carnivele-Sidlow said.

Performances will be at the Orland Park Civic Center, 14750 South Ravinia Avenue, on Friday, December 14 and Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday, December 16 matinee at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $13 for adults, $11 for seniors and $9 for children. Reserved seat tickets are available at the village’s Recreation Administration building, 14600 South Ravinia Avenue. Or, tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, call the Village of Orland Park Recreation Department at 708/403-7275.