

SHOESTRING COMMUNITY PLAYERS

On October 1st, 2013, the Shoestring Community Players (SSCP), a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and recent recipient of a Columbia County Cultural Coalition grant, started selling tickets for their live haunted tour through Old Towne St. Helens. A fun and unique way for visitors to see St. Helens, the tour allowed individuals to re-live the secret, yet spooky history St. Helens holds. While a staple in the St. Helens community, 2013 was the first time the SSCP participated in the annual Spirit of Halloween Town, presented each year in St. Helens. SSCP hosted a 30-minute play, starting at the Gazebo on the river at Columbia View Park and used the backdrop of Olde Town St. Helens as they recreated and told true recorded stories from the 1820s to 1930s.

With performances scheduled for October 18th to October 20th and October 25th to 27th, the six -thirty minute performances started at 7:00pm and ran until 9:30pm. Although created and performed for fun, some of the content was on the scary side so parental discretion was advised. Additionally, because the performances were held outside, visitors were encouraged to dress for the weather.

Tickets for the event were sold at Bertucci's, St. Helens Book Shop, and through the SSCP website: www.SSCPMusicals.com at a cost of \$5.00 each. Tickets were also available at the door for the price of \$10.00 each. SSCP encouraged those who planned to attend to purchase tickets in advance.

The Shoestring Community Players is run by volunteer theater enthusiasts who aim to support performing arts in Columbia County. They work to raise funds through ticket sales, memberships, donations and community sponsors. In addition to this annual event, the SSCP has had long worked with the St. Helens community including helping to build the St. Helens School District's theater program through construction, equipping and helping to maintain Olmscheid Auditorium, awarding scholarships, and by providing volunteers and volunteer hours to help with St. Helens High School theater productions.