

# Red Cross blood donations set for Oct. 27

The American Red Cross is scheduling blood drive donations in October to help COVID-19 patients, according to a Red Cross news release.

A blood drive is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27 at Sugar River United Methodist Church, 415 W. Verona Ave.

All blood donations are now tested for COVID-19 antibodies, according to the release.

"Donations that come back positive for COVID-19 antibodies

now undergo secondary testing to confirm antibody results, and that enables the Red Cross to then potentially use the plasma from those donations for COVID-19 patients," Dr. Erin Goodhue, executive medical director of direct patient care with the Red Cross Biomedical Services said in the release. "With approximately 2% of the U.S. population testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies, every donation is important to ensure patients with coronavirus have access to every treatment

option available to them."

All donors are expected to receive COVID-19 antibody test results. The results should be available within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

"A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test," the release states.

All donors are staff are expected to adhere to temperature checks, social

distancing and face coverings. A blood donor card, driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

For information or to make an appointment, download the Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

-Neal Patten

## If You Go

**What:** Blood drive  
**When:** 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 27  
**Where:** Sugar River United Methodist Church, 415 W. Verona Ave.  
**Info:** Visit RedCrossBlood.org, or call 1-800-733-2767

## Fall election

# One-third of Verona area already voted

**More absentees requested than entire turnout in April**

**KIMBERLY WETHAL**  
*Unified Newspaper Group*

More Verona area residents have already voted for the Nov. 3 presidential election than voted in the April primary election.

As of Friday, Oct. 16, the city and town of Verona had received back 4,132 absentee votes, out of the 6,125 that clerk staff had collectively mailed out to each voting population, putting the return rate two and a half weeks prior to the Nov. 3 election at 67%.

The number of absentee requests slightly outnumbers the turnout from the April election. In that race, which featured a

presidential primary, one contested race for school board and a state Supreme Court justice seat, 6,002 people voted between the city and the town.

Of those votes, 83% were done as absentee, as clerks started to encourage people to either vote early by mail or in-person because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A little more than half of registered voters in the greater Verona area requested their ballots to be mailed to them.

Out of 11,203 voters, the city received 5,376 requests, and the town received 749, evening out to be 54% of the entire electorate. The city's percentage that requested ballots be mailed to them is slightly higher than the average, at 55%, and the town sits at 48.5%.

With 4,132 ballots returned as of Oct. 16, one-third of greater Verona registered voters have already made their selection in

four different races, two of which all can vote for, with the others having different jurisdictions at the state level.

All Verona area voters can vote on their preference for the President-Vice President ticket, a race between Republican incumbents Donald J. Trump and Michael R. Pence, and Democratic challengers former Vice President Joseph R. Biden and California Sen. Kamala D. Harris, as the two major party candidates. Three other campaigns from third party candidates - Don Blankenship and William Mohr from the Constitution Party, Jo Jorgensen and Jeremy Spike Cohen from the Libertarian Party and Brian Carroll and Amar Patel from the American Solidarity Party - are all on the Wisconsin ballot.

Dane County voters can choose their preferred candidate for the state House of Representatives,

between Democratic incumbent Mark Pocan and Republican challenger Peter Theron.

The majority of the greater Verona area can also choose the representative for state Assembly District 80, which covers most of the city and the town east of Tamarack Way and south of Verona Avenue. Democrat Sondy Pope is running for re-election for the 80th District, and is being challenged by newcomer Chase Binnie.

The rest of the city and town of Verona is covered by the state's 79th Assembly District to the north and west of Tamarack Way and Verona Avenue. Democratic incumbent Dianne Hesselbein is being challenged for her seat by Republican newcomer Victoria Fueger.

*Email reporter Kimberly Wethal at kimberly.wethal@wcinet.com and follow her on Twitter @kimberly\_wethal.*

# VACT offering dance and acting classes

**NEAL PATTEN**  
*Unified Newspaper Group*

Verona Area Community Theater is offering socially distanced classes starting this November for students ages 3-18.

Dance classes will run from Nov. 2 to May 13 and acting classes will run from Nov. 16 to May 27, said dance instructor and choreographer Alyssa Dvorak. There will be a total of 24 weeks of classes after taking off several weeks for holidays and school breaks.

Dance classes offered will include ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, and lyrical. For jazz and tap, there will be beginner, intermediate and advanced levels so that there is an option for everyone, Dvorak said.

All of the classes will be taught with social distancing measures in place. All students will be required to wear masks.

Acting classes offered include Acting Workshop for ages 13-15, Group Drama Class for ages 5-6 and Improv for ages 13 and older.

Emma Vogel, VACT's education director, will oversee both the dance and drama programs.

The cost for residents of Verona is \$130 for a 30-minute class session and \$150 for a 45-minute class session. The cost for non-Verona residents is \$150 for a 30-minute class session and \$170 for a 45-minute class version.

The classes will finish with mini-recital presentations in the VACT building on Lincoln St. next year, said Dvorak.

For information, email Emma Vogel at emma@vact.org.

Neal Patten can be contacted at neal.patten@wcinet.com.

# Seed collection event set for Saturday, Oct. 31

**USRWA seeking volunteers**

**NEAL PATTEN**  
*Unified Newspaper Group*

Fall isn't just a time for harvesting crops - it's also time for collecting seeds.

The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association will host a volunteer workday from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 31, focused on seed collection.

Volunteers are invited to collect prairie seeds, which will be used to re-seed areas that have been cleared of invasive species by the organization.

The event will take place at the Sugar River Wetlands State Natural Area in Verona.

The seeds are collected to "plant and enhance lands in other natural areas for pollinators, wildlife and land restoration," the group's website states.

Volunteers will be required

to wear masks and maintain physical distancing throughout the event. Similar to prior

## If You Go

**What:** USRWA Seed Collection  
**When:** 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 31  
**Where:** Sugar River Wetlands State Natural Area  
**Info:** [uppersugar.org](http://uppersugar.org)

years, volunteers should come wearing long pants, a long-sleeve shirt, closed-toe shoes, and bring their own water and work gloves. No prior experience is required.

"This is a great event for all ages and abilities, and it promises to be rewarding, fun, and a great way to experience the outdoors," the website states.

For information, visit [uppersugar.org](http://uppersugar.org).

Neal Patten can be contacted at [neal.patten@wcinet.com](mailto:neal.patten@wcinet.com).

## Ask the Verona

# PROFESSIONAL

## INVESTMENTS

**Q. How can I vote for a solid investment strategy?**



**Brendon Diers, AAMS®**  
 Financial Advisor

**A.** Election Day is just over two weeks away. Will your situation change as an investor after the votes are counted? Maybe not. No matter who wins, the financial markets may show some politically driven volatility, but that often happens around elections, and it typically doesn't last long. Still, sometime in the future, we could see election-related changes that could affect your investment strategy, such as a new capital gains tax rate or policies that positively or negatively affect companies in which you may want to invest. In any case, while it may be a good idea to watch for these developments, your main emphasis, in terms of your investment decisions, should remain on your goals and what you need to do to achieve them. At least once a year, review your portfolio carefully to make sure your investments are aligned with your goals. And, over time, your goals may change, too, so you may need to adjust your investment strategies accordingly. So, no matter what happens in this election, or any other one, be sure to "vote" for the strategies that can provide you with a winning outcome.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for the use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

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## ADVERTISING



**Donna Larson**  
 Sales Team Leader

**Q. I am an expert in my line of work, and I'm interested in advertising in the Ask a Professional series. How can I get more information?**

**A.** It's simple, just call or email me and I can answer your questions. This is one of the best places to tell your potential clients and patrons what you can do for them! And you'll reach over 30,000 homes through the Verona Press and the Great Dane Shopping News.

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