



From right, Jonas (Owen Seghal) learns what the color "red" is from The Giver (Donavon Armbruster) during the Verona Area Community Theater's performance of "The Giver" on Saturday, April 6. File photo by Kimberly Wethal

VACT to start Senior Theater program

EMILIE HEIDEMANN
Unified Newspaper Group

Actors in their golden years are getting a new chance to step into the limelight.

The Verona Area Community Theatre is starting a new venture, known as the Senior Theater program.

According to a VACT news release, program participants will perform shortened versions of theater classics

with a cast of people over 55 years old.

VACT founder Dee Baldock is leading the senior program. Since the theater company's beginning in 1992, the group has grown their programming for its younger performers, but this is the first time a program specifically for older adults has started.

The release states a few theaters across the country have begun conducting programs solely for people over the age of 55, with participants

"showing great interest" and having "lots of fun."

"Those who used to do theater, or who have never tried it but think it would be fun, should give this great new program a try," the release states.

For more information, call Baldock at 332-7991 or email dee@jpsstats.com.

Email Emilie Heidemann at emilie.heidemann@wcinet.com or follow her on Twitter at @HeidemannEmilie.

Anyone can STEAM

MACKENZIE KRUMME
Unified Newspaper Group

If You Go

When Mary Thony was a little girl, she didn't think it was possible for women to advance in STEAM related fields because she rarely saw them in those positions, she said.

Today, as the Verona office lead at Navigant, a global consulting company, Thony organizes the annual STEAM Fair to expose young girls and all children to science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM).

"(STEAM) is something girls can do too, it is not a male dominated field like it use to be," Thony said.

Geared for ages 5 to 10, the Navigant Steam Fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Verona Public Library, 500 Silent St.

There are more than 10 STEAM stations around the library. Children can participate in hands-on activities such as building a toothpick tower, extracting DNA from strawberries, assembling an LED flashlight and MG&E's Power Pedal bike.

In addition to sparking interest in STEAM activities, the fair is a fundraising competition, Thony said. Since 2013, organizers donated \$20,000 to the Friends of Verona Public Library.

What: Navigant Steam Fair

When: 9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 28

Where: Verona Public Library, 500 Silent St.

Info: Mary Thony at 616-5818 or email mary.thony@navigant.com

The Navigant STEAM Fair is part of a larger initiative by Navigant called Community Connections, Thony said. Every year, the company encourages people at offices around the world to give back to the community in some way; volunteer at food pantries, adopt a highway, or support a cancer walk.

Once Community Connections is over, a poll is open to the public to vote on the best service activity, for which the company will donate cash to the area organization.

The Verona office has won four times since 2013, donating \$5,000 for each win.

The link to vote for the event will be available on the Verona Public Library's website.



From left, Albie Luckas, 11, of Verona, learns about magnetism at the 2017 STEAM Fair. Photo by Samantha Christian

'Coffee with a Cop' community engagement event set for Sept. 30

MACKENZIE KRUMME
Unified Newspaper Group

If You Go

Officer Ryan Adkins said Coffee with a Cop is meant to add an extra layer of engagement to the community he and fellow Verona officers serve.

The event, which has been going on for at least five years, Adkins said, is set for 9-11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 30, at Tuvalu Coffeehouse and Gallery, 300 S. Main St.

Participants can meet officers in a relaxed atmosphere and ask questions, share concerns or simply have a conversation. There is free coffee and Adkins said he hopes the event will allow residents and officers to let their guard down.

"Sometimes people ask if we are married, or about our kids," Adkins said. "It makes us seem more

What: Coffee with a cop

When: 9-11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 30

Where: Tuvalu Coffeehouse and Gallery, 300 S. Main St.

Info: 845-7623

human."

The coffee with a cop program has 1,500 events nationwide.

Contact Mackenzie at mackenzie.krumme@wcinet.com.

In 2017, officer Ryan Adkins hands coffee to a patron at the McDonald's and introduced Coffee with a cop to her.

File photo by Helu Wang



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