

# VACT goes 'Under the Sea'

Theater will present 'The Little Mermaid' June 16-24

**AMBER LEVENHAGEN**  
Unified Newspaper Group

Verona Area Community Theater is going under the sea this month with their all-ages musical production of "The Little Mermaid."

The show will run June 16-24 at the Verona Area High School Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St., with performances at 7:30 p.m. June 16-17 and 22-24, and a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, June 18.

The musical tells the story of Ariel, a mermaid princess who falls in love with Prince Eric when she rescues him during a storm. Her love causes her to visit the sea witch, Ursula, who convinces her to trade her voice for a pair of legs. Ariel is given three days to make Prince Eric kiss her; otherwise her soul will belong to Ursula forever, according to a news release.

VACT's production features a cast of almost 90 people from the Madison area. Edgewood College student Kenzie Murruci takes on the role of Ariel, with Dennis Lynn as Prince Eric. Other performers include Zach McClellan as King Triton, Katie Cass as Ursula, Nick O'Connell as Scuttle, Caleb Mathura as Sebastian and Kayla Wagner and Drake Wagner sharing the role of Flounder.

Alex Rosenbaum is making his directorial debut with this production of "The Little Mermaid." Other production staff members include Dee Baldock as producer, Marie Kyle as music director, Alyssa Dvorak as choreographer, Lynn Vilker and Karen Clark as costume designers and Sara



Photo by Samantha Christian

Members of Verona Area Community Theater dress up in the parade as characters from "The Little Mermaid," which will be performed June 16-24 at the Verona Area High School Performing Arts Center.

### If You Go

**What:** Verona Area Community Theater presents "The Little Mermaid"

**When:** 7:30 p.m. June 16-17 and 22-24, 2 p.m. Sunday, June 18

**Where:** Verona Area High School Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.

**Tickets:** \$16.50 regular admission, \$11.50 for seniors and children/students

**Info:** vact.org

and music by Disney composer Alan Menken, with familiar tunes "Kiss the Girl" and "Under the Sea." Disney released the film version in 1989 with Jodi Bensen providing the voice of Ariel. In 2007, the musical opened on Broadway with Sierra Boggess in the lead role, according to a news release.

Tickets for VACT's performance are \$16.50 for regular admission and \$11.50 for seniors 65 years and older and children/students through high school. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door, depending on availability.

For information or to purchase advance tickets, visit vact.org.

Ward-Cassady as stage manager.

The musical, based on the book by Doug Wright, will feature lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater

Contact Amber Levenhagen at [amber.levenhagen@wcinet.com](mailto:amber.levenhagen@wcinet.com).

## Verona Area School District

### Board begins informal public discussions this week

**SCOTT GIRARD**  
Unified Newspaper Group

### If You Go

**What:** Verona Area school board listening session

**When:** 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 14

**Where:** Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Road

**Info:** [verona.k12.wi.us](http://verona.k12.wi.us)

Verona Area school board members will hold a "listening session" next week to offer more informal conversations with district residents.

The June 14 event, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fitchburg Public Library, is the first of what's expected to become a regular feature throughout the year. Future sessions will focus on specific topics, but this one is more "general," according to an email from public information officer Kelly Kloopping.

"This is specifically for those who desire an informal, but more private conversation on specific questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding any topic in the district, including the Building for 2020 campaign," Kloopping wrote.

At least five of the seven board members committed to being there during Monday night's school board meeting. That means the meeting is required to be noticed under the state's

open meetings law.

Three of the board members - Noah Roberts, Russell King and Meredith Stier Christensen - held a similar event last November at AJ's Pizzeria in Verona. They each sat at a different section of the table and talked one-on-one or in small groups with parents and teachers in attendance, discussing topics like personalized learning, discipline and the Verona Area International School charter agreement.

Contact Scott Girard at [ungreporter@wcinet.com](mailto:ungreporter@wcinet.com) and follow him on Twitter @sgirard9.

## Verona Area School District

# Proposed tax rate up 79 cents

\$12.77 same as projected before referendum

**SCOTT GIRARD**  
Unified Newspaper Group

While the Verona Area School District budget still has to be approved, residents have already given a thumbs up to a tax increase in April.

The proposed rate of \$12.77 per \$1,000 of property value in the district's preliminary 2017-18 budget is the same as the district projected throughout the referendum process earlier this spring. Voters approved all three questions that were part of that referendum.

If the referendum had failed, the tax rate would have dropped by more than \$2.50.

The district discussed the rate and other general aspects of the budget at Monday night's school board meeting.

"The fact that they're still the same projections that we had earlier is very exciting," said board member Amy Almond.

The board is expected to vote on the \$65.9 million budget June 26, though it won't be finalized until October, after student enrollment and state aid numbers are tallied. That total is a 2.82 percent increase over last year's \$64 million budget.

More than \$900,000 of that increase is in additional teacher costs, which total \$36.2 million.

The 79-cent mill rate increase will cost the owner of a \$200,000 property an additional \$158.

VASD will receive about \$3.6 million less in general state aid next year following the closure of the Epic tax-increment financing district last year. But that closure also brought in \$12 million in one-time money and will allow the district to receive \$4.3 million more in local property taxes.

Contact Scott Girard at [ungreporter@wcinet.com](mailto:ungreporter@wcinet.com) and follow him on Twitter @sgirard9.

**VACT VERONA AREA COMMUNITY THEATER PRESENTS**

**Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID**

June 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 2017 - 7:30 pm  
June 18, 2017 - 2:00 pm  
Verona High School Performing Arts Center  
For Tickets: [WWW.VACT.ORG](http://WWW.VACT.ORG)

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING CELEBRATION

## HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO NORBERT KALTENBERG!

**Wednesday, June 14th • 6-8pm**

Help us ring in Norbert's 100th year with a special birthday bash. Enjoy festive music and games as we celebrate our dear friend hitting the century mark!

Savor our Signature Five Star refreshments and sweeten up your day with birthday cake and more!

**STOP BY TO CELEBRATE AND WISH NORBERT WELL!**

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