

The Verona Press

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Photo by Neal Patten

Work continues at The Woods at Cathedral Point and other new housing developments around Verona.

Subdivisions move ahead despite setbacks

Market has remained strong, developers say

NEAL PATTEN
 Unified Newspaper Group

Three housing developments around Verona have been at different levels of progress since being given the green light to break ground. Despite various setbacks, developers for all three said they are still moving forward.

Whispering Coves, Kettle Creek North and The Woods at Cathedral Point have faced some challenges getting established, including environmental issues and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whispering Coves is located west of County Hwy. M and south of County Hwy. PD. The project is being led by Forward Development Group of Verona.

"There were roadblocks, it's been a relatively silent past year, which

is different for us — we had anticipated we would be in construction a year ago," FDG's vice president of operations, Ron Henshue, said. "We are excited to be starting the project in October or November."

Henshue said it took "significant" time to get the development's stormwater management plan approved by the city because of its

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Taking the stage to cyberspace

Verona Area Community Theater plans 12 virtual shows

NEAL PATTEN
 Unified Newspaper Group

The show will go on ... virtually.

While there may be no curtain to raise, Verona Area Community Theater is resuming productions in full force, with a slate of a dozen shows premiering across November and December.

Eight shows are planned for a combined 70 youth and teen cast members — many of whom had been cast for the canceled spring shows — and there will be four holiday-themed variety show

concerts with all-ages casts. The youth shows are funded by an American Girl company grant, and the variety show is the long-time coming return of a 2015 production.

VACT productions have been on hiatus since Wisconsin first began practicing Safer at Home measures in March.

Just days after the state ordered schools to close in March, VACT canceled its four planned youth stage productions for April — "Seussical Kids," "Pajama Party," "Getting to Know... Footloose," and "Chicago: High School Edition."

VACT board member and occasional show director and stage manager Sara Ward-Cassady said the

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City of Verona



Photo by Kimberly Wethal

Ava Marie Venegas, 5, picks out a scented bookmark from the Verona Public Library's stand during the Main Street Trick or Treat event on the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018.

Halloween is happening

Trick or treating is scheduled for Oct.31

MACKENZIE KRUMME
 Unified Newspaper Group

This Halloween, costume masks will do more than scare neighbors.

The City of Verona will allow Halloween trick or

treating this year from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31, and it encourages all participants to wear a mask and to follow safety guidelines to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Defining the hours for Halloween is a standard procedure for city staff and usually doesn't require

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Redevelopments up for key votes

Sugar Creek land, Klassik would get apartments, retail, park

MACKENZIE KRUMME
 Unified Newspaper Group

Two proposed West Verona Avenue developments that would bring hundreds of apartments, thousands of square feet of retail and a park are up for key approvals this month.

At the Monday, Oct. 5, Plan Commission meeting, commissioners are set to review and possibly vote to recommend approval of the Sugar Creek Elementary School and Klassik Tavern redevelopments. Specifically, commissioners will review the general development plans, which include a detailed outline of the plan after getting input from the Common Council, Plan Commission and the public.

A public hearing will be held

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How to participate in the public hearing

Those wishing to speak during the virtual meeting should register by 6:30 p.m. in advance of its start time by emailing adam.sayre@ci.verona.wi.us or calling 848-9941.



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VACT: Drama and music will find a home online this year

Continued from page 1

theater wanted to offer the dozens of Verona area youth who had been cast for those shows an opportunity to still participate in a show this year.

Ward-Cassady said not only will the shows be performed virtually, they were scripted with a virtual environment in mind. The fairy tale characters in 'Mirror, Mirror,' for instance, will speak into a magic mirror like the one from 'Snow White.'

"The shows we're doing – the scripts are targeted at various limitations on theaters right now," Ward-Cassady said.

Ward-Cassady added that all the upcoming shows will be free.

"We're not charging people to see them – that's something neat we've never done before," she said.

Recasting for the kids

There will be four shows for 5th-6th graders – "Mirror, Mirror: A Virtual Fractured Fairytale," directed by Sara Ward-Cassady; "Virtual Complaint Department and Lemonade," directed by Joanne Rash; "Dr. Evil and the Pigeons with Lasers," directed by Lindsay Platt; and "Virtually Ever After," directed by Natalie and Garrett Coombs.

There will be three productions for 7th-9th graders – "A Virtual Whodunit," directed by Quinn Huijbregtse; "The Curious Case of the Pop Star and Her Penguins," directed



Verona Area Community Theater is producing a virtual holiday show for December.

by Dusty Smith; and "10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine," directed by Shannon Seip.

Rounding out the autumn youth shows will be one for 10th-12th graders, "Everything Seems Like Maybe," directed by Lydia Benz.

The eight shows will be shown online in November via a direct link that those interested to request, to offer security to the young performers. Auditions were offered primarily to the 5th-12th grade kids who had been cast for the canceled April shows and just over 70 kids auditioned last week.

"We found a part for everyone," Ward-Cassady said. "We cast every single one, no one got cut which is good, because (that) would have been pretty sad."

'Hometown Holiday' returns

In December, four virtual productions with casts of all-ages will debut.

Ward-Cassady said that in 2015, VACT produced a variety show called "A Very Merry Hometown Christmas," which it had always intended to do again. VACT held auditions for the virtual production earlier this week, mainly for solo or duets, but with some opportunities for small group ensembles of families to sing together.

"This turned out to be a good year to do it with the virtual situation," she said.

Ward-Cassady said there will ultimately be four separate 30-minute shows produced, as opposed to one production that would be a couple hours long. The quartet of shows will be

"We found a part for everyone. We cast every single one, no one got cut which is good, because (that) would have been pretty sad."

Board member, show director and stage manager
Sara Ward-Cassady

streamed on the theater's YouTube channel at specific pre-announced times, which Ward-Cassady said is intended to mimic and recreate the feeling of going to a live show.

Performers will pre-record their parts at home, leaving VACT to take all of the pieces and edit them together.

However, Ward-Cassady said options are being explored for offering recording sessions at its Lincoln St. theater building for less tech-savvy performers.

"We're still trying to see if we can do that in a safe way, if we figure it out, we'll bring them in," she said, but added that it would still be limited to groups that are family members.

A four-piece band and a group of dancers will pre-record musical segments and dance numbers for the show at the VACT building, following physical distancing guidelines.

"It's been interesting following safety procedures," she said. "A big barrier to theater has been not being able to sing together."

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

Council accepts bid for a new sewer line

MACKENZIE KRUMME
Unified Newspaper Group

Minger Construction Company will complete the replacement of sewer lines near Badger Mill Creek.

The Common Council approved a \$7.7 million bid from Minger at its Sept. 28, meeting, which will go toward replacing the 60 year old 15-inch sewage interceptor and other infrastructure along the lines. The city received seven bids for the project.

Ald. Evan Touchett (Dist. 4) said there is expected to be disruption in the area as a result of the gravity of the project.

Ald. Heather Reekie (D-4) said at a previous Common Council meeting she had heard from constituents near the project who were concerned about the environmental impacts.

Touchett said multiple

organizations have been involved in the planning including the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the public works and parks and recreation departments.

He also said there will be a public hearing in the future.

Most of the construction will be adjacent to the Badger Mill Creek, about 20-30 feet away, Theran Jacobson director of public works told the Press. The public works department works closely with the state DNR to ensure protection of the creek and the habitat, he said.

There also will be a temporary cofferdam installed to bypass the bump in the workzone to keep it dry — a technique that is common in this type of project, he said.

Contact Mackenzie Krumme at mackenzie.krumme@wcinet.com.

City in brief

No more weed commissioner

The building inspection department will now be responsible for ensuring invasive plants do not thrive on city properties.

The Common Council unanimously eliminated the position of weed commissioner at its Monday, Sept. 28, meeting and transferred the responsibilities to the building inspection department.

The council also added Japanese knotweed to the city's noxious weed list and removed milkweed, which is an important food source for Monarch butterflies.

Halloween: Alders encourage participants to follow Dane County health guidelines

Continued from page 1

input from the Common Council, but this year is different, Mayor Luke Diaz said as part of the annual proclamation for Halloween at the Monday, Sept. 28, council meeting.

"We are in the middle of a once-in-a-100-year pandemic, so I thought I should bring this decision to the council," Diaz said.

Alders unanimously agreed to allow trick-or-treating but encouraged participants to follow Public Health Madison and Dane County guidelines.

PHMDC recommendations include

trick-or-treating only with people you live with, going only to homes in your neighborhood, wearing a mask and encouraging children to spot the piece of candy they want before touching it to avoid rummaging.

For those giving away candy, PHMDC recommends setting the bowl of candy outside, pre-packaging candy so there isn't rummaging in a candy bowl and placing hand sanitizer by the treats.

As in previous years, people who are not interested in handing out candy should turn their outside lights off.

Contact Mackenzie Krumme at mackenzie.krumme@wcinet.com.

Trick or treat guidelines

- Only trick-or-treat with people you live with
 - Trick-or-treat in your neighborhood
 - Wear a mask
 - Stay 6 feet apart from other groups
 - Trick or treaters should spot the piece of candy they want before touching it to avoid rummaging
 - Let the candy sit for a day or two before eating any and bring hand sanitizer.
 - Set the bowl of candy outside
 - Consider the placement of your bowl to prevent a bottle neck of people
 - Pre-packaging candy so there isn't rummaging in a candy bowl
 - Placing hand sanitizer by the treats.
- Public Health Madison and Dane County

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