



VARNA NEWS

* * SUMMER FAMILY FESTIVAL * *

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2024 10AM

VARNA COMMUNITY CENTER, 943 Dryden Rd.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – NO ADMISSION FEE



FREE ATTRACTIONS:

- ◆ Bounce house open all day
- ◆ [Physics Bus](#) 10am – noon
- ◆ Potter Pavilion dedication 11:30am
- ◆ Bubbles, Bubbles, Bubbles 10am – 11am
- ◆ Puppet Show by [Lilypad Puppet Theatre](#) 1:30pm
- ◆ Puppet Making Workshop – after the show
- ◆ Tom the Balloon Artist 2p – 3pm
- ◆ More!



FOOD: Popcorn & lunch items for sale 11am – 2pm

Some costs have been covered by the Tompkins County Recovery Fund (Physics Bus!), members of the VCA Board of Directors, and friends

Welcome to Varna! A Few Facts about Your New Community

- If you live here, you are a member of the non-profit Varna Community Association, Inc. (VCA).
- Since the 1950s, the VCA has offered programs and resources that make Varna a great place to live.
- There are no membership dues. The VCA is funded by tax-deductible donations, fundraising events, rental of our commercial kitchen and meeting rooms, and grants.
- A volunteer board of directors runs programs and manages the Community Center property.
- Board meetings are held the first Monday of the month & you are always welcome to attend.
- We hope you will get involved and help keep the VCA a vibrant meeting spot for everyone!
- Visit the VCA website to learn more, volunteer your time and talents, and donate.

Celebrating a Beloved Varna Couple

During the Summer Family Festival, we will dedicate the pavilion at the back of the Community Center to Geoff and Dawn Potter. The Potters lived in Varna for many years and were faithful supporters of the VCA. They both served on the VCA board of directors and Dawn also served as Chair. They loved to feed people, and could often be found in the VCA kitchen or at the BBQ pit. Dawn created Varna's annual Thanksgiving dinner that served a free feast to hundreds of people pre-pandemic. Geoff was the chief designer and builder when the Community Center was renovated and expanded in the late 1990s. Subsequently, he built the pavilion to cover the generator and walk-in refrigeration units. Sadly, Geoff died earlier this year. Dawn will join us as we remember Geoff and honor both of them at 11:30 on August 24. Please join us!



Varna Church Update

Greetings from Varna Church. Happy news as Kim Simmons became a Grandma in April, and Richard and Alice Humerez celebrated 75 years together. Mason Jager and Aaron Burgess became parents of baby Ian. Congratulations to all!

We are collecting clothing (ONLY) from August 9th through September 15th for our fall giveaway. You can leave donations on the porch, but please do not block the door.

We will give away the collected clothing on September 20th and 21st, from 9:00-3:00. Masks are optional at this time, but that may change. Please bring your own bags and take what you can use. We can use extra help sorting, and during the giveaway. Please call Sue Heath 607-272-8919 for times available to help.

We are also looking for egg carton donations, and always welcome yarn donations. Our Pew Knitters use the yarn to knit items for local charities. Sunday Worship is 11:00-12:00 and our doors are open to welcome you to join us. Happy Labor Day and the start of school. -*Sis Johnson*

PANCAKES RETURN – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 8am – 11am

Yes! We are determined to get the famous Varna Pancake Breakfasts up and running again. Known for delicious home-cooked breakfast options, the VCA's breakfasts also give you a chance to chat with neighbors and welcome new folks to the neighborhood. If lucky, we might even get to meet one - or more - of the new babies who have arrived in Varna over the past several months. So cute!!

2024 prices:
Adults: \$12; Seniors: \$10;
ages 5-12 years: \$8;
under 5 years: free.



If all goes well, there will be another breakfast Sunday, Oct. 20. **Please help get the word out** by announcing the breakfast on your social media sites. We'll be ready for a big crowd, so bring your family, friends, and let's do this!!

IT'S GOOD TO BE A COW

After taking part in the Dryden Dairy Day celebration in June, 'Holly Holstein' came home to Varna to enjoy a summer among the grasses and wildflowers. When the weather cools, she will retire to the barn, but until then, she'll continue greeting cars, trucks and sidewalk users. Many thanks to VCA members Adelind Reiff and Laurie Snyder for creating 'Holly' in honor of Varna's agricultural heritage!



INTRODUCTORY TAI CHI SESSION

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA, Ithaca branch, will offer a 3 month introductory tai chi session on Tuesday evenings 6:00pm -7:30pm at the Varna Community Center starting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, from 6-7:30pm. \$45/month adult, \$35/month students and seniors. The first class is free!

Taoist Tai Chi internal arts promote health and well-being in people of all ages and in all health

Your Guide to Mobile Home Energy Bill Savings



Cold & drafty home?

- FREE home energy assessments
- Low- and no-cost programs to insulate and seal air leaks in the home for income-eligible households (see back)

Need help with heating?

- Income-eligible households may qualify for free heating system repair and replacement.
- Significant incentives are available for heat pumps, which often cost less to operate than fuel oil, propane or electric resistance heat.

Contact a Community Energy Advisor in your area to learn more!

Energy advising is FREE and can help you understand these options
smartenergychoices@cornell.edu
607-366-0833
smartenergychoices.org

Thanks to the Tompkins County Recovery Fund, your Community Center is a better place:

Trees trimmed by playground and basketball court

Physics Bus visit for Free Science!

Stainless steel kitchen cabinets to replace vintage wooden ones

Several new tables for meetings, meals, homework & crafts

Electrical upgrade completed at the the Community Center

Large stainless steel countertop installed in the VCA's commercial kitchen

Two metal storage boxes added under the pavilion to store recreational equipment

Carpet in the child care area replaced

Some projects came in under budget, so the leftover TCRF money will go toward a fire alarm system at the Community Center. Your donations will get us the rest of the way. Visit our [GoFundMe Campaign!](#)

LET'S MAKE OUR COMMUNITY CENTER SAFER TOGETHER

The Varna Community Center is used by many people, including voters, small food business owners, non-profit community groups, families celebrating birthdays, and more. Installation of a fire alarm system will make the building safer for everyone. Importantly, an alarm system is required to hold school aged child care programs in the building. We have some funds from the Tompkins County Recovery Fund but not enough to cover the whole cost. If we all pitch in, we can make this happen! You can donate via our [GoFundMe](#) campaign. Or, send a check made out to "Varna Community Association" with "Fire Alarm" on the memo line. Questions? email Jan: Chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org



FUNDING FOR HOME REPAIRS

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing offers repair funds to people who qualify. Contact Delia Yarrow: dyarrow@Ithacanhs.org 607-288-3229

VCA WISH LIST – Here are some items we could really use. For the cleaning products, green alternatives would be great, but really, any brand will work. If you can help, please email Jan, who will be very happy to hear from you:

Chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org

- Shark cordless handheld vacuum—for corners & quick clean-ups
- Food items for free food cupboard—fresh food ok!
- Duct tape
- Toilet paper
- Cleaning supplies
 - Window cleaner – Windex Vinegar Glass Cleaner
 - Floor cleaner, such as Lysol or Fabuloso—any size
- Spray disinfectant for cleaning table tops – 7th Generation Disinfectant Spray
- Pop-up canopy tent – 10 x 10 would be ideal
- New, 8-foot fiberglass step ladder – it's time to replace the antique, unsteady wooden one
- Kitchen towels – We don't need fancy, just absorbent!

conditions. Tai Chi can be considered a complete form of exercise, improving balance and reducing the risk of injury. Regular practice increases strength, flexibility, balance, and mental focus. The International Taoist Tai Chi Society is a world-wide, non-profit organization based on Taoist principles of compassion. Its mission is to make the benefits of the Taoist Tai Chi arts available to all. More information about the Ithaca Branch and a full class schedule can be found by visiting our website: <http://www.taoisttaichi.org/locations/ithaca>

Highway cleanup October 26th, 9am

Saturday, October 26th at 9am will be the Fall road clean-up of Rt. 366, Dryden Road. If you'd like to help keep Varna beautiful, get some fresh air, and spend time with neighbors, meet us at the turnout across from 1237 Dryden Road. If you have any questions contact Meghan McQuaide Reiff at reiffmeghan@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Food Cabinet Grant and Enhancements

United Way of Tompkins County just awarded the Varna Community Association a grant from the United Tompkins Impact Fund to dramatically improve our blue mutual aid food cabinet and cooler.

At Thanksgiving 2020, we received a cooler for donated Thanksgiving meals, which we kept going with ice packs, repairs, and regular cleaning. In 2021, we had installed a heater in the cabinet to make it possible to keep canned goods available in the cabinet during all but the coldest days of winter.

The current setup fits awkwardly in our front entrance, and requires constant maintenance. It is wonderful to have a system that lets anyone contribute, but the community center has kept the cabinet in good shape.

The grant will let us build a new cabinet, with a garage-ready refrigerator and a simple heating system that will let all of the parts work year round. We will still have to check on it, as sometimes people leave the doors open, but we'll be able to build something much more solid and easier to work around. We'll have more space for both stable and fresh foods, while also having more useful space.

The refrigerator is already there, and we'll be building the new cabinet around it this fall.

Trail enhancements in the works

The VCA has been working on the trail connecting the playground behind the VCA with the rail trail. While there is still a lot to do, especially for the times when the trail is muddy, we've started with an outdoor trash can near the playground. Hopefully it will help us avoid litter on both the trails and playground.



Up next: a full set of signs, widening the trail, and working on better footing. Hopefully we can find some help! Maybe you could join us? Leave us a message at: 607-272-2658. Thanks!

The current cabinet and new refrigerator



Varna Community Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 4771
Ithaca NY 14852-4771

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE PAID
ITHACA, NY 14850
PERMIT #312

Free Summer Family Festival

August 24th, 10am-3pm, 943 Dryden Road

Join us for the Physics Bus, bounce house, bubbles galore, balloon art, puppet show, puppet workshop, Potter Pavilion dedication, and more!

Used Ink & Toner Cartridges Welcomed

The VCA collects Staples 'rewards' for used printer cartridges and uses those rewards to purchase the round sticky tabs that hold your newsletter together. It's win-win-win: you get rid of useless cartridges, the VCA gets 'free' sticky tabs, and the Varna News arrives safely in your mail. **Please drop off your ink and toner cartridges at the front door of the Community Center.** Thank you!

August

24th, 10am-3pm: Summer Family Festival

Thursdays, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous, open to all

September

3rd, 7pm: VCA board meeting – guests welcome

20th & 21st, 9am-3pm: Varna Church clothing giveaway

22nd, 8-11am: Pancake Breakfast

Thursdays, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous, open to all

October

3rd, 7pm: VCA board meeting – guests welcome

20th, 8-11am: Pancake Breakfast

26th, 9am: Highway cleanup along Route 366.

Thursdays, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous, open to all

2024 VCA Board of Directors

Members: Laurie Foster, Sue Funicelli, Mason Jager (Secretary), Janet Morgan (Chair), Matt Perry, Meghan Reiff (Vice Chair), Simon St.Laurent (Treasurer).

Meetings: usually held the first Monday of the month, 7pm, at the Community Center

You: Guests are welcome at board meetings. Come and help us make plans for Varna.

Email: Chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org

The *Varna News* is published quarterly, in February, May, August, and November. Simon St.Laurent (simonstl@simonstl.com) is the editor.

Pancake
Breakfast

