



VARNA NEWS

The Great Highway Project of 2022

Sometime between 7am and 8am, a weekday, Fall 2022, Varna Community Center (943 Dryden Rd.):

Welcome to Varna. Excavators, dozers, grinders, dump trucks, utility trucks, paving equipment, and concrete mixers have all fired up for the day's work on Rte. 366. It's noisy and really inconvenient if you're stuck in line for the one-way traffic lane to open up so you can get to work, or to your doctor's appointment, or wherever else you need to be.

The end is not yet in sight, but there are glimpses of what the final result will be. A sidewalk between Forest Home Drive and Mt. Pleasant Rd. will be awesome.... eventually. Keep an eye out for an announcement for a grand SIDEWALK CELEBRATION in the spring. The VCA board will be planning something fun for all ages. Got a creative idea? Send an email to: Chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org

Installation of Varna's new pocket park will have to wait at least until next spring. It will be located exactly where this digging for the new storm water drainage pipe happened.

Freese Road Bridge

Town Board member Dan Lamb reports that "There isn't much to report. We're waiting for NYSDOT to approve our plan for a single-lane bridge with a historic truss façade."

Get Vaccinated

Vaccines are available for free for all New York State residents above the age of 5. Second boosters are now

Water & Sewer Lines

There is no news yet about when the old water mains in Varna will be replaced. Securing pipe is still the biggest hold up. As for the sewer, at its meeting in October, the Dryden Town Board approved a contract to run a scope through the sewer mains to assess their condition. Hopefully, the interior of the pipes will be shown to be in good enough condition that they can be upgraded by relining rather than replacement which would require lots more trucks, excavators, noise and mess.



available for people over 50. For information on COVID-19 vaccines in Tompkins County, please visit <https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/covid19vaccine>.

Rail Trail Connector Update

The gorgeous fall days we've had recently would have been perfect for connecting the back of the VCA's property through the woods to the Dryden Rail Trail. Unfortunately, we may be deep in snow by the time Cornell and the VCA's insurance company come up with something that satisfies all parties. We're working on it and hoping for a breakthrough soon.

There is good news, however: The Ithaca Rotary Club awarded the VCA a grant to make signs for the trail. We plan to have large signs at the trailheads perhaps featuring a map, information about plants and animals along the trail, and some rules and safety information. There will also be several small signs along the trail to point the way and prevent hikers from getting confused by the many deer trails that run through the woods.

Rent the Varna Community Center

Do you have a family party or a meeting coming up and need a space that will allow room for lots of people? VCA is once again available to be rented. The rates are reasonable, the air handler cleans the indoor air regularly, and the floor is no longer cracked and green! Masks are strongly recommended while inside the building. Email: rental.vca.facilities@gmail.com or leave a message at: 607-272-2658

Blue Food Cupboard

The Free Blue Food Cupboard and cooler continue to be busy. We are always happy for cash or food donations. Thank you to those of you who continue to support this community outreach, including the Varna Methodist Church. The Varna Little Library, in the vestibule of the community center, offers a place to find a free book (adults and children) or leave a book.

Varna Church Update

Greetings from Varna Church. Thank you for the donations for our Clothing Give Away, and thank you to all that came for the bargains. Also, a *big* thanks to the volunteers who helped.

Save the date—December 2nd, from 6-8, we are having a Hymn/Christmas Sing-a-long. It's a time of joy and singing again after Covid. Please join us!

Pew Knitters are busy with charity work and can always use donations of 4 ply acrylic yarn (new or partial skeins). We also accept monetary donations.

Have you noticed traffic is slower with the construction?

Christmas Eve will be a Candlelight service at church starting at 6. Also, church will be *closed* Christmas Day. Services resume New Years Day. We would love to have you join us some Sunday. You are always welcome. Service is 11-noon. *-Sis Johnson*

Varna Volunteer Fire Company

Varna Volunteer Fire Company serves Varna and Ellis Hollow. We answer approximately 300-400 calls a year. Recently, we have responded to multiple chimney fires in our area. Please remember to have your chimneys cleaned regularly. Creosote can build up in the chimney and cause a fire. If chimneys are used regularly, we recommend an annual inspection and cleaning.

As a 100% volunteer service, we need YOUR help to protect our community. If you are interested in being a firefighter, EMT, driver/operator, or support member, we have a spot for you! Come to the station (14 Turkey Hill Rd) between 6:30-7:30pm on a Thursday evening or email: chief@varnafire.org if you have questions.

Fall Highway Cleanup

Saturday, November 12th, at 9am will be the Fall road clean-up of Rt. 366. 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!

NYSEG Bill Relief

Utility customers enrolled in NYSEG's Energy Affordability Program (EAP) can receive a one-time bill credit eliminating arrears accumulated before May 1, 2022, thanks to the NYS Electric/Gas Utility Arrears Relief Program.

To contact NYSEG for EAP information call 800.572.1111. In order to enroll in EAP, you must have a letter of acceptance for one of these programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Veterans Disability or Survivors Pension, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Lifeline Telephone Service Program (Lifeline).

Or, if living on tribal lands one of the following: Federal Public Housing Assistance, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Head Start, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

This is a limited time offer and you must be enrolled in EAP before December 31, 2022. You can learn more by speaking with NYSEG 800.572.1111; by visiting this web site: <https://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/AskPSC.nsf/All/E70DFECA512D19DD852588630060A17A?OpenDocument>; or by calling the NY Public Utility Project hotline at 877-669-2572.

Start NOW. Time is short.

Kids Cooking—OURS & YOURS Program

The O.U.R.S. & Y.O.U.R.S. after school programs are held at 4-H Acres on Lower Creek Road in Ithaca and the Varna Community Association. Every Wednesday we will be cooking up new recipes at the Varna Community Association Kitchen - where everyone will get a

chance to take groceries home to try and recreate the day's recipe at home!

Contact program manager Patrick Lynch with any ques-

Wednesday Cooking at the VCA 

Grades 2-8 | Oct 19-Nov 30

Every Wednesday we will be learning cooking techniques, new recipes, and eating delicious home-cooked meals at the VCA Kitchen, in addition to plenty of games, outdoor activities, and fun challenges!

Program Runs 3:30pm - 6:30pm



tions on this. Starting soon: FREE kids program for grades 2-8 at the Varna Community Center! Sign up online: <https://tinyurl.com/ycx24kns>

United Way Campaign

It is likely that you, or someone you care about, will need someone to come alongside to strengthen you or them during a time of difficulty. United Way and its partners are here during those times. Please join us as we mobilize the caring power of our community and strengthen lives through our annual community campaign!

To make a gift now, please visit www.uwtc.org/GIVE.

Or, if you prefer to submit a traditional pledge card, you



can receive one by visiting www.uwtc.org and download one. You can also email campaign@uwtc.org or call (607) 500-GIVE and member of the United Way will assist you. 100% of donations go to programs and services, and while we ask you to support United Way, a portion of your gift can be designated to Varna Community Association.

Join the board?

The Varna Community Association is looking for new board members. Might you be interested? Being a board member is a great way to keep up on Varna happenings, and to give back to the community. To learn more, contact: chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org

Bathroom Upgrades

If you've visited the bathrooms at the Community Center recently, you've surely noticed changes: the holes in the walls are gone, floors are clean, walls are freshly painted, and - thanks in large part to a grant from the Community Foundation of Tompkins County - there are new stall doors and partitions! While the new partitions were professionally installed, most of the job was done by volunteers: Aaron, Aaron's dad (visiting from CT), Angelika, Jan, Laurie, Mason, Meghan, and Simon.



If you live in the Hamlet of Varna, you are automatically a member of the non-profit Varna Community Association (VCA). There are no dues or paperwork, just friendship and community.



VCA wireless
Password: pancake1



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

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE PAID
ITHACA, NY 14850
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Elections November 8th

Congressional and State races are on the ballot this November. The Community Center will be open to voters from 6am to 9pm on November 8th.



Highway Cleanup November 12th

Meet at 9am at the turnaround across from 1237 Dryden Road to make Route 366 a much prettier place!

NYSEG Bill Relief

Utility customers enrolled in NYSEG's Energy Affordability Program (EAP) can receive a one-time bill credit eliminating arrears accumulated before May 1, 2022, thanks to the NYS Electric/Gas Utility Arrears Relief Program. See page 2 for details!



The VCA is a **United Way Funded Partner**. See page 3 for details.



The blue food cupboard and cooler continue to serve the neighborhood. Donation of food and personal hygiene items welcome!

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