



VARNA NEWS



Sidewalk Celebration



IT'S A PARADE!!

THURSDAY MAY 4, 6:30PM

WooHoo! Varna just got a lot safer. To help our community celebrate, the Ithaca College African Drumming and Dance Ensemble will lead us in a parade along the new sidewalk. We're inviting other groups to march along, but anyone can join the fun – dogwalkers, stroller-pushers, kids on scooters, jugglers, ball bouncers, flag-wavers, everyone! You can march, dance, cheer or simply watch the commotion. Just don't be late. This event will be noisy and delightfully short! The drummers and dancers will be here by 6:30 and gone by 7.

For questions or suggestions, email:
chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org



Connect the Trails!



Come together to celebrate the connection of the trails on **May 20, 2023 at noon on Game Farm Road where the Dryden Rail Trail meets the East Ithaca Recreation Way**

Hikers, bikers and joggers will approach Game Farm Road simultaneously on both trails, coming together at the appointed hour to officially connect the Dryden and Ithaca trails.

Stop along the way for family friendly riddles. Music, snacks and prizes when you arrive. Inspirational short speeches by those who made this possible.

For details about when and where to start hiking, jogging, or biking including maps and parking information visit <https://drydenrailtrail.org/events>. If you live near the new Varna sidewalk you can get on the Dryden Rail Trail easily by taking the sidewalk to Mt. Pleasant Road and walking up the road a short way to where the trail crosses the road. At a medium to slow hiking pace you will reach Game Farm Road in about 30 minutes. (There will be no parking on Game Farm Road)

Once the Dryden Rail Trail is complete it will connect Dryden Lake, Dryden, Freeville, Etna, Varna, and Ithaca with a trail accessible to all for recreation and commuting without travelling on any roads. Come and participate in the grand opening of this section of the trail, a truly amazing community resource!

Neighborhood Get-Togethers

4th Friday of each Month, 1-4pm

May 26, June 23, July 28

Neighbors got together at the Varna Community Center on a Friday afternoon in February and had a great time talking about gardening and growing things; about animals, dogs, cats, horses; and about teaching. In fact, it was so much fun we plan to gather on the last Friday of each month and share conversation, tea, and maybe play a board game or two. All ages are welcome. For information, leave a message at: 607-272-2658 (speak slowly please.)

Fall 2023 After School Programs in Varna

On Wednesday afternoons the Dryden O.U.R.S. and Cornell Y.O.U.R.S. after school program will return to the Varna Community Center. Several kids from Hillside Acres Park have been participating and enjoying this **FREE** program during the current school year. In the fall, there will be space for more youngsters to join. O.U.R.S. stands for Opportunity, Understanding, Respect, Success. It is a 4-H program for youth residing in or nearby mobile home parks in Dryden. Y.O.U.R.S. stands for Cornell's Outreach Undergraduates Reshaping Success. Each week, Cornell student volunteers come to Varna to work with kids through mentoring, games, crafts, outdoor activities, and field trips. To learn more about the Wednesday afternoon program, contact the Program Director.

Contact
Patrick Lynch
Dryden OURS Senior Program Manager
pml85@cornell.edu
(607) 272-2292



The Raftedu Chinese Language and Culture after school program will be renting the Varna Community on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays starting in the fall. This program helps students learn Mandarin Chinese and engages them in fun and creative activities to understand Chinese culture. The program is open to school aged children of any cultural background. There is a fee to enroll. Raftedu is a registered non-profit that started five years ago. For more information, contact the Director, Yanzi Angie Yin: ayin@raftedu.org

Varna Church Update

Hello from the Varna church. There is a lot going on in the Hamlet and we hope all of you are part of it. Our summer bar b q, dates are June 10, July 22, and August 19. All are noonish until gone, halves only and prices depending on market, at that time. Have a happy Mothers Day, Fathers Day and safe 4th of July. We hope construction ends soon. Congratulations to the Varna Fire Company on their many new members. Thank you to the people who have left yarn on the porch for the Pew Knitters. Donations keep us busy donating items to people in need. We are still looking for a pianist for Sunday Service.

Our church is open to all who wish to join on on Sundays from 11-12. -Sis Johnson

Spring Highway Cleanup

Saturday May 27th at 9am will be the Spring 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!

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, May 9th 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 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 worldwide, 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: www.taoisttaichi.org/locations/ithaca





NY Citizen Preparedness Training

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. This training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one Preparedness kit.

- Sponsored by the Town of Dryden and the Varna Community Association
- 6-8pm, on a weekday evening in July - watch for an announcement of the date
- FREE and open to all
- Pre-registration required

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 recommend 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. To learn more about the cabi-

nets and find more locations where you can leave or pick up food, visit <https://mutualaidtompkins.com/food-sharing/locations> .

Pancakes in the Fall?

If COVID case counts stay low, and we can find enough volunteers, the VCA will finally have a Pancake Breakfast in September or October. If you'd be interested in helping to set up, cook, serve, or clean up, please contact Simon St.Laurent at simon-stl@simonstl.com

Join our board!

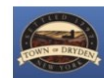
The Varna Community Association is looking for new board members. Might you be interested? Being a board member is a great way to keep up on Varna happenings, and to give back to the community. To

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.

If you need **Internet connectivity**, the VCA wireless can help even if the building is closed. The router is in the back of the building, so the area behind the building has better reception. It's not a huge connection, and weather and power outages occasionally interfere. You're welcome to use the network, but please observe social distancing, and especially please stay out of the way of our kitchen renters if they are working while you're there.



VCA wireless
Password: pancake1



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Ithaca NY 14852-4771

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THURSDAY MAY 4, 6:30-7 PM

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Afternoon Gathering May 26th, June 23, July 28, 1-4pm

Everyone is invited to come the Varna Community Center on the fourth Friday of the month from 1 to 4pm to spend time with friends and neighbors. Details on page 2!

Connect the Trails!



May 20, 2023 at noon on Game Farm Road where the Dryden Rail Trail meets the East Ithaca Recreation Way

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



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