



VARNA NEWS

Free Admission—Everyone Welcome

2nd Annual Summer Family Festival

Saturday, August 23rd 10am-3pm, at the
Varna Community Center, 943 Dryden Rd (Route 366)

Raffles Bounce House Puppet Show
Balloon Artist Bubbles & Games Quilt Raffle
Silent Auction White Elephants Lots More!



Chicken Barbecue 12-2pm

(Chicken, chips, beverage, and dessert \$10)

Come and enjoy a fun day!



Welcome to Varna!

If you live in the Hamlet of Varna, you are automatically a member of the non-profit Varna Community Association (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, kitchen and meeting room rentals, and grants. The VCA's volunteer board of directors welcomes new ideas and helpers! Visit the VCA website to learn more, volunteer your time, and donate: www.varnacomunityassociation.org/

To receive the VARNA NEWS fast and in color, email: newsletter@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org

Ithaca Carshare Van is Here!

[Ithaca Carshare](#) has stationed a van at the Varna Community Center. To use the van, you need a Carshare membership.



Plans are annual or monthly, and cover up to two drivers. There's a one-time non-refundable \$20 fee per driver for all membership applications, and members have to be over 18 and driving for at least two years. Once you have a membership, you can reserve this van or many other vehicles around Ithaca. You'll use your keycard to unlock the doors, assess the vehicle for any damage or issues, and start the vehicle with the key in the car. A 24-hour line is available to help you with any urgent issues during your trip. At the end of your trip, you'll return the vehicle to its home parking spot. You only pay for what you use. Carshare hourly rates start at \$6/hour. Mileage rates are 42¢-52¢ per mile. That includes gas/EV charging, maintenance, cleaning, insurance, and repairs.

New Barn Roof

A generous grant from two funds at the Community Foundation of Tompkins County will allow replacement of the leaky roof on the VCA's steel barn. As a service to the wider community, the VCA provides space in the barn for [Habitat for Humanity](#) to store supplies for their many home-building projects. Money from the Community Foundation's *Rural Neighbors Fund* and the *2025 Empowering Resilient Communities to Thrive Fund* will cover the cost of materials. Volunteers and staff from Habitat for Humanity will replace the roof in September. Many thanks go to the good folks who donate to the Community Foundation, the Community Foundation vol-

unteers who reviewed the VCA's application, the Community Foundation staff who mastermind administration of grants; Jan Morgan who wrote the VCA's application; and, of course, the Habitat volunteers who will install the roof under the direction of Simon Gould, Construction Supervisor.



Varna Church Update

Warm greetings from Varna United Methodist Church! Remember that during the cold winter, we will be wishing for a day or two of this hot weather. Church is busy as always. Thanks to all who drop off small boxes and egg cartons. Both go on to another use before landfill.

We will have our annual CLOTHING GIVE AWAY on September 19th and 20th from 9am-3pm. Please bring your own bags. Donations will be accepted from August 1st to September 12th, and can be left on the church porch to the left of the door near the blue bin. *We accept clothing and children's books only.*

If you missed the chicken BBQ at the Center, there will be another on at the Family Fun Fest. We heard it was soooo good. A shout out to our wonderful neighbors who pick the up trash from the road sides. We don't thank you enough. -Sis Johnson

United Way (UWTC) Supports Varna

First, there was a \$250 FOCUS grant to purchase food for the VCA's blue food cupboard. Thanks to Amy Albright for writing the VCA's application! Focus on Community Understanding (FOCUS) is part of UWTC's student engagement program. Students at Dryden Middle School reviewed applications from non-profits in Dryden. With guidance from faculty and UWTC staff, they allocated \$2000 provided by the Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund and Cornell University Student United Way. In the process, the students learned about needs in the community, local non-profits, setting priorities, and making collaborative decisions.



Second, as part of United Way's Day of Action, six volunteers from Wegman's came to Varna to help spread wood chips on the Jim Skaley trail. They lugged chips up the trail for over three hours. The

The VCA Book Cupboard needs books for adult readers! You can drop them off at the Community Center.

section of trail they covered with chips looks great and is easy on the feet!

United Way will be holding a Day of Caring on Septem-



ber 20 at the YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County which will include a free, family-friendly field days style carnival where the impact partners and business partners will have tables to share resource information as well as a fun activity to enjoy. For more information on this event, a list of the impact partners, and how to help strengthen our community by donating, please visit <https://uwtc.org> to donate to United Way or to find a list of all the non-profits UWTC supports.

Rent the Community Center

The Varna Community Center's meeting rooms and commercial kitchen are available for rental, for both single events and regular happenings. You can find out more at <https://www.varnacomunityassociation.org/programs-resources>.

St.Bonaventure University Alumni Band rehearsal at the VCA



Highway Cleanup

Saturday October 4th at 9am will be the Fall road clean-up of Rt. 366, with a rain date of October 11th. 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 reiff-meghan@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there!

Varna Walks! Report

The VCA's first-ever walk-a-thon fundraiser was held on a moist Saturday (weren't they all??) in June. While it was sparsely attended, the event was a success in a couple of important ways. It provided a deadline to finally get signs created and installed for the VCA's trails. Ithaca Rotary provided funding for signage several years ago and we finally got it done! Thanks to Simon St.Laurent, there are now signs at both ends of the Jim Skaley trail and directional signs along the way to prevent folks from veering off course. A large trailhead sign was designed by members of the VCA board and produced by Sign-a-Rama of Ithaca. All signs look great! The other success was excellent support from community businesses: BJ's, Cayuga Xpress, Clark's Market, Key Bank, P&C Fresh, Tops Market, Toad's Too, Trader Joes. Event planners Laurie Foster, Sue Heath, and Jan Morgan enjoyed working together.



Installing a sign



Walking the trail



Choosing a route



New trailhead sign and trash can

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

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Also in this newsletter—

- Ithaca Carshare van
- New barn roof
- Trail improvements
- Route 366 cleanup
- Varna United Methodist Church clothing giveaway

The VCA is pleased to be a United Way of Tompkins County Impact Partner.



Every Monday, 9:30—Strength & Balance for 50+
August

11—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
17—Knitting Club, 2-4pm
23—Family Fun Fest, 10am-3pm

September

8—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
14—Pancake Breakfast, 8-11am
21—Knitting Club, 2-4pm

October

4—Highway Cleanup (11 is rain date), 9am
12—Pancake Breakfast, 8-11am
13—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
19—Knitting Club, 2-4pm

November 27th—Thanksgiving Dinner!

2024 VCA Board of Directors

Members: Samantha Fields, Laurie Foster, Mason Jager (Secretary), Janet Morgan (Chair), Dawn Potter, Simon St.Laurent (Treasurer)

Meetings: usually held the second 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.

