



VARNA NEWS



FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 27th, 12-3PM

at the Varna Community Center

943 Dryden Road, Route 366

Free and Open to All

Once again, the Varna Community Association is delighted to organize and offer a free Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 27th from Noon-3PM. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a meal of roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetarian lasagna, squash, corn, green bean casserole, rolls, fruit salad, beverages, and a variety of dessert pies.

Take-out dinners and local deliveries will, once again, be available. To arrange for delivery, call either Susan Simmons (607-280-8042) or Dawn Potter (607-280-9750).

Providing this meal for everyone takes a lot of volunteers. Varna has been blessed to have several folks donate their time on Thanksgiving Day to help serve, cook, deliver dinners locally, do dishes, and help clean up afterward.

Please consider supporting this event:

- **Volunteer to help** – call Susan Simmons (607-280-8042).
- **Donate groceries, funds, or supplies** – call Dawn Potter (607-280-9750).



Come and enjoy a great meal, meet neighbors and other residents, visit with volunteers, and get to know what the Varna Community Association offers the hamlet and Town.

Greetings from the VCA Board of Directors

The Varna Community Association (VCA) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has served Varna since 1951. If you live in the Hamlet of Varna, you are a member! There are no membership dues. The VCA provides a variety of resources to the community, including the recently-created trails connecting our property to the Dryden Rail Trail and Hillside Acres. All our programs are run by volunteers and the property is managed by volunteers. We are funded entirely by donations, grants, and rental of our facilities. We need your energy and ideas! Visit the "[Get Involved](https://www.varnacomunityassociation.org/)" page on the VCA website, <https://www.varnacomunityassociation.org/>, and contact us with your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you. -Jan Morgan, Chair chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org



Soup and Salad January 17th—see page 3.

Varna Church Update

Greetings from Varna Church. Thanks to all who donated clothing to our giveaway, and also thank you to the many who supported us by taking some useful clothes home. It is work, but we enjoy seeing the smiles on your faces.

Happy Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and the Holidays you celebrate.

Pew knitters have been super busy, getting ready to deliver the fine things they've made.

Please drop off boxes in sizes from band aids to cereals so that they can be used for obedience training for dogs. Egg cartons are used by the Food Pantries and people who sell their own eggs. All of these can be left on the porch in the blue bin. Keep an eye out for the dates of the pancake breakfasts



at the Community Center. Best breakfast in town. And make each day a good one. Be kind to each other. You are always welcome to worship with us at 11 on Sunday. We welcome everyone. -Sis Johnson

Varna Volunteer Fire Company

On Sept. 7, 2025, the Varna Volunteer Fire Company hosted our 2nd Annual EMS Day! Our team worked through a full lineup of emergency simulations to sharpen skills, teamwork, and response coordination across multiple scenarios, including cardiac arrest, bleeding control, allergic reaction, behavioral crisis, trauma injury, ectopic pregnancy, and airway issues.

We were thrilled to welcome incredible partners from across Tompkins County, including Elevate EMS Training, Dryden Ambulance Inc., Cornell University EMS, Tompkins County Emergency Response, New York State Police, Bangs Ambulance, and Neptune Hose Company No. 1 of

Dryden. A huge thank you to every responder, actor, and volunteer who made the day a success!



Photo from VVFC

Cooking in Varna

The commercial kitchen at the Varna Community Center is certified by both Tompkins County Whole Health Department and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, so we can accommodate users who sell directly to the public (permitted by the County) and those who sell to a third party such as a grocery store (permitted by NYS). [*Rose's Home Dish*](#) has a popular business selling a variety of casseroles to customers who pre-order online. To learn more about renting our kitchen, visit <https://www.varnacomunityassociation.org/programs-resources>.

Varna Knitting Club, November 16th, 2-4pm

Would you like to learn how to knit? Or have company while you do some knitting? The VCA Knitting Club meets in the Community Center on the third Sunday of the month (11/16, 12/21, and 1/18) from 2-4 pm. Bring a pair of knitting needles and a ball of yarn and let's get knitting! We will have a few extra supplies so don't worry if you can't bring some.

As Laurie Foster put it, "It's two hours I can relax, learn, converse with others and have fun. I'm becoming a master at making pot holders."

Lessons are available for beginners. Crocheters also welcome. Hope to see you there!

Balance and Conditioning Class

Mondays, 9:30am at the Community Center

This class is open to everyone 50 or older. You can come to as many (or as few) classes as you like. Chris Dunham, an

instructor from [Lifelong](#), leads exercises to strengthen core muscles and promote balance. He creates a non-judgmental atmosphere and offers alternatives to fit individual needs. Mats are provided. You do not need to be a member of [LifeLong](#). **Wear comfortable clothes and bring \$5 each week. Give it a try!**



Soup & Salad, January 17th, 4-7pm



Varna's Soup and Salad event returns to warm you up! Enjoy an all-you-can-eat variety of soups and chili, tossed salad, bread and butter, desserts, and beverages at the Varna Community

Center. The food is made and served by volunteers. Eat in or take out! Adults \$9, Seniors \$8, Children 5-12 \$6, under 5 free.

Returnable Bottles, Cans, and Ink Cartridges

So far this year, your donated bottles and cans have earned the VCA over \$100. That may not seem like a lot of money, but every bit of income helps keep our facilities safe and functioning smoothly. If you leave your clean, empty deposit bottles and cans by the front door of the Community Center, a volunteer will turn them in and collect the deposits. Just make sure "NY" shows up on the list of states marked on the bottle or can. (That means no iced tea, lemonade, fruit juice or hard cider containers please). Similarly, we turn in used ink cartridges and use the store credit to purchase newsletter supplies, like paper and sticky tabs. It's an easy way to help your community!

New Mutual Aid Cabinet

The Varna Community Center has hosted a Mutual Aid Food Sharing Cabinet since 2020, serving a regular flow of people dropping off and picking up food and hygiene items.

Thanks to a United Way grant, we have built a new cabinet that fits better in our vestibule, is easier to maintain, and gives the refrigerator a more stable home. Like its predecessor, it will be heated to protect cans from freezing in the winter.

The old cabinet and its heated shelf are now helping people at a new location, outside The Savage Club on Route 34 in North Lansing. Better still, the heater in it started conversation that should lead to more cabinets having heated shelves.



After School Program Update

The Raftedu Chinese Cultural Center, Inc. rents space at the Varna Community Center to host an after school program for children in grades K through 5. Recently, Raftedu became registered as a school-aged child care program with the NY Office for Family and Children Services. This means they can now accept subsidies from the Department of Social Services (DSS) for families who qualify for child care support. Raftedu offers classes in Mandarin Chinese, and a new Chinese as a Second Language class will soon be offered for non-heritage, school-aged, learners. All children are welcome to join – learning Chinese is optional. For information please email Raftedu Director, Angie Yin at info@raftedu.org

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

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

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

FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 27, noon - 3pm



Balance and Conditioning Class from Lifelong, Mondays at 9:30am

If you're over 50, come to the Varna Community Center, 943 Dryden Road, for a \$5 class on low-intensity strength and conditioning exercises. Details inside.

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

November

10—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
16—Knitting Club, 2-4pm

November 27th—Thanksgiving Dinner!

December

8—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
21—Knitting Club, 2-4pm

January

12—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
17—Soup and Salad, 7pm
18—Knitting Club, 2-4pm

2024 VCA Board of Directors

Members: 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.