



VARNA NEWS

Let's eat out!

When? Sunday, Nov. 12, 4:30-9:30pm (You pick the time.)

Where? The Antlers Restaurant, 1159 Dryden Road, 607-251-0762, www.Antlersrestaurant.com

Why? You'll enjoy a great meal and, it's a VCA fundraiser! Owner Scott Schmutzler will donate a portion of the day's profit to support the Varna Community Association.

Is there a secret password? YES! When you call to make a reservation for you and your tablemates, **please mention the Varna Community Association.**



A Personal Note –

Dear Readers, November 12 was my late husband Jim Skaley's birthday. This year will be the one-year anniversary of the CAT scan that revealed his inoperable brain tumor. Dinner at the Antlers will be a perfect distraction from those memories. I'm looking forward to a meal with friends in the warm atmosphere of the Antlers restaurant. I hope you'll join the party! Jan Morgan, VCA Chair

Into the Woods

A new trail connecting the Varna Community Center with the Dryden Rail Trail is ready for use! Thanks to a license between the Town of Dryden and Cornell University, and the energetic work of a hearty band of eight Varna volunteers, the trail is open for your careful enjoyment.

The approximately 1/4 mile long footpath passes through stands of trees, shrubs, and lots of goldenrod. It climbs gradually uphill from the back of the Community Center to reach the Rail Trail at a spot about 1/4 mile west of Mt. Pleasant Rd. The footbed is muddy in spots and tree roots cross the path here and there,



so if you have any balance issues you will want to have a sturdy walking pole with you. For now, the trail is marked by white cloth strips/yellow tapes tied to branches along the way. We will add signs soon, thanks to a grant from the Ithaca Rotary Club.

Trail entrance, signs soon!

Photos by Simon St.Laurent

Varna Church Update

WOW! Our 8th annual clothing giveaway served folks locally and internationally! Eleven volunteers donated 90 hours from August to mid-September sorting, folding and organizing clothing for men, women, children and infants, along with a menagerie of stuffed animals that needed to be rehomed. Ninety people were able to find clothing items and adopted stuffed animals, and we added three new support services to our list of post-giveaway donation locations. Clothing and creatures found their way into local homes as well as to families in Guatemala and Mexico. Thanks to all who left donations, helped during the giveaway and packed and delivered afterward. We are blessed with long-lasting memories.

The blue donation box on the porch is busy with your donations of shelf-stable foods, which are distributed at the Varna Community Center. Empty cracker boxes go to the SPCA for treat-training puppies, empty egg cartons are donated to the Farmers Market, plastic caps are used in making children's prostheses, etc., etc. We are so happy to give back. Thank you again.

PEW KNITTERS are busy delivering knitted and crocheted items. 3 new knitters have recently joined us.

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY 12/01: Holiday/Hymn Sing at 6 PM. Good fun and refreshments for a free will offering.

We hold our church service on Sundays 11-12. Our doors are always open to all who wish to join us.

-Sis Johnson and Susan Simmons

Varna Volunteer Fire Company

Greetings from Fire Chief Jager! On October 7th, 11 dedicated Interior Firefighters from the Varna Volunteer Fire Company, who were previously certified by the state of New York, passed the National Certification for Firefighter 1. Administered by the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) and the Pro Board, this national-level certification confirms their ability and readiness to tackle emergency situations with expertise, further affirming their commitment to the safety of our community.

VVFC currently has 37 firefighters, 20 of whom are certified for interior operations. Training has already begun for 9 new probationary members that the department accepted in September. The support from Cornell students is critical to the protection of the area, but we still need members from the Ellis Hollow and Varna communities.

As a friendly reminder, be sure to check your smoke alarms monthly and consider having your chimney inspected prior to the heating season!

Cool Creatures in Varna

Several live snakes and skeletons of other reptiles and amphibians were on display at the community center recently when Cornell's Herpetological Club visited. This free, family-friendly event was offered to the community and lots of people came! The VCA board will be planning more events. Send your suggestions to: chair@varnacomunityassociation.org



Photos by Jan Morgan



Used Ink & Toner Cartridges Needed

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!

Renting the Community Center

The Varna Community Center facilities are available for private rentals. They are often used for birthday parties, baby showers, receptions, meetings, and so forth. You’ll find more information on the VCA website “Programs and Resources” page.

The building is regularly used by the Ithaca branch of the Taoist Tai Chi Association for Tai Chi sessions. You can find information on their [website](https://www.taoisttaichi.org/locations/ithaca-varna-community-center/) at <https://www.taoisttaichi.org/locations/ithaca-varna-community-center/>. A dog training business, [Homefront Canine](https://homefrontcanine.com/), <https://homefrontcanine.com/>, has recently expanded from their base in Cortland to offer classes in Varna. They limit the number of animals and do an excellent job of cleaning up after each class.

Returnable Bottles & Cans

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). It’s an easy way to help your community!

VCA + Racker = Collaboration

Sometimes the answering machine in the Community Center holds a pleasant surprise. That happened recently, when Racker’s Regional Director of Residential Support left a message.

He was looking for a place that could serve as a ‘hub’ for adult Racker clients to meet before heading out to their daytime activities. Details are being worked out, but it looks like this will be a good fit for both parties.

TC3 Student Award

Are you a student at Tompkins Cortland Community College living in Dryden? If so, you could be eligible

for a cash award from the Varna Community Association. Look for details on the [Programs and Resources page of the VCA’s website](#).

Raftedu Chinese Language and Culture After School Program Kids Enjoying a Fine October Afternoon at the Varna Playground



Photos by Jan Morgan

****CONGRATULATIONS****

To the 11 members of
 Varna’s Volunteer Fire Company
 who recently earned national certification for
 Firefighter #1

The VCA and all its members
 thank you for keeping our community safe!

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

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November

6th, 7pm: VCA board meeting – guests welcome

7th, **Elections**, 6am to 9pm

Every Thursday, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, open to all

December

4th, 7pm: VCA board meeting – guests welcome

Every Thursday, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, open to all

January

8th, 7pm: VCA board meeting – guests welcome

Every Thursday, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, open to all

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

