



VARNA NEWS



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, Nov. 28, noon - 3pm

Varna Community Center, 943 Dryden Rd. (NY Rte. 366)

FREE and OPEN TO ALL

We are delighted to offer this free meal for the community for the first time since the pandemic! For the seven years preceding COVID, the VCA's Thanksgiving dinner was highly popular and always tasty. And now it's back! Come enjoy 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 be available. To arrange for delivery, call either Susan Simmons (607-280-8042) or Dawn Potter (607-280-9750).

Please consider supporting this event:

Volunteer to help prepare and serve dinner – call Susan Simmons (607-280-8042),

Donate groceries or supplies – visit www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org to see the list of what's needed, then call Dawn Potter (607-280-9750) to arrange drop off,

Provide money to help pay for expenses. Contact Dawn Potter (607-280-9750) to arrange to contribute by check or cash.



Varna Community Association Giving Tuesday Fundraiser

The Varna Community Association is a non-profit for your neighborhood. We're your local polling place. We offer a playground and basketball court behind our Community Center. Our trails behind the building connect to Hillside Acres and the Dryden Rail Trail. The mutual aid cabinet in the front vestibule provides food and offers the chance to help your neighbors, and there's a free library there too. You can rent the Center's meeting rooms or the kitchen to hold your own events. The Community Center hosts the Raftedu Chinese Language and Culture after-school program. We've started offering Pancake Breakfasts again and the Thanksgiving Dinner is back!

We would love to have your support so we can offer more programs, improve our trails, and keep the facilities in good shape. We dream of adding a fire alarm system to the building, and keeping all of this going is a regular challenge. To donate, visit <https://givebutter.com/TQzfv6> or scan the QR code to the right. By the end of Giving Tuesday, December 8 we aim to raise \$2500.

**GIVING
TUESDAY**



Varna Church Update

Wow! The Varna Church had a successful Clothing Give Away again this year. Many thanks to all who donated clothing, took clothes home, helped sort, or helped in any way. We appreciate all hands.

Please leave small empty boxes (from band-aids to cereal size) on the porch in or near the blue bin. We'll also take egg cartons. We have extra uses for them before the landfill. Happy Thanksgiving and please don't forget the free turkey dinner at the Community Center. They might need some extra hands, so give them a call.

Our Christmas Eve service will be December 24th at 6PM. You are always welcome to come join us for any Sunday Service, from 11AM - noon. Our doors are always open to you. -Sis Johnson

Varna Volunteer Fire Company

The VVFC is constantly training to protect you better. Recently, we've practiced water rescues, master stream operation, air consumption management, patient extrication, ground ladder skills, and knots, hitches, and rescue techniques. We hosted an EMS Day with actors in full-body makeup simulating common injuries and scenarios.

On October 20th, members of the Varna Volunteer Fire Company traveled to Rochester to receive the prestigious New York State EMS Innovation Award for Operational Innovation.



Program Administrator for EMS for Children Program Amy Eisenhauer, Deputy Chief Nikola Danev, Chief Mason Jager, Assistant chief for EMS Erik Kirakosyan, EMS training officer Michelle Tcherevatenko, Director of Bureau of EMS and Trauma Ryan Greenberg

STRENGTH TRAINING CLASS

Mondays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. starting January 27
\$5 per person, per session.

Offered by [Lifelong](#), this low-intensity strength and conditioning will use body weight exercises based on calisthenics to enhance a wide range of biomotor abilities, including strength, power, endurance, speed, flexibility, coordination, and balance. If you are 50 years or older, come give your body a boost and enjoy the company of friends. The class will be taught by certified fitness instructor Chris Dunham. Wear comfortable clothes and bring \$5. (If you have weights and/or a yoga mat, bring them to class.) You do not need to be a member of Lifelong to participate. Lifelong's mission is to enhance the lives of older adults in Tompkins County. It's great that they will be in Varna!

HELP TURN ORANGE CHAIRS BLUE
– Monday January 13, 7pm

The VCA owns LOTS of chairs. The frames are sturdy but the vinyl seats and backs have been damaged over the decades. We have recovered a few and they look great. It's time to do more! No prior experience needed. We have all the supplies and hand tools that you'll need. Just come to the Community Center on January 13th and we'll show you how to help.



SAVE THE DATE: VCA ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025 at 6pm

If you live in Varna, you are a member of the Varna Community Association. You can vote on business items at this meeting, including the election of board members. Please come – we want to hear from youand, there will be pizza! Kids welcome.

Summer Fest 2024

Summer Fest was busy this year, with over a hundred people attending, many of whom walked there on Varna's new sidewalk! Those who drove could use parking donated by Bell's Auto Care, Varna Auto Service and Strebel Planning Group.

The Tompkins County Legislature via the Tompkins County Recovery Fund sponsored a visit by the [Physics Bus](#). Generous Varna neighbors sponsored other activities: a bounce house where kids leapt and careened down the water slide, a show and puppet-making workshop by [Lilypad Puppet Theatre](#), fantastical hats and other creations by Tom Britt the Balloon Artist. The [Varna Volunteer Fire Company](#) had a truck and information for the public. Laurie Snyder entertained with giant bubbles. Matt Perry cooked hamburgers, hot dogs, and popcorn.

A key moment was the dedication of the pavilion behind the Community Center as the 'Dawn and Geoff Potter Pavilion.' A letter from Dawn (printed here with her permission) sums up the VCA's work over the decades very well:

Dear Members of the VCA Board,

I cannot express to you how very honored I was to have you dedicate the pavilion to Geoff and me. The VCA was a huge part of our lives for several decades.

It was at the VCA that we learned how to be a community family. We learned how to cook and BBQ for 600, put on dinners, submit grant applications and enjoy the being accepted. We have the kitchen stove to enjoy because of it!

The VCA is forever instilled in the Potter family line. Geoff's grandparents helped build the Center, Geoff was instrumental in the addition, and our children grew up learning how important it was to contribute and volunteer in the community you live in. Our grandson also enjoyed every Thanksgiving Dinner and waiting on tables. Coby will always remember Grandpa teaching him how to run the dishwasher!

Thank you for your kind recognition of our commitment to the VCA and Varna. I am most grateful and am happy to still be a part of the Varna family.

With much thanks and regards,

Dawn and the Potter family

Short Trails, Tall Weeds

The winter forecast is for warmer than normal, so there may be opportunities to release your inner brush cutter/wood chopper/weed whacker and help get the trails behind the Varna Community Center in tip top shape for spring walks in the woods. One trail is 0.14mi long and the newer one connecting the VCA property to the Dryden Rail trail, is 0.22mi. The trails are short, but are home to a LOT of goldenrod, blackberry bushes, fallen limbs and other trip hazards. If you would be willing to spend an hour trimming back saplings, weeds, and brush, moving the occasional blown down tree off the path, or evening out the footbed with wood chips, please email Sue at: sfunicelli709@gmail.com Thank you!

Pancakes Jan. 12 (or 26), 2025

The next Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday, Jan. 12: 8am – 11am. In case of bad weather on Jan. 12, the breakfast will be two weeks later, on Jan. 26th. Watch for the green flag in front of the Community Center. Whether the breakfast is held on the 12th or 26th, it will be a good time to meet your neighbors.



The VCA is also working with [Ithaca Carshare](#), hoping to station a van at the Community Center. Watch here for more details!



Kids and their parents got to create puppets in a workshop right after the Lilypad Puppet Theatre show, and many residents came to enjoy the food, fun, and neighbors at August's Summerfest.

Varna Community Association, Inc.
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Non-Profit Org
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FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 28, noon - 3pm



Strength Training Class from Lifelong

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. Starts January 27th, 9:30am. Details inside.

November

28th—Free Thanksgiving Dinner, open to all, Noon-3pm
Thursdays, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous, open to all

December

Thursdays, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous, open to all

January

12th—Pancake Breakfast, 8-11am (19th if weather terrible)

13th—Chair re-covering, 7pm

Thursdays, 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous, open to all

26th—Weather backup for Pancake Breakfast, 8-11am

27th—Exercise Class for Seniors, 9:30am

2024 VCA Board of Directors

Members: Amy Albright (Vice Chair), Laurie Foster, Sue Funicelli, Mason Jager (Secretary), Janet Morgan (Chair), Matt Perry, Simon St.Laurent (Treasurer).

Meetings: usually held the first 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.