



# VARNA NEWS

**ANNUAL MEETING—Free and open to Varna residents of all ages**

**Friday, February 9 at 6:30pm**

## **National Pizza Day!**

The whole family is invited for pizza at the Varna Community Center to celebrate National Pizza Day and, the VCA's annual meeting. Because of the pandemic, we haven't had an annual meeting of the Varna Community Association (VCA) membership for several years. All residents of Varna are members of the VCA! If you can, please bring cookies, or fruit to share.

Here's what to expect:

Meet neighbors, eat pizza, admire the new blue chairs, listen to a brief overview of the state of the VCA corporation, ask questions, eat more pizza, exchange ideas, play with kids, elect members of the VCA board of directors.



## **FREE EVENT FOR ALL AGES**

**Thursday, April 25, 7pm, in front of the Varna Community Center**

## **African Drumming and Dance Group Performance**

They helped us celebrate the new sidewalk in Varna, and now the Ithaca College Drumming and Dance Group is coming to perform more dances and songs. The event will be about 30 minutes – short enough to get kids home to bed on a school night, and long enough for us to learn about African dances, and appreciate the talent of this multicultural group led by Dr. Baruch Whitehead of Ithaca College's Music Education Department. Bring your own chair if you'd like to sit.



## **Family Playtime at the Community Center?**

Last fall, when the Cornell Herp Club visited Varna, a parent whose kids were having fun playing with others, asked if the VCA ever holds free play times? Of course, the playground is always available, but in cold weather, the parent suggested, it would be nice to have a warm and free spot for families to gather on a Saturday morning for an hour or two. Does this sound good to you? If yes, let's get something started. Contact Meghan at: [reiffmeghan@hotmail.com](mailto:reiffmeghan@hotmail.com)

## Varna Church Update

Greetings from Varna Church. The Holiday Hymn Sing in December was fun and donations went to the Community Food Pantry. We wish more could have shared the fun evening. Our 5 rotating Pastors gave us nice Advent and Christmas Services. Decorations went up and are now down, waiting for next year.

Thank you to all who are leaving egg cartons and the small boxes like cake mixes, cereal and smaller, on the bin on the porch. They get another use before going to the landfill.

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

We will have our usual services for the Easter season, including Ash Wednesday 2/14 at 6pm, Good Friday 3/29 at 6 pm. We will celebrate Palm Sunday 3/24 and Easter Sunday 3/31 11 am.

We are planning a talent production in the spring, April 19th at 6 pm. If you are interested in becoming a part of a fun evening, please call Alice Humerez at 697-272-2970. Thank you. -*Sis Johnson*

## Varna Volunteer Fire Company

Greetings from the Varna Volunteer Fire Company! Please join us in welcoming our officers for 2024.

Chief: **Mason Jager**

Deputy Chief: **Nikola Danev**

Assistant Chief for Fire: **Mia Clark**

Assistant Chief for EMS: **Erik Kirakosyan**

1st Fire Captain: **Jesse Kapstad**

2nd Fire Captain: **Sahib Kaila**

3rd Fire Captain: **Arianna Josue**

EMS Captain: **Charlotte Book**

Fire Police Captain: **Frank Moyer**

As a 100% volunteer service, we need YOUR help to protect our community. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter, EMT, apparatus driver/operator, or support member, we have a spot for you! Stop by the station (14 Turkey Hill Road) between 6:30-7:30pm on a Wednesday evening or email: [info@varnafire.org](mailto:info@varnafire.org) if you have questions. Follow us on Instagram (@varnafire) and Facebook to receive updates on our department activities and community events and keep an eye out for

member highlights in the upcoming Varna Newsletter!

From all of us at the VVFC, we wish you a wonderful remainder of the winter season!

## Kitchen Upgrades

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Susan Christopherson Community Planning Fund at the Tompkins County Community Foundation**, the VCA kitchen now has a new reach-in cooler in the kitchen, replacing a unit that was procured secondhand about 20 years ago. The old one kept food cold but constantly dripped water on food inside. Thanks to the grant, a new unit was purchased from local restaurant equipment supplier, *B&W Supply Co.*



Volunteers from the VCA are also exploring options for replacing the heavily used, blue tile countertop that is partly in the kitchen and partly in the 'big room.' While attractive, the tiles are small and the many grout lines are impossible to keep clean. We have funding from the Tompkins County Recovery Fund, but we need a plan. If you have ideas for this project, please let us know Email: [Chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org](mailto:Chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org)



## Thanks to Antlers Restaurant

The fundraising dinner held at Antlers Restaurant in November was a friendly, delicious, and profitable event for the VCA. More than a dozen tables were filled with Varna families and friends. Thank you to everyone who supported the VCA that evening. And, a big thanks to Antlers owner, Scott Schmutzler, who donated a portion of the evening's profit to the VCA.

### Chair Recovering Project

If you’ve ever visited the Varna Community Center, you’ve sat in, or at least noticed, the sturdy chairs in the building. There are approximately 100 of them and they are bright orange! Acquired in the 1970’s or 80’s, they have held up remarkably well over the decades, but many have developed rips and holes – especially on the seats. In mid-January, a group of Cornell students arrived to help.



Thanks to advance work by Susan Ashdown (expert pattern-maker), Laurie Snyder (tool & cookie bringer), and Jan Morgan (general instigator & organizer), a plan was in place. Over the course of 6 hours, the group recovered 8 chairs in navy blue vinyl. It’s a labor-intensive process, but we know how to do it, and the recovered chairs look awesome. As time and volunteers allow, we’ll do more.

Let us know if you’re willing to help – it’s actually fun! Email: [Chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org](mailto:Chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org)

### Tree Trimming

Recently, a crew from *Limbwalker Tree Care* cut back many large tree limbs overhanging the backyard of the Community Center. The crew did a fast, efficient, and acrobatic job, leaving VCA property much improved and a giant pile of woodchips. This



work was funded by a grant from the Tompkins County Recovery Fund which distributes money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

In the spring, the wood chips will need to be spread on the new trail connecting the VCA with the Dryden Rail Trail. Watch for a call for chip-spreading volunteers in the next issue of the Varna News.

### Sewer Line Work

Just when you thought there would be no more delays on Varna’s main street, work trucks and traffic cones reappeared. Although the trucks say *National Water Main Cleaning Co.* the crew is relining Varna’s very old sewer lines. The work is done in sections from one sewer access cover to the next. After making sure that customers’ lateral sewer lines are shut off, the crew inserts a dry fiberglass felt sleeve, saturated with epoxy, into the old sewer pipe. Then, compressed air is used to force steam through the sewer line. The hot steam softens the epoxy and bonds the felt liner to the existing pipe. Once the epoxy re-hardens, the liner becomes rigid and the sewer line is good as new. The final step is to run a robot with a camera through the line. The robot operator locates each lateral connection, and cuts an opening so that the lateral reconnects to the main line.



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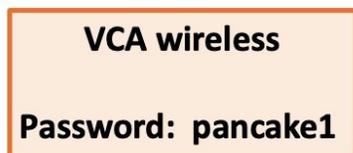
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## Presidential Primary Voting

Tuesday, April 2, 6am-9pm

If you are registered to vote in a political party with Presidential primaries this year—probably Democratic or Republican—you can vote at Varna in April.

Other elections this year will include other primaries on June 25th and the general election on November 5th, both from 6am to 9pm.



### February

5th, 7pm: VCA board meeting – guests welcome

9th, 6:30pm: VCA Annual Meeting and pizza

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

### March

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

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

### April

1st, 7pm: VCA board meeting – guests welcome

2nd, 6am-9pm: Presidential primaries

25th, 7pm: African Drumming and Dance Performance

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



Thanks to the Raftedu Chinese Language and Culture After School Program for adding new signs, in Mandarin, to our bathroom doors.

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