VARNA NEWS



FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER
Thursday, November 26th, 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 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 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! **To volunteer to help** or **donate groceries, funds, or supplies** – call Dawn Potter (607-280-9750).

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



Former VCA Chair Art Berkey at Thanksgiving 2025



FREESE ROAD BRIDGE COMPLETELY CLOSED

The Freese Road bridge closed to vehicles in December 2021, but that made it a quiet shortcut for pedestrians and bicyclists. Unfortunately, in early November, the New York State Department of Transportation ordered the bridge closed to all traffic. The Town of Dryden previously expressed hope that they would be soliciting bids for the replacement bridge this fall. Hopefully this further closure accelerates the rebuilding process.



Projecting an early draft of the mural on the Varna Community Center to trace the design on the walls..



Two early steps in painting the mural.



Annie Sheng and Pilar Garcia add key details.

Community Center Mural

Right after the previous newsletter went out, the VCA Board heard from local artist Annie Sheng about a possible mural for the building, funded by a grant and supplies from Ithaca Murals (https://www.ithacamurals.com/).

Annie brought the core design to the VCA board in September, combining the Fall Creek waterwheel mill theme of our playground with local wildlife, the food we share, and some of the cultures in our neighborhood.

She primed in early October, and we took the opportunity to repair some windowsills and trim to make sure the mural will last. Most of the painting took advantage of the great weather we had in late October and early November.

Caleb Thomas of Ithaca Murals brought a powerful projector to help move from a small painting to a giant mural, Pilar Garcia focused on the water flowing through the image, and Annie's family and Varna residents helped out.

From left to right, we now have a black vulture (the kind nesting in the spruces), a BBQ chicken half, a stack of pancakes, a wasp, a great blue heron, a butterfly, and an apple tree with celebratory lanterns from the Asian cultures of Varna residents.

To learn more about Annie and her art, visit https://annieshengart.wordpress.com/



Varna Church Update

Varna's had lots of dust from streets being torn up. Have you seen the happy mural on the front of the Center? The Varna Church will hold its Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5 pm. Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Christmas, and Merry New Year from Varna Church. Enjoy the holidays and please be safe. -*Sis Johnson*

Varna Volunteer Fire Company

The VVFC celebrated Halloween with an event at the Community Center on the 30th. Firefighters and kids enjoyed candy and fun!





Name The Bird

Despite Varna being on the northern edge of their habitat, a group of black vultures seems to have found a home here. Annie Sheng recently included a black vulture, its feathers shining in the sun, as part of the mural on the building. We think it needs a name. Please send suggestions to chair@varnacommunityassociation.org, and the board will choose at our annual meeting February 12th.

If you need to visit the vulture in person for inspiration, it's just to the left of the main entrance.



Join our board?

The Varna Community Association is looking for new board members. Being a board member is a great way to keep up on Varna happenings, and give back to the community. To learn more about opportunities, contact chair@VarnaCommunityAssociation.org

Varna Community Association, Inc.
943 Dryden Road
Ithaca NY 14850

Non-Profit Org
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FREE Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, Nov. 26, noon - 3pm

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. Details inside!

New mural by Annie Sheng!



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

November
9—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
15—Knitting Club, 2-4pm
26—Free Thanksgiving Dinner, noon-3pm

December
14—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
20—Knitting Club, 2-4pm

January
11—VCA Board Meeting, 7pm
17—Knitting Club, 2-4pm

February
6—Chicken & Biscuits Dinner, 4-6pm
12—Annual Meeting, 6pm
21—Knitting Club, 2-4pm

2026 VCA Board of Directors

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

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

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www.uwtc.org
VCA

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