

Varna News

Varna Community
Association, Inc.

...

October – November 2011

Information and items of interest from the Varna Community organizations and the Town of Dryden

Mrs. McPuppet Coming to Varna December 3rd - Sue Heath

On Saturday December 3, Mrs. McPuppet will be celebrating the upcoming winter season with a performance at the Varna Community Center. Don your mittens and hats and come join the fun at 1PM. You will meet Mrs. Tortoise taking a break from the Galapagos Islands and watch a coral reef come to life. We are hoping Ms. Toucan will make an appearance despite the chilly winds. Please join us for a performance full of laughter, drama, and delightful song! You may visit her website at www.mrsmcpuppet.com to find out more.



Meet the Candidates - Ithaca Journal

The Dryden Republican and Democratic committees and the Dryden Grange will hold "Meet the Candidates Issues Forums" for the 2011 town board elections. Both parties are sponsoring the forums in the belief that an informed electorate is the best guarantee of good government and to foster a spirit of civil discourse.

The second debate is set for 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Nov. 1 at the Varna Community Center, 943 Dryden Road, Varna. Bruce Estes, managing editor and general manager of The Ithaca Journal, will moderate this debate. The forum will give equal time to the issues of gas drilling, zoning, the budget and general town issues.

The community is encouraged to attend and to add to the discussion. All questions at the forums will come from the audience.



Election Day - November 8th Polls open 6AM-9PM



Children's Holiday Party Coming December 17th - Susan Simmons

On Saturday December 17, from 1-3PM, the Varna Community Association will host a holiday party. Everyone is invited. Children will be able to participate in games, arts and crafts, cookie decorating, and other events. Santa will also be on hand to greet the children and listen to their list of desires for toys and gifts. Photos with Santa will be available free of charge. This event is open to everyone and free of charge. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and refreshments at the community center. For more information, contact the Varna Community Center at 272-2658.



Gas Drilling and the Town of Dryden- Mary Ann Sumner, Town Supervisor & Jason Leifer, Town of Dryden

Recent headlines about Anschutz Exploration Corporation suing the Town of Dryden have added to residents' concerns about gas drilling in our town. In August, the Town Board unanimously passed a resolution clarifying the fact that our zoning does not permit heavy industry, including gas drilling. We knew it was possible the gas industry would challenge us. And we knew we could not take a different path.

Why does the town prohibit gas drilling? The new technology to produce gas in Marcellus Shale means developing up to twelve gas wells on one pad and trucking millions of gallons of water per well to and from the site. Three or four pads are located close enough together to share a processing plant and compressor station. The result is an industrial complex with all the traffic, noise and pollution associated with heavy industry.

Based on land already leased in Dryden, up to forty-three drilling pads are possible in Dryden, creating perhaps ten industrial complexes. Make no mistake. This will change the rural character of Dryden. **This heavy industrial use simply is not compatible with existing residential, educational and agricultural uses in Dryden** or with our vision of Dryden's future as expressed in our comprehensive plan.

Can the town regulate gas drilling without banning it? **No.** Only the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) can regulate gas drilling – the setbacks, wastewater disposal and so forth. Likewise, only local governments can regulate land use - what industries, occupations and residential developments are permitted and where.

Why did the Town Board pass the ban now? Surely another Town could have served as the test case. We expected the DEC to complete the environmental impact statement during the summer and they did. Following a public comment period, DEC may be able to issue drilling permits. Anschutz Exploration Corporation has applied for a permit to drill in Dryden. **Sixteen hundred Dryden residents petitioned the Town Board to act** before that happened. We worked with three other towns in Tompkins County to write similar zoning amendments. Any one of us could have been the test case.

Will our taxes go up because of the lawsuit? **No.** The Town Board has budgeted conservatively for years and maintained sufficient reserves to cover the costs of the lawsuit. The town will continue to have one of the lowest tax rates in Tompkins County in 2012.

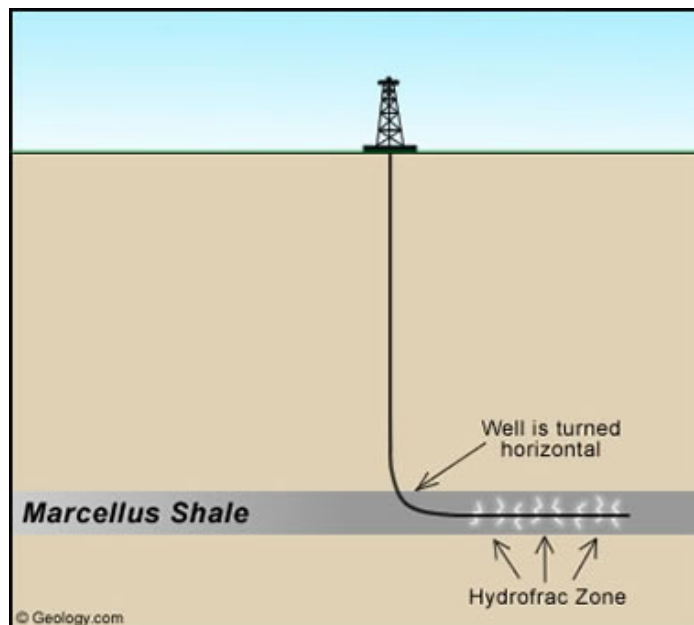
Does the lawsuit have anything to do with the November 8 Town Election? In an interview on the Capitol Pressroom on September 26, Anschutz attorney Tom West said that he expects the issue to be decided on Election Day and the company is watching the local election. The choice is yours. Be sure to learn where the candidates stand regarding the gas drilling/heavy industry ban in Dryden, and make an informed **vote on November 8.**

Read the August 2, 2011 resolution: http://dryden.ny.us/Board_Meeting_Minutes/TB/2011/TB2011-08-02.pdf

Read the Town's Comprehensive Plan:

<http://dryden.ny.us/departments/planning-department/proposed-zoning-law-resources-page>.

Hear the Capitol Pressroom radio program: <http://blogs.wcny.org/the-capitol-pressroom-for-september-26-2011/>



When is the first day of winter 2011? December 22nd

Open Door Event with Congressman Richard Hanna-

Monday, November 21st

12:30 – 2:00PM

Congressman Richard Hanna will host “Open Door” meetings throughout the 24th District. Open Door meetings are an initiative Mr. Hanna started to connect with constituents through personal meetings. No appointments are necessary and meetings are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please check out his website and/or his Cortland office:

Website: <http://hanna.house.gov>

Cortland Office: 18 Tompkins Street, Cortland, NY 13045; Phone: 607-756-2470; Fax: 607-756-2472

The VCA is pleased to provide space for this event. We encourage everyone to participate in the opportunity to meet with Rep. Hanna. When you come, we trust that you will show courtesy and respect to Rep. Hanna, his staff, and others in attendance as well as neighboring residences and businesses. Please follow directions for parking. **DO NOT PARK ON NEIGHBORING PROPERTIES** unless you have permission from the property owner.

VCA Annual Meeting - Dawn Potter



The Annual Meeting of the Varna Community Association will be held on **Sunday, December 11th**, beginning at 3PM. All residents living in the Varna Community are encouraged to attend. Plan to attend this important meeting of the membership. For more information, please contact the Varna Community Center at 272-2658.

Varna Community Development Plan Near Completion-Jim Skaley

Public Information Meeting at the Varna Community Center November 2, 7 p.m.

Some Highlights of what will be presented:

After several preliminary meetings, a community pre-plan workshop and review of subsequent drafts a draft plan is being readied for public comment. That will happen on November 2 at the Varna Community Center at 7 p.m. The Hamlet Plan will incorporate a number of scenarios for potential and future build-out in the area just east of Mt. Pleasant/Freese Rd to Forest Home Drive/Hillside Acres over the course of the next 20 years.

Included in these scenarios are additional pedestrian pathways and cross-walks with sidewalks/curbing on both the north and south side of Rt 366, and a bike lane. The 30 mph speed zone is recommended to be extended to near Turkey Hill Rd on the east and nearer to Game Farm on the west to help reduce speed on entering the study area. In addition gateways for Varna (east and west on Rt 366) will be part of the street plan to further indicate that traffic needs to slow as they enter the main hamlet area.

Design guidelines to maintain the hamlet character would keep an interesting mix of lot sizes and building foot-prints. These guidelines would also guide more toward adding more single-family units and maintain a limit of two-story development for all units including townhouse/condo or apartments.

The Freese Rd/Mt. Pleasant intersection area should include a mix of neighborhood commercial and residential units that could create an attractive new aspect to the community, including green spaces, walkable plazas, professional offices and small retail stores

Along with this Development Plan there will be included recommendations for amendments to the Town Comprehensive Plan and zoning law. If implemented carefully this Plan could guide growth toward the biggest improvements for quality living in Varna in decades. It is important that the public come out to indicate their support and address whatever questions that still remain as the Plan and recommendations become finalized.

Winter Driving - AAA Website

Severe weather can be both frightening and dangerous for automobile travel. Motorists should know the safety rules for dealing with winter road emergencies. AAA reminds motorists to be cautious while driving in adverse weather. For more information on winter driving, the association offers the *How to Go on Ice and Snow* brochure, available through most AAA offices.

AAA recommends the following winter driving tips:

- Avoid driving while you're fatigued.
- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- Never mix radial tires with other tire types.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up.
- If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, snowy weather.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.



Tips for driving in the snow:

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning - nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold breaking. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little momentum going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill as slowly as possible.
- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.
- Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't.
- Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

Do you have news or items of interest to the community? Please send items to: vca1948@yahoo.com or leave a message at 272-2658.

Varna Pinochle Club 7-10PM



November 5, 19 • December 3 • January 7

\$1.00 per evening and bring a snack to share. Everyone is welcomed. Beginner instruction provided. Co-chairs: Sis Johnson (272-6806) and Myrth Guest (645-0458).

Ongoing collection . . .

- 4-ply acrylic yarn for a group that are knitting hats for chemotherapy patients.
 - Empty returnable beverage bottles, cans, and plastic water bottles.
 - Empty inkjet and laser toner cartridges
 - Old cell phones.
- Items can be dropped off at the community center or call 272-2658 to make arrangements.
- All donations are always most appreciated.

Boy Scout Troop / Cub Scout Pack 55 - Kim Simmons



Oct/Nov 2011

Here is the low down on the scouting program in the Hamlet:

Our Boy Scout troop will be hunting Zombies and the district camporee @ Camp Barton on 10/22/11. This is an all out battle for bragging rights and those who survive get to keep the socks. Since the BSA does not allow any type of pointing and shooting of a gun type weapon, the boys will be firing socks at each other.

The boy scouts and girl scouts also joined the Brooktondale community in assembling apple pies for the Brooktondale Apple Festival, Together they made 52 pies for sale at the Apple festival, which by the way busted the previous record of 45. Way to go scouts.

The cub scouts are on the go and growing, we welcome all the new scouts to our pack. The cubs are visiting a dairy farm, will be taking part in the Lime Hollow night hike on Oct. 27 as our pack meeting. The boys are looking at an overnight trip to the Kopernik Observatory. The boys are also planning on marching in the upcoming Veterans Day Parade on 11/6/11, hope to see you there .

As always if you have a boy or girl that is interested in checking out the scouting program you can contact Kim Simmons 607-272-3858 and I can get you to the leader you'll want to talk to.

Varna United Methodist Church - Alice Humerez

Our "Little Church with a Big Heart" continues to move along. We lost our pianist Forest and now have a new one, Elijah. We also have many talented teenagers. Our barbecues are finished for the season. We have one fundraiser left for this year. It will be the banquet for the Cornell Track Team. On November 29th, if you notice a group of young people jogging down Route 366 towards the church, it will be the track team coming to dinner. We welcome all to join us on any Sunday. We also welcome more voices in our choir. We wish a beautiful fall for each and every one in our Hamlet of Varna.

ELECTION DAY is Tuesday, November 8th
Polls open 6AM -9PM

VCA Community Calendar - November



- 1 Varna Seniors Open Executive Meeting, Noon
- 1 Meet the Candidates, 7:30PM
- 2 Varna Community Development Plan Meeting, 7PM
- 5 Pinochle Club, 7:00PM
- 13 Pancake Breakfast, 8AM-Noon
- 18 Varna Seniors Dish-to-Pass and Program, Noon
- 19 Pinochle Club, 7:00PM
- 21 Open Door Event with Congr. Richard Hanna, 12:30-2PM

December

- 3 Pinochle Club, 7:00PM
- 10 Varna Seniors Holiday Dinner and Gift Exchange, 6PM
- 11 Pancake Breakfast, 8AM-Noon
- 11 VCA Annual Meeting, 3PM
- 19 Pinochle Club, 7:00PM
- 18 Varna Seniors Dish-to-Pass and Program, Noon
- Pinochle Club, 7:00PM

January

- 3 Varna Seniors Open Executive Meeting, Noon
- 7 Pinochle Club, 7:00PM
- 8 Pancake Breakfast 8AM-Noon

TCAT Proposed Fare Increases & Service Reductions - Art Berkey

The TCAT proposed service reductions affecting the Varna area are include a transfer to travel from the hamlet to East Hill Plaza, and elimination of service on Ellis Hollow Road between Turkey Hill West to East Hill Plaza. Submit your comments by mail to Patty Poist at 737 Willow Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850, or email tcat@tcatmail.com, re: [1012 proposals](#)



Chair's Report - Dawn Potter

The Varna Community Association and the hamlet of Varna lost a wonderful citizen and supporter of the community. Betty Griffin passed away on Sunday, October 16th. Betty was a long-time resident of Varna and was an active member of the VCA and Varna Seniors. She will be missed by many of her friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

Public hearings have been scheduled with the Zoning Board of Appeals in the Town of Dryden for approval of the pavilion project being planned for the back side of the community center building. This structure is designed to cover the large cooler/freezer and stand-alone generator to protect them from the weather elements. In addition, this structure will offer a covered area over the back sidewalk and also over a portion of the grassy area which would allow for a picnic area. The public hearing is planned for Tuesday, November 1st at 7:45PM at the Town of Dryden, 93 East Main Street, Dryden.

Historical Hamlet Anecdotes - Mary Potter

Fall has arrived in Varna. The trees are turning color. It is a time when friends and groups come together for meetings and entertainment. The Varna Senior Citizens group invite those in the area who are 55 or older to join in for a meeting, dish-to-pass luncheon, and a variety of entertainment and informational speakers. The first Tuesday of each month, they hold their business meeting at noon. Attendees bring a bag lunch and meet at the Varna Community Center. The third Tuesday of each month is a dish-to-pass dinner starting at noon. Programs are provided with music, speakers, and demonstrations.

Each July, the Seniors go out to a local restaurant and enjoy a meal together, and each August, the group has a picnic. In December, the seniors gather at the Varna Community Association for a catered holiday dinner and gift exchange.

Dues are \$4.00 per year. Seniors are welcomed and encouraged to join the group. Come to the Varna Community Center, bring a friend or neighbor, and get acquainted with the folks and see what activities are going on in the area. For information, contact Mary Potter (272-3325) or Art Berkey (272-0230).

Facility Use Rates

Non-Profit Organizations:

	½ day	Full Day	Evening
Small Room only	\$30	\$50	\$40
Large & Small Rooms	50	75	65
Kitchen use (add)	25	35	30
Kitchen use only	45	70	55
All facilities	75	100	85

Private (non-commercial) use:

Small Room only	\$40	\$60	\$55
Large & Small Rooms	65	95	85
Kitchen use (add)	25	35	30
Kitchen use only	55	85	70
All facilities	85	120	105

For-Profit Organizations:

Small Room only	\$50	\$105	\$75
Large & Small Rooms	95	180	140
Kitchen use (add)	30	40	35
Kitchen use only	70	95	85
All facilities	130	220	175

The Varna Community Association is always seeking volunteers to help with events and programs. Call the VCA phone at 272-2658, or e-mail dap4@cornell.edu

Newsletter Sponsors-

Contributions for producing the Varna newsletter are always appreciated and accepted. If you, or your business, wish to contribute to the VCA News, please send your income tax deductible to: Varna Community Assoc., c/o Newsletter Sponsor, PO Box 4771, Ithaca, NY 14852-4771.

Deadline

for submissions to the next VCA newsletter is **December 15th**

Send any information to:

vca1948@yahoo.com

VVFC NEWS - Wendy Hoose

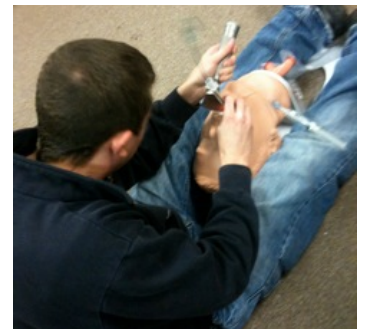
The VVFC has been very active responding to calls. So far this year, we have responded to over 330 calls. Normally we only respond annually to around 300 calls, so our call volume is way up. The VVFC bunker program is in its second year and it is already showing positive results. In 2009, the average en route time was 6:21 minutes, in the first eight months of 2010, prior to having bunkers, it was 5:20 minutes and it decreased to 3:50 minutes with one to two bunkers. In the first nine months of 2011 the average en route time is 3:07 minutes showing that the bunker program has dropped the en route time for Varna. The number of bunkers is increasing (in September we had five as opposed to the one to two in the beginning of the year) and there is a direct correlation with the number of bunkers and a faster en route time. This past September 2011 we had an average en route time of 1:31 minutes. Also as predicted the bunker program has served as an effective recruitment tool with our responding membership increasing from an average of 30.6 members in 2009, 34.5 members in 2010 and 40.0 members in 2011.

In addition, the number of EMTs (or higher) has increased from an average of 6.4 EMTs in 2009, 8.3 EMTs in 2010 and so far in 2011 an average of 12.2 EMTs or higher. Two of our members recently became EMTs, Doug Keefe and Christopher Lim, and we have recruited over the summer, Ashley Young, Ivan Friedman (both Cornell students and EMTs) and from the Ellis Hollow and Varna communities, EMT Cliff Creech, EMT Mary Godec and Maxwell Chapman, Kathy Sananikone and Christopher Tennant, the later three who are all currently in EMT classes. Christopher Lim has also completed the Fire Course, Scene Support Operations.

In addition, as hoped, the bunker program with its scheduling aspect has allowed responding members to obtain higher certifications without worry of Varna having a "no response". We currently have three members in EMT classes, and six members who are currently EMTs taking the Intermediate EMT class at TC3. In 2009 we had two no responses, in 2010 we had three and so far in 2011 zero no responses. Also the number of EMS/MVA calls that don't have an EMT from Varna responding have greatly decreased from thirty-two in 2009 (almost 10%), to five in 2010 to only one in 2011. Also the number of calls cancelled en route without a VVFC vehicle on the road (in less than eight minutes), have also decreased from twenty-two in 2009, to fifteen in 2010 to zero in 2011. Varna is getting its vehicles out in a very timely manner. The VVFC greatly appreciates your support of our bunker program in addition to our station and membership needs.

We are all-volunteer and are always looking for more members, especially residents from the Varna and Ellis Hollow communities. We are more than willing to sponsor our members' training to become EMTs or higher as well as firefighters. We also have in-house EMS and fire training on Monday nights. If interested in serving your community, the next firefighter classes in Tompkins County will be offered in January 2012, the next EMT classes will start either over the Summer or Fall of 2012. If interested in joining, come on down to the fire station on any Monday at 6:30 PM or contact Wendy Hoose at wah2@cornell.edu or leave a message at (607) 273-2407.

Daylight savings ends at 2AM Sunday, November 6, 2011. Take this time to turn back your clocks one hour and change the batteries in your clocks as well as your smoke detector.



Asst. Fire Chief Vincent Monticello Jr. using our recently required intubation head. Vince is currently in the EMT-Intermediate class at TC3

Pancakes at The VCA! - Dawn Potter

The Varna Community Association is happy to announce that our monthly Pancake Breakfasts will return beginning on Sunday, November 13th from 8AM-Noon. Breakfasts include French Toast or hot buttermilk pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, breakfast breads, fruit, orange juice, coffee and/or tea. The cost for adults is \$6.50. Below is a list of dates for this year's breakfasts. We hope you will enjoy coming to the VCA and joining us for breakfast!

November 13	March 11
December 11	April 8
January 8	May 13
February 12	



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