

VARNA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

VARNA NEWS

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2009

LOWERING RT 366 SPEED LIMIT - MARTHA ROBERTSON, TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATOR, TOWN OF DRYDEN

**Write the DOT!** The Town and the County have asked the NYS Department of Transportation to lower the speed limit on Route 366 (Dryden Rd.) in Varna between Turkey Hill Rd. and Game Farm Rd.

They have agreed to reconsider the existing speed limit. That's good news, as similar communities have 35 mph limits (for example, Rt. 79 through Slaterville Springs). Thanks to the Dryden Town Board, Jack Bush, Town Highway Superintendent, Bill Sieczny, County Highway

Manager, and Zorika Henderson, for pitching in to convince the state that it is time to look at this neighborhood again!

If you'd like to help convince the DOT that the speed through Varna should be lower, please take a few minutes to send your thoughts to them. Varna could be a very walk able

community if we could get some control over traffic. We already got the DOT to stripe the road to prohibit passing through the center of the hamlet and someday we

hope for sidewalks. In the meantime, slowing down the river of cars would be a help. Please send your letter to:

**Diana L. Graser**  
**NYSDOT**  
**333 East Washington**  
**St. Syracuse, NY 13202**

Apparently there is no available email address! Thank you for taking action. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Martha Robertson  
Tompkins County Legislator, Town of Dryden  
272-0584,  
mrob@twcny.rr.com

2009 - 2010

VCA Board of Directors

**CHAIR, ARTHUR BERKEY**  
**VICE CHAIR, DAWN POTTER**  
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**Mary Potter**  
**Michael Richardson**  
**Frank Scott, Jr.**  
**Kim Simmons**  
**Gladys White**

**WWW.VARNACOMMUNITYASSOCIATION.ORG**

Visit the VCA's new website! Are you wondering when the next VCA pancake breakfast is?...Go to [www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org](http://www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org) and click the link to '**Upcoming Events.**'

Do you want to find out if the Center is free for a birthday party you're

planning? ...click on the '**Calendar**' link. Are you looking for an easy way to contribute your time and/or other resources to the continued success of the VCA? ...click on '**Support the VCA.**'

The VCA Board of Direc-

tors is grateful for the continued support of the good folks at Lightlink who host our website at no cost. Purchasing a domain name costs under \$50 a year, so the VCA board recently decided to purchase the name

**Continued Page 2**

Hosting an event?

The VCA rents the facilities to individuals or organizations for various events. If you are hosting a meeting, party, reunion or something else, contact Jan Morgan at 256-1617 for complete details. If you prefer, email her at [morganj@tc3.edu](mailto:morganj@tc3.edu)

## Ongoing

### Fundraising

The VCA continues with the collection of redeemable cans and bottles. A very special thank you to Sis Johnson who redeems these on a regular basis. Redeemable bottles and cans can be dropped off at the VCC's front entry.

The VCA also collects empty ink cartridges for redemption. You can leave your empty ink cartridges at the VCC on top of the piano in the small room. Thank you for continued support.

## CHAIR'S CORNER - ART BERKEY

At the VCA Annual Meeting last May, VCA Board of Directors Janet Morgan, Dawn Potter and Mary Potter were reelected to the Board. Thank you Simon St. Laurent and Dawn Potter who served as the Nominating Committee.

A reorganization meeting followed where 2009-2010 Board Officers were elected: Vice Chair - Dawn Potter, Secretary Allyson Ford, Treasurer Bill Mahler, and Chair Art Berkey.

The May chicken BBQ was successful thanks to the efforts of Mike Richardson and Frank Scott who chaired the BBQ Pits, Dawn Potter, who coordinated food preparation and Wendy Hoose who coordinated volunteers and distribution. Also thanks to Mary Potter for coordinat-

ing the food donations.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee chaired by Jan Morgan has arranged for re-keying the Varna Center and developing a key policy which was passed by the VCA Board at the June meeting; getting handicapped railings installed at front and rear entrances; getting bids for replacement of the Center lights, and investigation of the source of roof leaks and kitchen ceiling repair.

The Lifeline screening conducted at the VCA resulted in diagnosis of several serious level health conditions for participants.

The contract for the \$20K Barbara Lifton member grant for an emergency generator has now been approved and planning is underway for the VCA to work to become part of the

emergency response network. Thank you Assemblywoman Lifton.

Efforts are ongoing to again offering the 55 Alive defensive driving course as well as a fall flu clinic at the VCA center. Also, the VCA will participate in the August 22 community yard sale. And, the second Sunday of the month 8:00 a.m. - noon September - May pancake breakfasts begin September 13.

Thanks are due to all the many dedicated volunteers who make the work of the VCA in our community possible.

## VCA WEBSITE REVAMPED CONTINUED

'www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org' This should make it easy for people to locate the VCA's website. Let us know what you think about the new site by emailing the webmaster at: [webmaster@varnacomunityassociation.org](mailto:webmaster@varnacomunityassociation.org) (Please note: the VCA Board of Direc-

tors did **NOT** hire a professional web designer - what you see at [www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org](http://www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org) is done by a self-taught volunteer, so please be tactful with your comments. Thanks :-)



### Have you visited....

[www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org](http://www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org)

The new and improved Varna Community Association website.

## YOGA AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Please contact Melinda if you are interested in a weekly yoga class at the Community Center. No prior yoga training needed!

The classes will be taught in the Sivananda and Yin Yoga styles. Sivananda Yoga is a classical style, involving a regular series of asanas, meant to awaken and align the energy centers (chakras) in the body, and includes breathing exercises (pranayama.) The Yin Yoga style involves sustained holds of poses, and is meant to get beyond

the muscles to the deep connective tissue in the body, thereby increasing the health of our joints. The practice also focuses on the flow of energy (prana or chi) in the body by anchoring the mental attention on the breath. Both practices increase flexibility and strength, focus and concentration, and overall well being. Beginners welcome.

Possible class times are Thursday or Friday from 5-6pm, or Monday 5:30 - 6:30. Cost is \$12 per class

or \$60 for a 6 class pass. Classes slated to begin the first week in August. Classes will be ongoing.

Please call or email if you are interested and let Melinda know your preferred class time.

**home 277-4679;**  
**mobile (315)415-3300;**  
[mdesign@twcny.rr.com](mailto:mdesign@twcny.rr.com)

## RADA CUTLERY

The Varna United Methodist Church is sponsoring an ongoing fundraiser featuring Rada Cutlery, kitchen utensils, candles and gifts.

Rada Cutlery are those weighted aluminum handled knives Mom & Grandma used to have. If interested call Sis Johnson 272-6806 or Katie Simmons 272-272-7644 for a catalogue.

## COMMUNITY YARD SALE

### Varna Community Sale Day

**Saturday, August 22,**  
**8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Looking for a reason to haul out your closets and storage spaces? Here it is! And, if enough folks participate, there should be good reason for shoppers to flock to the Hamlet of Varna on Saturday, August 22nd, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for our annual Varna Community Sale Day.

There are two ways to participate, and whichever way you choose, the con-

tact person is **Susan Simmons**. You can e-mail her at [sasrvcs121@yahoo.com](mailto:sasrvcs121@yahoo.com) or leave a message at **277-9325**. The deadline to get your information included is Monday, August 17th.

At the Community Center (943 Dryden Road) you can rent a table for \$10 (3 for \$25). You can set up either Friday night (8/21) from 5-7 pm, or arrive any time after 7 am on Saturday.

If you'd prefer to have sale-goers come to your house, contact Susan (again before 8/17), and she'll add your

location to the map, which will be available for distribution at the Community Center on Saturday. Please note that you will have to provide your own "SALE" signs to post in your yard.

The Varna United Methodist Church (965 Dryden Road) will be having a Flea Market as well as a Bake Sale, and we hope you will stop by. Also, hamburgers and hot dogs will be available at the community center from 11 – 3. Pack 55 will be holding an ice cream social in the Varna church basement from 11 AM - 2 PM.

"...THE CONTACT PERSON IS **SUSAN SIMMONS**. YOU CAN E-MAIL HER AT [SASRVCS121@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SASRVCS121@YAHOO.COM), OR LEAVE A MESSAGE AT **277-9325**. THE DEADLINE TO GET YOUR INFORMATION INCLUDED IS MONDAY, AUGUST 17TH."

## JOIN IN THE CUB SCOUTING FUN



Pack 55 will resume meetings in September at the Ellis Hollow Community Center (111 Genung Rd., Ithaca), and we hope you will come check them out! We will also be having a water rocket launch Saturday Aug 8, 11 am on the lawn behind the Varna Community Center. Cub Scouting is a program grouping boys by age for fun activities and helping

them explore new skills. These engaging activities also help the boys develop their ability to work together (and with their parents) to make the world a better place.

We welcome boys who will be entering first through fifth grades in the fall. Regular meetings will be held monthly on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30

p.m. Den meetings (which are grouped by age) are decided by the den leaders. Please contact our Pack Leader Nancy Gruen by emailing [dngruen@verizon.net](mailto:dngruen@verizon.net) or calling 273-2310 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you can join us!

## DISTINGUISHED YOUTH AWARD

“Nominations may be submitted to any member of the County Legislature, or directly to the Tompkins County Legislature office located at 320 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.”

Do you know a deserving young person or group of young people who should be honored for their community service?

Every month the Tompkins County Legislature honors an individual or group, younger than 19 years old, for their exemplary activity in the community, school, or even their personal lives. Nominations can be forwarded at any time to the Clerk of the Legislature (see criteria and process below).

For the month of July, it is Martha Robinson's turn to choose the award recipient, so I would be delighted to receive your nominations directly. Thank you for taking time to consider this opportunity to acknowledge someone special you know!

### CRITERIA FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY DISTINGUISHED YOUTH AWARD

Awardee shall be recognized for a selfless contribution or service worthy of note to the benefit of the county community

Nominee, or nominees, shall not be more than 19 years of age, when possible.

The individual shall be a resident of Tompkins County; if a group comprised of youths that entity shall be located in Tompkins County.

If an athlete or sports team, it should be for performance of a community service benefiting the county residents, as an award for athletic performance already exists.

Who can submit a nomination? Any Tompkins County resident, or group of residents; the entity for whom the service was performed, or an entity on behalf of the recipient entity; any municipality, school, religious group, community center, and so forth. Nominations may be submitted to any member of the County Legislature, or directly to the Tompkins County Legislature office located at 320 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, New York 14850.

Nominations shall be submitted in writing and include all information relative to the nominee or nominees meeting the above criteria

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## VVFC NEWS

-WENDY HOOSE, SUSAN SIMMONS & DUANE TESTUT

We have accolades to announce: Erika Bretscher, Tyler Whittaker and Vincent Monticello are all recent high school graduates. Erika won the Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES Teachers Association and Employee's Association 2009 Career and Tech Student Scholarship and the Cayuga Medical Center Foundation Scholarship. Tyler won an athletic scholarship for his wrestling abilities.

On Saturday June 27 (despite the uncooperative weather), the VVFC hosted a Car Wash to benefit the American Cancer Society. From 9 - 3 the Ellis Hollow Boy Scouts washed cars, and members of the Fire Company and the Relay For Life Team (the "Cooly Cooly's") cooked food and sold various fund raiser

items. The Cub Scouts also had a bake sale, and while we all got wet (and not just from the rainy day), fun was had by all.

The current membership is 53 members, with 27 active responding members, 4 probationary members and 16 active support members. Every one of the Varna Volunteer Fire Company members is a volunteer. Since January, Kevin Hastings, Joe Lalley, Cody Zahler and Frank Alo have joined our Company but we need more volunteers that are willing to serve their community especially during the daytime when many of us are at work. If interested drop by a Thursday night at 6:30 PM or contact Wendy Hoose at 607-229-9030 for details. Or go to [www.varnafire.org](http://www.varnafire.org), print-out your application and

bring it with you.

If you do not have one of the green house numbers "planted" in front of your home, it's very helpful to us when responding to an emergency call in your neighborhood. If you live in our protection area, there is no charge for the sign, post or "planting". Please call Duane Testut at 279-8454 to request yours.

Thanks again to all the community members with a hydrant on their property that regularly keep it free of weeds and snow, making it easily visible from the road. We greatly appreciate your efforts, and the minutes it saves us during a scene establishing a water supply could be the difference between saving a life or property.

Have a wonderful summer and please keep safe.

"IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ONE OF THE GREEN HOUSE NUMBERS "PLANTED" IN FRONT OF YOUR HOME, IT'S VERY HELPFUL TO US WHEN RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY CALL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. IF YOU LIVE IN OUR PROTECTION AREA, THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE SIGN, POST OR "PLANTING". PLEASE CALL DUANE TESTUT AT 279-8454 TO REQUEST YOURS."

## YOUTH AWARD CONTINUED

Award selection shall be on a round-robin basis by members of the County Legislature monthly and be awarded at the second regular meeting of the month

Nominations can be: Faxed to the Legislature Office 607-274-5430 or submit-

ted electronically

Mailed: 320 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

For further information please call the Clerk of the Legislature at 274-5434.

Martha Robertson, Tompkins County Legislator, Town of Dryden.

## Pinochle

Co-Chairs - Sis Johnson (272-6806) and Myrth Guest (645-0458) Select Saturdays - 7:00 p.m. (sharp) to 10:00 p.m. at the Varna Community Center at 943 Dryden Road, Ithaca.

**\$1/session - bring a snack to share.**

All levels welcomed and beginner instruction is provided. See calendar for



# AUGUST 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 PINOCHLE 7PM
2	3 CAPOERA 8 PM	4 OEC 12 PM AIKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	5 FENCING 5 PM	6 AIKIDO 6 PM AA 8 PM	7 AIKIDO 6 PM	8 CUB SCOUT EVENT 11 AM CHURCH BBQ
9	10 CAPOERA 8 PM	11 AIKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	12 FENCING 5 PM	13 AIKIDO 6 PM AA 8 PM	14 AIKIDO 6 PM	15 HOME BUREAU 9 AM - 3 PM PINOCHLE 7PM
16	17 CAPOERA 8 PM	18 SR PICNIC 12 PM AKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	19 FENCING 5 PM	20 AIKIDO 6 PM AA 8 PM	21 AIKIDO 6 PM	22 COMMUNITY YARD SALE
23	24 CAPOERA 8 PM	25 AIKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	26 FENCING 5 PM	27 AIKIDO 6 PM AA 8 PM	28 AIKIDO 6 PM	29 PINOCHLE 7PM
30	31 CAPOERA 8 PM					

OEC = Varna Seniors Open Executive Committee Meeting  
 SR, PICNIC 12 PM @ DRYDEN LAKE

# SEPTEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 OEC 12 PM AIKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	2 FENCING 5 PM	3 AIKIDO 6 PM AA 8 PM	4 AIKIDO 6 PM	5 CHURCH BBQ
6	7 LABOR DAY CAPOERA 8 PM	8 AIKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	9 FENCING 5 PM	10 AIKIDO 6 PM AA 8 PM	11 AIKIDO 6 PM	12 PINOCHLE 7PM
13 PANCAKE B'FAST 8 AM THINNOON	14 CAPOERA 8 PM	15 PRIMARY ELECTIONS AIKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	16 Sr. DTP 12 PM FENCING 5 PM	17 AIKIDO 6 PM AA 8 PM	18 AIKIDO 6 PM	19
20	21 CAPOERA 8 PM	22 AIKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	23 FENCING 5 PM	24 AIKIDO 6 PM AA 8 PM	25 AIKIDO 6 PM	26 PINOCHLE 7PM
27	28 CAPOERA 8 PM	29 AIKIDO 6 PM FENCING 5 PM	30 FENCING 5 PM			

OEC = Varna Seniors Open Executive Committee Meeting  
 SR. PICNIC 12 PM @ DRYDEN LAKE

## VARNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - ALICE HUMEREZ

Greetings to all from "The Little Church With A Big Heart".



You may notice a lot of activity at this little church in the Hamlet of Varna. That's because we have parishioners popping in and out taking care of business - and we seem to have a lot of business to take care of. We may be small but we are very active. Since becoming involved with the Varna Community Center and the Varna Volunteer Fire Company, our young members are kept very busy and a few of our older members as well.

On June 21st, the Church had an Aloha Luncheon following our Service. Everything had a Hawaiian theme, including parishioners dressing in Hawaiian attire. This special luncheon was held to say fare-

well to our former Pastor Jacquie Lewis and to welcome our new Pastor Virgil Versteeg and his wife Sharon. It was a very special service with Reverend Lewis singing a solo and then Rolfe Soko playing a concerto on his violin in tribute to our outgoing minister.

In spite of everyone's busy summer schedules, we still worship every Sunday from 11 a.m. - noon and our doors are always open to individuals, couples and families of any faith! Each service includes a special "children's time" which gives our young folks a message to think about as well. Communion is the first Sunday of each month and everyone, no matter their denomination or faith, is invited to join in communion. Our Choir is

always seeking new members (though they take a break over the summer). They will start up again in September, with practice either on Wednesday or Thursday from 7 - 8 p.m., so if you're interested please stop in to check it out.

If you'd like to learn more about our "Little Church With A Big Heart," you'll find several of our members there for our Flea Market on Saturday, August, 22nd, during the Varna Community Sale Day. We hope to meet you soon, and wish you a fun-filled and blessed summer.

**"WELCOME  
PASTOR  
VERSTEEG.  
GOOD LUCK  
AND  
THANK YOU  
REV. LEWIS."**

## NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Thank you seems inadequate to say to those individuals and businesses who help defray the cost of producing Varna News. Thank You to **Howard and Erica Evans, Mrs. Betty Griffin, John & Kathy Ludders,**

**Mahler's Computer Service, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Schaufler & Simon St. Laurent** thank you for your contributions!

If you would like to be a part of this special group, send your tax deductible donation to

Varna Community Association c/o Newsletter sponsor PO BOX 4771 ITHACA, NY 14852-4771. Note on the check this is for Newsletter Donation. Thanks!

Please visit the VCA's newly re-designed website.  
[www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org](http://www.VarnaCommunityAssociation.org)

## VCA ON DISPLAY AT THE TOWN HALL - JANET MORGAN

The Varna Community Association was featured in a display at the Dryden Town Hall for several weeks this summer. The display, created by Jan Morgan, spotlighted the history of the VCA, ongoing programs, and future plans. If you've noticed some photos missing from the walls at the Community Center this summer, it's because they were be-

ing used in the display. A copy of the 1957 article in the American Agriculturalist about the beginnings of the VCA, a photo of voting in the 1950s, as well as snapshots of various other activities were featured. A green coffee mug (labeled "Pancake Breakfast") with silverware, silk flowers, and a "frequent diner's card" sticking out the top were also included. The

display case in the main foyer of the new Dryden Town Hall is a great place for local organizations to show off their accomplishments. Thank you to Bambi Hollenbeck, Town Clerk, for contacting us to showcase the VCA.



## TOWN OF DRYDEN WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Town of Dryden is making available up to \$30,000 in grants to qualifying homeowners for housing weatherization improvements in the Town of Dryden for the remainder of fiscal year 2008 and for fiscal year 2009. This program is funded by Community Development Block Grant funds that have been repaid to the Town as part of previous home rehabilitation programs and has no impact on the 2008 or 2009 Town Budgets.

Under this program, qualifying homeowners may apply for up to \$1,500 to pay for energy efficiency housing improvements such as the application of caulk and weather stripping, replacing broken glass, patching holes in exterior walls, insulating ceilings, installing storm windows and doors, tuning up heating and cooling systems and many other repairs and modifications which will result in improved energy efficiency. **Repairs that are only cosmetic in nature do not qualify for this program.**

Participants may use up to \$325 of their grant funds for an energy audit from a NYSERDA certified home performance contractor appearing on the attached list. Most certified companies will apply the cost of the audit toward the price of the work the homeowner chooses to have done. Weatherization can help to reduce heating bills by as much as 30 percent. In addition, this grant may be used in conjunction with assistance programs offered by the County, State, Federal, or Private Organizations (subject to the rules of those programs).

Eligibility for the program is based upon the applicant's household size and income. The total gross annual income for a household must be at or below the following: **Income Eligibility Guidelines Household Size Annual Gross Income** Limit 1 person \$40,200, 2 persons \$45,950, 3 persons \$51,700, 4 persons \$57,450, 5 persons \$62,050, 6 persons \$66,650, each additional person: add \$4,600

For more information contact the Town of Dryden offices **844-8888** for more information on how to apply and for a list of approved contractors or email [supervisor@dryden.ny.us](mailto:supervisor@dryden.ny.us) Postal mail Town of Dryden, Office of the Supervisor, 93 East Main St., Dryden, NY 13053-9505 Attn: Weatherization Program.

Varna Community Center, Inc.

PO BOX 4771  
ITHACA, NY 14852-4771

Non Profit Org  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Ithaca, NY  
14850  
Permit #312

	Half Day	Full Day	Evening
<b>Non-Profit</b>			
Small Room Only	30.00	50.00	40.00
Large & Small Rooms	50.00	75.00	65.00
Kitchen Use (add)	25.00	35.00	30.00
Kitchen Use Only	45.00	70.00	55.00
Entire Building	75.00	100.00	85.00
<b>Private ( Non-Commercial)</b>			
Small Room Only	40.00	60.00	55.00
Large & Small Rooms	65.00	95.00	85.00
Kitchen Use (add)	25.00	35.00	30.00
Kitchen Use Only	55.00	85.00	70.00
Entire Building	85.00	120.00	105.00
<b>For-Profit (Commercial)</b>			
Small Room Only	50.00	105.00	75.00
Large & Small Rooms	95.00	180.00	140.00
Kitchen Use (add)	30.00	40.00	35.00
Kitchen Use Only	70.00	95.00	85.00
Entire Building	130.00	220.00	175.00

**Do you need a larger space to host a family event?** The VCA offers an affordable alternative, please consider renting the VCC for your next event. Contact Jan Morgan at 256-1617 for complete details. If you prefer, email her at [morganj@tc3.edu](mailto:morganj@tc3.edu)

