



Advocating For Our Community

# PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

Published by the VGRCCA as a service to our members and residents of the Venetian Golf and River Club.

JUNE 2023

*Parcels from Paradise is the monthly publication of the VGRC Community Association. We thank those members who provide the financial resources for the costs associated with its publication. If you are reading this edition and are not a member of the Community Association, we would hope you would consider being one of the many members who financially supports its production.*

## SPOTTED

### The 88's

Sometimes you come across a store that is, well, unusual for Venice. It's called the Piano Guys Store located at 726 Commerce Dr., Suite 106 (Commerce is off Jacaranda by the 7/11 store). You will see at the store a wide range of pianos ranging from digital to a full grand. They also offer piano tuning services. They sell both used and new pianos. Take a look at the pictures to get an idea as to what this specialized store offers.



### You and Poochie

In a previous editing, Parcels reported there would soon be a new restaurant for dogs and their owners. It opened in May and is called "Boo's Icehouse & Dog Bar". Located at 1314 10th St. in Sarasota, it has a facility for "humans" and a separate facility for dogs and their owners. Food and liquor are served at this new establishment. For details go to [www.boosdogbar.com](http://www.boosdogbar.com).

### Picklemania

Pickleball is the senior craze of the times. While we wait for our own courts, there are some courts available provided by the county. They include the Englewood Center (indoor) on River Road, Pinebrook Park, Foxworthy Campus and Laurel Park. The Venice Community Center did provide courts but with their new flooring they are no longer offering this great sport. As mentioned in a previous Parcels, there are indoor courts scheduled to be built on Jacaranda. If you find other locations, please put them on the Wall of Something. As far as the courts on property, Parcels reached out to Rich Bracco, President of our CDD, for an update on the courts. He replied with: "We've gotten bids from several contractors for the completion of the Pickleball courts. At the most recent board meeting we selected one contractor and we're moving ahead on construction as soon as possible. We have filed for a permit with the City of Venice and expect to have that permit within days. From the time construction starts to completion of the full job, you can expect about two months. The community will experience a minimum, and I stress a minimum, amount of inconvenience during this project. Ultimately, three Pickleball courts will be available in the very near future".



Thank you for reading Parcels. If you have a story idea click on "reply" and let us know.

## UPDATES

### Waiting...and waiting

As of this writing, the 7/11 store at Laurel and Knight's Trail is not open. Even an email to the owner resulted in no definite answer. Look for another convenience store with gas pumps being built at the corner of Laurel and Pinebrook, next to the McDonalds.

### Northeast Park Update

All of us are awaiting the scheduled City of Venice Northeast Park located on Laurel Rd. However, patience will be needed as the park plans are moving slowly due to such factors as construction, construction materials availability and other city priorities, especially after Hurricane Ian. There are various amenities that are being proposed for the park (pickleball, dog park, walking trail) but nothing definite currently. If you are looking for a suggestion for nearby parks to take a "walk in the woods" you might want to visit Sleeping Turtle Park, midway down Border Rd. on the left. There is a map at the entrance or if you have the app, "All Trails", it will guide you safely through this park and most U.S. Park trails.

### Seminars for Medicare Recipients

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) conducts some wonderful seminars for Medicare recipients. Please see their schedule at the end of Parcels.

### Moving Ahead

The Neal Commercial Application has been continued until June 15th with the next day open if there is a need to continue the hearing. Hopefully, a decision can be made on that day; however, Council may continue the hearing to the following day. Once the decision is made, neither party can break open the champagne as there is a 30-day period for an appeal. The City of Venice then becomes the target of the appeal. In some cases, the city attorney would defend the case and in most instances, the city will use outside counsel which is a cost to city taxpayers.

## HAPPY NEWS

### Bravo!

Occasionally Parcels likes to send out a "Bravo" to an organization. The "Bravo" this month goes to Sarasota County for sending out an individual postcard to every Venetian resident about the road construction taking place around Knights Trail Rd. By the way, the current project is not related to the Laurel Rd widening project.

### A Fitting Retirement Tribute

Some VGRC residents got together and held an informal gathering at the River Club on April 5, 2023, to celebrate the retirement of Rick Lewis, our wonderful Postman. Many residents stopped by and wished Rick a happy retirement. Mr. Lewis was presented with a monetary gift of \$1,100, several cards, and lots of warm thoughts. Rick was born in Venice, FL and attended Venice HS where he met his future wife, Debbie. Rick comes from a line of dedicated Postal employees. Rick's father was the first Postmaster in the Osprey Post Office, and his uncle was the Assistant Postmaster in the Venice Post Office. Rick started working for USPS in 1979. In 2005 he was assigned to deliver mail in the VGRC. Initially, he was solely responsible for mail delivery in our community until the delivery route was split in half due to the increased residencies. After 43 years of service, Rick decided to retire. What is impressive is that he leaves the USPS with 420 days of sick leave and 89 days of annual leave because he said, "He enjoyed working for the post office and the community". In retirement he plans to take up golf again, travel around the US, make renovations to their home and spend quality time with their fur babies. This is the second retirement event for a postal worker conducted by the residents of Savona Way and Court, following last December's organized event for a retiring postal carrier.



# CLOSE TO HOME

**“Whew.....That Was Close!!!!”**

Over the years the CDD has done its best to manage traffic in the Venetian. We are considered a private road, thus we do not have, unless contracted, police officers to patrol the streets for traffic violations. Therefore, it is us residents who have full control of our pedals. Besides the human factors of folks walking or on bikes, there are nature’s creatures, especially the Sand Hill cranes, who are clueless about their responsibility. Lately, there appears to be more deer roaming around the property and occasionally leaping into the street. Simply, ...PLEASE... follow the designated speed limit throughout the Venetian.



## A Patriotic Volunteer Opportunity - July 4th.

The flags for Memorial Day looked great. The next scheduled all community flag placement sponsored by the VGRCC Community Association will be the 4th of July. Again, volunteers are needed as we plan to cover the entire community. Therefore, get out your calendar and mark down... **Friday, June 30, 8: 30 am.** Hope you can help with the July 4th flag placement.



## The Wall of Something

Have you been one of the many residents who have used the Wall?

Here are some benefits.

- There are some great values.
- Those who post and who have access to the Wall are only Venetian residents, thus averting scams that happen with more public sights.
- Great recommendations for a range of items, including restaurants and services for your home.
- You control the posting, editing and deletion.
- It avoids negative and political comments.

## THE WALL OF SOMETHING

An Electronic Bulletin Board for all Venetian Residents!



Visit us at [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us) and Click the wall of something

**To get your first-time access to the Wall, send your request via email to [vgrccawall@gmail.com](mailto:vgrccawall@gmail.com) with your first and last name and property address.**

## Where’s the Pressure?

Remember the Wendy’s advertisement, “Where’s the Beef”? Now, Venetians are asking “Where’s the Water Pressure.” We hear residents’ complaints about the water pressure here in Venice. Did you know that the City of Venice has a plan to increase the pressure as well as provide additional emergency water resources? Construction will begin this summer on a booster station and a 2-million-gallon water storage tank. The project had been delayed; however, a contract issue has been apparently resolved. The facility will be built at the end of Gene Green Road just to the northwest of the VGRCC. It will be adequately “bermed” and will connect to the city’s potable water system.



# LESSONS LEARNED FROM HURRICANE IAN

It has been eight months since Hurricane Ian blew into our community. We are still seeing the effects even as we started a new hurricane season on June 1st. We may be tempted to lapse into the mode of “it can’t happen to us again” thinking. We may decide that hurricane preparation for the upcoming season (which does not end until November 30th) is not necessary. Hopefully, we will retain the lesson from Hurricane Ian that preparation is necessary and can reduce some of the fear and anxiety that we may feel from an approaching storm.



## Hurricane Shutters

Hurricane Ian taught us that preparation pays off. Did you have someone install (and remove) your hurricane shutters, or did you find yourself in a panic as you tried, perhaps unsuccessfully, to find someone to perform the task for you? Prepare now for this daunting task by contacting your neighbors, your landscape service, hurricane shutter installers and others for contact information. Attempting to get this information and trying to arrange for installations a day or two before the storm may be too late.

## Evacuation Plans

We at the VGRC are fortunate to live in homes that are well-built, and withstood up to 140 m.p.h. winds for several hours. We learned that except for falling trees and some flooded roads, our community remained safe and that we were safe in our homes. Should you feel the need to evacuate, there is now a shelter here in Venice at Taylor Ranch School located at 2500 Taylor Ranch Trail.

You may decide to evacuate from the area ahead of the hurricane. Do you have a plan as to when you would leave, where you would go and how you would get there? As past experiences have taught us, I-75 can be extremely crowded as the predominate evacuation route. Do you have a plan for alternative routes? Gas and food shortage can also be a problem as the demand is greater than the supply. Many gas stations ran out of gas, leaving motorists stranded. A caveat: don't be like one ill-informed woman who did not have a gas container. She put the gasoline in plastic bags. Well, you can imagine the end of that story as gas and plastic do not mix well ...at all.

## Stock Up On Supplies

In the recent past, it was recommended that you have three days' worth of food and drink stored away. The officials are now saying that you should have a seven-day supply. It became apparent after Hurricane Ian that three-day supplies were insufficient as people affected by the storm ran out of food and water. Water and batteries (and of course, wine) are in demand and therefore in short supply as we attempt to replenish our supply before a storm. Avoid the rush, purchase early. There are many good hurricane preparation guides and resources that can help in pre-hurricane planning. You will find guides in the lobby of the River Club and also online at: <https://www.venicegov.com/government/fire/weather-and-disaster-information/hurricane-information>.





June 2023 Webinar Schedule & Media Information

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will be hosting virtual classes for anyone interested in learning more about Medicare!

| Class Options  | Date    | Day     | Time (EST) | Register   |
|--|---------|---------|------------|--|
| <p><b>Kickoff to Medicare Fraud Prevention Week</b><br/> <b>June 5-11</b><br/>                     Take part in the conversation! Learn how to prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud.</p> | June 5  | Monday  | 10:00AM    | <p><b>Join us, Live on Zoom; click here to register in advance:</b><br/> <a href="https://bit.ly/42thyIQ">https://bit.ly/42thyIQ</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Medicare 101 (with Medicare Part B Enrollment Demonstration)</b><br/>                     Join SHINE, learn about Medicare basics and the Part B enrollment process.</p>                 | June 9  | Friday  | 2:00PM     | <p><b>Register in advance for this webinar:</b><br/> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m3TgYX6iRWyvDA7uLFxRNA">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m3TgYX6iRWyvDA7uLFxRNA</a></p> |
| <p><b>Medicare Part C</b><br/>                     Join SHINE, learn about Medicare Advantage Plan costs and coverage.</p>   | June 20 | Tuesday | 12:00PM    | <p><b>Register in advance for this webinar:</b><br/> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NAVHIUanTCiwmB_19MINJw">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NAVHIUanTCiwmB_19MINJw</a></p> |
| <p><b>Medicare Part D</b><br/>                     Join SHINE, learn about Part D costs and coverage.</p>  | June 27 | Tuesday | 12:00PM    | <p><b>Register in advance for this webinar:</b><br/> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wO2lKVGKSGmfxmOoH71eDQ">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wO2lKVGKSGmfxmOoH71eDQ</a></p> |

If you are not receiving this handout electronically, you can visit [www.aaaswfl.org](http://www.aaaswfl.org) to learn about and register for upcoming webinars.

**Lose Your Medicaid Coverage Recently?**

Do you need help with Medicare costs? Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) are state programs that assist you with paying your Medicare costs. To qualify for an MSP, you must meet Florida’s income and asset limits. Contact SHINE at **866-413-5337** to learn about eligibility requirements for the Medicare Savings Program or other health cost assistance options in your area.

**Local Help Navigating Medicare**

SHINE trained counselors are available Monday – Friday to assist you with all matters related to Medicare, including access to preventive services, cost-saving programs, and identifying and reporting Medicare fraud. SHINE services are confidential, free and unbiased.

To request SHINE counseling, please call the Elder Helpline at **866-413-5337**.

To learn more about the SHINE program or Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, visit: [www.floridashine.org](http://www.floridashine.org) or [www.AAASWFL.org](http://www.AAASWFL.org)





**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

*Advocating For Our Community*

## Membership Enrollment Form

Thank you for joining the Community Association, which is dedicated to preserving your paradise. The Community Association runs important initiatives “inside the gates”. These include the Hurricane Readiness Team (HRT) and CPR training, activities to make your life easier, such as Shredfest/Junkfest and Bike-O-Rama, and presentations on a variety of topics to keep you up-to-date and informed. We also publish the popular *Parcels from Paradise*. The board of this volunteer organization also interfaces with local government on key issues “outside the gates” and reacting to any potential activity that can have an impact on your property value. All of this is made possible by membership dues, for which we thank you.

***There are two ways to become a member:***

1. **On-line** at <http://www.vgrcca.us/membership/>. We accept credit cards and use Pay Pal as our secure server.
2. **Write a check**, payable to VGRC Community Association and mail with this form to:  
**Treasurer**  
**305 Martellago Dr.**  
**North Venice, FL 34275**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES PER HOUSEHOLD (PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE LINE):**

| <u>Membership Term</u>                           | <u>Membership Dues</u>  |
|--|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three Years (best deal) | \$70.00 (\$20 discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two Years               | \$50.00 (\$10 discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Year                | \$30.00                 |

**MEMBER INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT AND PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION):**

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                  | <b>Additional Name</b>       |
| <b>Preferred Telephone #</b> | <b>Preferred Telephone #</b> |
| <b>E-Mail Address</b>        | <b>E-Mail Address</b>        |
| <b>Venetian Address</b>      |                              |
| <b>Other Mailing Address</b> |                              |