



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.

JULY 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.

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE

We start the July Parcels with recognizing the Tampa Bay Rays who are on top of the AL East. It's about a one-hour easy expressway drive to Tropicana Field. One thing about going to a Ray's game. ...it never gets rained out. If you haven't been there yet, add to your calendar a trip to Tampa to see great Major League baseball.

God Bless America

The flags for the July 4th holiday looked great. We thank the patriotic flag crew (see picture) who placed over 100 flags throughout the community to celebrate this wonderful holiday. If you recognize or see any of these fine residents, please thank them for their volunteer spirit. The flags are provided by the VGRC Community Association who thank those who are members. If you are not a member of the Community Association and appreciate the three times a year flag placement, a membership form can be found at the end of Parcels or go to www.vgrcca.org/membership.



CPR TRAINING "Everyone should be encouraged to take it"

The VGRC Community Association has been pleased to present CPR training in cooperation with the Venice Fire Department to residents. Due to the high demand, members receive priority in the registration process. Last year, besides our residents, CPR training was provided to both River Club and Golf Club staff. Recently, on Father's Day, a resident member who had been through the training earlier this year, quickly noticed his wife experiencing a heart issue and immediately called 911 and administered CPR until EMTs arrived. The resident was kind enough to call Parcels, letting Parcels know of the incident but also thanking the CA for providing CPR training to residents. He also stated in the conversation, "Every resident should be encouraged to take it". The good news is that his wife has fully recovered from her episode and both husband and wife are so grateful of the quick service of the EMTs just across the street.



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

Another Great Season Ahead

Over the summer, a subcommittee of the VGRCCA is working on the various programs and events planned for the community, including this sneak preview:

- Shredfest/Junkfest - moved to Saturday to accommodate more residents, especially those who are still employed.
- Annual Candidate Forum – late September or early October to capture those who vote by mail. Will be taped and placed on You Tube for those still up north.
- Bike-O-Rama – Bicycles International will again make its annual visit to our community. A very popular free event.
- _____ fest – It's another "Fest" but can't share the details yet.
- Alligators plus - A return of the number one attended seminar in the VGRC.
- CPR training by the Venice Fire Department – a must for Venetian residents.
- Field Trip to a special local place conducted by a noted resident expert in the field.
- Taking better pictures on your I-phone/Android – we would all benefit from the instructions.

...And MUCH MORE!

Note: Due to increased costs and/or limited capacity, some events will be noted as priority registration for members or priority admittance for members.

What's Cookin'?

If you love to get input from our wonderful residents regarding your favorite restaurants, The Wall of Something has a section called "What's Cookin'" where residents can tout their favorite eatery. To protect our residents from outside interference, an invitation is initially required to access The Wall of Something. To get that invitation, please send your name, address and email to vgrccawall@gmail.com

AWAY GAMES

Can He Make It?

By a 3-2 vote, the Sarasota County Board of Education recently named **Terrance Conner** to be its new Superintendent. We wish Superintendent Conner much success in his new position while realizing that he faces numerous challenges ahead. Based on the publicly known turmoil associated with the School Board, we hope Dr. Conner will be able to concentrate on ensuring a quality education for every youngster. You may ask why should you care about local schools given that your own children have completed their schooling and your grandchildren are probably being educated in another state? For that answer, you might want to look at your Sarasota County tax bill, paying attention to the amount for local/state School Boards. If you do the math, you will come to the simple conclusion that it's the biggest chunk of your tax bill and the school system is an investment for you. In addition, property values are often related to the quality of schools. For more information go to <https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/home>. All Board meetings are on Zoom. We'll be keeping an eye on the school district hoping calm waters are ahead.



Hurricane Ian by the Numbers

Parcels was able to obtain the following info from the City of Venice reflecting the incredible damage from Hurricane Ian:



- ❖ \$4.5 million – cost of debris pick up
- ❖ \$1 million – City’s additional personnel cost \$750K - debris management and oversight services
- ❖ \$4 million - damage claims on public property
- ❖ 300 - city permit applications for building repair immediately following the storm 18 - number of buildings that were destroyed
- ❖ 4,500 – number of residential and commercial structures that had reportable damage
- ❖ \$72 million – estimated residential structural damage
- ❖ \$20 million - reportable damage to commercial structures

The Beat Goes On

More homes. More homes. More homes. This time it’s 348 apartments scheduled for a 29.9 acre plot at the corner of Knight’s Trail and Gene Green Rd. Nearby Toscana Isles’ neighbors complained at one of the public hearings about traffic and the difficulty of getting on to Knight’s Trail in the morning. Sound familiar?

New Laws on the Book

There were numerous new state laws which began July 1, 2023. For those interested in learning about the 200 new laws, one of the best sources found was on the Tampa TV station, Channel 8, available at:

<https://www.wfla.com/news/florida/list-new-florida-laws-to-take-effect-july-1/>

Two new laws that are currently getting the most talk locally are: (1) the golf cart law requiring that anyone who drives a golf cart must be 15 with a learner’s permit or 16 with a driver’s permit and (2) allowing Floridians to carry concealed weapons without government issued permits. Questions have surfaced; such as does that mean that your 14-year-old grandchild who visits the Venetian can’t drive your golf cart under your supervision to the swimming pool? Can you or a guest of yours carry a concealed weapon if you have dinner at the Golf Club and/or River Club? Look for future responses from both the CDD and the Golf Club Management (Heritage) on these two questions.



Subway Plaza

The infamous and brunt of many jokes over the years is beginning to fill up. You might have seen that a Brewery will be open to customers soon. At the end of July, the Laurel Road Vet Clinic will move from Plaza Venezia to a new location at the strip mall. As reported earlier, Goodwill now has a convenient drive-up store which will gladly take your donations.

“Such a Deal”

Parcels has always emphasized the importance of supporting local businesses. We are so fortunate to have a downtown area that primarily has businesses operated by local owners. On July 14, 15, and 16, the annual “Christmas in July” will take place in downtown Venice where there are special sales and deals along with a fun experience for shoppers. Hope you have time to make it to this great “Christmas” celebration.

Venice Area Mobile Meals Drivers Needed

There has been a shortage of volunteers, especially drivers for the Venice Area Mobile Meals. Route Directors are having a difficult time finding substitute drivers and are having to take on extra routes themselves. For more information, Contact John Janikas, Transportation Director, at 978-660-8291.

A Superhero Charity

Parcels came upon a unique charity and thought it would be of interest to our residents. **Heroes Unmasked** was established in 2017 and since then has visited over 1,253 children throughout the state of Florida at both hospitals and residential homes. Heroes Unmasked is a nonprofit organization based in Southwest Florida. They are a group of individuals wearing costumes resembling childhood superheroes. When making hero appearances, they travel at no cost to the families as it is 100% volunteer-based. They have donated thousands of dollars' worth of toys to children throughout the state of Florida and provided financial relief to families who have acquired significant medical expenses. For additional information on how to get involved or donate, please visit their website: Heroesunmasked.org or email at heroesunmasked@yahoo.com.



PLAY BY PLAY

Commercial Development

After an unusually long hearing, on June 16 the Venice Council voted 5-1 in favor of approving Pat Neal's proposed shopping center rezoning to be located directly across from the Venetian entrance. Council member Rachel Frank was absent for the vote. There was also a second and final reading on July 11 of the ordinance approved by City Council to re-zone 10.4 acres of open space and wetlands for use by Pat Neal's proposed shopping center. The next step which really counts is the appeal process if that is the direction determined by the POA. There is a 30-day period when the appeal must be made. Assuming the appeal is made to a circuit court, the parties to the appeal file briefs and the court holds an oral argument where the parties make their arguments to the Judge. This is much different from the City Council hearing where the public was able to testify at the hearing, plus the Council meeting was broadcasted. Note that the city of Venice is the target of the appeal, not the developer. The city can be represented by their own attorney or decide to hire outside counsel to represent them. Like any judicial hearing, there are costs to the process. Parcels, as it has done, will keep residents informed of any significant developments.

Laurel Road Widening

There doesn't appear to be any roadblocks associated with the widening. The Governor signed the portion of the budget bill which provides millions of dollars for the road widening. The County will soon hold another community-wide meeting on the status of this project. Regarding the traffic light at the corner of Veneto and Laurel Road, there has been no movement on the appeal of the decision by County officials to not allow a traffic light at our entrance.

We'd like to hear from you regarding a need for a traffic light at our front entrance. Email us at vgrcca@gmail.com

FINAL OUT

For Only Snowbirds

You can't believe everything you read and hear. You are probably watching the weather reports and seeing that your other hometown is facing extremely high temperatures and humidity. Many reports indicate that sweltering residents are just trying to find cool shelters to get relief. Well, as you know, the Venetian is a lone, separate Paradise sort-of-an-island in the world...well at least in the Sunshine State ...ok, maybe in Sarasota County. To help you better understand how lucky we are, the picture below was taken the other day on Montelluna Drive at high noon when the rest of Florida was experiencing 100-degree temperatures. Aren't you glad you live in Paradise!!

(Note- truth be told, the picture is not really Montelluna Drive, nor the Venetian. However, the image is in the mind of every resident in the Venetian dealing with the daily %&##&% heat)

Enjoy the summer wherever you are!





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):

Name	Additional Name
Preferred Telephone #	Preferred Telephone #
E-Mail Address	E-Mail Address
Venetian Address	
Other Mailing Address	