



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.

AUGUST 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.

CLOSE TO HOME

Important City Council Election

Just a few more days prior to the deadline for candidates seeking one of the two open Venice Council seats. The Community Association will again be holding its **Annual Candidate Forum** on Tuesday, October 3rd at 5:30 pm giving residents an opportunity to listen to the candidates in a question/answer format. Most likely the session will be taped and placed on YouTube to accommodate those who vote in Florida but are currently in other locations.



Business Changes

The earth turning over that you see at the corner of Laurel and Honore is the Circle K Convenience store/Gas station. The Liquor Store in Plaza Venezia has been marked “closed” but no word of future tenants. The BackPorch Brewery in the Subway Plaza should open according to the owner, sometime in August. There will be up to a dozen brewed beers once they reach their peak. They will have no food on premise, but like many other Breweries in the area, they bring in a food truck to serve those hungry patrons.

School began August 10th

Sarasota County schools have reopened on Thursday, August 10th for the 2023-2024 school year. It's time to pay close attention while driving in school zones again!

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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Noted Accomplishments

Did you know that the VGRCC Community Association is going into 15 years of existence? There are few communities in this area that have an organization such the Community Association which provides a variety of services, seminars, and events for its residents. Just as a reminder, over the years the Community

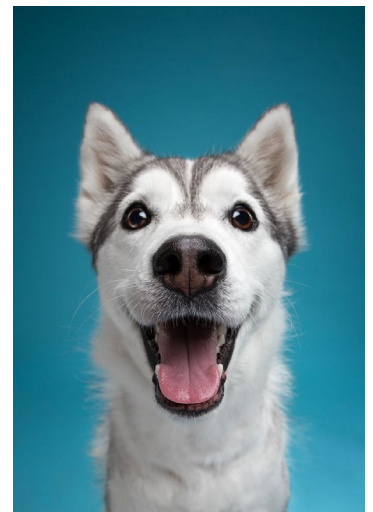
Association has:

- Successfully worked with the City, County and the Peace River Authority during the construction of a water pipeline on Laurel Road. This involvement secured the paving of the road leading into the Myakka River Park; extensive landscape buffering and a security fence were also installed.
- Donated as part of its Community Betterment Projects, park benches were placed on both Veneto Blvd and Pesaro Drive as well as on the River Walk.
- Spearheaded a letter writing campaign to gain approval for the construction of the Venice location of Sarasota Memorial Hospital.
- Participated with the POA in developing the survey regarding the Commercial Application; co-funded the project.
- Published Parcels from Paradise monthly for over a decade with an average open rate of 85%.
- Established the highly regarded Hurricane Response Team or HRT, staffed by resident volunteers.
- Coordinated the Clean Up Laurel Campaign every three months.

We thank our many members for their financial support of the VGRCC Community Association and hope those who are not members will see the value of the Community Association to the community and submit their membership at www.vgrcca.org/membership

2023-24 Seminars and Events

As mentioned previously, the VGRCCA is putting together its Annual Candidate Forum on October 3rd. The VGRCCA Seminar and Event Planning team is also working on several great events and seminars including, "Addressing Your Mental Health Needs" and the "Fascinating Culture of the Amish and Mennonites." We've added a unique event called "Mugshot." What is it? We'll have a professional photographer take a picture of your dog to have prints ready for distribution to family and friends. Mugshots and many of our small group seminars will require pre-event registration with VGRCCA members receiving priority registration. Of course, you'll see Shredfest and Bike-O-Rama and we have added a new one...SharPfest. Please make sure your membership is up to date to participate in some of this year's more popular seminars and events. Look for the full list of seminars and events in September.



The Appeal

The Community Association External Relations Team reached out to the appropriate City officials with key questions related to the appeal of the Neal Commercial Application. The purpose is to appeal the decision via the courts of the Venice City Council's approval of the commercial application.

Question: How long will the appeal process take?

Answer: It's uncertain but probably will last for several months. As it is likely that there will be multiple parties involved in the hearings, this lengthens the amount of necessary legal time.

Q: What happens if the appeal is decided in favor of the homeowners?

A: The court would send the issue back to the Venice City Council for reconsideration. The Council could change their approval of the Milano PUD amendment or re-approve it. The developer could also appeal the court's ruling.

Q: What happens if the appeal is decided against the homeowners?

A: Nothing further would happen unless there is a follow-up lawsuit by the homeowners.

Q: Is there a lot of cost in the appeal process?

A: A lengthy appeal process, which is likely here, could involve extensive legal time and attorney fees.

Q: Can the developer proceed with the development process during the appeal?

A: Yes they can.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

Venice Theatre's Connection with the Venetian Golf and River Club

Venice Theatre has been a beloved community theatre since 1950, providing plays, musicals, concerts, and educational opportunities to our community. Hurricane Ian damaged a large part of the main theatre building making the 432-seat Jervey Theatre and the rehearsal/classrooms unavailable for use. The Theatre has continued to provide productions in the smaller Pinkerton Theatre and in a hastily (but effectively) constructed stage in an adjacent building, the Raymond Center. At any time, there are two plays being performed and two in rehearsal. Rehearsal space is at a premium and scarce, so the theatre has reached out to the local community asking for permission to use appropriate spaces for rehearsals and classes.

The Venetian Golf and River Club has joined other organizations in its support of the theatre by providing rehearsal space for the upcoming play, Pickleball (which runs from Oct. 27 through Nov. 19). The cast of eight will be rehearsing in the evenings in the aerobics room at the River Club from Aug. 28 until Oct. 10. The stage manager for the production, who is also a resident in the VGRC community, will be on site and responsible for each rehearsal as the director and actors put this play on its feet. Venice Theatre is very grateful for the support shown by the VGRC in answering the call for assistance and its community support as the theatre strives to continue to entertain and educate following a devastating event. If you would like to donate to Venice Theatre, please go to the theatre website <https://venicetheatre.org> and select the Donate Now link. If you would like to buy tickets to Pickleball or any other production, please go to <https://venicetheatre.org> and select Tickets for a menu of shows and ticket links.

Impressive Lecture Series

The Town Hall Lecture series is one of the best in the country. They have year after year brought in outstanding speakers who have a national reputation. This year their roster includes Former Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch; Academy Award Nominated Actor, Stanley Tucci; and former at large Wyoming Congresswoman Liz Cheney. Lectures are held at the Van Wezel. The lecture series starts in January, but tickets go fast. For a complete listing of speakers and ticket information go to:

<https://www.rclassociation.org/2023-town-hall-season-announcement/>.

Music to your Ears

If you have not been to a Venice Symphony concert, put it on your to do list. They have scheduled concerts on Friday and Saturday nights and a Saturday matinee. Under the direction of the very talented and engaging Maestro Troy Quinn, the symphony has scheduled a variety of programs geared to a wide range of musical interests. Go to: <https://www.thevenicesymphony.org/> for a listing of concerts and tickets. For those new to Venice, concerts are held at the Venice Performing Arts Center (VPAC) which is located on the island next to Venice High School.



CURRENT EVENTS

Ready to Start Construction to Increase Water Pressure

Your washing and dishwashing time may decrease when Venice completes a long-awaited water booster station in the Venetian's back yard. Construction is due to begin in September on a parcel of land to our northwest immediately across the perimeter road at the end of Gene Green. It will take about 3 years to build the pump station and a two-million-gallon water storage tank which will be filled with water at night and then ready during the day to provide additional pressure on the city water system when thousands of residents will be turning on their faucets. Taking showers may result in cleaner bodies also!

Hurricane Corner

As we are amid the 2023 hurricane season, information and preparation becomes increasingly more important. The Community Association is committed to making access to relevant preparation and response information more easily available to the Venetian Golf and River Club community, and therefore has created an outlet known as Hurricane Corner. This information outlet is located on the Community Association website, www.vgrcca.org and is updated on a weekly basis.

In June 2023, Venice Fire Chief Frank Giddens and Assistant City Manager James Clinch spoke to the members of the Hurricane Response Team about the Fire Dept and City's role in preparation and response. This presentation was captured on video and is available in the Hurricane Corner site. This sixty (60) minute video contains hurricane preparation and response information and answers questions about how Ian impacted the Venice community. We encourage all VGRCC homeowners to view this video.



The Latest on the Northeast Park on Laurel

The design/bid contract for the design and permitting scope of services has been finalized and will be routed to the Mayor for signature within the next week. The public workshop is part of the Site and Development process and requires preliminary design of the project to provide a basis for input from the public. It is anticipated that the public workshop would be in the fall and conducted by Zoom to increase public participation. Contract negotiation has taken more time than anticipated, however, it is important that there is the proper contracting mechanism in place for a successful project. The park is still on track at this time for completion of design & permitting by February 2024 and construction completion at the end of 2024.

OF NOTED INTEREST

Hot as You Know What

If the stock market rose as fast as temperatures in Venice, we all would be driving a Rolls Royce. It's sweltering across the nation. Even in the northwest territories, just a few miles south of the Arctic Circle, temperatures reached 99.3. July 4th was the hottest day ever recorded and in our own "Paradise", we have had the hottest July on record. What are your thoughts on global climate change?



The Waver

Just a reminder that the **Waver** was mentioned in a previous edition of Parcels. If you need to call 911 for a medical emergency and there is an extra person around willing to help, assign him/her to go outside by the street for the purpose of waving down the ambulance directing first responders to the emergency location. Remember, with medical emergencies, every moment counts, and the **Waver** may save that needed minute.

Worthy Project to Honor First Responders

Speaking of first responders, the Venice Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class is undertaking a project of restoring the city fire station's first flagpole and creating a tribute to first responders, present, past, and future. The flagpole was erected when Fire Station 1 opened its door in June 1974. The station was demolished in 2020 with the building of the new first station by City Hall. The flagpole was to be discarded but a City's Public Works employee didn't let that happen and stored the pole. The flagpole tribute will be in Heritage Park on the island. They are looking for donations for this project. If interested, below is a link to donate, or a check may be sent to the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation noting "Class Project" on the memo line. <https://square.link/u/Nw2oyhka>. It's certainly a worthy project!



Tacos Anyone?

Seven Eleven's Laredo's may not be a five-star restaurant but the new 7/11 inside the station eatery does have a complete menu for those who love Mexican food. It's built like a Chipotle where servers take the food request from customers. With as many workers and laborers in the area, it has become a go to place at breakfast and noon. You can get your food choices to go or sit at one of the indoor/outdoor tables. And if Mexican food doesn't meet your palate needs, just get the traditional dog with mustard in aisle 4.



What In the Heck Is Fling Golf?

A few years ago, you never heard of Pickleball. Now, it's the craze of many seniors and soon we will see new courts at the Venetian. One of the newer sports on the horizon is "Fling Golf." Instead of hitting a golf ball with a club, you use a single New Swarm Fling Stick thrower to hurl the ball and shape every shot from tee to hole....and yes on a golf course like ours. All you need is a golf ball and the fling stick ...no heavy bag to carry around. Remember, we have half of what is needed to play this new game at the Venetian.

