



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.

NOVEMBER 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.*

## DOWN HOME

### Looking for a Treasurer

Sorry to say that longtime resident and outstanding Treasurer of the VGRCCA, Fred Baughman, will be leaving the Venetian to be closer to his northeastern family. As a result of his departure, we are looking for a resident with solid accounting experience and willing to serve on the VGRCCA Board, which meets once a month. If interested, please send an email mail of interest to [vgrcca@gmail.com](mailto:vgrcca@gmail.com) with the Subject Matter. "Treasurer Position". This is one great way to get involved in your community.

### What a Hit!

Mugshot Sold out! An exciting day for the dogs and surely the owners who truly spent a lot of time getting their dogs to pose for the photographer. Every dog received a goodie bag compliment of Pet Sense, located in the shopping plaza at Laurel and 41. Will there be a mugshot II? The Community Association will evaluate this first Mugshot to determine a future event. Photographer extraordinaire Al Churilla donated his services to this wonderful event. Check out at the end of Parcels, the Dogs of Venetian who participated in the inaugural "Mugshot."



### Good Thinking!

Compliments to both the River Club and the Golf Club for offering carry out options this year for Thanksgiving Dinner. For this important holiday, this option addresses the diversity of families and their needs.

### Kudos to the HRT (HURRICANE READINESS TEAM)

Even though the Hurricane season officially ends at the end of November, it is relatively certain that our part of Florida should be hurricane free. We are fortunate in our community having a highly organized and capable group of men and women who are quick to respond in the event of local hurricane. They did an outstanding job last year with the destructive Hurricane Ian and were equally prepared for this year's hurricane season. At the end of Parcels, listed are those who volunteered for this year's HRT. If you see any of the volunteers, you might give him/her a special thanks for serving our community. Also, we acknowledge those who are members of the Community Association, whose financial support funds this very valuable program unique to our community.



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

VISIT: [www.vgrcca.org](http://www.vgrcca.org)

## An Encore Production....Southeastern Guide Dogs

Over the years we have had requests from residents for an encore visit of The Southeastern Guide Dog seminar. The request has been addressed on **December 5th , 5 pm at the River Club**, when the trainers and their dogs return to the Venetian. You will hear about the amazing training that these dogs go through resulting in a service to many who need their assistance. For more details about this wonderful organization, click on <https://www.guidedogs.org>. If similar to their last presentation the seminar will include on hand a number of trainees at various stages of their schedule. These rookies are, shall we say *“aren’t there yet, but will get there.”* It’s a fun, educational and upbeat seminar. Try to get there!

## Common Self Defense

After last year’s “Active Shooter” there also were request to the VGRCC Community Association to hold a seminar on Self Defense. We listened and were able to find an expert on the topic from the Sarasota County Sheriff Department. Because of the limited space available, Community Association members will have access to priority registration. ( If you are interested in the session and not a member, see the membership form at the end of Parcels) For those attending the session, we suggest wearing casual or work out clothing. The event will take place at the **River Club on December 12th, 9 am**



## “The Wall of Something – “The Wall Works!”

The Community Association has developed the electronic Wall of Something for the exclusive use of Venetian residents. It’s a place where you can go to sell your golf clubs, buy a bicycle, find a service contractor, and get dining recommendations all from your fellow neighbors here at the Venetian! The season is in full swing, and the Wall has a lot of activity in the past month. There are a lot of barely used items for sale such as bicycles, outdoor grills, outdoor furniture, kitchen bar stools, home office furniture, and golf clubs, just to name a few. There are also posts from people searching for things such as used cars, baby and children’s items, rides to the airport, and recommendations for service providers and medical professionals. There is something for everyone on the Wall of Something and we encourage you to search the postings for what may interest you! It’s important to point out that the Wall of Something is managed by volunteer board members of the Community Association. We kindly ask that when you post something for sale or rent, once it is no longer available you delete your post. Also, the Wall is not to be used for business purposes. If you post items for sale or rent you must own the items, including homes.

If you haven’t already joined the Wall of Something, you can request an invitation by emailing your name and Venetian property address to [vgrccawall@gmail.com](mailto:vgrccawall@gmail.com). The Wall is open to all Venetian property owners, but you need to set up an account and password. If you set up an account previously but can’t remember your password, simply go to the Wall of Something on our website <https://vgrcca.org/> and click on “Forgot Password” to reset it.

## 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

### Fill the Barrels

The Barrels, located in the Golf Club lobby, will be picked up on November 16th by Ajax Paving, the company spearheading the overall project to assist in feeding the needy. The outpouring and generosity of our residents has been outstanding. Details about the results will be published in a special announcement. Thanks so much for supporting this project.



### The Community Betterment Project

The VGRC Community Association has established a program referred to as The Community Betterment Project, resulting in the following donations to the community:

- Audio equipment at the River Club
- Bike rack for students at the front gate.
- 3 plastic molded benches placed throughout the Venetian, which get a lot of use.
- Benches (3) on the Boardwalk.
- Bike Rack at the River Club.
- Flagpole and spotlight at front entrance
- Welcome Sign on the Front Gates

### Feed Me

Perhaps you have seen some residents feeding Sand Hills Cranes. Do you know that feeding the Sand Hills Crane is a violation of the law. .... under Florida Administrative Code 68A-4.001? It is a second-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Don't expect the SWAT team to descend upon your house for the violation. But you should be certainly aware that once you start feeding the cranes, they will become your best friends, waiting outside for that garage or lanai door to spring open. You may think you are doing something good for the big birds, but your neighbor may not, especially when the birds start digging up his garden that he has worked so hard to look beautiful.



### Now That's What You Call "Helping Out"

Note the picture above and count the number of residents in it. That is the crew that showed up on Friday, November 10th to put out American flags throughout the community to recognize the Veterans who live in this community. Thank you volunteers for helping out on this important occasion.

### Highly Successful Charity Golf Event

On November 9th, at the Golf Club, the 7th Annual Veteran Charity Golf Event was held. The opening ceremony was quite moving, especially with the flyover of the four planes. This year over \$17K was raised for the charity, Bay Pines Fisher House. It was a great day for all who participated. Pictures of the event will soon be uploaded on [www.vgrcca.org](http://www.vgrcca.org).





# BEYOND THE GATES

## Pedaling Along

Monthly City Bicycle Rides led by Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Darlene Culpepper will resume on **Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023**. The 6-mile casual rides around the island of Venice are held on the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m., meeting in the west parking lot of City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., across from Avenue Des Parques. Participants should bring a bike and a helmet. Darlene will lead a brief safety discussion prior to the ride. Registration to participate in the bike ride by email is encouraged, so if inclement weather cancels the ride, Darlene can notify you. Members of the public should email Darlene at [dculpepper@venicefl.gov](mailto:dculpepper@venicefl.gov) to register or for more information.

## Getting into the Community Spirit

The third Monday in December is devoted to a long-time community volunteer program, **Clean Up Laurel Rd.**, sponsored by the VGRCC Community Association. This is another project in which residents can help their community. Come to the front gate area on **Monday, December 18th at 8:45 am** where the head of this project will greet you and provide instructions. Your volunteer help will make a difference.

## Doctor's Hospital....

In the past edition of Parcels, we listed several volunteer opportunities. A loyal reader alerted Parcels that Doctor's Hospital at the Bee Ridge exit is now accepting volunteers. If interested and for further information, click on [www.hcafloridahealthcare.com](http://www.hcafloridahealthcare.com)

## What in the Heck are they Building?

What is that turret looking object on the property of the new Vistera property driving down Laurel Rd. Give up? It's an elevator shaft, the first thing built for this type of housing unit.

# KEEPING AN EYE ON....

## Northeast Park

As reported in a special email, Council gave the go ahead for the Northeast Park. At their meeting, they even added four more pickleball courts. Community members and three Board members from the Community Association addressed council supporting the overall project and requesting for an increase in the number of pickleball court. Perhaps in 2024 you will see some work begin at the park with 2025 as the probable opening.

## Road Widening

Still moving along, but slowly, with much of the time spent with Right of Way (ROW) issues. This is a Sarasota County driven project and as we know government does not move at the speed of sound. In other words, be patient. No word on how the Venetian entrance/exit will be addressed.

## The Appeal

The appeal remains in the hands of the Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit Court. Based on previous cases of this nature, our case will move slower than faster. Most of these types of cases result in either the Judge upholding the City's decision, or the matter is sent back to Council to be decided again – which means going through the public hearing process one more time. Please note that if Publix by chance pulls out for any reason, it doesn't mean the case has ended. Other businesses may want to take the space.



## Council Election

Congratulations to Ron Smith and Joan Farrell for their recent election victory. They will be sworn into City Council at the end of November. Best of success to the both of them.

## Final Mention

Are you a member of the Community Association? If so, thank you very much. If you are not but have benefitted by the presence and communications of the HRT, impressed with the American flags that recently lined the entrance to our great community or have interest in attending some of the 17 events and seminars planned this year, go to [www.vgrcca.org/membership](http://www.vgrcca.org/membership) to sign up today.

# 2023 HURRICANE RESPONSE TEAM

FRED BAUGHMAN  
RICH BRACCO  
JOE BROWNE  
ELANA CARNES  
TYLER CASSELL  
LESLIE CHAPUT  
RICHARD CIRELLI  
BONNIE COMBS  
BOB CRANE  
JOE DeVIRGILIO  
MARY DIXON  
TOM DIXON  
RICHARD FOSTER  
JAMES FULLERTON  
SHARON GEORGE  
JAMES HARDIGAN  
STEPHEN HEFLER  
PAMELA HENARD  
TRUMAN HENARD  
KARL HINSCH  
TOM JONES  
AMY KIRKPATRICK  
MARK KISSINGER  
TERESA KISSINGER  
JEFFREY KLEIN  
STEVEN KLEINGLASS  
PAULA KOLODNY

ROSSANA LACHMAN  
WILLIAM LACHMAN  
NORMAND LAPIERRE  
SHARON LAVALLEE  
THOMAS LONG  
LOUIS NAGY  
NANCY NELSON  
PHIL OCCHINO  
ROBERT PENTECOST  
WILLIAM PHILLIPS  
JILL POZAREK  
MARY RAU-FOSTER  
SUE RECTOR  
PAT RIOTTO  
WILLIAMSARO  
ALAN SCHAEPERKLAUS  
PHIL SPOKOWSKI  
STEVEN THOMASTON  
ALAN VANCE  
GARY WEIN  
LINDA WEIN  
SUSAN WILSON  
WILLIAM WINKLER









“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much”  
~ H. Keller



## Membership Enrollment Form

Your Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association membership demonstrates the value you place on living in this community. For more information, visit our informative website, [www.vgrcca.org](http://www.vgrcca.org)

**Your membership will provide the necessary financial support providing for the:**

- Publication of the monthly Parcels from Paradise distributed to all Venetian households
- Continuation of the Hurricane Response Team, activated during an approaching hurricane
- Support for the Wall of Something, an electronic messaging board for members
- Scheduling of exciting seminars and events including Shredfest, Bike-O-Rama, CPR training and a host of presentations made by local experts

### Quick Facts about the VGRCCA:

- Formed in 2008, the Community Association has a long and successful record of community engagement
- Managed by a volunteer Board of up to 11 members
- A history of approximately 60-70% of the Venetian residents who join
- Board meetings once a month, open to residents and accessible on Zoom
- Strong emphasis on communications to residents

#### There are two ways to join:

1. On-line at <http://www.vgrcca.org/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):

##### SIGN UP

##### TERM DUES

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three Years (best deal) . . . . . | \$70 (\$20 discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two Years . . . . .               | \$50 (\$10 discount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Year . . . . .                | \$30                 |

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

VENETIAN ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_