



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.

DECEMBER 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 COURT ADVANTAGE

“Mom, the Human Ate My Homework”

On December 5th, residents were treated to what’s behind a training session for the dogs of the Southeastern Guide Dogs organization. It was surely an informative session and having some of the dogs in attendance added to the seminar. If you want to know more about the wonderful training this organization does, go to their website at <https://www.guidedogs.org/>.



Make that Call!

Parcels learned that our wonderful front gate guards are spending a lot of time calling and checking with residents before admitting a particular service worker/vendor/guest. It really is not an efficient way to operate the flow of traffic. You can help by **contacting the Guard gate at (941) 488-7108** and notifying staff of your arriving visitor before the appointed time. You may reach their answering machine and, if so, leave your message as the guards closely monitor the answering machine. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Seeking Qualified Candidates

Treasurer Position – the VGRCCA is looking for an individual to replace our excellent Treasurer who will be moving to the northeast. A person with strong accounting experience would be the right fit. If you are interested, send an email of interest to vgrcca.org@gmail.com.

Michelle Trent, another Board member, has also been a very valuable asset to the Community Association. She has been the key person in the development of the Wall of Something and the redesign of our website. Michelle will be devoting more time to work and family responsibilities. We are looking for her replacement on the Board. If interested, let us know via vgrcca.org@gmail.com. It’s another way of getting involved in your community.

Pick Up

The Laurel Road Clean Up is scheduled for **Monday, December 18, 2023 at 8:45am**. The team will meet on the south side of Laurel Road, across from the entry to the Venetian. Neon tee-shirts, rubber gloves, bags and pickers will be provided. It is recommended that volunteers wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, high socks and appropriate shoes. For those who choose to provide the use of their golf cart, the carts are used to transport volunteers to their starting points. The carts will also be used to transport volunteers back to the Venetian entry after they have completed their assigned area. Transport carts will only be driven on the sidewalk and will not be used during the cleanup. Parcels hopes that after reading this article, you’ll say, “I’ll be there!”

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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Heavyweight Champion

The outpouring of support for the **Fill the Barrels Thanksgiving Drive** was amazing. This program was done in concert with Ajax Paving, our corporate neighbors on the north. Ajax reported that our community was able to donate 2,150 lbs. for the project. This project was coordinated by your VGRC Community Association.

A Donation of Significance

Another wonderful project was the 7th Annual Venetian Veteran Golf Charity event on November 7th. This event raised money for the Bay Pines Fisher House, a Ronald McDonald's type concept for families of those military personnel at the local VA hospital. **The amount raised was just over \$19,000!** The picture here is of our committee representatives handing over the check to the key people at the Bay Pines Fisher House, located on the campus of the VA Hospital in Tampa. Thanks to all those who participated in this wonderful, patriotic event.



Calling all "Wallers"

The Wall of Something is getting pretty busy, but it is an endless wall. If you have not been on the Wall, go to www.vgrcca.org. For first time users, please read the directions posted on the Wall as to how to gain admittance. The Wall is always looking for recommendations for vendors such as plumbers, roofers, AC companies and physicians. Remember, the Wall is exclusively for the residents of the VGRC.



Use of Online PayPal

One of the conveniences of the Community Association website (www.vgrcca.org) is the ease of paying your membership dues online. There has been some confusion as to the use of PayPal. You don't need a PayPal account to pay online as the system also accepts any of the major credit cards.

Prepping for the Annual Town Hall Meeting

The Annual Town Hall Meeting (THM) is scheduled for **Monday, March 18, 2024**. It will be held as in past years at the Laurel Nokomis School Cafetorium. This well attended event provides updates from leading decision makers in the area. Planning is taking place now and if you have a suggestion for the Town Hall meeting, including format or topics, feel free to send them to vgrcca.org@gmail.com.

GET OUT YOUR CALENDARS

In 2024, the Community Association will be hosting two of the most popular events on property. They are:

Bike-O-Rama, scheduled for **Saturday, January 6, 2024**, in the River Club parking lot. This annual event involves a local bike shop, Bicycles International, who provides a quick but valuable FREE bike check. The event is sponsored by the Community Association and a membership table will be at the event for those needing to pay their membership dues.

Shredfest/Junkfest is scheduled for **Saturday, February 24** so start collecting your stuff and junk; such as outdated papers, old pictures of you at the high school prom and that document you wonder why you still have it. All of that can be shredded on site. **Junkfest** is the second part of this event. Over the years we have seen about every imaginable item dropped off for disposal. . . . toilets, vanities, tables and chairs. Note the picture. The car line starts early but it is quick and efficient. **Shredfest/Junkfest** is a free event open to all residents (Note: the cost of this event is approximately \$700. Thanks to those who are members of the Community Association for their financial support. We would hope if you participated at this event, you would join the many who are members.)



In January, you will see more publicity about two new events. The first is **"Addressing Your Mental Health Needs"** scheduled for **January 16, 2024, 5 pm**, at the River Club. The second event is **"Taking Better Pictures with your Smart Phone"** (I-Phone and Android), scheduled for January 24th, at 9 am. This session will require pre-registration.

OUTSIDE THE GATES

Meeting with County Traffic Officials

On Wednesday, November 8th, two members of the VGRC Community Association met with a senior manager from the Sarasota County Transportation Public Works to get an update on the Laurel Road widening project. The goal was to start a working dialog with Sarasota County, gather information, and advocate for a safe intersection at Veneto Blvd and Laurel Rd. Sarasota County management confirmed that they have not finalized a design plan for our intersection but have narrowed down the traffic control options with safety as the overarching design criteria. Additionally, in a few months they are expecting to make their final design recommendation, at which time they will have a better project timeline to share with the VGRC Community Association and the Venetian residents. Since the initial meeting, the County has continued to update members of VGRC Community Association on this project. Specifically, the County now has full authorization at all levels to proceed with the Laurel Rd widening project. Additionally, funding for the project has been appropriated by the Florida State Legislature. Finally, a traffic light at our intersection is not being considered in any of their design options. **Also, they wanted to clear up some miscommunication..... under no circumstances would they ever entertain a private entity or Neighborhood Association be asked or required to pay for a traffic light on a Sarasota County roadway.**

Pickleball Mania

Ten years ago, when someone mentioned Pickleball, most replied with “Huh?” Well today it is a common household word. As reported in a previous edition of Parcels, they are building a new indoor facility on Jacaranda behind Starbucks. No details on the timeline. Also, 3 new courts were built at our River Club recreation facility and are expected to be operational shortly.



Close but No Cigar

They went all the way to the State Finals but the Venice Indian football team loss to the Lakewood Dreadnaughts (Ed. Note... first time Parcels have heard that name as a mascot.ask Siri what is a Dreadnaught) Venice has a long history of success under Coach Peacock. Several residents have enjoyed their Friday evenings by taking a trip down to the high school to see the excitement of the high school football night spectacle.

Happenings at 401 W. Venice Ave.

At the recent Council meeting, a few items were passed by Council. First, three advisory Committees, namely the Parks and Rec, Environmental, and Arts, were “sunset” aka “bye-bye “and will combine into a Citizen Advisory Board”. Applications for the new Board will be publicized by the City. Secondly, the City most likely will transfer ownership of the Wellfield Park on Pinebrook to the County and take ownership of the Venice Community Center. These latest park-related decisions should have no impact on the northeast park, scheduled for Laurel Rd. Speaking of Venice Ave. as you consider your holiday shopping, please give some attention to shopping locally. There are some wonderful small shop retailers in the downtown area where you can pick up some unique gifts.plus enhance the local economy.



FINAL THOUGHTS

Some residents would admit it has been a challenging year with several of the issues the community has faced. Probably the most challenging has been the Commercial Application aka Shopping Center. It has certainly brought out varying viewpoints, including those who oppose it, those who oppose it but were not in favor of the strategy employed, those who support such growth and development and probably others with no opinions. Sadly, this issue caused quite a bit of dissension among many of our residents living in what is proudly known as "Paradise."

However, we want to proudly mention several of our community's accomplishments over the past year; namely the great community support of local charities. You have read in this edition the wonderful Fill the Barrels Campaign and the Veteran Golf Charity Event benefitting the Bay Pines Fisher House. In addition, the Golf Club held a charity event benefitting Tidewell Hospice. Furthermore, the River Club hosted a very successful Toys for Tot event last week. And next month the River Club will be hosting Our Mother's House charity event (check out the flyer at the end of Parcels).

Thanks to our wonderful residents for responding to the call of giving. It's a great way that unifies our community and whether the shopping center takes place or not, we are certain that these generous acts of giving will remain with our community.

The Community Association wishes all Venetian residents a safe, joyful, holiday season and much health and happiness in 2024!





Baby Shower and Luncheon

A BENEFIT FOR THE MOTHERS AND BABIES AT OUR
MOTHER'S HOUSE OF
CATHOLIC CHARITIES

JANUARY 18, 2024

11:00-1:30

VENETIAN RIVER CLUB: 502 VENETO BLVD, N. VENICE, FL

\$45 PER PERSON

(\$17.70 TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO OUR MOTHER 'S HOUSE (NOT THE CLUB)

RSVP 941-441-2267

PLEASE BRING A BOX OF DIAPERS (SIZE 3, 4 OR 6),
WIPES OR GIFT CARDS.

ANY QUESTIONS CALL MORENA AT 845-325-9605

50/50 AND DOOR PRIZES



“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

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: _____