



*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.*

**JANUARY 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.*

## TOP TEN

Parcels asked the VGRCCA to give input to the top ten stories for 2022 in random order. Below are the results.

Did we miss anything? Let us know at [vgrcca@gmail.com](mailto:vgrcca@gmail.com).

- ✓ Neal Communities announces a proposal for a shopping center in the Milano PUD resulting in community residents overwhelmingly against the development.
- ✓ Long awaited project to widen Laurel Road to 4 lanes gets funded and moves forward
- ✓ Comcast begins installation of fiber optic cable in VGRC
- ✓ Hurricane Ian causes widespread major damage to SW Florida
- ✓ Venetian's own Hurricane Readiness Team (HRT) superbly responds to the needs of the community pre and post Hurricane Ian.
- ✓ Shorepoint Hospital aka Venice Hospital abruptly closes its doors
- ✓ Newly elected conservative majority on the Sarasota County school board fires two-year superintendent at its first meeting
- ✓ Heritage purchases Venetian Golf Club, spending millions of dollars improving the course and facility
- ✓ Venice Theater severely damaged by Hurricane Ian with events moved to a different venue.
- ✓ Housing boom continues along Laurel Rd. and northeast Venice.

## SPEAKING OF THIS PAST YEAR....

The Community Association would like to express its condolences to those in the community who have lost a loved one during 2022.

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

## KEEPING AN EYE ON

### Special Reminder

Although a special email was sent out to residents on January 2nd, we wanted to again remind residents that on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 1:30 pm at City Hall, the Venice Planning Commission will make a determination on the Neal Commercial Application in the Milano PUD. Public participation is encouraged whether you support or oppose the proposed shopping center. The hearing is referred to as a quasi-judicial hearing. At this quasi-judicial hearing the Planning Commission will render a non-binding decision on the application based on the facts presented. In this matter, the Commission will make its decision based on such factors as compliance with the Land Development Regulations, the Comprehensive Plan and relevant legislation and existing laws. The application then moves on to City Council with a non-binding recommendation from the Planning Commission. The Community Association will of course be monitoring this next step in the process and update the community in a timely manner.

### Road Widening: Update

The road widening is moving along with details in the mix to get the road “shovel ready.” Laurel Rd. has been deemed as a “major arterial road”. The concern for Venetian residents appears to be whether a traffic light is necessary at the main entrance of our community at the intersection of Veneto and Laurel Rd. Ultimately, that decision is in the hands of the County who is the primary governmental body responsible for road development.

It is interesting to note that the Laurel Road widening has been an ongoing effort by the County and City. The need for the widening has been on previous agenda topics for our City Council dating back at least three years ago. Council had the foresight in addressing the need for the widening, due to the housing boom in northeast Venice. Often government is criticized for being behind the eight ball when it comes to road infrastructure. In this instance, it appears that our city was ahead of the game and now the road widening is being considered as one of the highest priorities for the county.



## CATCHING OUR EYE...

### Tiki Bar..... Good job CDD.

You waited and waited and now it's here! The newly renovated Tiki Bar is now completed awaiting the arrival of residents to a very enjoyable and relaxing setting. Kudos to the CDD for dealing with the many issues associated with a major renovation but in the end addressing the needs of our community.

### A Nice Touch

We may be tired of all the holiday festivities; however, something caught the eyes of Parcels on a recent visit to the Publix at Plaza Venezia. In front of the store greeting customers was an ensemble of string players, with their instructors, from the Venice Middle School playing a medley of holiday songs. The customers loved it and the youngsters seemed so proud of their public performance.

Today... Publix in Venice; tomorrow... Carnegie Hall in New York! Applause to the management of Publix for providing the opportunity for these middle schoolers.



### On the block. Off the block.

Not sure what it will be or whether it will go the way of the wrecking ball, but it was recently reported that a developer has purchased Shorepoint aka Venice Hospital. The key part of the story is that the hospital closed on September 22, 2022, and in less than four months the property was sold. That should tell you that it is considered of value to someone. Parcels will monitor the story.

**You heard it first**

Detweiler's is a great store to buy fresh produce, wonderful fish and yummy bakery goods. Their store in Venice is very small and when it gets crowded, it's like human bumper cars. Well, here is the news. Detweiler's bought the adjoining store, will tear out the wall dividing the store resulting in one large store...similar to the one on Clark Rd. It looks like summer will be when most of the work will be completed.

# UPCOMING SEMINARS OF HIGH INTEREST

**Tuesday, January 10th "Using Food as Medicine"**

Join us at this seminar where you will be inspired and empowered to take important steps in achieving optimum wellness. Discover new recipes and flavors! **Located in the River Club 5 – 6 PM**

**Monday, January 23rd "Florida Friendly Landscaping 101"**

If you are new to the Sunshine State, or simply new to Florida gardening you will want to attend this upcoming seminar. The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program recognizes landscapes that use native plants and sustainable landscaping practices. Do you want to learn what flowers, plants, shrubs, and trees grow well here and how to care for them? Would you like to provide habitats for pollinators? Many in our community practice the key principles of this environmentally friendly method to beautify their properties. Your time at the seminar will be well spent. **Located in the River Club 5 – 6 PM**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

**Start getting it ready...**

**Shredfest/Junkfest – Tuesday, February 14th, from 7: 30 AM - 9:00 AM** (also might want to get an early buy on those Valentine cards!) This is the Community Association's annual event where residents can load up their cars or golf carts with unwanted stuff and drive it up to the River Club parking lot and have it taken away for FREE. Bring your sensitive documents to be shred right before your eyes. No hazardous waste, please.

- March 2nd** ..... **CPR Training with Venice Fire Dept**
- March 7th** ..... **Seminar on the Environment of Southwest Florida**
- March 20th** ..... **Annual Town Hall**

**Faster than a Speeding Locomotive**

The annual Bike-O-Rama sign-up was posted at 8 AM on Monday, January 2nd. Within 30 minutes, all of the slots were taken. The VGRCC Community Association apologies for those trying to get a slot. However, this activity is so popular that the demand is enormous. This year, Bicycles International, the shop we have used since the inception of this activity, reduced the number of slots available. The Community Association will meet with the owner of this popular store to see what can be done in the future to accommodate more residents. We hope that those who did show up in the standby line were taken care of.

**Annual Ladies Charity Golf Tournament!**

The Ladies Annual Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting the Laurel Civic After School Program, will be held on **Tuesday, February 7th, 2023, at the Venetian Golf Club**. This event is open to all women and guests in the Venetian who would like to support this wonderful program. Cart fees \$29.00. Luncheon price to be determined. The suggested donation is \$50.00. You can have your donation matched by visiting [www.flanzertrust.org](http://www.flanzertrust.org). Once in the Flanzer website click on "Make a Donation", then select "Laurel Civic Association" to have your donation matched 100%. The Laurel Civic Association's mission is to educate and empower individuals so that they may lead self-sufficient, successful lives. Please visit [www.laurelcivic.org](http://www.laurelcivic.org) to learn more. Not a golfer, but still want to support Laurel Civic After School Program?

For more information: Contact co-chairs:

Susie Waggoner at 217-414-1721, [susanwag49@icloud.com](mailto:susanwag49@icloud.com)

Margie Mancini at 978-660-6138, [margaretmancini@icloud.com](mailto:margaretmancini@icloud.com)



### **Nokomis Event**

See the attached flyer announcing a wonderful event in Nokomis.

### **Your Contact Info is Important**

Please make sure we have your correct email address. Otherwise, you will not receive Parcels, update emails, or other important communications from the Community Association. We use emails to communicate. If you are not receiving emails and you are certain we have the correct address for you, please reach out to Sharon George to verify and she will troubleshoot why you are not receiving emails. We feel it is important for everyone to be updated about what is happening in our community, so all residents receive Parcels. If you are new to the community, please let Sharon know your contact information and we will get it into the system. You can reach Sharon at shgeorge426@yahoo.com or 414-526-2555.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

Forget weekend chores beginning in January. That is when the NFL playoffs begin and football fans will be glued to the TV on Saturdays and Sundays. In February friends gather as a part of American culture to watch the two best NFL teams compete in the Super Bowl. The question is who is going to be in the end, the team that takes home the coveted trophy? If you want to share your prediction, let Parcels know NOW as to who will be taking home the bragging rights. Send your choice to vgrcca@gmail.com. Now for Parcels prediction. Parcels' prediction skills for the Super Bowl winner are equal to his prediction skills for the many new stores flocking to the infamous "Subway Plaza." Therefore, as is done every year, Parcels on February 13th will reveal his prediction for this year's Super Bowl.







# HISTORIC NOKOMIS DAY

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2023 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**Nokomis Community Park, 234 Nippino Trl E. Nokomis, FL 34275**

***FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!***

- Classic Car Show
- Local Historical Presentations
- Kayak Experience – Silent Sports Outfitters
- Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department
- Sarasota County Sheriff Department
- Music By DJ Harry Wright
- Food Trucks, Drinks & Lots of Fun!!

Come meet the  
dedicated people  
protecting our  
community!!

**With Support From:**



This Event supports the Nokomis Area Civic Association Scholarship Program.  
Sponsorship Opportunities or questions, contact: Bill Cantrell (941) 586-8301



**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>	