



Advocating For Our Community

PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

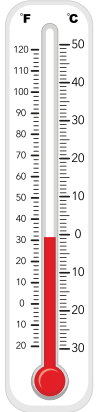
Published by the VGRCCA as a service to our members and residents of the Venetian Golf and River Club.

JULY 2024

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.

For our Snowbirds...the Almost Accurate Parcels Weather Report

Those who are snowbirds relaxing in northern Michigan or on the Jersey shore are curious as to what the weather is like in Venice. To address their question, 'Almost Accurate Parcels Weatherperson' was called upon to address their question. Most days in Venice you wake up with a slight chill in the air. A few days it has been necessary to find a scraper to clear off your windshield. During the day, the sun peaks out often accompanied by northwest winds which may require residents to have a sweater nearby. The weather allows tennis players and golfers to fully concentrate on their games and, in fact, many golfers enjoy the weather so much they extend their game to 27 holes. When the sun goes down it gets cool again and, if one desires an early evening jaunt, you better carry your hoodie. Yes, it is surely Paradise in Venice during June, July and August.



DIALING IN

Remember this Phone Number- 941-488-7108

We have numbers embedded in our mind that are easy to remember; such as 911, 311 and even 1-800 – Call Gary. We would like all residents to place in their minds and cell phones this number..... **941-488-7108. That's the PHONE line to the team in the Guardhouse who monitor those "outsiders" who want admittance to our community.** You can even call 7 days before your guest arrives. You can also leave a voice mail. When you don't call, the waiting cars back up and naturally you are left with some very frustrated guests and vendors. Those at the guardhouse do a very fine job taking care of this very important responsibility. So, remember, put it in your phone and call **941-488-7108**.....let me repeat that. **941-488-7108.**

THE LATEST

Checking with Those Who Know

Parcels sought the knowledge of experienced City leaders regarding next steps with two important northeast Venice projects:

The Shopping Center

"The Neal project still has to gain approval through the site and development plan process and is nearly ready to schedule for Planning Commission consideration in a public hearing. If approved, they will need to get construction plan approval through the Engineering Dept. as well for the horizontal infrastructure. In the meantime, they could request a clearing and grubbing permit through the Engineering Dept. which would permit them to impact the property in the upland areas. They would also need to obtain a tree permit as well. Clearing and grubbing is something any landowner can do as long as they have the required permits."

Continued on Page 2

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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

The Northeast Park on Laurel

"The Northeast Park 90% draft plans are under review and we are preparing to obtain costs for construction services. This park is shaping up to be an incredible park. Hoping that construction costs have not increased too much to support all the improvements proposed."

Valuable HRT Seminar for our Residents

The Community Association hosted a hurricane preparation seminar for the members of the Venetian Golf and River Club. One hundred-forty-eight (148) members of the community were in attendance to hear Chief Frank Giddens of the Venice Fire Department and James Clinch, Assistant City Manager for the city of Venice, speak about hurricane preparation and response. The meeting was recorded and is posted under "Video Links" in the Hurricane Corner of the Community Association website at <https://vgrcca.org/hurricane-corner>.



Thirty-five (35) members of the hurricane response team also underwent annual training and are prepared to respond in the event of a hurricane threat callout. The team is on alert to respond at any time but will only be called up for duty when Raymond Juan, the POA General Manager, notifies the HRT General Team Leader that employees will be leaving the Venetian premises.

Remember: Plan; Don't Panic!

Good News from City Hall

Parcels believes there will be many pleased Venetian residents once they know that Venice City Council recently approved a budget designation for the hiring of additional safety service personnel (ie. fire, police) AND approved to use up to \$8 million in road impact fees for the widening of Laurel Road.

THIS AND THAT

Kudos

There are many great employees in our community. We always hesitate to mention them because where there is one, there are another 10. But we just cannot overlook our pool attendant and the energy he has brought to the pool area including the Tiki Bar. He is constantly walking around the pool and if he notices a rule violation like drinking in the pool, he politely informs the "violation" that it is not permitted. He enthusiastically calls many frequent attendees by name and greets guests with a welcoming hello. Through his personality he has brought energy to the pool. If you haven't been to the pool this year, take a walk up there. You will see this employee, whose past was grounded in the fashion industry, from Thursday to Sunday.

Cuts in the Art World

Not to get into politics, but State of Florida cut \$32 million of funding for arts organizations across the state. Two well-known local attractions are the Venice Theatre and the Venice Symphony. Sarasota itself has been a center for the arts with a Symphony, Theatre, Ballet and Opera to just name a few. Many move to this area to take advantage of the plethora of art options. Most likely you will see many of these arts organizations making a plea to donors to make up for the loss of revenue.



A Lineup of Great Speakers

The Ringling Library Association has announced its 2025 TOWN HALL Lecture Series. Some of the big names presenting at this wonderful series include H.R. McMaster, Former National Security Advisor; Dr. Anthony Fauci; Rob Gronkowski, Glenn Close and Dr. Moiya McTier, an astrophysicist, folklorist, and science communicator. This series is one of the wonderful aspects of living in this area. Morning lectures begin at 10:30 a.m. and evening talks begin at 7:30 p.m. The series is sold by subscription. For more details and tickets call 941-309-5100. Tickets go fast, so get on the phone soon.

BY THE WAY

House on Mission Valley and Laurel

Probably the number one question PARCELS gets is “what in the heck are they building at the corner of Laurel and Mission Valley?” According to authentic research of all building permits, it is considered a residence...let me repeat that... **A Residence.** Parcels has even contacted the architect to get information but was rebuffed. A member of the Community Association many years ago tried to sneak in to get a few pictures but was quickly removed from the property. Parcels even solicited the services of a local pilot for a look-see. One interesting event that Parcels recently investigated: you will see there are various parking barriers across the street at Driftwood Kennels. Curious Parcels contacted Driftwood to find out what they were building on their property. What was discovered was that Driftwood has rented part of their property to the builders of the unknown property across the street to allow construction workers to park since there is no place to park on the mysterious home with the large mounds of dirt they have piled up. So, the question remains - who owns it? If the owner has a grand home opening, Parcels will attempt to get on the invite list...assuming he lives that long.

Nearby Vacation Spots

With vacation season upon us, we are hearing about some wonderful, short vacation spots within a relatively short drive. One is the **Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte (County) Harbor.** The property is owned by Allegiant Airlines. There is a special rate for Florida residents. Golf courses, spas and great dining are part of this newly built resort. With 785 guestrooms, one should we waiting for you as you drive down the interstate or on 41.

The other is a unique place called **Devil's Den Resort in Williston, FL** --- a little less than a 3-hour drive north on I-75 from North Venice. It's known for snorkeling or scuba diving in a pre-historic spring. The accommodations are somewhat rustic but you don't visit this interesting site thinking you are visiting the Ritz Carlton. Take a look at their website and see if this is the place for you. Click on <http://www.devilsden.com/>

Finally, we know many of our residents have hit the road as well as taking flights to such European countries as Spain, Portugal and Italy. If you would like to share your experience with others, go to the Wall of Something to write your comments under “ Recommendations.”

Homes, Homes and more Homes

While the traffic is not that bad, mosey down Laurel Rd. (left out of the Venetian) and on Knights Trail and Rustic Road and you will come to the conclusion that there is plenty of new home construction coming to Venice. The saying is, “If you build it, they will come.” Parcels reached out to a very experienced realtor who does a lot of work in the Venetian, asking about the market inside the gates. The response was:

Many houses in the Venetian are getting to be 20 years old and need updating, thus making it difficult to secure insurance. People are looking at new construction. Because we deal mainly with cash, the interest rate is not an issue. If priced right, a house will sell quickly.

Home Owners Association (HOA) Face New Laws

HOAs in Florida have been put under the microscope and changes have been instituted. As of July 1, 2024, HOAs will be prohibited from banning common-sense parking; fining residents for leaving garbage cans out on trash day; creating rules for the inside of structures or backyards (like prohibitions against gardens or clotheslines) that can't be seen from the street, neighboring property or common area; and more. The law also mandates more transparency and accessibility on the part of the HOA officers or management companies. We are confident that our own POA will keep residents informed of significant changes.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

The Community Association is apolitical; however, we strive to supply residents with timely and useful information. What follows is intended to inform residents about upcoming elections without any suggestion of which candidates or parties to support.

Dates to remember:

1. August 20, 2024 will be the next Election Day with early voting from Saturday, August 10th until Sunday, August 18th.
2. Voter registration/party change deadline: Monday, July 22
3. Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ("VBM") ballot: Thursday, August 8 @ 5pm
 - a) Check your VBM status at www.sarasotavotes.gov
 - b) VBM ballots MUST be received in the Elections office by 7pm on August 20th
 - c) VBM ballots are mailed out approximately 40 days prior to the election
 - d) If you are out of town between July 11 and August 8, VBM ballots will not be forwarded so you must change your address at the above website
 - e) Mail back the VBM ballots by August 13 or bring to any secure ballot intake station (the nearest is the Anderson Admin. Building near Jacaranda and Tamiami) between July 11 & August 20 on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30am-5pm & 8:30-4:30pm on early voting weekends: August 10-11, and August 17-18.

Elections/Primaries on August 20, 2024:

A. Sarasota School Board:

1. Seat 2-Karen Rose (R), incumbent vs. Liz Barker (D)
2. Seat 3-Tom Edwards (D), incumbent vs. Gregory Wood (R) & Thomas Babicz (R). If Edwards wins 50.1%, he is the winner, otherwise there will be a runoff of the two top candidates in November.

The League of Women Voters of Sarasota is holding a School Board Candidate Forum on Wednesday, July 17 from 5:30pm-7pm at the Jacaranda Library & live streamed on https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6N_NmJyYCClgWRpqrwppgw (registration not required).

B. Sarasota Memorial Hospital Board REPUBLICAN Primary Election:

Four of nine seats are up this year. The winner will run against the Democratic candidate & other write-in candidates in November. ONLY REGISTERED REPUBLICANS CAN VOTE IN THESE PRIMARIES

Seat 1 -Central District (OUR DISTRICT):

Incumbent Sarah Lodge (R) vs. Tanya Marie Parus (R) with the winner facing Vicki Lynn Nighswander (D) & 1 write-in candidate in November.

At-Large Seat 1:

Incumbent Sharon Wetzler DePeters (R) vs. Tamzin Rosenwasser (R) with winner facing Alan Sprintz (D) & 3 write-in candidates in November.

At-Large Seat 2:

Incumbent Kevin Cooper (R) vs. Stephen Guffanti, MD (R) vs. Kendra Becker Musante, NMD (R) in the primary with the winner facing John Lutz (D) & 1 write-in in November.

At-Large Seat 3:

Incumbent Pam Beitlich (R) vs. Mary Flynn O'Neill (R) with winner facing George Davis, MD (D) & 2 write-ins in November. All Sarasota registered voters can vote in NOVEMBER in the at-large elections & only voters living in our district, Democrat & Republican (such as those in the Venetian) can vote for this Central District seat in November from 5:30pm-7PM also at the Jacaranda Library & live-streamed on: <https://youtube.com/live/6c6uHYzgcUo?feature=share>

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C. Sarasota Commission Republican Primary (Districts 1 & 3) - Both are closed Republican primaries:

District 1 (OURS):

Alexandra Coe (R) vs. Teresa Mast (R) with winner facing Nancy Simpson (D) in November.

District 3:

Incumbent Neil Rainford (R) vs. Tom Knight (R), the winner to face Shari Thornton (D) & 1 (write-in) in November.

The League of Women Voters will live-stream (ONLY) a Candidate Forum for the Sarasota Commission Republican Primary on Monday, July 22 from 5:30pm-6:30pm on https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6N_NmJyYCClgWRpqlfwppgw

D. Democratic primaries: (only Democrats can vote in these):

US Senate: the winner will face incumbent Rick Scott (R) in November:

- Stanley Campbell
- Rod Joseph
- Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
- Brian Rush

US Congress: Florida District 17 the winner will face incumbent Greg Steube (R) in November:

1. Manny Lopez
2. Matthew Montavon

We hope that Venetian resident continue their excellent track record and get out to vote.

FINAL REMINDER.....
REMEMBER THE MAGIC NUMBER TO THE GUARDHOUSE 941-488-7108.



“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
230 Padova Way
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: _____