



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 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.

THE “H” WORD

The Prelude

As you will read in the following article, Hurricane Debby or Miss Deborah, just to respect Mother Nature, did not have much of an impact on the Venice area. However, the Sarasota area, especially downtown and around Phillippi Creek, had to deal with flooded areas causing emergency squads to rescue families in distress. Sarasota and Manatee County received from 10-12 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. We have been told to expect an active Hurricane season. Perhaps Debby, aka Deborah, was the prelude.

Tropical Storm/Hurricane Debby

Venice dodged a bullet as Tropical Storm Debby blew through our town. The winds and rains were beyond impressive. While Debby did not result in power outages and other issues in our community, it should serve as a reminder what storms can do. We have 3 ½ months of hurricane season ahead of us. Preparation is key to managing any storm threat. Do you have the supplies that you might need? Florida's 2024 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday begins on Saturday, August 24th and ends on Friday, September 6, 2024. Go to VGRC Community Association Hurricane Corner to see a list of items that will be tax free. (<https://vgrcca.org/hurricane-corner>).



If you, or someone that you know who lives in the community, would like a member of the Reach Out Team of the Hurricane Response Team to reach out to you before and after a storm, please email Mary Rau-Foster (maryraufoster@gmail.com) and we will sign you up. Another reminder: if you have hurricane shutters that would need to be installed, be sure to identify someone now who could do so for you. Check with your neighbors, friends or Next-Door Neighbor for recommendations and other information regarding pricing. When we are under tropical storm watch or warning, or hurricane warning, Raymond Juan, the Property Manager for the POA, will send out an email (as he did during this most recent storm) advising residents when you can have the shutters installed. Stay alert and enjoy the rest of the summer.

A Must Read for All Residents

Given the many lakes on property plus our proximity to the Myakka River, VGRC residents are certainly concerned about the potential of flooding during or after a hurricane. With Hurricane Ian, there was some street flooding. On the Community Association website, there is an excellent explanation of how our lake system works and the impact of the Myakka River. This is a must read to better understand this issue. Go to <https://vgrcca.org/hurricane-corner/>

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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

INSIDE THE HOOD

You Did Great, Venetian Residents

Take a bow Venetian residents, you answered the call. What call? The call to the Security gatehouse when you have a visitor or vendor coming to your home. And you may recall that we wrote in the July Parcels, or shall we say pounded, the importance of calling the Security Gatehouse letting them know when you have arriving guests or vendors. You can even call a week ahead of their arrival. According to the wonderful gatehouse staff, there was a noticeable improvement in the number of calls, thus improving the efficiency in admitting guests and vendors. Make sure you have that magic number handy... **941-488-7108**.



Strategic Planning Session

The Community Association Board held an afternoon strategic planning session in July for an in-depth review of the key long-term issues which the Board faces. The three-hour session engaged all Board members, including two members on Zoom. This was the second planning session in just over a year. Key discussion areas included our general mission, control of expenses, and membership challenges. Board members left feeling the time was well spent in charting out the future direction of the organization.



WWW.VGRCCA.org..... a must for all residents

Many websites unfortunately become stale over time or are so complicated to navigate that you just turn off your computer. Not so with the website of the Community Association which went through a major revision approximately a year ago to make it more user-friendly. We are striving to make it your “go to” site for community information. The site is easy to navigate and includes the following:

- Recent news stories that are of interest to residents. This page is regularly updated and includes local Venice news media sources.
- An extensive list of helpful links guiding you to such sites as the City of Venice, the Venetian POA, and the Mote Marine’s daily report on local beaches
- The popular Wall of Something, an electronic messaging board, open to only Venetian residents
- A hurricane corner of great value during the current hurricane season
- A special “who do you call” page to ease the confusion with three key organizations on property... the CDD, POA and the Community Association
- A membership page, including an easy way to pay your dues on-line.

It’s worth bookmarking this website and if a question surfaces which needs an answer, perhaps you can click on www.vgrcca.org for that answer.

Almost here.... Hold on to your socks.

A subcommittee of the Community Association is working tirelessly in planning the **Knock Your Socks Off** Season. We have 18 events already scheduled for the upcoming 2024-25 season. We will start off the season on October 7th with our Candidate Forums – both for the CDD (3 open seats) and the Venice City Council (2 open seats). We will host our annual popular events; such as Bike-O-Rama, CPR training, and Shredfest/Junkfest.

In addition, we have new events that we think will draw a lot of interest; such as the History of Venice, Local Wildlife Rescue and the History of the Ringling Circus/Museum/Mansion.

Stay tuned and we hope you will take advantage of attending these free events.

LOCAL STUFF

It's That Time

On Monday, August 12th, approximately 42,000 students in Sarasota County answered the call of the ringing of the bell marking the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. Most of the children living in this area go to Laurel Nokomis School (grades PK – 8) and Venice High School. Both schools are facing a growing population. Venice H.S. will soon get a little relief with the building of a new high school in Wellen Park. Parcels wanted to wish our school-aged youngsters (and teachers) a wonderful and enriching school year. And for our readers, remember to drive slowly in the school zones on both Laurel Rd. and Albee Farm.

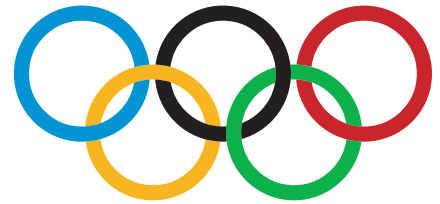


Pronounced "Joisey"

A new store is coming to the Plaza Venezia. Jersey Mike's, the national sub chain. It is interesting to note that several stores remain still vacant in this plaza, including the outparcels, in a retail-ripe area marked by a housing boom and a new and growing major hospital.

Attention Sports Fans

Since the beginning of August, many of us have been glued to our televisions to see the 2024 Olympics from Paris. What wonderful coverage of such amazing athletes. There were even some non-traditional sports included; such as "Breaking (Breakdancing), Surfing and Sport climbing, If you weren't glued to your television for the Olympics, you were probably watching Major League Baseball. It won't be too long before we are glued to our televisions watching the October World Series classic. And yes, Yankee fans, you have a chance but White Sox fans need to wait until next year. But one sport not covered by any of the networks yet is common to our own wonderful state of Florida. It's the **2024 Florida Burmese Python Challenge** held starting August 9th and ending on August 18th. In reading the press about this event, the hunt is held in five distinctive Florida areas (don't worry... nowhere did Parcels see Laurel Rd. mentioned). There are various categories of winners with the largest prize of \$10K going to the team that well...."gets rid" of the most pythons. Not sure if there is a fan base, whether concessions are sold at the event or whether the fan base gets all rattled with excitement and leaps to their feet demonstrating the very popular "The Wave" cheer.



I am so *%\$#!^&*&#! Angry

After reading this story, you probably will say, "Are You Serious?" Parcels was informed about an unusual store in Bradenton, approximately a 30-minute drive on I-75. They tell you to unleash your stress in our unique, nationally regarded **Rage Room**. They have "smash rooms" where you well... smash things. Prices are based on the types and number of items you are smashing. The location in Bradenton is called "**Smashed**".... go to <https://www.smashedstuff.com/smash-sessions>. Take a look and if you feel the place will be a great venue for your friends, go for it....and keep smashing.



Medicare Informational Seminars

There are some excellent local and free Medicare seminars available to all residents. The schedule for the August seminars is included at the end of Parcels.

A KEY PART OF ANY COMMUNITY'S SUCCESS SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

Are you fully aware of all the COMMUNITY the Community Association ("CA") brings to the Venetian Golf and River Club?

The Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association ("VGRCCA") strives to bring a feeling of trust, belonging, safety and caring to all of you by providing Hurricane Readiness and a team that responds, as well as, seminar presentations of all topics imaginable. The CA provides services such as the Wall of Something, Parcels, Bike-O-Rama and Shredfest/Junkfest, and communicates to our residents what is happening outside the gates of VGRC. These are just a few of the major contributions the CA provides.

Currently, 100 percent of our residents and their property are protected by the VGRCCA's Hurricane Readiness Team with approximately 68 percent of our residents contributing to the financial operation of the CA and the HRT. The cost to provide Parcels, the Wall of Something, the HRT, and major events such as the Annual Town Hall Meeting and Shredfest/Junkfest are increasing. Membership is voluntary and is only \$30 per year. For those of you who are members, we truly appreciate your support of your community. We encourage those of you who are not members yet to complete the membership form at the end of Parcels, or go to our website, www.vgrcca.org to complete membership online.

FINAL MENTION

✓ The saying "one more time" is often heard when the Conductor of one of those Big Bands wanted to play the ending part of a piece again. Well, here one more time is the phone number to call the guardhouse when you have a guest or vendor. Get it in your phone and call up to a week ahead of the visit. The number is 941-488-7108.

✓ Want to read the first ever edition of PARCELS, go to www.VGRCCA.org

✓ Lastly, with the arrival and actual occurrence of Debby, we must recognize the outstanding and daily communications provided by Sarasota County, and the City of Venice. Along with our own outstanding Hurricane Response Team, Venetian residents are certainly updated with key hurricane tips and information that are necessary at this time.



“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: _____



August 2024 Webinar Schedule & Information

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will be hosting virtual classes for anyone interested in learning more about Medicare.

Class Options	Date	Day	Time (EST)	Register
<p>Medicare 101 Join SHINE, learn about the basics of Medicare and the importance of enrollment periods.</p>	August 16	Friday	12:00PM	<p>Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wMa9tjbJTPWoNbSmtXgO9Q</p>
<p>Medicare Part C Join SHINE, learn about Medicare Advantage Plan costs and coverage.</p>	August 21	Wednesday	12:00PM	<p>Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kXmmkwAktZGAjnLVfoXWCw</p>
<p>Medicare Part D Join SHINE, learn about Part D costs and coverage.</p>	August 26	Monday	1:00PM	<p>Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q8wTUK5WS_aBvPNL4mfSmw</p>

If you are not receiving this handout electronically, you can visit www.aaaswfl.org to learn about and register for upcoming webinars.

Local Help Navigating Medicare

SHINE trained counselors are available year-round Monday – Friday to assist you with all matters related to Medicare, including access to preventive services, cost-saving programs, and identifying and reporting Medicare fraud. SHINE services are confidential, free, and unbiased.

To request SHINE counseling, call the Helpline at **866-413-5337**. To learn more about the SHINE program or Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, visit: www.floridashine.org or www.AAASWFL.org

