

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

October 2024



This edition has been financially supported by:

JOE & MARIA BROWNE

Grateful to be living in our Community since 2016

OPENING ACT

Road Game Plan in Venice

The City of Venice has come out with a number of roads that are scheduled to be widened from 2024-2028.

- Jacaranda Rd. to four lanes
- Laurel Rd to I-75 Southbound...to 6 lanes
- Extension of Lorraine Rd. to connect with Knights Trail
- Laurel Rd from I-75 to Knights Trail – additional lanes

The VGRC Hurricane Response Team: Update

Fifty (50) members of the VGRC community have volunteered to be on the Hurricane Response Team (HRT), (which is sponsored by the Community Association) and serve after our community is impacted by a hurricane.

The Hurricane Response Team (HRT) would like to acknowledge all our neighbors who have reached out by email, phone, or face-to-face, thanking the team for its service during Hurricane Milton. As you know, these team members are also impacted by the storm, but when duty calls after the passing of the storm, they step up to assume their roles on the Security, General Assessment or Reach Out teams.

The HRT is activated when management leaves the premises, and the Security team is activated when the security guards leave the front gate area before the storm. The teams stay on active duty until the management and the security guards return. The team works closely with Ray Juan, POA General Manager and Keith Livermore, CDD Field Supervisor, before and after the storm.

Members of the Security Team were called up before the storm to replace the security guards when they left the premises. The team remained on duty until the first security guard returned at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, Oct.12th. The team members logged in almost 1,400 cars entering the front gate during their time on duty. Thank you, team members!



Continued page 2



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Twelve members of the VGRC community were the recipients of the Reach Out service offered by the team of Ginger Carpenter and Judith Marion. This is a service that offers the opportunity for those living alone to have someone check on them after the hurricane. Cell service was severely impacted by Hurricane Milton so Ginger went to each person's home to check on his or her well-being. The recipients of this service were very grateful and complimentary of the time and effort in the service provided by Ginger and Judith. Thank you, Judith and Ginger.

The General Assessment team surveyed the property for damage and filed a report which was shared with the entire community. Thank you, team members.

For more information on the HRT and hurricane preparation, please see the Hurricane Corner: (<https://vgrcca.org/hurricane-corner>)

Short Cutfor Ambulances

You might have noticed that workers are cutting into the median on Laurel Rd. W, leading into the hospital. Yes, it's a new lane into the hospital planned for early November. However, it will be only available to ambulances. So, what happens if you turn into this lane? According to the Venice Police, "If it's posted for that specific use and someone uses it for another use it would be a violation of Florida Statute 316.074 for disregarding a traffic control device".



Tervis Tumbler Files for Bankruptcy.

We were sad to learn that this long-established business in Venice will be laying off around 60 of its approx. 130 employees by the end of 2024 due to declining sales and high costs. Tervis has been a major manufacturer in Venice (just off Knights Trail) since the 1960's, and this development is unfortunate for the company, its employees and the City of Venice. A manufacturing base is invaluable for a "bedroom" town that relies on services, and Venice has been fortunate to have a base that has included Tervis, along

with Ajax paving and especially PGT Windows, with approx. 2,000 employees. We are hopeful that Tervis will emerge from restructuring and remain viable, even if at a smaller scale.

Hotels Coming to Our Area

Plans are moving along for two hotels just west of us on Laurel Road near Knights Trail. The closest will be a 124-room Echo Suites by Wyndham Hotels, and will be in the Mirasol development close to the new 7-11 and Wendy's. From what we understand, it will be 45 ft. tall and set back around 40 ft. from Laurel Road. A 122-room Hyatt Studios is planned for the Venezia Plaza near the hospital. Neither project requires a zoning change and does not appear to face opposition. The last hotel opened in Venice was in 1997!



As a point of history, in the early days of the Venetian, there was only the Shell Gas Station and CVS, which now is the Dollar Store. As with most interstate exits, you will gradually see the increase of fast foods, hotels and service stations near the Laurel Rd. exit.

Saved by the Bell

They spoke, we listened. A few residents suggested that the Community Association (CA) move its monthly board meetings to the morning rather than midafternoon. Therefore, beginning at the October meeting, the CA will hold its board meeting on Monday, October 21st at 10 a.m. at the River Club. CA meetings are also Zoomed. Hearing the 3-minute bell go off at various other meetings for those speaking to the Board (perhaps those listening to the resident are pleased to be "saved by the bell") the CA has taken another route and expanded its "Hearing the Public" segment to five minutes per speaker. We will evaluate this change throughout the year.



WEB Numbers Increase!

Venetians are increasing their use of the Community Association webpage at VGRCCA.org at a steady pace, year over year. For example, readership increased 30% from August 2023 to August 2024. Readership is usually down during the summer but this June we experienced over 1,300 users when we posted information about the shopping center.



It is no wonder readership has increased, since we have:

- Added a Hurricane Corner, posted useful information to it each hurricane season, and added a FAQ page
- Increased the News and Events to include more local news in Venice and the county which directly affect our community (such as the Laurel Road widening)
- Boosted the Wall of Something page with a video to instruct how to add an item for sale or a recommendation
- Added a "Who Ya Gonna Call?" page under Resources and Helpful Links which includes, for example, what to do when you see a dangerous snake.
- If you have a suggestion about what other information would be useful to post on the website, please contact the board at vgrcca@gmail.com

Last 13 Months

	Views	Users
August 23	1,165	408
Sep	1,440	414
Oct	2,754	945
Nov	1,855	681
Dec	1,260	399
Jan 24	1,691	456
Feb	1,681	582
Mar	1,674	572
Apr	1,250	398
May	1,307	542
June	2,667	1,313
July	1,210	545
August 24	1,504	643

A Patriotic Event

VG&RC residents are invited to attend the opening ceremony of the 8th Annual Veterans Charity Event to be held at the Venetian Golf Club on **Thursday, November 7, 2024**. The ceremony starts at 8:30 a.m. and includes a moving tribute to America's veterans featuring the Venice High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC color guard, the Venice Theater Silver Foxes singers, and the Raptors flying group. All proceeds benefit the Bay Pines Fisher House in St. Petersburg, a "home away from home" for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers around the world. Fisher House is a tax-deductible organization with the highest rating of "4 stars" by Charity Navigator. Last year we raised over \$19,000. If you are also a veteran, please wear a hat or other clothing item representative of your military service and join us at the end of the 30-minute opening ceremony for a group photo of veterans. For more information contact Ken Deen at wkdeen@verizon.net, mobile 937-684-2708.



Displaying the Flag

We need volunteers to assist with placing American flags in our community for Veteran's Day Weekend. Please come to the front gate on **Saturday, November 9th, 8:30 am** to assist with this project, funded by your Community Association. The task should take no more than 30 minutes.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST FOR YOU.

Goodwill Bookstore...

Bookstores may nearly be a thing of the past. However, Goodwill has established a large, extensive and well-organized new bookstore at the corner of 41 and Albee Farm Rd. If you are a book lover or a casual reader, take a visit to this relatively close location.

Vote by Mail Info (Picture of ballot box)

If you have received your vote by mail ballot you will see there are a lot of boxes to check! PLEASE:

- Use a black or blue pen to mark each oval
- **Two (2) sheets FRONT and BACK**
- Insert ballots in green secrecy envelope
- Seal the envelope
- Print your name, then
- **Sign and date the envelope**
- **Apply two forever stamps**
- **Mail your ballot early!** - it MUST be received by 7 PM Nov. 5
- Track your ballot at [Sarasotavotes.gov/VotebyMail](https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/VotebyMail)



Remember you can return your ballot or place it in the mail.

For details about drop off locations, go to <https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/>

Knock Your Socks Off II

You were patient in waiting for it and now it is coming very soon.

There are a total of 19 scheduled events for the enjoyment of our residents. Due to the impact of Hurricane Milton, we will re-schedule 2 of these events that were scheduled for October. We have the standards... CPR training, Shredfest/ Junkfest, Sharpfest, Bike-O-Rama, Estate Planning and others

Then there are the newbies including:

- History of Venice
- Medicare 101
- Florida Friendly Landscaping
- Local Wildlife Rescue
- History of the Ringling Circus/Museum



We must mention we have observed with most of our seminars, there are an absence of men. C'mon fellas, there are so many opportunities to lubricate your mind. And if you really want to get some "points", as most of the seminars start at 5 pm, make it a date night... Seminar and Supper. Printed copies of Knock Your Socks Off II will also be available at the River Club. Note that there are some events and seminars where members have priority admittance. If you are not a member of the Community Association, go to www.vgrcca.org/membership. The Community Association is very pleased to provide what has turned out to be another amenity for our community. Few in this area have an extensive list of seminars and events as we do. We're proud of that fact. We hope you share the same enthusiasm and excitement as we do with this year's Knock Your Sock Off II events.

Advertising in Parcels

There is an opportunity for residents and business owners to advertise in Parcels. Parcels has a mailing list of approximately 2100. You will note on the top of this edition's first page, Joe and Maria Browne, have taken out a recognition ad. If you want to publicly thank the HRT, take out an ad in the next edition of Parcels. The cost is \$99.00. If interested, email us at vgrcca@gmail.com

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Reality



Reflections

Now that Helene and Milton are gone, but still very present in our thoughts, many of us are reflecting on how fortunate we Venetians are, with very little damage to our community. We are all sharing our heartwarming observations of neighbors helping neighbors, those with generators offering freezer space and charging stations, and friends taking time out to check on friends who live alone or were out of town and worried about their home here. We are still feeling the love from the many texts and phone calls we received from family and friends who were worried about us.

We all witnessed the importance of community and volunteers, as the HRT team kept us informed and insured the security of our community by overseeing the front gate after paid staff left the premises.

And so, there are positive thoughts that come from facing a disastrous storm. As we see neighboring communities still without power, water, and shelter, we can better understand what "could be" the next time a storm approaches. We will have even more empathy for those who are impacted, and we will feel confident that we, as a community, can deal with it.

“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: _____