

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

November 2024



This edition has been financially supported by:

Tim and Darlene Schimberg

Grateful to be living in our Community since 2003

BUSY TIMES

Parading Around

The very popular 2024 City of Venice Holiday Parade is **Saturday, Nov. 30th** beginning at 6:30 pm. The Holiday Parade route stretches approximately one mile and is viewable from Venice and Nokomis Avenues. With pre-parade activities and nearly 100 different floats, the City of Venice Holiday Parade is fun for the whole family. Get there early!



The annual Venice Christmas Boat Parade began in 1998 by a private resident and a group of captains. Now in its 35th year, the parade has expanded to include more than 50 decorated boats. The Venice Christmas Boat Parade always takes place on the Saturday after the City of Venice Holiday Parade. The 2024 Christmas Boat Parade starts at 6 pm on **Saturday, December 7**. For all parade information, including applications, go to venicechristmasboatparade.net

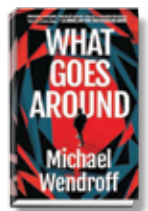
Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 22nd will be a big day for both adults and children. It's the "Brunch with Santa" held at the River Club, starting at 10 am. Using a Google Map, the man in red will make his way to the Venetian with the commitment that his sleigh, led by Rudolf of course, will adhere to the posted speed limit on Veneto Blvd. Once he's inside the River Club, a large group of youngsters will be able to convey to Santa, in a private discussion, their list of requests. Adults who care to meet with Santa will have to be honest if they have been a "good boy/girl". Sorry to say, over the years, many adults fail the test. Make your reservation and even if you don't have little ones in your company, it's a fun event watching the excitement of youngsters engaging with Santa.



SRO Seminar

The recent seminar featuring Michael Wendroff, resident and author of "What Goes Around" drew a packed house. Those who attended surely enjoyed the hour they spent with this talented resident, and many walked away with an autographed copy of his book



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Making Strides Annual Walk

The annual Fundraiser for the American Cancer Society “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” will take place at the Nathan Benderson Park on December 8, 2024, which is near the UTC Mall in Sarasota. This wonderful event, which draws thousands, goes from 7:30 am – 1 pm. More details can be found at:

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=strides_learn

So close, So Cultural

The Venice Symphony has just started its 2024-25 season. Their first concert was cancelled because of the dreaded “H” word. The Venice Symphony normally has three concerts a weekend....one on Friday evening, a Saturday matinee and a Saturday evening concert. The orchestra is led by the dynamic and engaging Troy Quinn. Tickets are reasonably priced. Concerts are held at the Venice Performing Arts Center which is on the grounds of Venice High School - a short drive from the Venetian. Some think that going to any Symphony concert means a bunch of nap-inducing music for old folks and long pieces by guys like Bach and Beethoven. Ain’t so with the Venice Symphony! Give it a try...you’ll like it! For more information go to <https://www.thevenicesymphony.org/>, The Venice Symphony is just one more cultural attraction that makes our city so vibrant.



Mugshots

Despite rumors that there would be a feline demonstration at the River Club, the annual **Mugshots** photography session went on without a hitch on Saturday, November 9th. This event was open to any Community Association member and was a sellout. The talents of resident photographer Al Churilla were employed to photograph the cutest dogs this side of Laurel Rd. Every dog has its day, and it surely was Saturday at the River Club.



Veteran Charity Golf Event

With prayers being answered avoiding bad weather, the 8th Annual Venetian Veteran Golf event went on as scheduled with 132 players. The opening event was quite moving and included the Venice High School Marine Corps Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps, the singing of the National Anthem by the Silver Foxes from the Venice Theatre and a 4-plane flyover conducted by the Florida Gulf Coast Raptors Formation Flight team. The event raises funds all directed to the Bay Pines Fisher House in St. Petersburg. The Bay Pines Fisher House is a Ronald McDonald-type concept next to the Veteran Hospital on the same campus. Each player contributed to the charity. Also noted were local top tier \$1000.00 sponsors including Absolute Aluminum, Ajax Paving, Bloomings Landscape, Tri County Air Conditioning and Heating and Venice Honda. The event raised \$29,421 this year. Since its inception the Venetian Veteran Charity Golf Event has raised over \$122,000.



Fill the Barrels

The outpouring for this annual Thanksgiving Food Drive wasOUTSTANDING!. Thank you Venetian residents for your huge support for this annual event. **The results... 2300 lbs (over 1 ton) provided for the needy.**



OF HIGH INTEREST

Flooding at the Venetian

Parcels called upon one of our longtime residents, Jerry Jasper, to write an article that addresses the concern that many residents have what's the chance of flooding in our community? Jerry is a career engineer and knows all the facts related to this topic. Jerry has a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His career consisted of various worldwide sales and management assignments with an international engineering and construction firm. He was heavily involved in managing the VG&RC stormwater management system during the eight (8) years he served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Venetian CDD.

Each hurricane has its own personality, and each one treats us and our neighbors differently. Why is this? The major threats from a hurricane are threefold: wind, rain and surge or a combination of any two or all three. Each of these perils bring different consequences depending on one's specific location, elevation, and the age of the home.

We in the Venetian all have homes built to strict hurricane standards put in the Florida Building Code starting in 2002. Our homes are also protected by a stormwater control system that was legislated in the early 1980s. We are also located well above any expected flooding due to a surge in the Gulf. Short of a direct hit by a Category 5 or the high end of a Category 4 hurricane, we are left with the rising elevation of the Myakka River as our greatest peril or, in other words, rainfall, both in intensity and duration.

The Venetian is in FEMA Flood Zone X which means there is 0.2% chance of flooding in any one year. With Ian in 2022, the elevation of the Myakka River near the Venetian surpassed that 0.2% or a once in 500 years chance. The river elevation peaked above the levels of some low spots in our streets, and we observed minor flooding in those areas. When the river peaks at such a high elevation, flow is reversed through our stormwater control system from the lower to the upper-level retention ponds. That is, rather than draining the Myakka, a small portion of the Myakka drains to our retention ponds and wetlands. Our stormwater control system is designed for conditions well above minimum requirements and that is the reason we did not experience any flooding of homes during Ian here in the Venetian. Some residents will recall that the small amount of street flooding in the Venetian happened several days after Ian departed. The reason is the Myakka did not crest until it had gathered runoff from its watershed upstream of us.

While the rainfall experienced from Ian was intense and extended, up to 18 inches over a 48-hour period, and was dumped into the Myakka already at minor flood stage, one cannot say such conditions could not be duplicated or surpassed in the future. The Ian rainfall parameters approached 1,000-year conditions, which means the chances of it happening in any one year is one in a thousand.

The codes to which our homes were built, the relative high elevation of the finished levels in our homes, the relatively long distance we are from the Gulf and the fact the Venetian has a stormwater control system designed to handle runoff from our roofs, streets, sidewalks and other impervious areas, accounts for why we do not experience the same perils that those with older homes living on or near the Gulf do. We should always prepare for the worst when a hurricane warning is issued for our area. Short of it being a direct hit Category 5, once you have taken care of any potential "missiles" outside your home, your first consideration should be the total projected rainfall over a given period and the elevation of the Myakka at the time the storm arrives. In other words, follow the river elevation not necessarily during the storm but in the days immediately thereafter.

Another concern we often hear about is what effect all the construction around us, including the possibility of a commercial center, have on flooding within the Venetian. All new developments since the 1980s, residential or commercial, must have a stormwater control system that will retain any runoff created on the property being developed. In essence, the property being developed cannot release any more stormwater after development than it did prior to development. This is accomplished by a combination of several methods, one being a network of retention ponds and wetlands scattered though out the Venetian. Control of rain runoff is only one of the conditions placed on stormwater control systems. They are also designed to mitigate environmental concerns from runoff but that is a topic for another day.

While we will always be a bit apprehensive when we are faced with a hurricane watch or warning, hopefully, the above will give you a sense as to some of the ways that provide us protection and what we should expect in our own neighborhood.

Frauds and Scams

Fraudsters and Scammers work on their devious task, 24/7. They target you and if it happens to you, the results may be devastating. You read often about others who become victims of scammers and like many, think it can't happen to me. Because of the increasing number of scammers and fraudsters, worldwide, we offer the following

- On Tuesday, December 3rd, at 5 pm at the River Club, a specialist from the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office will address this important topic.
- Parcels reached out to a cybersecurity expert who agreed to write the following article for this community. Although the article is somewhat long for the newsletter, we encourage you to read all of it.

Cybersecurity Basics: How retirees can stay safe online

By: Valentina Flores, CEO of Red Sentry. Red Sentry is an ethical hacking and cybersecurity firm that helps companies proactively find their vulnerabilities before cybercriminals do.

In today's world, technology has become a big part of our daily lives. While technology makes things easier, it also introduces risks, like cyberattacks. Fortunately, you don't need to be a technology expert to keep yourself safe. Let's go through some easy ways to protect yourself from common cyber threats.



1. Use Strong, Unique Passwords

A password is like the key to your house. You wouldn't want everyone to have a copy! Here are some tips for choosing strong passwords:

- Make passwords at least 8-12 characters long and use a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.
- Avoid using easy-to-guess passwords, like "password123" or your name.
- Consider using different passwords for each online account so that if one password is compromised, the others remain secure.

I frequently get asked about password managers, like in your browser or one of the companies that store your passwords. Those can be a good solution if you need a way to track the complicated passwords.

At the end of the day though, DO YOUR BEST. This may be controversial, but if your best is writing the passwords in a notebook by your desk, that to me is better than an easy-to-guess password, because many more hackers have access to online databases than they do your notebook. So, if the choice is between "Password123" in your head and "SK472#89*" written down in a notebook, I'll take the notebook.

2. Be Cautious with Emails and Text Messages

Many cyberattacks happen through fake or "phishing" emails and messages. These emails may look real, but they're designed to trick you into sharing personal information. Here's how to spot them:

- When in doubt, ignore or work around! If "Amazon" is sending you an invoice, just go to Amazon's site directly and look. If "Target" is texting you about a delivery and you don't shop at Target, ignore it. I'd rather ignore a potentially relevant thing than allow a hacker to attack me.
- Beware of urgent language, like "Act Now!" or "Your account is compromised." Scammers use urgency to trick you into acting quickly.
- Look closely at the sender's address. If you don't recognize it or if it has spelling errors, it's best to ignore.
- Don't click on links or open attachments from unknown senders. These can contain harmful viruses or take you to fake websites.

Continued on Page 5

3. Use Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) When Possible

Two-factor authentication (2FA) is an extra layer of security. With 2FA, even if someone knows your password, they'll also need a code sent to your phone or email to log in. Many banks and popular websites offer this feature. If you see an option to enable two-factor authentication when setting up or managing your accounts, it's a great way to add an extra layer of protection.

4. Keep Your Devices Updated

Your devices, like your computer, smartphone, or tablet, receive regular updates to improve security. When you see a message asking you to update your software, try to do it soon. These updates often fix security gaps that hackers can exploit.

5. Be Careful on Public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi, like the internet at a coffee shop or library, is convenient but not always secure. When using public Wi-Fi:

- Avoid accessing sensitive information like your bank account or personal emails.

6. Watch Out for Phone Scams

Scammers may try to trick you by pretending to be from a familiar organization, like your bank or a government agency. They might say you owe money or that your computer has a virus. Here's how to stay safe:

- Hang up if the call feels suspicious. If it's important, they'll usually leave a message.
- Never share personal information, like your Social Security number, over the phone unless you are sure of who you're speaking with.
- If you're ever unsure, call the company directly using a number you trust.

Final Thought: Take It One Step at a Time

Staying safe online doesn't require you to learn everything all at once. Start by practicing one or two of these habits, and as they become easier, add more. Remember, your safety is worth the effort, and there's always help available if you need it.

FOR THE RECORD

Your Community Association Team Serving the VGRC

The Community Association was started in 2008 and today is guided by a dedicated group of residents. So, who are they, what city do they claim as their hometown and what career did they pursue? We thought we would make sure you know them so if you have any questions or comments about the CA, they are there for you. The Board roster, in random order, includes:

Joe Browne: Brooklyn NY; Military Intelligence Support to US and Allied Forces

Sharon George: Racine, Wisconsin; Educator, Telecommunications, Securities Compliance

John Manoush: Portland, Maine; Food Scientist

Mark Faford: "City of Brotherly Love", PA; Corporate Finance

Chip Melvin: Syracuse NY; Chief Financial Officer

Tom Jones: Madison, WI; Sales & Marketing

Taras Kowalczyk: Boston, MA; Corporate Officer/Executive

Dr Steve Hefler: Brooklyn, NY; Pediatrician

Terry Leary: Detroit, MI; Navy Dentist

Roger Efron: Cincinnati, OH; Educator

If you are interested in knowing more about serving on the Board, please send an email to vgrcca@gmail.com, expressing your interest. A member of the Board will get in touch with you. It's a great way to serve your community.



ELECTION RESULTS

The following are the results of the November 5th election just for Precinct 435. Note that this precinct includes other nearby areas along with VGRC residents.

RESULTS FROM THE NOVEMBER 5TH ELECTION PRECINCT 435

RACE	TOTAL VOTE	PERCENTAGE	RACE	TOTAL VOTE	PERCENTAGE
PRESIDENT:			VENETIAN CDD SEAT 3		
TRUMP	2092	62.58%	SNIEZEK	1008	65.75%
HARRIS	1219	36.42%	MCCAFFERTY	525	34.25%
SENATOR:			VENETIAN SEAT 4		
SCOTT	2125	64.06%	GOODMAN	1102	75.74%
POWELL	1180	35.52%	THOMASTON	353	24.26%
REP. DISTRICT17			AMENDMENT 1		
STEUBE	2158	65.51%	(END SCHOOL BOARD NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS)		
LOPEZ	1134	34.43%	YES	1687	54.84%
STATE REP. DISTRICT74			NO	1389	45.16%
BUCHANAN	2144	65.63%	AMENDMENT 2 (FISHING/HUNTING PREFERRED)		
SIMPSON	1123	34.37%	YES	2152	68.02%
HOSPITAL BOARD SEAT 1			NO	1012	31.98%
DEPETERS	2080	65.47%	AMENDMENT 3 (LEGALIZE MARIJUANA)		
SPRINTZ	1094	34.43%	YES	1633	49.98%
HOSPITAL BOARD SEAT2			NO	1634	50.02%
COOPER	2081	65.5%	AMENDMENT 4 (LIMITS GOVT. INTERFERENCE IN ABORTIONS)		
ANDERSON	1096	34.5%	YES	1798	55.04%
HOSPITAL BOARD SEAT 3			NO	1469	44.96%
BEITLICH	2073	65.25%	AMENDMENT 5 (INCREASE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION)		
DAVIS	1101	34.66%	YES	2185	69.45%
CITY COUNCIL SEAT 3			NO	961	30.55%
ENGELKE	1514	51.21%	AMENDMENT 6 (ENDS CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROGRAM)		
OUELETTE	1414	48.29%	YES	1593	51.5%
CITY COUNCIL SEAT 4			NO	1500	48.5%
BOLDT	1509	51.33%			
IOCONO	1431	48.67%			
VENICE REFERENDUM (ELECTION FREQUENCY)					
YES	2049	66.03%			
NO	1504	33.97%			

Show Your Patriotism and Support Our Veterans Community

Venice-Nokomis Rotary has a simple and inexpensive way to help you do both. You will note that many residents in the VGRC have flags proudly displayed on various national holidays. For \$50 a year, the ROTARY will install a beautiful, 3' x 5' United States flag on your property. You do not need to be home. Your flag will be installed for several days during four National Holiday periods, including 9/11. It will then be removed, stored and re-installed for the next holiday. At the end of the season, it will be stored for the next year. Please see the application at the end of this edition of Parcels.

The Wall of Something is Something

As snowbirds come south, the Wall gets busy. Remember, the Wall is open just to Venetian residents. You can post something you have for sale or something you may need. If you found that perfect person who put up new screening on your lanai, post his/her name on the Wall.

Need a wonderful podiatrist because of those aching feet.ask for a recommendation on the Wall. For more information, go to www.vgrcca.org/wallofsomething.



Sock It To Them

We sent out the Knock Your Socks Off II recently in a Community Association email. We have also attached it to Parcels for those who have not seen it. We suggest reviewing the brochure and put on your calendar those special events you want to attend. As we have said before, we would like to see more men attend the seminars. Remember, some of the events provide priority registration for Community Association members. If you are not a member, go to www.vgrcca.org/membership.



“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: _____



Knock Your Socks Off II

To astound or greatly impress someone

The **VGRC Community Association** is proud to present its 2024-25 series of events and seminars referred to as the **Knock Your Socks Off II** season. As you peruse the list, you will see some new and exciting events as well as repeats of previous resident favorites. We will elaborate on all of these events via our monthly newsletter, **Parcels from Paradise**. Get your calendar out and mark those events you would like to attend.

Seminars & Events



October 7, Annual Candidate Forum

Educating residents on the key issues and candidates on the November ballot for Venice City Council and VGRC CDD.



November 9, 1:00pm Mugshot

Professionally shot picture of "Man's / Woman's Best Friend"



November 12, 5:00pm "What Goes Around"

Book and publishing process review by a resident author.



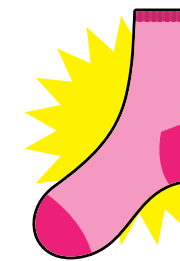
November 13 CPR/Use of AED

Venice Fire Department again provides hands-on training for residents



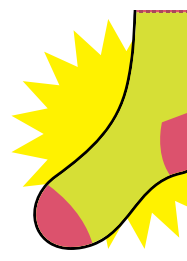
November 19, 5:00pm "Keep Pain in the Past"

Noted expert discussing coping with grief, trauma, and bad things that may happen.



December 3, 5:00pm Fraud Scams (Sarasota Sheriff)

Pay attention - it could happen to you!



January 14, 9:00am Estate Planning

Practical advice about getting your estate in order.



January 21, 5:00pm Local Wildlife Rescue

Educational seminar by the Executive Director of the Venice Wildlife Center.

<https://www.wildlifefswfl.org>



2025 (Continued)



January 25, 9-11am Bike-O-Rama

Time to get that free maintenance bike check by Bicycles International pros.



February 10, 5:00pm "History of Venice"

Learn how we got here. Fascinating and interesting.



February 22, 8:30-10:30am Shredfest/Junkfest

A free and annual event for our residents.



February 25, 5:00pm "What is an End of Life Doula"

Certainly a difficult topic to talk about but our speaker will help you address the issues.



March 10, 5:00pm Annual Town Hall Meeting

A popular and well-attended meeting with updates by key local decision makers.



March 17, 10:00am SharPfest Location: Golf Course Parking Lot

Bring your tools and kitchen knives for this wonderful service, at a reasonable cost.



March 24, 5:00pm Florida Friendly Landscaping

Learn the basics to having a successful, beautiful lawn and garden while protecting our natural resources.



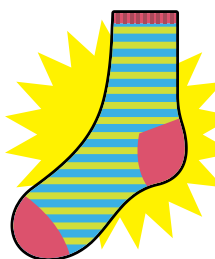
March 31, 3:30pm "Developer Approval Process"

Addressing your key questions about development in Venice.



April 7, 5:00pm History of the Ringling Circus/ Museum

The "Under the Big Top" story - and we are not "clowning" around with this topic.



Mid-April: Date TBD, 6:00pm Field Trip to the Venice Rookery

A resident bird expert will moderate this fantastic tour. Bring your binoculars.

- Due to space or time limitations, registration will be required. Current Community Association members will receive priority registration.

All events are subject to date/time changes. Please check www.vgrcca.org or scan the QR code at the top of the other side for updated announcements.



VENICE-NOKOMIS ROTARY

FLAGS ACROSS VENICE-NOKOMIS



U.S. FLAG HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

SHOW YOUR PATRIOTISM AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL VETERANS

For \$50 a year, the **ROTARY** will install a beautiful, 3' x 5' United States flag on your property. You do not need to be home. Your flag will be installed for several days during FOUR National Holiday periods. It will then be removed, stored and re-installed for the next holiday. At the end of the season, it will be stored for the next year.

The Venice-Nokomis Rotary is **ONLY** servicing the following zip codes:
34285, 34275, 34292 and 34293.

Four (4) Flag Holidays are:

- Memorial Day
- Labor Day
- 4th of July
- Veterans Day

Weather Permitting

Proceeds from this service will support **Veterans issues in the Venice-Nokomis area.**
(Deployed, Retired, Disabled and Families of Veterans)

Flags Across Venice-Nokomis 2025

To order and pay online visit: VeniceNokomisRotary.org **OR** complete all the information below & mail with your check to P.O. Box 8, Venice, FL 34284.

RENEWAL Y or N (Circle One) NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

MAJOR INTERSECTION: _____ SUB/HOA: _____

GATED COMMUNITY? Y or N (Circle One) ENTRY CODE: _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION: _____ NUMBER OF FLAGS: _____

Additional copies available on our website: VeniceNokomisRotary.org



Questions? Install/Pickup: Email Jim Romano at jaromano392@gmail.com
Accounting/Billing: Email Jane Mendola at JaneMendola@gmail.com



Many Thanks to Lowe's of Venice !! Please Support Them !!