

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

December 2024

YOUR COMMUNITY



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**Pat Guenther
of Premier
Sotheby's**

Grateful to be
VGRC resident since 2004.

A Call for Volunteers to Assist with an important Community Project

Our community has answered the call for many initiatives where volunteerism is the key part of the commitment. For example, we have volunteers place flags on three national holidays. Also, many volunteers travel down to Sarasota Memorial Hospital to donate their time. One area we can do better as a community is a project called **Clean Up Laurel**. This program, started over a decade ago by Sarasota County, is so important to the image of the community. You might notice the sign on Laurel Road indicating our involvement.

When the program first started, we had plenty of volunteers accomplish the task. More recently, that number has shrunk down to just a few. Therefore, we need you on **Tuesday, December 17th at 8:45 am** to assist with this project. Please meet on the south side of Laurel Road - across from the entry to the Venetian. Neon tee-shirts, rubber gloves, bags and pickers will be provided. You are recommended to wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, high socks and appropriate shoes. **Let's hope residents respond to this important community effort that ultimately enhances the image of our community and surrounding area.**

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The annual Venice Holiday Parade and Boat Parade held this year on November 30 was a smashing success yet again. Holiday celebration will be a part of the Venetian on **Sunday, December 22nd at 10 am**, when Santa makes his annual appearance (assuming his Google Map is accurate) at Breakfast with Santa. Contact the River Club for reservations! Even if you don't have children to bring, it's an enjoyable experience to see a youngster's face light up when he sees the jolly old man as well as those who are just not sure about who is this big man in red.



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN

The last seminar for the 2024 year was titled "Frauds & Scams" which drew an audience nearing 100. There are no more seminars in 2024 but get ready for many Knock Your Socks Off II seminars/events beginning in January 2025 including:

January 14 – Estate Planning

January 21 -Local Wildlife Rescue

January 25..Bike-O-Rama - the highly popular yearly Bike-O-Rama is an event residents look forward to and so do their bikes. In collaboration with Bicycles International (<https://www.bicyclesinternationalfl.com/>), their highly specialized technicians will do a quick but thorough mechanical check of your bike....**FREE!!!**

Also, there will be bikes and biking equipment for sale. No sign up is necessary. We look forward to seeing an enthusiastic crowd again this year.



Recognizing HRT Members

With the conclusion of the 2024 hurricane season, Parcels wanted to again applaud the Hurricane Response Team, or HRT, for their outstanding service to the community. The HRT was started by the Community Association in 2016 and today is funded by the members of the Association. We are fortunate to have such an organization ready to go into action if a hurricane is approaching our area. At the end of Parcels are the names of residents who served on the 2024 HRT. They are your friends and neighbors and when you see them, tell them how much you appreciate their service to the community. If you are interested in becoming a member of the 2025 HRT, go to <https://vgrcca.org/hurricane-corner/>.



Noticeable User Increase

The VGRCCA website is, as the saying goes, "kicking butt". More and more residents are clicking on www.vgrcca.org for information...the latest news, who to contact regarding an issue, upcoming seminars and more. We even have added a new address for suggestions, help or corrections to the website.... please see <https://vgrcca.org/contact/>. The email address (vgrccaweb@gmail.com) goes to the administrator's mailbox.

THE BROADER COMMUNITY

A New Dry-Cleaning Experience

Taking shirts, dresses and suits to the dry cleaners in today's world is a whole new experience. If you go to the Sun Country Cleaners in Plaza Venezia, don't expect someone to take your items, write up a ticket and tell you when they will be ready. Instead, you will be dealing with an automated process that does the same...takes in your items, tells you when they will be done and collects the cost when you return to pick up your items. No employees are regularly on duty. And the nice part is this cleaner is open 24/7, 365 days a year. One thing for sure..... the owner doesn't worry about having the "employee" call in sick.

Calendar 2025

The 2025 City of Venice Calendar is out. The Community Association has requested 50 copies of the new calendar. These calendars will be placed at the River Club once we receive them. Residents are welcome to take these popular calendars when available. Copies are also available at City Hall on the island.



Change in Leadership

The Venice Police Department recently bid farewell to Chief Charles Thorpe as he steps into retirement. Andy Leisering, who has been a long time Venice Police Officer, will now assume the new role of Chief of Police. The Community Association plans to invite Chief Leisering to our March Town Hall Meeting in order for residents to meet their new chief.

More Pizza on the Way (Pizza Pie image)

The infamous” Subway Plaza” which for years has been the brunt of jokes because of the lack of tenants, now is almost at capacity...it’s true. The latest tenant is “500 Degrees” a pizza parlor which should be opening in late December or early January. As we have mentioned for many years in Parcels, it is important that our residents support local businesses.



What Are They Building?

Parcels is getting many questions about what’s going up on Laurel Road just after you pass Willow Chase. It is the new offices for Dermatologists, Drs. Wasserman and Ulitsky. They anticipate opening in June 2025. Welcome to the neighborhood, Docs.

New Restaurant on the Block

When an Italian restaurant opens owned by a true Italian, you know the food is going to be authentic and great. That’s the story with the newly opened Bella Rimini, 625 N. Tamiami Tr. To get there, go down Laurel, turn left on 41 and about a mile or so down the road, directly across the street from Total Impact Gun Range, you will see a small strip mall where the restaurant is located. On the menu you will quickly spot all the Italian delicacies. They even have options for Vegans. Call 941-220-3934 for reservations. “Buon appetite.”



Introducing a New Adult Learning Experience

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (“OLLI”) at Ringling College is part of a dynamic national network of 124 OLLI’s funded partly by The Bernard Osher Foundation. They provide learning and social opportunities designed for people 50 and older. They offer year-round classes, lectures, workshops, and special events (Trivia, OLLI Breakfast Club, etc.). Their program is organized by semester (Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer). OLLI offers intellectually stimulating, non-credit courses and learning opportunities tailored to meet lifelong learners' diverse interests and needs. OLLI is a membership-based organization with two levels of membership. OLLI has been affiliated with Ringling College since 2017. In 2016 The Lifelong Learning Academy (formerly Senior Academy) merged with Ringling College of Art and Design and became the Ringling College Lifelong Learning Academy (RCLLA). OLLI offers classes Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Courses, lectures, and workshops are offered at Sarasota Art Museum (the old Sarasota Public High School). The subject areas are many. Go to <https://olliringlingcollege.org/> for further information.

Northeast Park Update

- The County gave final approval for funding the new NE Venice park on 11/21 (using park impact fees), so all the plans in the latest proposal will be included. This means there will be 8 pickleball courts, court rest areas, upgraded restrooms and artificial turf for the dog park area (saving a lot in maintenance).
- Lighting for the courts is NOT included. It would add \$400-500K in cost due to added security features which have to be part of lighting in a park. it could be added later.
- They are now proceeding with the final contractor planning.
- It is estimated that groundbreaking would occur in late January or early February 2025, with completion in 6-8 months.

You Ever Wonder?

With three bridges leading to the island of Venice, what happens if the police or fire department need to respond to a call when taking one of the bridges is the fastest route to the emergency.....and the bridge is up? So, we asked both the Venice Police Department and Fire Department this question. Here's their answers:

**Police Response**

An officer's response when they find a bridge in the up position and blocking their path will depend on the specific circumstances at the time. In some cases, it may be advisable to re-route to another bridge, as only one can be open at a time. In other instances, it might be reasonable to wait until the bridge lowers. In serious emergency situations, officers would likely be responding from multiple directions. If one officer observes that a bridge is opening, they would communicate this information over the radio, allowing other units to adjust their routes accordingly. We successfully navigate this issue on a regular basis.

Fire Response

Whenever a station is dispatched to a location in which a bridge must be crossed, dispatch automatically calls the bridge tender to notify our response. Further, crews will advise dispatch which bridge they will be crossing and an estimated timeframe of crossing when they are transporting a patient. In the very rare chance crews encounter a raised bridge during their response, they will notify all other units to take a different route or have dispatch call the bridge tender to lower the bridge immediately.

CLOSING OUT THE YEAR

Top Ten

Since this is the last edition for 2024, Parcels decided to put together, with the entire Community Association Board, what might be considered the top ten stories for the year.....in random order.

- Back-to-back hurricanes hit Venice...HRT provides exemplary service and communications to residents.
- Charter Amendment (new election cycle) approved by Venice voters in the November election.
- Water Booster Station on schedule, and once built, will increase residents' water pressure.
- Astronaut daughter (Suni Williams) of one of our fine residents remains safe in space.
- Community Association hands over to CDD surplus funds from the Ajax Agreement consummated in 2012.
- Community Association enhances web site including a special "Hurricane Corner".
- Venetian pickleball courts open after months of deliberation.
- Court denies Shopping Center appeal.
- Traffic light at Venetian entrance/exit rejected by County officials.
- Apartments and Houses, Apartments and Houses, Apartments and Houses ...

Do you have your top ten or even top one? Let us know by sending an email to vgrcca@gmail.com

Correction: In the last edition of Parcels, the name of one of the top tier sponsors at the Veteran Golf Charity Event was erroneously reported. The correct name of the sponsor company is Absolute Window and Door. Sorry for the error.

The following are the 2024 members of the HRT. We appreciate the service the team has provided.

Lauren Agoglia
Albert Buholzer
Rich Bracco
Joe Browne
Elana Carnes
Ginger Carpenter
Tyler Cassell
Leslie Chaput
Richard Cirelli

Bonnie Combs
Bob Crane
Joe DeVirgilio
Mary Dixon
Tom Dixon
Dick Foster
James Fullerton
Sharon George
James Hardigan

Steve Hefler
Pam Henard
Truman Henard
Karl Hinsch
Tom Jones
Amy Kirkpatrick
Jeff Klein
Steven Kleinglass
Paula Kolodny

Norm Lapierre
Sharon Lavallee
Tom Long
Louis Nagy
Phil Occhino
William Phillips
Jill Pozarek
Mary Rau-Foster
Pat Riotto

Alan Schaeperklaus
Phil Spokowski
Steve Thomaston
Alan Vance
Gary Wein
Linda Wein
Sarah Wilson
William Winkler



“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: _____