



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.

APRIL 2023

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.

THAT VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

Answered the Call

In the March edition of *Parcels*, it was noted in the article “We Can Do Better” that only two residents showed up for a recent **Clean Up Laurel Road** project. Well, residents did step up to the plate, answered the call, and responded to this community project in the March cleanup. Note the picture of the many residents who participated.



New, Redesigned Web Site

On March 27th, the Community Association launched its newly revised web site. The new URL is www.vgrcca.org. The web site redesign was orchestrated by volunteers from the Community Association tapping into the expertise of a university consulting firm at Augustana College (IL).

We thank our wonderful members who provided the financial resources to make this change in our web site and hope that those who are not members realize how their own quality of life is enhanced by the many things the Community Association does for their community.

Cleaning It Up

If one of your daily walk spots is the River Walk, you may see a few resident volunteers cleaning out much of the brush in the area. It's not the softest of jobs but it just shows us again how Venetian residents want to get involved in helping their community. Pictured are two volunteers doing their job. Way to go, guys.



Resident Honored for his Volunteer Service

Longtime resident and the senior member of the Community Association, Tom Jones, was honored by City Council at its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 28th for his 12 years of serving on the Environmental Advisory Board. Pictured are Tom Jones, flanked by the City Manager and Mayor of the City. Congrats, Tom!



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

HELPFUL ADVICE

The Waver

The Venice Fire Department recently provided CPR training for three full classes of residents plus a special session for staff members from the Golf Club and River Club. The training was excellent. One of the bits of advice they provided was very simple and helpful if faced with an emergency at your home, workplace or even on the tennis or golf course. If you have an extra person, designate him/her as the “waver”. The role of the “waver” is to go outside and “wave” down the emergency vehicle directing them to the location of the person in distress. If you do not have a waver available and you are in your home, turn on as many outside lights as you can and leave the front door open. In most emergency situations, time is of the essence. Having the “waver” is a technique which will quickly direct the first responder to the exact location of the emergency.

Thank You VFD

To recognize the continual annual CPR training of our residents by the Venice Fire Department (“VFD”), the Community Association recently voted to present a check for \$500.00 to the Venice Fire Fighters Benevolent Fund. Pictured is Board Member, Mark Faford, handing over the well-deserved check to Frank Gidden, Chief, VFD.



WE'RE PAYING ATTENTION

Commercial Application at Laurel and Jacaranda

The application for the Commercial Shopping Center was denied by the Planning Commission, 4-3, at their hearing on March 21st. The final decision makers (unless the decision is appealed) are those who sit on Venice City Council. It is expected that the issue will move to Council probably in May; however, nothing is certain until it is placed on the agenda, which usually comes out the Thursday prior to the Council meeting. Regular council meetings take place the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. There will be two separate hearings on the matter using the quasi-judicial process. As with all council meetings, instructions will be provided as to the nature of public comments. Residents are encouraged to attend or view the hearings on the video session provided by the city. Unless the decision is appealed to the courts, this is the final step of the process for approval/disapproval of the application. The city is working on an informative document that will explain the process in more details.

Laurel Road Widening and More

This county project is moving forward with attention being directed to Tallahassee for additional funds. Related to this project, and in the bigger picture of moving traffic away from heavily traveled I-75, Sarasota County has made the recent decision to connect Lorraine Road to Knights Trail Road. This plan, once completed, would enable you to go down a four lane Laurel Road, turn right on Knights Trail and travel on the newly constructed Lorraine Road to get to Sarasota around Clark Road. This new connection will handle traffic, both northbound and southbound.

OF INTEREST

It's Not ALL About Over-Development

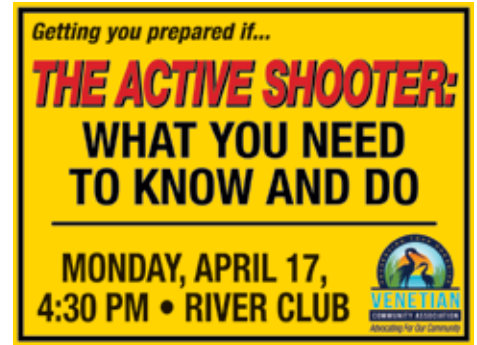
Although rapid development in this area receives much of our attention, the VGRC is fortunate to be adjacent to several nature preserves just north of us, and some residents have made the effort to learn about and explore these beautiful, natural places. The county has designated over 120,000 acres of conservation lands, and some nearby tracts are part of a major effort to restore the water quality of Dona Bay by transporting runoff underground for better natural filtration. These preserves provide a natural buffer from development to our north and offer many recreational opportunities. To learn much more about these preserves, please contact one or both of our resident explorers, Joe Browne (jebrowne@yahoo.com) or Joe Polzak (thepolzaks@gmail.com).

You don't want to miss...

Monday, April 17th at 4:30 pm

The Active Shooter: What You Need to Know and Do

It's a topic that we would prefer not to have on our seminar schedule. However, the reality is that the active shooter incidents are so random in nature, that no community in America - whether urban, suburban or rural - can escape the possibility of it occurring one day in your community. Featured will be Venice Police Department Lt. Jason Adams who specializes in this topic. The title of this seminar clearly outlines what Lt. Adams will address. It will begin at 4:30 pm, giving sufficient time for Lt. Adams to answer any questions audience



A Huge Success!

The Reversing Cognitive Decline seminar featuring Dr. Garland Glenn was a huge success with a Standing Room Only audience. For contact information regarding the Carroll Institute and Dr. Glenn click on <https://thecarrollinstitute.com/> The seminar was sponsored by your VGRC Community Association.

GETTING PREPARED FOR THE “SEASON”

Remember Ian?

The 2023 Hurricane season is rapidly approaching and lest we are tempted to scoff at a reminder to be prepared, let us remember Hurricane Ian. September 28, 2022, is a date that many of us will remember; it is a day that we learned that Venice can be vulnerable to a hurricane when Hurricane Ian (which on Sept. 27th was predicted to make landfall at Venice as a category 3 hurricane, but turned further south) battered our area with its outer winds. Yes, Venice can be impacted by a direct or indirect hurricane landfall and, yes, we should take hurricane preparation seriously.



Hurricane season begins June 1st and ends the last day of November. The Community Association's Hurricane Response Team (HRT) will once again begin training and preparing for its role in hurricane preparation and response. The team will be accepting applications from those who would like to be part of the team that proved its worthiness when the members were called out to serve prior to -- and following -- Hurricane Ian's visit to our community. A link to the applications will be provided through an email that will be sent out in April with a description and duties of the different teams. A community-wide hurricane preparation meeting sponsored by the HRT and the Community Association will also be held in May. Look for an April special edition of Parcels from Paradise on the Hurricane Response Team and resources for hurricane preparation.



THIS AND THAT

Let there be Light

A resident recently approached Parcels about why many of the lamp posts remain on the ground. Parcels reached out to the CDD Field Manager who indicated that the light poles are the responsibility of Florida Power and Light (“FPL”). There have been numerous requests to remove the light poles and place new ones. However, but of no surprise, we are just not on the FPL priority list given FPL has their hands full with other more critical issues.

Another Sport....but probably not for the VGRC

There’s a sport out there that is relatively unknown but is presently at a location on Bee Ridge in Sarasota. In fact, it was featured on one of the Cable sports channels. Doubtful it will be added to the various sports amenities we are fortunate in having on our property. The sport is “axe throwing”. There is even a World Axe Throwing League. Axe throwing is a sport in which the competitor throws an axe at a target, attempting to hit the bullseye as near as possible, similar to archery. If you desire to venture to the indoor location for axe fighting, go to <https://axeandbull.com/>. Your first trip might be very “axeciting.”



Thanks Sarasota County Parks

Curry Creek is a great place to canoe or go kayaking. Since Hurricane Ian, Curry Creek has been blocked with downed trees and vegetation. Most noticeable is the area you can see under Jacaranda Rd, just beyond the Jacaranda and Border Rd. intersection. A call from the Community Association to the Sarasota County Parks Department got a quick response with the Curry Creek area being cleared. Thank you Sarasota County. For more information on Curry Creek, click on <https://www.visitsarasota.com/parks/curry-creek-preserve>

FOR OUR ANIMAL LOVERS ...KINDA

Holy Cow ... We got an Answer

A few editions ago, Parcels had a story about the pasture cows on Honoré between 677 and Laurel Road. There were a few responses from residents... some said there was a farmhouse on the property, some said the cows just walked there from somewhere else and others suggested a special Uber took them to the location. After conducting research in the spirit of Daily Planet’s Jimmy Olsen, Parcels contacted the Sarasota County Sheriff’s office who confirmed there is no farmhouse and that many farmers just allow their “farm cows” to graze in areas they own. The farmers also receive an agricultural tax exemption in the state of Florida.

Love is in the Air for... Alligators

The month of April is mating season for our prehistoric co-residents. You may hear a loud bark-like sound coming from the water which is Allen Alligator attempting to lure Alice Alligator to his palatial lake. They may during this time become a little friskier as they travel from lake to lake searching for that gorgeous alligator...ok, maybe just another alligator. Again, do not feed them, even a morsal, and keep your canine away from the water. The two alligators pictured below are just contemplating...



TOWN HALL 2023

“Facing the Challenges Ahead”

Thanks to the many residents who showed up at the 2023 Town Hall meeting on March 20th sponsored by the Community Association. We appreciate the participation of all our speakers who provided very up to date information. Also, there were a number of guests including five of the seven council members who saw the level of interest Venetian residents have for their community....we appreciate their attendance. Below are a series of articles that relate to the various presentations.



Homeowner Insurance

One of the topics at the Town Hall Meeting was the impact of Hurricane Ian on one’s homeowner’s insurance. The speaker was David Joyner, a highly respected insurance agent in Venice. Attached is an outline of his very helpful presentation.

Sarasota Memorial Update

Since opening its doors in November of 2021, Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice (“SMH-Venice”) has played a vital role in the community helping to meet the rapidly growing demand for high-quality health care in the south Sarasota County region. To date, the 110-bed hospital has performed more than 7,500 surgeries, treated 50,000 Emergency Room patients and 17,500 in-patients, and delivered more than 300 babies — including two sets of twins! As patient volumes continue to grow, SMH-Venice is committed to expanding its staff, services and size to improve access to care. The campus now has more than 1,250 employees, 1,100 medical staff members and 220 volunteers. The investment in growth extends beyond the walls of the original facility. Construction is proceeding full speed ahead on a five-story new patient care tower that will nearly double the campus’ capacity. When complete in 2024, the new wing will add 102 beds, bringing the total number of private patient suites available at the campus to 212. The expansion will prompt the addition of a traffic light at the intersection of Pinebrook Road and Healthcare Way, which is the main entrance to the campus. The hospital also is hastening plans to double the size of its Emergency Care Center and Surgical Department, with construction slated for completion in 2024. For the interim, the facility has reconfigured its space and patient flow and hired more staff to enhance efficiency and capacity. When necessary, patients can be transferred to the SMH-Sarasota Campus. The health system also has embarked on longer-term projects to expand access to care throughout the fast-growing south county community. Plans are moving forward to open a new hospital on Sumter Boulevard in North Port, as well as a new medical campus in Wellen Park. Sarasota Memorial also is looking at opportunities to bring a new freestanding Emergency Room to Venice Island and a new Urgent Care Center to North Port. In the meantime, the health system has continued to step up to meet health needs despite several unprecedented challenges, including the abrupt closure of ShorePoint Venice Hospital last fall, followed by the devastation of Hurricane Ian. When ShorePoint gave just a few weeks’ notice that its 312-bed hospital on Venice Island would close, SMH-Venice rapidly repurposed clinical space to add more triage and treatment areas and brought in additional physicians and staff. Ultimately, the health system hired more than 100 displaced ShorePoint employees. The Venice campus saw a huge influx of patients — as many as 250 a day — in the immediate aftermath of the storm. State, federal and local officials helped meet the challenge. A federal Disaster Medical Assistance Team was deployed to the hospital to set up an emergency tent facility that helped manage the surge.



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What’s the Number One Problem Sarasota County is facing?

At the Town Hall Meeting, both County and City Police officials noted that the number one problem they see for the city/county is ... traffic. Think of all the problems that the police face in their role...but in growing Sarasota County, all of them really don’t count as much as when cars get on the road.

Growing and Growing and Growing and

The map attached at the end of Parcels was developed by the Community Association and distributed at the Town Hall Meeting. After looking at it, especially the key in the bottom left of the map, one could conclude that it captures the growth and development in northeast Venice. If the growth and development take place per the map, it’s realistic to believe it has implications to healthcare, school capacity, shopping and shopping experiences, local traffic and safety services.





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Hurricane Ian & the Deteriorating FL Home Insurance Market

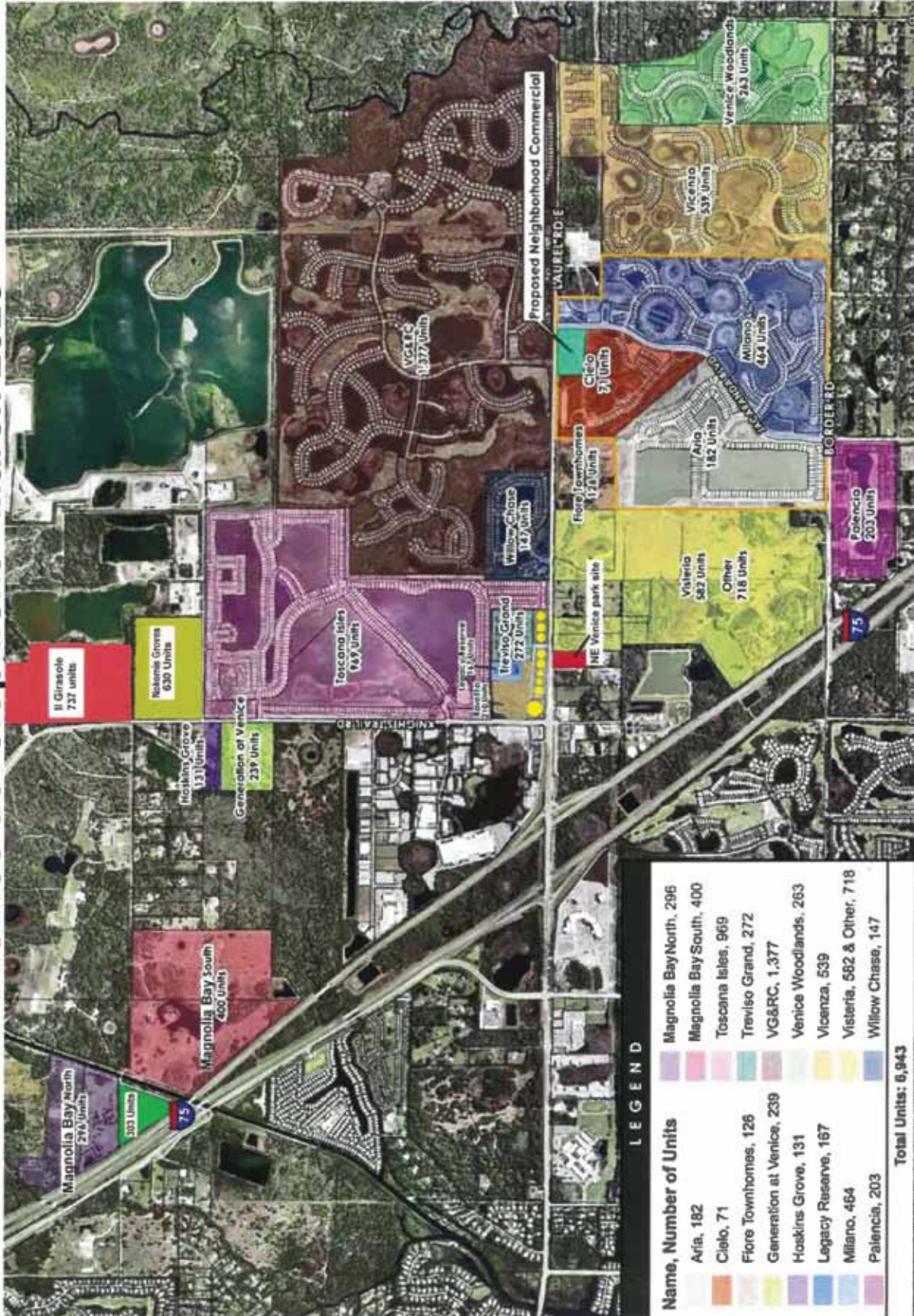
Hurricane Ian – Large Storm / Widespread Damage

- Although a massive storm, wind losses largely transferred to (paid by) reinsurance companies; flood losses largely assumed under separate flood policies (FEMA)
- However, a “man made” storm existed long before Hurricane Ian, caused by:
 - Rampant litigation – Florida represents nearly 10% of all home insurance claims in the US, but accounts for nearly 80% of all home insurance litigation!
 - Over 70% of home insurance claims payouts went directly to attorneys
 - Assignment of Benefits (“AOB”) combined with litigation incentives led to pervasive “free roof” schemes
- The result of this “man made” storm?
 - Massive net losses and need for fresh capital infusions into home insurance companies
 - Approx. dozen company insolvencies; thousands of policy non-renewals; limited markets open for new business
 - Substantial rate increases! Florida average home insurance premium approx \$4,300 (3x national average); Sarasota County nearly \$2,700!
- Good news! Hurricane Ian illuminated these issues and “transformational” legislation was passed in Dec. 2022 to eliminate the “man made” storm issues

What is to Come?

- While legislation was meaningful, the impact will take much longer to realize – at least 18-24 months. Rate filings with state regulators are based upon historical information, so results must be present to demonstrate rate relief.
- Hurricane Ian doesn’t help with this timeline, as there’s debate as to whether legislative changes apply to Ian claims – and this will get fought in court
- Biggest remaining impact: REINSURANCE (“insurance for insurance companies” typically involving catastrophic risks – e.g., hurricane)
 - Reinsurers hit hard by Ian (and waiting to see the “full” impact over coming year+) along with other worldwide disasters
 - Less investment into reinsurers; waiting to see the impact of legislative changes – all resulting in less coverage/capacity offered, strict payment terms, and rates increasing at least 50% on average
- In Summary: things will get worse before they get better – more steep rate increases are coming and fewer companies are offering new policies. New companies will eventually enter the market and, hopefully with a quieter storm season, we’ll begin seeing some stabilization in 2024

NE Venice development - March 2023



Rev 4 - 3/10/23



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Advocating For Our Community

Membership Enrollment Form

Thank you for joining the Community Association, which is dedicated to preserving your paradise. The Community Association runs important initiatives “inside the gates”. These include the Hurricane Readiness Team (HRT) and CPR training, activities to make your life easier, such as Shredfest/Junkfest and Bike-O-Rama, and presentations on a variety of topics to keep you up-to-date and informed. We also publish the popular *Parcels from Paradise*. The board of this volunteer organization also interfaces with local government on key issues “outside the gates” and reacting to any potential activity that can have an impact on your property value. All of this is made possible by membership dues, for which we thank you.

There are two ways to become a member:

1. **On-line** at <http://www.vgrcca.us/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
305 Martellago Dr.
North Venice, FL 34275

MEMBERSHIP DUES PER HOUSEHOLD (PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE LINE):

<u>Membership Term</u>	<u>Membership Dues</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years (best deal)	\$70.00 (\$20 discount)
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years	\$50.00 (\$10 discount)
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year	\$30.00

MEMBER INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT AND PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION):

Name	Additional Name
Preferred Telephone #	Preferred Telephone #
E-Mail Address	E-Mail Address
Venetian Address	
Other Mailing Address	