



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 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.

HEADING TO THE HEAT OF THE SUMMER

Garbage cans are a key part of our community interestingly to determine the number of snowbirds who have left the community. For those who remain, you can look at the garbage cans curbside on Wednesday and Saturday mornings to definitely see that the VGRC is going through a seasonal transition. You might even see the news in *Parcels* shrink simply because there is less news. *Parcels* is keenly aware that snowbirds enjoy reading the summer edition of *Parcels* for it is their link to news from "Paradise". For those packing up, drive carefully, stay safe and we'll keep Paradise in tip top shape until you return.

TOWN HALL FOLLOW UP

At the well-attended Town Hall Meeting held on March 18, a presentation was given by CA Board Member Tom Jones providing an updated map (**included at the end of *Parcels***) of current and future housing development in the area. One observation is that it shows a sizable increase from even last year's handout. It doesn't take a University of North Carolina graduate to understand that northeast Venice is going through a housing boom. Get ready for more traffic, more need for public services including fire and police, more need for shopping experiences and more need for health services. And it probably won't end there..... a hotel or two, gas stations and possibly a fast-food chain. If there is some good news about the boom, it appears our city officials are attempting to get ahead of the curve. The Laurel Rd. widening project, the Water Booster Station and the new Northeast Venice Park are examples of smart government initiatives. Our applause to our Venice team.

Venice Water Booster Station

Here is a Q and A based on the presentation on the new Venice Water Booster Station given by Javier Vargas, City of Venice Utilities Director, at the Town Hall Meeting on March 18:

Q: When will the Venice Water Booster Station be completed?

A: The booster pump station is expected to be operational late 2025.

Q: Will the Station increase my water bill?

A: There has been no notice from Venice City that your water bill will be increased.

Q: Will the Station increase my water pressure?

A: The project will improve the level of potable water service and fire protection in the northeastern portion of the City's service area and potentially increase water pressure and flow during peak demands for potable water users in the entire service area.

Q: Where will the Station be located?

A: The Booster Station will be located on the northern portion of a 44-acre city-owned parcel at the eastern end of Gene Green Road adjacent to the Dona Bay Surface Water Storage Facility.

Q: Will the Station create noise for the majority of Venetian residents?

A: Expected sound level at the community boundary is not expected to increase above current levels.

Q: How much did the building of the Water Booster Station cost?

A: The cost of the station is expected to be approximately \$23.5 million.

Additional visual material on the Station is located at the end of this *Parcels* edition.

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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Road Widening Update

Also at the Town Hall Meeting, Spencer Anderson from the County gave an excellent presentation providing an update on the Laurel Rd. widening project and adding details about including a possible light at our intersection. Basically, the planning for the road widening is taking place on schedule and the possibility of having a traffic light at our intersection is unlikely. Mr. Anderson was very forthright with the Town Hall audience regarding why a traffic light was not in the plan.

There were some questions that were raised by audience members and Mr. Anderson promised he would get the responses back to Parcels for the next edition. They are as follows:

1. Concerns about the Signal timing at Laurel and Knights Trail; concern with vehicle detection, long red cycles with no opposing traffic.

Response: Our teams investigated this promptly after the meeting. The detection cameras are malfunctioning, and our technicians are working on repairs. If we have the parts, it should be fixed right away. If not, as soon as we get the parts.

2. What will the road project look like for eastbound (EB) to northbound (NB) turning movements east of Knights Trail into the Wendy's/7-11 precommercial area?

Response: There will be a solid raised median from Knights Trail with an EB turn lane onto NB Mirasol Blvd/Treviso Grand Cir. There will be a full median opening at that intersection. Only right in/right out at Montecito Street.

3. Will there be a westbound (WB) to NB right turn pocket on Laurel at Veneto Blvd?

No, the existing two lanes will become both WB lanes, with no alternation to the north curb line.

Annual Meeting Update

After the Community Association's annual meeting held earlier this week on Monday, April 15, the following CA board officer appointments were made:

Mark Faford & Tom Jones - Co-Presidents

Chip Melvin - Treasurer

John Manoush - Secretary

Sharon George - Membership chair

We want to thank our membership for their continued support!

Outstanding Field Trip

The final Community Association event of the season was a huge success. Led by resident bird expert and photographer Extrodinaire, Rick Cordner, approximately 40 residents showed up at the Rookery on Tuesday, April 16th for a ninety-minute active educational program. Many were fascinated with the nesting birds, Purple Martin birds and the bats. This was a first-time event, and the Community Association Board may consider a repeat in the future.

Speaking of seminars, the VGRCCA Board is considering for those full-time residents of having a seminar this summer. We will evaluate the interest. Stay tuned.

A final note. For our large open to all resident events and seminars, we don't keep track of those who are members and nonmembers. No doubt there is a cost to putting on these seminars or events. We would hope if you are reading this article, and you have attended one or more of our events (i.e.. Shredfest, Story of Amish and Mennonites, Alligators, etc.) you will do "what's right" and complete the membership form at the end of Parcels. We'd appreciate it.



What is the Hurricane Response Team or HRT?



The Venetian Golf and River Club Hurricane Response Team (HRT) was created (and is sponsored and funded) by the Community Association to provide post hurricane services and hurricane preparation education to the VGRCC Community. The team works with members of the CDD, the POA and the HOAs in the provision of the services.

What are the teams and who serves as Team Members?

The team is made up of volunteers from the VGRCC community who have undergone annual training and who are willing, if available, to participate when a hurricane is imminent and after a hurricane impacts our neighborhood.

There are three (3) teams for which VGRCC members may volunteer: (1) Security (2) General Assessment (3) Reach Out team. All team members are Goodwill Ambassadors to the residents of the VGRCC community and, as such, will provide support to our community. The Security team members will provide services at the front gate after the regular security guards leave the premises prior to the hurricane and also after the hurricane when it becomes safe to do so until the guards return. The General Assessment team will survey damages to homes and the subdivisions to determine the extent of the damage and to interact with members of the community with the intent to provide information as it is received. The Reach Out team will check on community members who may be alone or have special medical needs and have asked for the team to contact or visit them after the hurricane.

What information does the HRT provide to the Community?

The HRT provides hurricane information and education to the community through written materials and community hurricane preparation meetings. The HRT posts materials in the Hurricane Corner section of the Community Association web page (see <https://vgrcca.org/hurricane-corner>). Materials will be available in the lobby of the River Club and links to the hurricane preparation and response materials will be made available through email and through Parcels from Paradise newsletter. A community "Hurricane Preparation" meeting will be held at the River Club in June.

How do I join the Team?

All interested persons must complete an application form that indicates a desire to be on the team and includes any special skills, including communication, public relations, Excel spreadsheet knowledge and a capability to work with others. You must attend the volunteer training session that will be held in June. Please contact Mary Rau-Foster, the HRT coordinator, for the application: maryraufoster@gmail.com Cell: 615-481-9761.

THE APPLICATION FORM IS ALSO LOCATED ON THE HURRICANE CORNER OF THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WEBSITE, www.vgrcca.org OR at the end of this edition of Parcels.

UPDATES OF INTEREST

And It's Just Down the Street.

The former Tervis property at 201 Triple Diamond Boulevard in Venice is set to become a cutting-edge sports facility. The 42,000 square foot location is just off Knights Trail.

Global Sports Institute noted in a recent news release that the facility is being spearheaded by two-time U.S. Olympian and professional volleyball player Donald Suxho and longtime volleyball professional Yury Shakirov. The realization of this project offers more than just training grounds; it promises a community hub where athletes can unwind in a cozy coffee lounge, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared passion for sports excellence. The facility promises a training environment for both serious and aspiring athletes, which will include four indoor volleyball courts with Tera flex flooring and equipment aimed at honing the skills of volleyball professionals of tomorrow. Adding to the athletic allure, the facility will host 15 pickleball courts to cater to the rapidly growing interest in the sport. It will also host specialized volleyball camps, clinics, multi-sport youth camps and a volleyball club. The fitness center boasts top-of-the-line Technogym Italian Pro equipment, facilitating a comprehensive approach to athlete development. For those seeking a holistic training regimen, the inclusion of a yoga room, spin room, and Pilates rooms ensures a well-rounded fitness experience. All we can say is "Wow."

Venice Branching Out

Venice has been named a 2023 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management. Venice achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's 4 requirements: maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance, dedicating an annual community forestry budget of a minimum \$2 per capita, and hosting an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. This is the 15th year the city has received this acknowledgement. "The Tree City USA designation demonstrates the City's commitment to protecting and improving the community's air and water quality," said City Arborist/Tree Program Administrator Jim Yelverton. "It's not just about planting trees; it's about nurturing a greener, healthier and more vibrant community."

Welcome Center

There appears to be no visible movement with the Welcome Center. For those new to the VGRC, the Welcome Center is that unoccupied building to the right when you enter the Venetian. When the community started, the Welcome Center was the sales office where new homeowners could look at and choose options like bathroom fixtures, cabinets and flooring. The Center was purchased by Heritage Corporation when Heritage bought the Venetian Golf Course. Speaking of Heritage, a March news release stated that "Heritage Golf Group, the fastest-growing owner and operator of golf and country clubs in the US, has acquired Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club". It appears business is good for the company which is also good news for those who are members of our own golf club. If you are interested in joining, take a trip to the Golf Club and confer with Membership Chair, Gary Weller. Summer is a great time to get started on this beautiful course.

Was that My Dog Barking?

No, it wasn't. It was an alligator. We are entering the season of alligator mating. Alligators become a little friskier and you may see the male alligator move at all times of the day to another lake just to see what "offerings" are at that lake. You may even see them saunter across a street both day or night or even take a short cut through your yard. Once in their lake, you may also hear a barking sound from the alligator which translates to "Hey Baby, Big Boy is here for you." Remember, be smart when dealing with this prehistoric creature. Never, ever feed them, be careful when fishing, watch where you walk your dog and be really careful when you are near that lake trying to retrieve that fourth golf ball you hit in the water. A final bit of advice regarding the loud barking to attract the females..... as you will often hear on various t.v. shows, "Be careful, don't try it at home." Alligators have been a part of Florida's environment for years....no for centuries. Learning how to live with them is all part of being a Floridian.



Costco Update

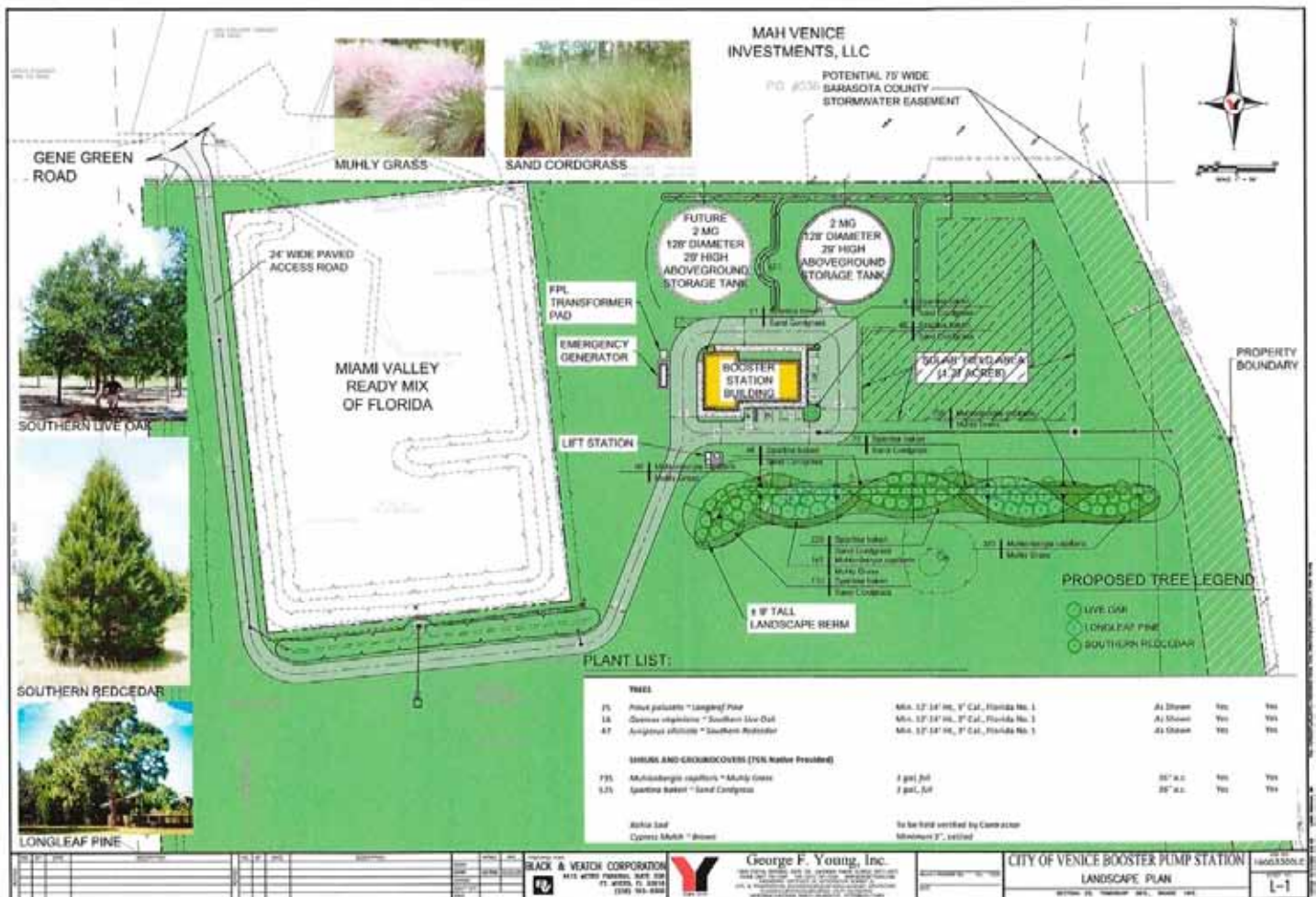
Costco at Wellen Park expects to open in June. The Costco at Sarasota Square Mall will remain open, but the Mall will be demolished to give way to a residential type of complex. And remember, the cost of the best weenie in the U.S., the world, remains the same no matter the location.



Getting Your Communication Link In Order

If there is a hurricane, the HRT communicates through the email addresses provided to the Community Association. All residents should make certain we have your email address because this is the only way you receive updates on events, on hurricanes, Parcels, etc. Be careful about clicking on "unsubscribe" because you will no longer receive any communications from the Community Association without going through a process to resubscribe. "Unsubscribe" will not just stop a certain type of email from us but it will also not permit any responses to attend events.

Venice Water Booster Plan





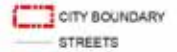
NEW WATER BOOSTER PUMP STATION - PROJECT LOCATION





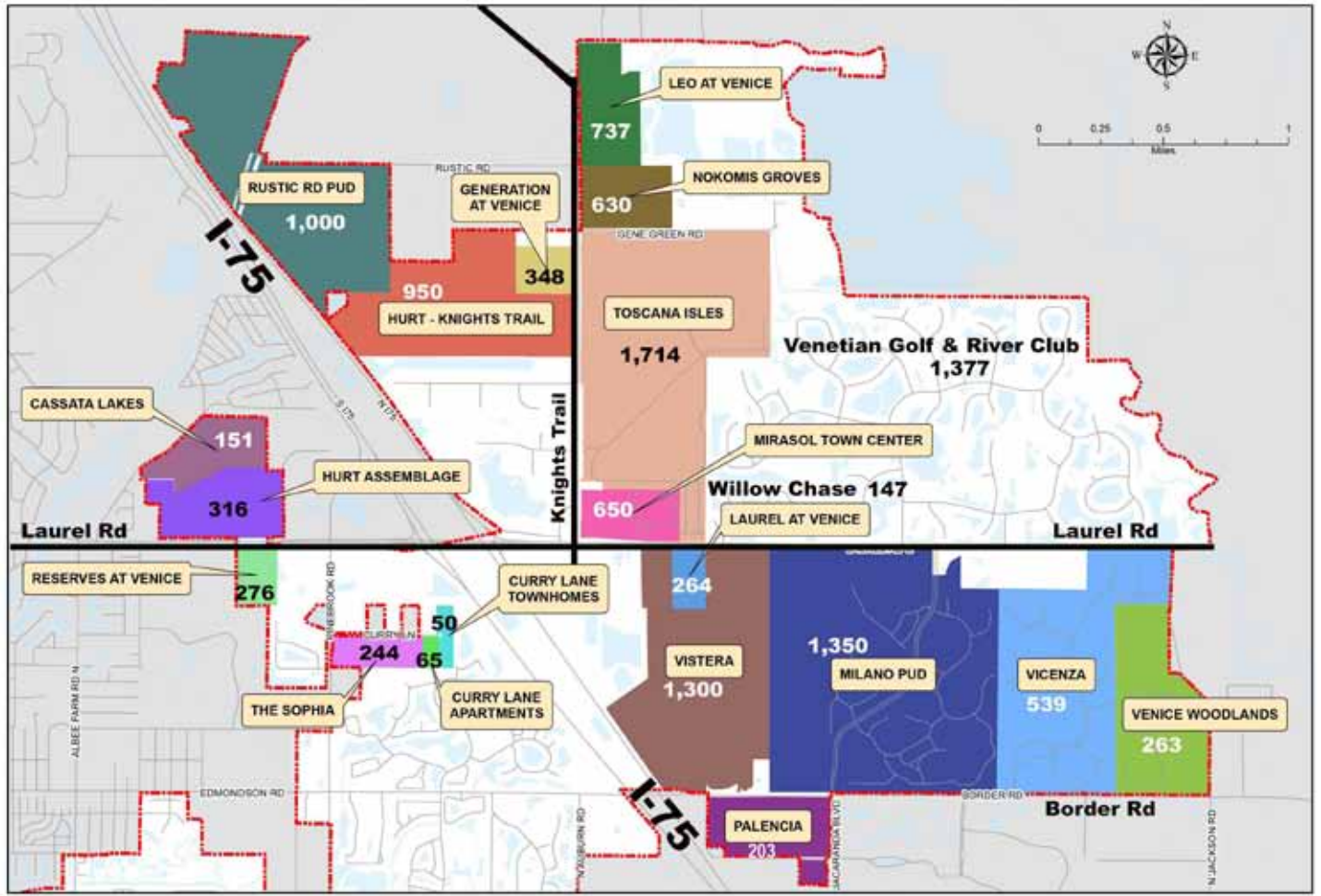
Northeast Venice Development Locations

Planning and Zoning Department



March 2024

Date: 3/4/2024 Document Path: K:\Planning and Zoning\Development Analysis\Development Locations.mxd



NE Venice Residential Development

Location	Entitled Units	Approved Units	Type
Laurel Road West of I-75			
Cassata Lakes	151	151	SF
Hurt Assemblage (Hurt Laurel Road)	316	in process	MF + comm'l
Reserves at Venice	276	276	MF
Total	743		
Pinebrook Road south of Laurel Rd			
Curry Lane Townhomes	50	in process	SF
Curry Lane Apartments	65	in process	MF
The Sofia	244	244	MF
Total	359		
Border Road			
Palencia	203	203	SF
Venice Woodlands	263	263	SF
Total	466		
Knights Trail north of Laurel Rd			
Generation at Venice	348	348	MF
Hurt - Knights Trail	950	proposed	MF
Leo at Venice	737	in process	?
Nokomis Groves	630	630	MF
Rustic Road (Magnolia Bay)	1,000	999	?
Toscana Isles	1,714	967	SF
Total	5,379		

Location	Entitled Units	Approved Units	Type
Laurel Road East of I-75 plus Jacaranda Blvd			
Laurel at Venice	264	in process	MF
Milano PUD (Milano, Cielo, Aria, Fiore)	1,350	848	SF & MF
Mirasol Town Cntr (apartments & senior cntr)	650	395	MF
Vicenza	539	539	SF
Visterra (GCCF)	1,300	1,056	SF & MF
Venetian Golf & River Club	1,377		SF
Willow Chase	147		SF
Total	5,627		
Grand Total	12,574		

Approximate breakdown by unit type:

Single family (SF) only	5,000
Multi-family or mixed (SF & MF)	7,500

Approximate breakdown by Occupancy:

Occupied unit	5,500
Under construction or planned	7,000



Hurricane Response Team Application

Please complete this application and send to **Mary Rau-Foster 221 Pesaro Dr. North Venice Florida 34275** or scan and email to maryraufoster@gmail.com (If both home occupants are interested in serving on the HRT, please fill out separate forms)

My role preference and skill set for the HRT team is (check one or both):

- GENERAL ROLE _____
- SECURITY TEAM _____
- REACHOUT TEAM _____

GENERAL ROLE - Includes items such as:

- Going door to door to check on welfare of residents after a hurricane
- Taking inventory of damage to houses and property after a hurricane
- Clearing debris blocking road access
- Posting detour or other signage around the community

SECURITY TEAM - Includes items such as:

- Staffing Venetian Front Gate after departure of privacy patrol
- Assist in the overall security of the VGRC as assigned

REACHOUT TEAM - Includes items such as:

- Calling and/or visiting residents who may live alone and have special medical needs, and who have filled out a form requesting that someone check on them (a well-being check) after the storm has passed.

Name _____

Venetian Address _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Do you have texting capability on your phone – Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a golf cart - Yes _____ No _____

Do you have any of the following:

- CPR Training _____ Home Generator _____ Chain Saw _____ Ham Radio _____
- Have you served as a First Responder _____

Do you have any other skills or training not mentioned above _____

I will attend HRT training on one of the following dates (pick one):

- Tuesday, May 23, 6:00-8:00pm – Yes _____
- OR
- Tuesday May 30, 3:00 – 5:00pm – Yes _____

“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: _____