

# PARCELS

FROM  
*Paradise*

February 2025

## BUSY TIMES

### THE ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING, MARCH 10TH....

#### A must attend!

For almost every year, with the exception of the Covid period, the VGRCCA has held a very well-attended meeting called the **Town Hall Meeting or THM**. The event has been held at the Laurel Nokomis School Cafetorium to accommodate the large crowd. As a resident you want to know what is taking place in your community and city. There are many quotes regarding an informed citizen with one of the most popular ones being "Democracy can't function without an informed citizenry".

Please mark **Monday, March 10th at 5 pm** as the date and time of this year's THM. You will see some changes with this year's THM to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our residents. As we did last year, five residents will receive the "Gratitude Award". A special email will be sent on the THM as we get closer to the date.

### History of Venice

Get on your calendar, **Monday, February 10th, 5 pm** to hear a noted expert provide a one-hour presentation on the History of Venice.

### Tough Topic but Worth Attending

At the "End of Life Doula" seminar, Judy Bratham will discuss how she tailors her services to meet the unique needs and beliefs of each client & family. She assesses where they are in the grieving process and giving them back a sense of control by encouraging them to participate in the planning of their final days. Judy's services include everything from advanced planning directives, bereavement support, vigil planning, living funerals & life review/legacy projects. It is a universal truth that we will die, whether we like it or not. During this difficult time at the end, an End-of-Life Doula can help turn a challenging situation into a much softer and more comfortable experience for everyone involved. Be educated as to this most needed profession. The seminar is scheduled on **Tuesday, February 25th at 5 pm**.



This edition has been financially supported by:

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Contact  
VGRCCA@gmail.com.

Attend the...  
**Venetian's  
Town Hall Meeting  
"Next Steps"**

Monday, March 10, 2025  
5:00 PM  
Laurel-Nokomis  
School Cafetorium



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

VISIT: [www.vgrcca.org](http://www.vgrcca.org)

### SHREDFEST/JUNKFEST

One of the most popular events that all residents look forward to each year is SHREDFEST/JUNKFEST. Two aspects of this event. ....you can shred your paper documents and, in fact, can go up to the truck and say bye bye to your documents. Paper clips, staples, envelopes, manilla folders, rubber bands and small binder clips are acceptable; however. 3-ring binders and hanging file folders with steel support are unable to be shredded.



The other aspect is junk. ....about every kind. ... and over the

years we have seen about everything including toilets, bedposts, cabinets....if you can get it there.... we can take it. However, you can NOT bring hazardous waste such as paints, oils and batteries.

A few things about this year's Shredfest

- This is the most expensive event that the VGRCCA puts on. This year we are asking you to slip a donation when you see the "Bucket Boys" coming up to the car requesting such. Related, we hope you check the current status of your membership by going to [www.vgrcca.org/membership](http://www.vgrcca.org/membership) and pay up prior to the event if your membership has expired.
- Follow the directions when you get there. There will be a path to shredding only and one to shred and/or Junk.
- Helpers will be there to take what you want to discard. Be sure to know how to unlock your trunk (we're serious!).

**See you at Shredfest/Junkfest on Saturday, February 22, 8:30 am – 10:30 am in the River Club Parking Lot.**

## KEEP AN EYE ON

### Project TekWave

Pay attention to details and updates regarding Project TekWave. The CDD has outlined an extensive plan to replace the current RFID's. For those who aren't paying attention, don't complain when you attempt to go through the front entrance gate and the gate "ain't" going up. Applause to the CDD for taking on this challenging project. As residents, let's give them the cooperation they need for a successful change.

### And the List Goes On ....Our Accomplishments -- A History and Commitment

On the VGRCCA webpage (see <https://vgrcca.org/about/our-accomplishments/>), we have maintained a history of accomplishments for the Venetian community. The list has recently been updated and arranged by Outside and Inside the Gates. We are committed to strengthening our support, as we advocate for the community.

### Scaling the Wall

The Wall of Something is our community's personal site for listing items for sale, in search of, recommendations for services, dining, and places to go. You can access the Wall of Something by going to our website, [vgrcca.org](http://vgrcca.org). If you do not already have access to this site, you can request an invitation by emailing [vgrcca@gmail.com](mailto:vgrcca@gmail.com). If you have already listed items or posted rentals on the Wall and they have sold or are no longer available, please go to the posting and delete it. Postings that are older than six months old will be deleted by the Wall of Something Administrators unless you let them know the item should remain on the Wall. If you need assistance with this please reach out to Sharon George ([shgeorge426@yahoo.com](mailto:shgeorge426@yahoo.com)) at 414-526-2555.

Our Community Association communications do not reach you unless we have your email address. Please make sure we have a current email address for you. We have several new residents moving into the VGRC, so if you have a new neighbor, make sure we get their email address as well.

### THE WALL OF SOMETHING

An Electronic Bulletin Board for all Venetian Residents!



Visit us at [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us) and Click the wall of something

# AREA NEWS

## Park Progress... it's good news!

Word has it from the City of Venice that the contract has been signed for the building of the Northeast Venice Park on Laurel Rd. It will be one super park. More details, if available, will be provided at the Town Hall Meeting.

Speaking of parks, the City of Venice is so fortunate in having over 30 wonderful parks. Some are small, some are large. Some have places to cook, all have places to sit and ponder in a very calming atmosphere. For more information on City Parks, go to <https://www.venicegov.com/visit/parks>



## And the Beat Goes on

There was a recent appeal of the Planning Commission's decision regarding the Shopping Center. The appeal will be in front of City Council. Any new details will be reported to those who attend the Town Hall Meeting.

## A Growing Hospital

Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) recently announced it was building a brand-new hospital in North Port. By addressing the growing population in Wellen Park and North Port, the establishment of a new hospital may even help our own SMH-Venice deal with the exploding population in our area. The THM will have a speaker giving you an update on the "explosion."



## Seeking Community Input

The newly formed Citizen Advisory Board, which reports to Venice City Council, is working on a survey that will give feedback on the City's performance during Hurricane Helene and Milton. The survey is in the works and probably will be ready to be released in late February or March. We encourage those who were here during one or both of the hurricane events to complete the survey.



## A Departing True Leader

The City of Venice has lost a superstar City Manager with the recent announcement that Ed Lavallee will be retiring. Ed also is a resident of the Venetian .....you may see him more on the golf course in the future. Mr. Lavallee has dedicated 13 years of service to the residents of our city and has been in public service for over 50 years. He will officially retire in July 2025. Currently, no news on his replacement. Mr. Lavallee's service will be recognized at the March 10th Town Hall Meeting. We hope that our residents turn out to acknowledge his service.

## FUN NEWS

### Free Friday Night Concerts

We have mentioned it over the years, but mark down the second and fourth Fridays of the month. It's the Friday night concerts in the **Gazebo at Centennial Park**, right in the heart of downtown. Concerts begin at 7 pm and are free....bring a chair to enjoy the music. Although you probably won't hear Aerosmith, you will be entertained by a group of very talented musicians. It's a great way to spend a Friday night.

### The Day of Romance...and Chocolate

February is known for Valentine's Day --- that special day of the year when you attempt to charm your loved one with about anything that will be charming. One of the charms is chocolate....who doesn't like chocolates? There are some, but not many, in the Community who know of a special place to get chocolates not far from the Venetian. It is called **Gabriella Chocolates & Confections, located on 3449 Technology Drive, (941-227-2253)**. To get there, take Laurel Road to Knight's Trail, turn right and take the first street on the left. You, like so many people, will wonder if you are in the right place....but you will see Gabriellas on the right side of the street. They make their own chocolate on premise. And if you think that these chocolates aren't that good, remember they sell Three Musketeer bars at Publix.



### The Great Escape

Parcels likes to come up with some out of the ordinary recreational sites. The last one was a Smash room, where you can take your anger out on a whole bunch of items. The latest is called the Escape Room or Escapology in Sarasota. You and your group race against time to solve puzzles as a team. This unique place is located in downtown Sarasota; however, there are many other locations throughout the county. For details, go to <https://www.escapology.com/en/sarasota-fl>

### Final Thoughts

Take a look at this edition of Parcels and note all of the activities and events scheduled for just our community sponsored by the VGRC Community Association. Add to that the great amenities we have on property. Especially noted is the growing number of residents heading to the pickleball courts. What a life! Certainly, as they often say, "It's great to live in Paradise!" Let's not forget that.



“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](http://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  
305 Martellago Dr.  
North Venice, FL 34275

**Membership Dues Per Household**

(Please Check Appropriate Line):

<b>SIGN UP</b>	<b>TERM DUES</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years (best deal) . . . . .	\$70 (\$20 discount)
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years . . . . .	\$50 (\$10 discount)
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year . . . . .	\$30

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION:**

\$

**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: \_\_\_\_\_