

## **VGRC Community Update: Key Developments Affecting Our Area**

**At the recent Town Hall Meeting, VGRC Community Association Co-President Mark Faford provided updates on several important projects taking place outside our gates that will impact our community.**

### **1. New Laurel Road Park – Opening Late 2025**

**A new park is planned for the northeast region of the city, scheduled to open in late 2025. The park will feature:**

- **Eight pickleball courts with designated rest areas**
- **A children’s playground**
- **Nature and paved walking trails**
- **Upgraded restroom facilities**
- **An artificial turf dog park area**
- **Dedicated parking facilities**

### **2. Laurel Road Widening Project (2026-2028/2029)**

**The City has approved the widening of Laurel Road from Jacaranda to Knights Trail. The project will transform the existing roadway into a four-lane divided road with additional turn lanes. Other key improvements include:**

- **7-foot bike lanes on both sides of the road**
- **A 10-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side, designed for walkers, bicycles, and golf carts**
- **Additional street lighting for improved safety**
- **Full median opening at Veneto Blvd., allowing Venetian residents to make both left and right turns at the community entrance**

**Construction is expected to last 24 to 30 months after groundbreaking, meaning more than two years of roadwork and disruption along Laurel Road.**

### **3. Shopping Center Across from VGRC Entrance**

**While there is no estimated construction start date for the approved shopping center across from the Venetian entrance, the following stipulations have been put in place to reduce disruption to the community:**

- **Shielded parking lot lights to reduce light pollution**
- **Security cameras covering the entire parking lot**
- **No overnight parking allowed**
- **No gas station will be built on the property**
- **Enhanced and upgraded landscaping to maintain aesthetic appeal**

### **Additional Projects impacting Venetian residents:**

#### **4. Venice Water Booster Station – Completion Spring 2025**

**The Venice Water Booster Station project has been underway since early last year. Once completed in Spring 2025, it will help increase water pressure for Venetian homes and surrounding areas.**

#### **5. Dona Bay Watershed Restoration Project**

**This multi-year, multi-million dollar project aims to restore the Dona Bay watershed, which lies beneath the Venetian Golf & River Club. The primary goals include:**

- **Establishing a more natural freshwater/saltwater balance in the tidal portions of Dona Bay**
- **Protecting existing and future property owners from flood damage**
- **Preserving and improving water quality**
- **Exploring alternative potable water supply options from surface water sources**

### **Next Steps for the VGRC Community Association**

**The VGRC Community Association remains committed to monitoring and communicating key developments in northeast Venice that may impact our residents. Moving forward, we will:**

- **Keep track of major projects like the new Laurel Road park, Laurel Road Widening, shopping center, and water supply initiatives**
- **Continue to build strong relationships with City and County officials to stay informed and share important updates**
- **Ensure residents have access to timely and accurate information about changes affecting our community**

**We will continue to provide updates as these projects progress. Thank you for staying engaged in our community's future!**

**VGRC Community Association**

**March 2025**