

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

March 2025



This edition has been financially supported by VGRCC Residents:

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Absolute Window and Doors,

Contact:
941-485-7774

ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?

I Have Some Good News and I Have Some Bad News

The Good News: The new TekWave entry system will be activated as of April 1. The CDD-led project has been going through the data conversion and verification process since January. Roughly 85% of the community has input their vehicle and residency information and the verification process will be completed March 27.

Now The Bad News: If you have not gone through the process yet, your RFID sticker on your car will no longer be active as of April 1 and will not open the residents gate at the main entry (you'll have to sit in that long guest line) and your River Club access card to the pool and fitness areas will not open either entrance. After March 27 you will have to make an appointment with the CDD Field Office to have your tags and cards reactivated. Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked on this and to the many residents who patiently went through the process!

THREE QUICK REMINDERS

- The number for the Gate House is **941-488-7108**. Please call the Gate House with the name of your arriving guest or vendor. You can even call days before their arrival.
- If you must call 911 about a medical emergency, attempt to have a **“waver”** outside the location of the incident, “waving” down the emergency vehicles to the specific site. This is very important especially if an incident occurs on the River Club property or the Golf Course.
- Remember, our wonderful privacy officers do not substitute for sworn police officers. Therefore, if you witness what would be considered a criminal act, contact 911, not the gatehouse.



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

UPCOMING COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION EVENTS INCLUDE:

SharPfest, March 17, 10 am – get your tools and kitchen items sharpened by an outstanding vendor at the Venetian Golf Course parking lot. Members of the CA have priority registration for this event on the Community Association website.



Florida Friendly Landscaping, March 24, 5 pm.

Learning about Florida friendly landscaping will help Venetian residents choose trees and plants which are more likely to thrive in our climate and soil and require less irrigation. This landscaping will also help reduce the amount of fertilizer needed by the plants, which benefits our lakes through less nutrient runoff. More pollinating insects can be attracted, and insect pests can be deterred by choosing the right plants.

Developer Approval Process - Cancelled

The March 31st seminar was scheduled to be an interesting one with Roger Clark from the City of Venice explaining the Developers' Approval Process. Due to the recent appeal of the Shopping Center's Site and Development Plan, set for April, and given that the issue involves our community, Mr. Clark has requested that the seminar be scheduled at a later date.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Laurel Road Clean Up is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th at 8:45 am.

Volunteers will 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 suggested to wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, high socks and appropriate shoes. For those who choose to provide the use of their golf carts ... we will use the carts to transport volunteers to their starting points. The carts will also be used to transport volunteers back to the Venetian entry after they have completed their assigned area.



Movin' on Up – the Date That Is

The project to improve water pressure in northeast Venice entails construction of a Water Booster Station directly to the north of the Venetian. We last reported in the April 2024 edition of Parcels that, according to the presentation by the Director of Venice Utilities at the March 2024 Town Hall Meeting, the Water Booster Station would be operational in late 2025. It is now anticipated by the Utilities Director that the construction will be completed ahead of schedule and that the booster station may be operational this summer! Hooray Venice City and Utilities!

LOTS OF THINGS FOR LOTS OF PEOPLE

Spring Training Baseball

Spring training for MLB continues in March. Teams around this area include the Baltimore Orioles, Pittsburgh Pirates, Tampa Bay Rays and Atlanta Braves. If you haven't been to the recently built Atlanta stadium in Wellen Park, we would recommend going to a game. And once the season begins remember that the Rays, due to the destruction of their own stadium by Hurricane Milton, will be playing their home games in Tampa at the domeless spring training field of the Yankees.

And speaking of baseball, do you think MLB will go soon to robotic Umpires behind the plate? Send us your opinion at vgrcca@gmail.com



Biking with the Mayor

Take a leisurely 6-mile ride on **Thursday, March 20** with City Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Darlene Culpepper, Mayor Nick Pachota, and Venice Police and Fire Rescue, starting and ending at Sharkey's with refreshments. Be there at 8:30 am. Last year's event saw over 50 participants! Hopefully some of the many Venetian bikers will participate in this fun event. RSVP to Darlene at dculpepper@venicefl.gov

SIMPLY, WOW!

Shredfest/Junkfest... Wow...

This annual event was a big "Wow". For two straight hours, an estimated 250 cars came through the River Club Parking lot with their stuff. VGRC Community Association Board members plus 10 community volunteers were there assisting residents by quickly moving their items out of the car. The "Bucket Boys" were also there collecting donations.... thanks to those who dropped into the bucket their voluntary contribution. We shredded according to the company 6,000

lbs of paper. The City collected tons of junk. For some reason, this year a lot of junk included "outdoor furniture". For the first time, Goodwill was present. A letter from Goodwill is in the next article. Thanks to all those who attended this yearly VGRC Community Association function. Here are some comments received from those who came to Shredfest/Junkfest:



"Fabulous! Well done! Happy to volunteer next year."

"Please tell all those who organized and volunteered their time for Shredfest, Junkfest and Goodwill, a BIG THANK YOU for me."

"Thank you and all of your volunteers for the effort to make Junkfest/Shredfest a great success. This is probably the best coordinated event I have attended at VGRC ... period."

Wow... A Special Thank You Message from Rich Cautero, Venetian Resident and Goodwill Board Member: *On behalf of the entire Goodwill organization, a heartfelt thanks to the entire Venetian Community for their generous donations during the recent Shredfest event. This marked our first year participating, and it was an overwhelming success. Goodwill collected over 125 donations, including clothing, furniture, bicycles, lamps, and other household items. These donations filled an entire truck as well as two additional vans. Through the sale of your donated goods in their stores, Goodwill can provide training, job placement, and career services that lead to self-sufficiency. Over 64% of our team members possess a barrier to employment or disability. Goodwill is honored to invest resources in individuals who are seeking a hand up - not a handout, so they can achieve life success. During the past year, Goodwill Manasota placed 1,600 people in jobs and assisted 463 veterans. Veterans programs primarily focus on assistance reintegrating into the civilian workforce, and facilitating with emergencies and those in crisis. In addition to expressing gratitude to Venetian residents, a special thank you also to our Community Association and volunteers, for both their tremendous support and inviting Goodwill to participate. With Deep Appreciation, on Behalf of the Entire Goodwill Team, Rich Cautero, Venetian Resident & Goodwill Board Member"*

Town Hall Meeting ...Wow

- A. The Shopping Center which has been an issue since 2022 will go through an appeals hearing on April 9th before Venice City Council.
- B. When it comes to cell phones usage during a hurricane, it appears that no matter which carrier you have, one is no better than the other. Thus, in one area, Verizon could be in operation but in the same area, a tower for AT&T could be knocked down and thus, customers are without service.
- C. The CDD is undertaking an important initiative with landscaping.
- D. Once the Laurel Rd. Widening Project starts, expect at least a two-year period for construction.
- E. Northeast Venice still faces a major population boom. Please find attached a map with accompanying data on the back which shows what is taking place in this area.
- F. In the spirit of cooperation, all three on property organizations, CDD, POA and CA, have established their own liaisons to the other two groups.
- G. The five recipients of the Gratitude Award were honored as well as the retiring Venice City Manager.

See the pictures of the Town Hall Meeting at the end of Parcels as well as clicking on www.vgrcca.org

THIS AND THAT

A Great Resource

Looking for something to do? Probably one of the best sources is the Mainstreet Weekly which is published every month. Each edition is placed on the Community Association website at www.vgrcca.org. Some of you may be Elvis's fans which means you might be interested in getting tickets for the March 17 tribute to Elvis at the Venice Theatre. Performing that night is Dwight Icenhower (yep, you read it right). Click on the CA website to see the latest edition of Mainstream Weekly.

Food Lovers....Good news

Two more restaurants are open and ready for customers. **Jersey Mike's** has opened in Plaza Venezia with their delicious subs in the so called "Subway Plaza" which for years has been a target of jokes due to its lack of tenants. **500 Degrees** is also now open and take out and inside dining are available. If you like pizza and Italian food, give them a visit. Speaking of pizza, note that our own River Club has purchased a pizza oven providing the delicacy to our residents for pick up.

To Your Health

At the end of Parcels is a flyer announcing an early **April Health Fair** held at the **Venice Community Center on Wednesday, April 2nd**. Admission is free.

Thinking About Volunteering?

Thanks to the Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice for sending a crew of health professionals to the Town Hall Meeting on March 10 to take blood pressure. Consider volunteering at the hospital by clicking on <https://www.smh.com/Volunteers>

Hurricane Survey

Thanks to those residents who completed the Hurricane Survey provided by the City of Venice Citizen Advisory Board. The survey was intended for those who were here for Hurricane Helene and/or Milton to assess the role of the city during the storms. The report will be discussed at the next meeting of the Advisory Board on March 19th at 2 pm prior to being forwarded with recommendations to Venice City Council. For details about this meeting, as well as other public meetings, go to: <https://www.venicegov.com/>

FINAL THOUGHTS

At Shredfest, a license plate caught Parcels attention as the resident was driving through the event. As a follow up, Parcels asked the resident to share the story about the organization he belongs to. Their wonderful team travels to practically every disaster this nation faces. It's a great example of one's commitment to helping others in need as well as the strength of volunteerism.

Samaritan's Purse is a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet the needs of people who are victims of poverty, natural disasters, disease and famine. After natural disasters, such as tornadoes, floods, fires, earthquakes and hurricanes, volunteers will muck out water-logged homes, remove debris and rubble, cut fallen trees, and tarp damaged roofs. Building new homes for disaster victims has been a major part of their volunteer work after the storms. They have responded to floods in Eastern and Western Kentucky; tornadoes in Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee; as well as Hurricanes Ian, Helene and Milton in Florida. They have also been on the scene of the summer disaster in Asheville, N.C.

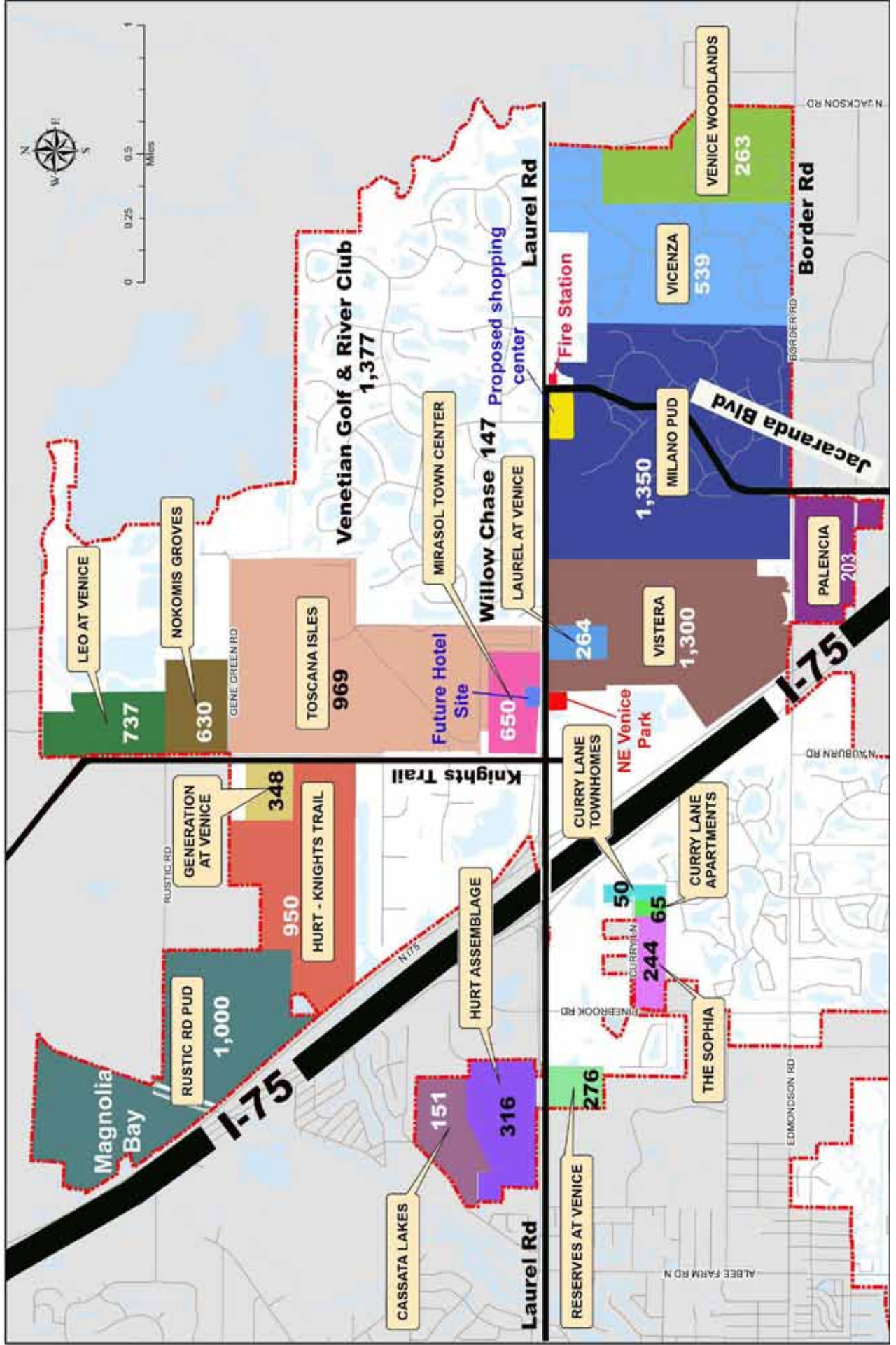
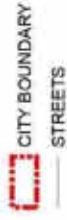




Northeast Venice Development Locations

Planning and Zoning Department 1-10-2025

March 2025



NE Venice Residential Development March 2025

<u>Location</u>	<u>Entitled Units</u>	<u>Built to Date</u>	<u>Type</u>
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Laurel Road East of I-75 plus Jacaranda Blvd

Laurel at Venice (Stiles multi-family)	264	0	MF
Milano PUD (Milano, Cielo, Aria, Fiore)	1,350	803	SF, MF
Mirasol Town Center (apartments & senior living)	650	515	MF
Vicenza	539	355	SF
Vistera (GCCF)	1,300	55	SF, MF
Venetian Golf & River Club	1,377	1,377	SF
Willow Chase	<u>147</u>	<u>147</u>	SF
TOTAL	5,627	3,252	

Border Road

Palencia	203	162	SF
Venice Woodlands	<u>263</u>	<u>223</u>	SF
TOTAL	466	385	

Knights Trail north of Laurel Road

Generation at Venice	348	0	MF
Hurt – Knights Trail	950	0	MF
Leo at Venice (Il Girasole)	737	0	?
Nokomis Groves	630	0	MF
Rustic Road (Magnolia Bay)	1,000	409	SF, MF
Toscana Isles	<u>969</u>	<u>969</u>	SF
TOTAL	4,634	1,378	

TOTAL for East of I-75	10,727	5,015	
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West of I-75

All developments TOTAL	1,167	549	SF, MF
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GRAND TOTAL	11,894	5,564	<u>47% Build-out</u>
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“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much”
~ H. Keller



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Advocating for the Community

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 with a strong emphasis on communication to residents.
- For more information about the Community Association including a calendar of events and a list of accomplishments, go to our website: <https://vgrcca.org/about/>

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:
Membership
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

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY DONATION: \$ _____

If you appreciate the value of Parcels, Seminars, Hurricane Response and other contributions of the Community Association, please consider making a donation in excess of required dues.

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: _____

TOWN HALL MEETING 2025



VENICE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



COMMUNITY

Health & Wellness Fair



PRESENTING SPONSOR:

Florida Blue 
Your Health Solutions Partner

Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025

10AM - 1PM

Join us for a

FREE EVENT

The Venice Community Center
**326 NOKOMIS AVE S,
VENICE, FL 34285**

-  MEET LOCAL HEALTH & WELLNESS PROFESSIONALS
-  HEAR FROM EXPERT SPEAKERS IN BREAKOUT SESSIONS
-  SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTER ON-SITE
-  VENDOR GIVEAWAYS & FIRST 100 ATTENDEES RECEIVE A SWAG BAG

Event Sponsors



Media Sponsors

Partner



VISIT VENICECHAMBER.COM FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS