

# PARCELS

FROM  
*Paradise*

March 2025

## APPETIZERS (Escargot)



This edition has been financially supported by VGRC Residents:

**CAROL WIGGINS**

Long time congenial resident of the VGRC

### Pantry Excess

If you are heading northward and have some extra food in the pantry that you don't want to sit around until your return, consider donating it to the South County Food Pantry at 121 Warfield, Venice. There are other food banks in the area, but the South County Pantry is probably the closest.

### Heavy Traffic

Many residents, especially those who have lived in Florida for at least a decade, have commented that there appears to be even more traffic this year. Given the large number of visitors to Florida plus the growing population of an area like northeast Venice, it makes sense. Often I-75 gets backed up throughout the day if there is an accident or even a broken-down truck on the side for gawkers to slow down and look. If you plan to get to Sarasota Airport ("SRQ"), it is suggested to leave plenty early and use a traffic monitor such as Waze.

There are plans to extend Lorraine Road east of I-75, connecting it to Knights Trail Road, offering an alternative to traffic-clogged Interstate 75. This project includes a 2.1-mile, four-lane road with sidewalks, buffered bike lanes, and other improvements. Finally, speaking of cars, it appears the State of Florida will be enacting a law requiring Florida drivers to have license plates on both the front and back of the car.



### Vacancies

Parcels frequently gets a few inquiries regarding two noticeable building vacancies. The first is our own Welcome Center, and the second is the old Venice Hospital on the island. Parcels contacted individuals who had knowledge of these two buildings and their response from both was the same...nothing yet is being planned. Stay tuned.



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)

## Reserves and Preserves vs. Development

As development continues to expand, new projects are emerging to the west and south of the Venetian, particularly along Laurel Road and Jacaranda/Border. However, the north and east sides tell a different story, where nature reserves and preserves remain protected. For updates on **Carlton Reserve, Rocky Ford Preserve, Sleeping Turtles Preserve, Pineland Preserve, and Scherer Thaxton Preserve**, [visit vgrcca.org](http://visit.vgrcca.org).

## ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

**Directory Release Forms** for inclusion in the 2025 Community Directory were sent out via email from the POA office on Monday, March 24. Please check your personal listing in the “old” 2024 Directory and provide any edits you wish to have published in the Directory. If your existing listing requires no changes, there is no need to return the form. If you are new to our community, be sure to complete the form. All forms should be either dropped off at the POA Office at the River Club, emailed to [Venetian@ciramail.com](mailto:Venetian@ciramail.com), or sent by mail to VG&RC POA General Manager, 502 Veneto Blvd, North Venice, FL 34275. **Please do this by April 15, 2025.** Directories are still available to residents. If interested, see Keith Livermore at the CDD Office.

## Northeast Park

Unless there is an unknown delay, look for work to start soon on the Northeast Park on Laurel Road. Once completed it will be the first comprehensive park of this nature in our area addressing the needs of all ages.

## Supporting Parcels

We are pleased with our advertising campaign for Parcels. The publication is sent out monthly to over 2000 emails receiving an amazing open rate of approximately 81 pct. Advertising cost is \$99.00 per edition. To secure a spot in one of our editions, send your contact information to [vgrcca@gmail.com](mailto:vgrcca@gmail.com)

## Creeping Down the Road

There is confirmation that on Laurel Road, across from the Laurel Nokomis School, that we will see a new residential area and a Panda Express restaurant. Parcels is checking on rumors about the further building of a large retail store as well as another restaurant. Stay tuned.

## Asian Market

If you want to have a different type of shopping experience, take a visit to the recently opened Asian Market on Tamiami, just south of Clark Rd. Of course, this new store has an endless supply of Asian food but quite noticeable are the long lines of cases with whole, fresh fish in them. If it turns your stomach to see one whole fresh fish after another, we suggest going to Publix. Take a visit to the store...you won't see many like it around here.

## Save the Date

The Venetian's Annual Hurricane Community Meeting coordinated by the Hurricane Response Team (HRT) has been scheduled for **Monday, June 2nd, 5 pm at the River Club**. With the start of the hurricane season on June 1st plus the “Mother Nature” experience that this community encountered last hurricane season, it is strongly recommended that residents attend this highly beneficial meeting. More details will be addressed in the May Parcels.



# MAIN COURSE (Veal Marsala)

## HRT Adopt-a-Radio Campaign Exceeds Expectations!

On Monday, March 31, the Community Association issued an appeal for donations on behalf of its highly regarded Hurricane Response Team ("HRT"). The team had identified a need for a dozen walkie-talkie radios to enable emergency communication when other systems are down, as occurred with 2024's Hurricane Milton. The campaign ended a week later after Venetian residents generously donated over five times our modest goal of \$420!

Extra funds will be placed in a dedicated account for other HRT needs over time; such as, safety vests and shirts for volunteers, lights, traffic cones, phone chargers and more. Our sincere thanks to those Venetian residents who showed their community spirit by responding to this request. **Their names are listed at the end of this edition of Parcels....**

...please note that some donors requested to remain anonymous. For those who were first to answer the request, their names will appear on the walkie-talkie.



## The Wall Gives You the Answer

### 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

on the heading for Wall of Something.

The Wall of Something is an electronic bulletin board on the Community Association's website we provide to our Venetian residents. You can Buy, Sell, Rent, get Recommendations for vendors, medical professionals, pet services, restaurants, points of interest, and add further requests (In Search Of).

#### Q: How do I get access to the Wall of Something?

A: Send an email to [vgrcca@gmail.com](mailto:vgrcca@gmail.com) and provide your name, home address and email address. You will be sent an email with instructions and a second email with the invitation to join. You must use your first and last name on your profile.

#### Q: How do I access the Wall of Something?

A: Go to the Community Association website ([www.vgrcca.org](http://www.vgrcca.org)) and click

#### Q: Are there instructions for using the Wall of Something?

A: Yes, go to HOME on the Wall of Something and you will find Helpful Information and instructional videos.

#### Q: What should I do when my item for sale has been sold?

A: When your item is sold, go into the Wall, click on your posting, and delete it by clicking on the trash can on the upper right.

#### Q: How long will my item stay on the Wall of Something?

A: The Wall Administrator will delete the item for sale after 6 months. But please attempt to go in yourself and handle tracking your items.

#### Q: Can anyone who is not a Venetian resident/owner get access to the Wall?

A: No

#### Q: Can annual rental residents get access to the Wall of Something?

A: Yes, as long as you are an annual resident, you can get an invitation to the Wall. We do not allow seasonal renters to access the Wall.

# DESSERT (CRÈME BRULÉ)

## Baby Talk

With the baby chicks (colts) freely walking around the VGRC, Parcels sought out an expert with several questions about the little guys and their parents.

### How long is the mating season? Is it once a year?

- Yes, sandhill cranes have one mating season per year, typically in late winter to early spring (February to April), depending on their location.
- They form lifelong pair bonds and perform elaborate courtship dances.



### How long does it take for a chick to grow and become independent?

- Chicks (called colts) hatch about 29-32 days after eggs are laid.
- They can walk and follow their parents within 24 hours of hatching.
- They stay with their parents for 9-10 months before becoming fully independent.
- By their first year, they usually separate and join flocks of other juveniles.

### Will the mom or dad attack if you get too close, or will they just walk away?

- Sandhill cranes are generally not aggressive toward humans, but they will defend their young if they feel threatened.
- Instead of attacking, they usually vocalize loudly, spread their wings, or move away.
- If provoked, they may use their sharp beaks or kick with their powerful legs, but this is rare.

### What food are they searching for when they tear up the ground (like on golf course fairways)?

- Sandhill cranes use their beaks to probe the ground for insects, grubs, worms, and small invertebrates.
- They also eat roots, tubers, seeds, and small vertebrates like lizards and frogs.
- Their foraging behavior can sometimes damage lawns, fairways, and agricultural fields.

Speaking of birds who fly, check out the wonderful stories about these great creatures on the Community Association's website at [www.vgrcca.org](http://www.vgrcca.org)

## Alligator Tales

April and May is the mating season for alligators, and you MAY see a change in their usual sedentary behavior. First, listen for a doglike barking sound from the male. Translated, it probably means "sweetheart, I'm in the lake on Padova and if you are interested, I'm available." Also, alligators often go from lake to lake searching for that perfect mate. So, you possibly may see a gator crossing the road at all hours of the day and night. And, in some cases, the gator may decide to take a short cut through yes....your yard. Don't panic...just watch. Therefore, during the alligator season, just be a little smarter to your proximity to a lake or taking your dog for a walk. If you decide to walk in the dark, you might want to take a flashlight.

Remember, alligators were here first ....many, many years ago. If you really run into a problematic gator, contact CDD Field Supervisor, Keith Livermore, whose office is in the River Club.





## Wait a Minute... *But There's More!*

On Wednesday, April 2nd a small alligator was spotted in the River Club (RC) swimming pool. How the alligator got into the pool is unknown but probably the little guy (might have even been a gal) came from the lake near the RC. **If you want to see the video of his late afternoon swim, go to [www.vgrcca.org](http://www.vgrcca.org)** The little guy swam around to the delight of a crowd of onlookers until a brave and fearless River Club employee came to the rescue attempting to coax the gator out of the pool (*"Here gator, gator, gator. ... c'mon out here and get some of Chef's Bryan's delicious extra rare prime rib"*). Eventually the little guy climbed out of the pool and with a cocky attitude that he swam in "their pool" returned to his home lake. To the best of River Club historians, this is a very rare occurrence, but it does reinforce the above story that gators become a little friskier and more mobile this time of the year. If there was one good thing about the little guy's/gal's swimming in the pool, at least mamma was looking for him ...thank goodness!

## Sharpfest

For the second consecutive year, SharPfest came to the Venetian providing a service to VGRCCA members, sharpening everything from kitchen tools to garden tools. The event "sold out" quickly which may result in VGRCCA planners looking into whether SharPfest might be a twice-a-year event for members.



## Music to your Ears

The Venice Symphony has published its 2025-26 season brochure. Seats go fast, so if interested in buying season tickets or for certain concerts, go to <https://www.thevenicesymphony.org/>. The preview of the 2025-26 season is also online. There are three concerts per weekend, all held at the Venice Performing Arts Center ("VPAC") which is located on the campus of Venice High School. For those who want a different type of music experience, Venice Symphony added three concerts featuring the **Venice Symphony Big Bands**. Check it out. The Venice Symphony adds so much to one's local cultural experience and is so convenient for VGRC residents.



## A Knockout for a "Knock Your Socks Off II" Season



With the bird watching field trip to the Rookery on April 10 for a very educational seminar, it concludes the 2024-25 "Knock Your Socks Off II" season of events and seminars. It appears the History of Venice seminar and the Michael Wendroff "What Goes Around" book presentation/signing were the two most attended seminars at the River Club. In addition, this year's Shredfest/Junkfest/+Goodwill drew approximately 250 cars... the largest in years. Although smaller in size, many residents attended the morning seminar

receiving legal advice on estate planning. It was a great year!

We know of no other community in the area that offers such an array of events and seminars for its residents. We offer special thanks to the VGRCCA members who provide funding for all events. The seminars and events are open to ALL residents. For those who attended one or more sessions this year but are not members of the Community Association, we hope that the quality of the event(s) convinced you to pay the \$30.00 membership fee. It's the right thing to do.

Finally, the CA would like to hear from you responding to two questions:

- First, your feedback about the seminars and events you attended this year.
- Suggestions for future seminars or events.

Please send your response to [vgrcca@gmail.com](mailto:vgrcca@gmail.com) Again, thanks to our members for their support.

# FINAL THOUGHTS

## Stepping Up to the Plate

“Stepping Up to the Plate” refers to individuals volunteering their time and talents for the community in which they live. There are a number of “Stepping Up to the Plate” activities at the VGRC ...the HRT, Flag Placement, Advisory Committees, Clean Up Laurel Road and a number of charitable events like the Twig and Our Mother’s House.

Most of us know from our life experiences that the quality of a community is closely linked to the many people who volunteer in their community... “step up to the plate.”

We also see the stepping up to the plate effort with schools, churches, Boy and Girl Scouts, sports team and more. For those who have volunteered throughout their lives, you know it brings on a very satisfying feeling.

We hope when you see the “help wanted” sign for opportunities like Advisory Committees, Flag Placement, Laurel Road Cleanup or even helping events like Shredfest, you will say, “Count on me to step up to the plate”.

Recently we had a great example of those who gave their time and talents. As you may know, the new TekWave access system is now up and running. You should download the new app that was introduced to provide the owner/tenants the ability to control visitors and contractors accessing the VGRC without calling the main gate.

To accomplish the conversion, every owner and tenant was asked to make an in-person visit to the River Club to verify their home ownership or tenant status. A Verification Team of twenty-one (21) resident volunteers spent hundreds of hours during the seven-week time period required to certify our 1,377 households. There was a lot of sacrifice on the part of the team members, but in the end, everyone said it was worth the effort. The following is the list of volunteers:



Jody Alexander	Amy Kirkpatrick
Pat Bernardini	Robin Kovacs
Pat Carr	David Moy
Katie Cornwell	Ted Samuel
Salli Duncan	Darlene Schimberg
Sarah Epperson	Ken Smaha
Mark Faford	Cyndi Snizek
Mary Margaret Freedman	Nancy Spokowski
Sharon George	Sandra Tedeschi
Pat Jones	Mario Yuri
Tom Jones	

*Thanks for “Stepping up to the plate!!!”*

## WE THANK YOU.

Below are the recent contributors to the Adopt-a-Radio Campaign enabling the purchase of new walkie-talkie radios for our outstanding Hurricane Response Team ("HRT").

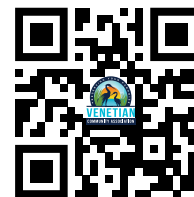
The VGRC Community Association, which started this program, and members of the HRT sincerely thank you for your donation.

The donors are:	Denise Adamich	Doug and Marsha Mills
	Bette Boysen	John and Charlene Moeckel
	Laurie Criegio	Kristy Murray
	Ken and Lois Deen	Dick and Sher Opal
	Joseph DeVirgilio	Jackie Patterson
	Rick Doherty and Mary Puleo	Anne and Dan Raleigh
	Salli and Tom Duncan	Marcie Rose and Tony Jarvis
	Jeff Freitag and Brenda Phillips	Tim and Mary Scanlon
	Richard and Bobbie Gilbert	Alan and Jackie Schaeperklaus
	Scott and Lorraine Goodspeed	Darlene and Tim Schimberg
	Audrey and Winston Gordon	Dave Thomas and Dawn Marshall
	Dede and Jim Ham	Allen and Catherine Troy
	Susan and John Ireland	Venetian Golf Club
	Janet and Larry Konkel	Diana Watters
	Nessa and Steve Kleinglass	Ed and Nancy Weiland
	Ken and Jeanne Lill	Mary Jo and Denny Weisert
	Thomas and Carol Long	Iris Williams
	Diane and Ed McKeever	Ron and Ann Woods
	Jerry McNiskin and Gina Trelle	Steve and Ann Young

*Again, thank you for your donation!*



"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much"  
~ H. Keller



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](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 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: \_\_\_\_\_