

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise



June 2025

ALL THE NEWS PRETTY MUCH FIT TO PRINT

What's Going Up There?

Parcels has received a few questions as to what they are building in an unusual spot on Jacaranda just past Border Rd. on the right. Parcels did the research and discovered that the site is the Altera Jacaranda, a garden-style, multi-family development comprising 280 units divided amongst five four-story buildings. The residences are a mix of one-bedroom to three-bedroom layout plans. Communal amenities at the Class A development include a dog park and outdoor pet washing station, resort-style swimming pool, co-working spaces and fitness center. Developers intend to deliver the project by the second quarter of 2026. Altera Jacaranda intends to appeal to budget-conscious tenants looking to reside in a new development in southwestern Florida.

Park It

As you can see by driving down Laurel, contractors are hard at work in constructing the Venice Northeast Park. City officials are estimating April of 2026 as the completion date of the project. Parcels gets first dibs for the pickleball court.

Where's the Pressure?

So, where's the increased water pressure that Parcels has written about?

According to Venice Utilities, they are hoping to have the facility in operation by the end of June. Unfortunately, the project to build a water booster station near VGRCC has been experiencing issues with computer programs necessary to run the equipment.



A Wait and See Game

With the legal challenges for building the Shopping Center across the street finalized, it's a wait and see before we notice any site development activity. What is known at this time is that Publix appears to be the gate keeper in terms of what stores will be on the premise.

Changes at City Hall

Lloyd Weed, former Chair of the Venice Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), was recently appointed to a seat on Venice City Council by Council vote replacing Joan Farrell who resigned from Council. Roger Effron replaced Weed as Chair of the CAB. Note that there will not be any City Council Election in November, 2025.



Thank you for reading PARCELS. If you have a story idea, click on "REPLY" and let us know!

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Access to the Wall of Something

Welcome to the Wall of Something! This amenity is brought to you by the VGRC Community Association. You can buy, sell, rent, find or give recommendations for a variety of services and dining on the Wall of Something. To read or post onto the Wall of Something, you must be a VGRC resident.

STEP 1 To get an account, you MUST FIRST email vgrccawall@gmail.com with your full name and property address to request access to an account. You will receive two follow-up emails. The first will have instructions and a second will be an invitation email with the link to join the Wall of Something. This prevents "outsiders and yes, scammers" from posting on the Wall of Something. Each account is email specific.

STEP 2 Once you have an account set up, you will be able to access the Wall directly from the VGRCCA website. Directions for posting are on the first page of the Wall of Something. If you have any difficulties, you can email the volunteer Wall of Something Administrator at vgrccawall@gmail.com.

If you have sold your posted item, or decided to donate it, remember to go back to the Wall and delete your post.



Aldi and Sprouts

The Jacaranda corridor from the roundabout to Center Road is getting filled with more houses and apartments. As expected, retail stores follow the homebuyer. Thus, in the shopping plaza on Jacaranda before Center Road, Aldi will now occupy the former Winn-Dixie Store. Also on Jacaranda, they are building a new Sprouts.



SMH on the Move

The Sarasota County Public Hospital Board gave the go-ahead to a \$29 million expansion of the radiology and MRI services for the SMH Venice Hospital campus at its May 20 meeting. The board also approved a \$30 million expansion of its cardiac electrophysiology space to meet an increasing demand for that service, which focuses on heart rhythm disorders. Boy are we lucky to have a highly rated hospital just a stone throws away. And if you get hit in the face by a stone thrown at you, remember you can be in the SMH emergency room in no time at all.



Pick Ups

You just bought a new Weber gas grill and want to dispose of the old one. Who do you call? Surely not Ghostbusters but instead the Public Works of Venice at **941-486 2422**. Every Thursday they have a special pickup for large items. You may have to wait a week or so after you make your call. There are costs to the resident for some pickups, but most pickups are free. They pick up about everything except tires and hazardous waste. As this city does offer this pickup service, please do not leave your unneeded grill or your old furniture at the end of your driveway.it looks bad for the "hood" especially to those looking for a house in our well kept up community.

Lightning Causes Fire on Boardwalk

It's assumed the fire started on Sunday night around 9pm when we had the electrical storm. Fortunately, we had a couple of inches of rain with the lightning, so the underbrush was wet and not nearly as flammable. The fire apparently smoldered all night and was discovered by a boardwalk user on Monday (Memorial Day) morning. The River Club staff were working Monday morning to set up for the Memorial Day pool event and were alerted by the walker. A couple of the staff doused the burning area with buckets of water they carried down the boardwalk in a golf cart. VFD was also called and sent a truck, however the staff was apparently successful in putting the fire out.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

90 CLUB

The practice that has been followed by Parcels since its inception is not to make the publication about people. However, when you reach the age of 90, you certainly deserve the recognition. We put out the request for Club 90, that being residents who live in this community who have reached the ripe age of 90. May we pay tribute to the first members of Club 90 who are:

Thelma Block – born 1934 (Franklin D. Roosevelt, President)

Ted Block – born 1931 (Herbert Hoover, President)

If you know the Blocks, please acknowledge the above.

If you are aware of a resident who has reached the age of 90, encourage them to send their name and year of birth to vgrcca@gmail.com



CHARITABLE ACT

If the shoe fits, give it to Charity

Ajax Paving, our neighbor to the north, has been a great neighbor. Recently, they met with VGRC officials to quickly remedy a light issue affecting some Venetian residents. They also have a wonderful Thanksgiving Drive where Venetian residents pitch in with donating tons of food.

Now Ajax has a charitable initiative called “*Ajax Fostering Feet Shoe Drive*”. All shoes collected will go only to children in the foster system. The flyer for this project is at the end of Parcels. Scan the QR code and you can shop directly from their Amazon wish list and ship directly to the Ajax office in Venice.

You can also send a check to Ajax – just put “shoe drive” in the memo, and they can do the shopping for you. With all cash collected, Ajax purchases brand name shoes (Nike, Crocs, Adidas etc.) for the older kids. You can even bring the shoes to Ajax’s local home office. turn on Knights Trail from Laurel, go about a mile or so down Knights Trail until you see the Ajax sign on the right. Then turn right which will lead you up the road to Ajax on the left. Signage is very visible.

Looking for Veterans

The Venetian Veterans Charity Committee is seeking a veteran to join this committee in planning the 9th annual charity event to be held at the Venetian Golf Club on Thursday, November 6, 2025. Membership in the golf club is not required. All proceeds benefit the Bay Pines Fisher House in St. Petersburg, FL. The Fisher House Foundation provides a “home away from home” for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers in the U.S. and overseas. These homes provide free temporary lodging so active duty and veterans’ families can be close to their loved ones during treatment. Since the event’s inception we have raised over \$130,000 for the Fisher House. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Ken Deen at wkdeen@verizon.net or cell phone 937-684-2708.



IT'S ABOUT HURRICANES

Hurricane Preparation Meeting at the VGRC

A full house was present at the River Club to hear speakers at the Community Hurricane Preparation Meeting on June 2nd. Representatives from the city, including the Assistant City Manager and the Venice Fire Chief along with the County Emergency Director, provided some very valuable information to residents. It gave all attendees a better picture of hurricanes in general. Their PowerPoint presentation was outstanding. The one element that all speakers emphasized is ***now is the time for residents to prepare.*** The program was put on by the Hurricane Response Team, created and funded by the VGRC Community Association.



HURRICANE EXPO

The VGRC was well represented at the annual Hurricane Expo at the Venice Community Center on May 30th. In fact, the VGRC was the only community represented amongst the many vendors in the large hall. The booth provided information about our Hurricane Response Team or HRT. There were many questions from the attendees who stopped by the booth. Some shared their frustrations about getting volunteers to assist in their community for a project like our own HRT. Handouts were provided to those seeking more information.



FACING A HURRICANE SEASON WITH A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

The CDD, POA, Neighborhood Associations/HOA and the VGRC Community Association recognize that pre-and-post storm communication is vital. Previous storms over the last several years have proven that information is desired and needed. We have heard you and are taking steps to improve our post storm communications. As an addition to the numerous informative community emails about preparation and response, the Community Association has launched a Facebook page that can be accessed by residents, their families and friends. This private Facebook site, "Hurricane Corner-Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association" (see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hurricanecornervgrcca>) will be used to provide information pre-storms and to frequently update members following a storm. Note: This is in addition to the community emails that are sent two-three times daily. If you are not a Facebook member, we encourage you to consider joining for the purpose of receiving and sending information.

Need assistance joining Facebook? Joe Browne, a Community Association Board Member and the Webmaster for all Community Association webpages, has offered to assist anyone who needs help. Contact Joe Browne at vgrccaweb@gmail.com

Also, don't forget to visit our hurricane information site, The Hurricane Corner: <https://vgrcca.org/hurricane-corner>

Not Really Shocking

At the Expo, Parcels approached a team from Florida Power and Light or FPL. Given the many thunderstorms we face during the summer months, occasionally there is an electrical strike which zaps the power. This is minor compared to a hurricane where areas go without power for even weeks. The FPL was sensitive to this concern and said that finding the problem is all part of the process. The representative said imagine a long extension cord that breaks and your job is to find the break and repair it. **They supplied the chart at the end of Parcels which gives a visual explanation of the issue.** As part of your hurricane preparation, have you thought through -- and actually started -- planning for a scenario where you have no electricity for a week?

Interesting Product

While at the Hurricane Expo, Parcels walked over to the next booth staffed by the good folks from Ace Hardware on Jacaranda. One of their products on display caught Parcels' attention. The product is called "QuickDam". The Ace owner indicated that it is a unique sand-type product that you can put near your garage door or front door if you see water rising on your property. The product was first launched in 2015. Parcels is not endorsing this or any other product but wanted to share a possible resource needed during a hurricane. If you go to Ace Hardware on Jacaranda, mention that you read it in Parcels. For product information go to: <https://www.acehardware.com/departments/building-supplies/concrete-cement-and-masonry/flood-barriers/5699277>



FINAL THOUGHTS

We Can Do Better

As one knows, a great deal of deserved attention is given to those who have valiantly served our country. At the VGRC, we celebrate three national holidays by placing American flags on our front entrance and the roundabout near the River Club. We get many compliments from both visitors and residents about this patriotic gesture.

Volunteers are needed to place the flags, and we usually make the need known via Parcels. For Memorial Day, beside some CA Board members, we had only several volunteers. ***We can do better than that!***

July 4th is our next flag placement opportunity and hopefully we will have more volunteers. As we celebrate the 249th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence this July 4th, the Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association will again honor our country's founding by displaying flags along the community entrance and River Club roundabout. **Residents wishing to assist placing flags should meet in the welcome center parking lot at 8:30 AM on Thursday July 3rd to assist.** We are counting on an army of volunteers to assist with this project for our July 4th celebration.



How we restore power

Be prepared: [FPL.com/storm](https://www.fpl.com/storm)

Safety is always FPL's first priority. We urge customers to make it their top priority, too.

We don't restore power based on when customers report an outage, where customers live or the status of accounts. Rather, we begin in multiple locations and follow an overall plan that calls for restoring power to the largest number of customers safely and as quickly as possible.

- A** We start by repairing any damage to our power plants and the power lines that carry electricity from our plants to the local substations.
- B** We prioritize restoring power to main lines that serve major hospitals and 911 centers, in addition to those facilities identified by the counties as critical infrastructure functions such as police and fire stations, water treatment plants, transportation providers and communication facilities.
- C** At the same time, we work to return service to the largest number of customers in the shortest amount of time – including service to major thoroughfares that host supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations and other needed community services.
- D** From here, we repair the infrastructure serving smaller groups and neighborhoods, converging on the hardest-hit areas until every customer's power is restored.



[FPL.com](https://www.fpl.com)

CHANGING THE CURRENT  FPL



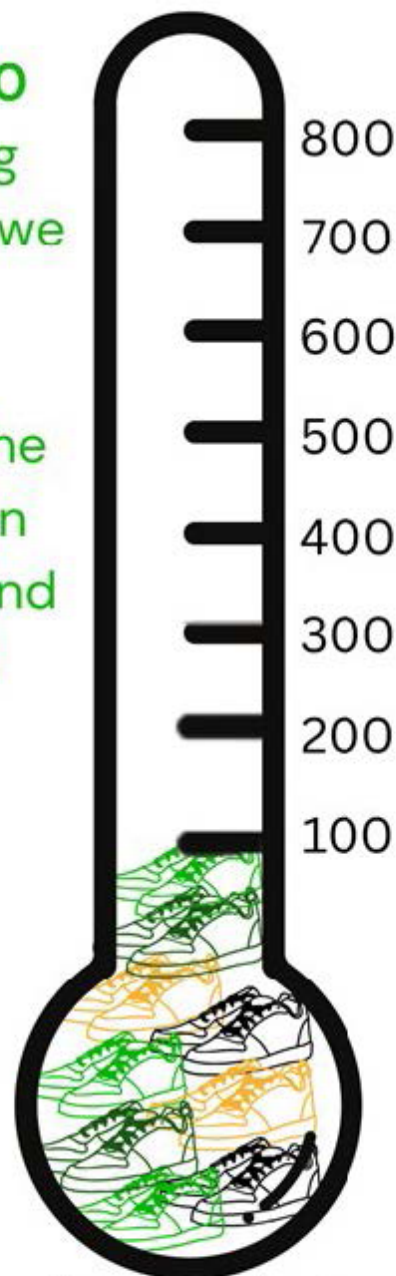
Help Us Reach Our Goal!

10th Annual Fostering Feet Shoe Drive

We're on a mission to donate **800 pairs of shoes** to The Twig during this year's annual shoe drive—and we can't do it without YOU!

Every pair makes a difference in the life of a foster child. Your donation helps bring confidence, comfort, and care to those who need it most!

Scan Here



How to Give:



Drop off at your local Ajax Office



Send a monetary donation – we'll do the shopping!



Bring shoes to our event on July 10th

826 Pinebrook Road Venice, FL 34285

The **Twig**

"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

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: _____