

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise



August 2025

THINGS TO DO

Post on the Wall of Something

Even with the reduction of summer residents, the Wall of Something is quite busy. Any resident is permitted to have access to the Wall. Go to www.vgrcca.org. Directions on how to sign in are located on the Wall's home page. Recently a dog who needed to be adopted got some play within two days.....and finally found a home. The Wall is open to only Venetian residents which prevents scammers and outsiders from having access. The Wall is operated by the Community Association and supported financially by its members.

THE WALL OF SOMETHING

An Electronic Bulletin Board for all Venetian Residents!



Visit us at www.vgrcca.us and Click the wall of something

Web Education Tuesdays

The Community Association will continue to hold classes and personal instruction for the Community Association webpage (vgrcca.org) and Facebook navigation. The classes are held in the River Club La Sala bar area at 10 am on Tuesdays. Send a note to vgrccaweb@gmail.com to ask for help or confirm your attendance in a class.

Farmers Market....An enjoyable experience

Have you been to the Venice Farmers Market lately on Saturday mornings from 8 am -1 pm? If you have not, Parcels is simply encouraging you to **"GO."** The City has redesigned the layout of the Farmers Market with most of it located in the back parking lot of City Hall. There is plenty of room to stroll. The Market is quite diversified with not only the traditional farming vegetable and fruit vendors, but booths of artwork, dog gifts and a variety of food vendors. You can even get your morning bagel fix at the Market. Bravo to the city for coming up with the redesign. And now, with the Snowbirds tucked away into their summer quarters, it would be a great time to visit for easy access to all booths.



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Venice Symphony

Single tickets are on sale now for this year's Venice Symphony season. Remember the phrase years ago of "Try it, you'll like it." That's true for the Venice Symphony which has a hybrid of music...some classical, some light. The Symphony is under the direction of the dynamic and audience engaging Maestro Troy Quinn. For more information click <https://www.thevenicesymphony.org/>. If you have never been to a Symphony performance at the Venice Performing Arts Center on the campus of Venice High,...*"try it...you'll like it!"*



Special post article quiz. Remember the product advertisement whose tag line was "Try it, you'll like it"? Without looking at Google, the first one who emails Parcels with the answer will win that product ...and by the way, it's not a new Lexus.

Venice Football

There is nothing like Friday night high school football. Our hometown boys - not sure if they have females on this year's team - feel as if they are playing before 60,000 devoted fans. However, the Venice Indians attract a sizeable crowd for a high school game. The team has a history of winning records. In fact, last year they were state champs. By attending a game, it will certainly bring back memories... the cheerleaders pumping up the crowd; the band and drill team with its entertaining half time show; and finally, those young adolescent boys and girls hanging around the concession stand taking in the "sights" with their hormones ready to explode. And to be honest, they care nothing about the game. Gimme a V...Gimme a E....Gimme N...etc. etc.

For the Venice Indian season schedule, go to <https://www.veniceindianfootball.org/schedule-and-results>



A Walk in the Park

An arboretum is a designated green space that serves as a gallery of trees and shrubs...and we have one in our fine City. It is at the Monty Andrews Arboretum which is on the island at 401 Pensacola Road near the Venice Community Center. There are over 100 trees and palms with plaques featuring growth and habituate information.

Centennial Volunteer Request

The City of Venice will celebrate 100 Years of Your City on the Gulf! Beginning with the 2025 Holiday Parade, the City will celebrate the Centennial with a variety of events, lectures, contests, art installations, and community engagement over 18 months. The Centennial Volunteer Registration portal allows residents and visitors to sign up for specific Centennial events of their choosing hosted by the City or partners, or to express general interest in volunteering through all facets of the Venice Community. Registrants will receive updates and emails about upcoming volunteer opportunities throughout the celebration. Sign-up online with the link below

<https://forms.office.com/r/GSYc5X8Jci>

Bells are Ringing

School bells are ringing signaling the start of the 2025-26 school year. For those school-aged youngsters who live in the Venetian we are confident you will have a great year. For those adults who happen to speed in well-marked school zones, many now with cameras, get ready to dole out an amount of money in fines that you could spend for multiple dinners at the Hyde Park Steakhouse. There are also volunteer opportunities at Sarasota County Schools. Click on for more information:

<https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/page/volunteer>

To all the teachers, students, administrators and staff, have a great school year!



Good News for the NE Park

Latest word....the NE Park on Laurel Rd. is scheduled to open in April 2026. Rumors have it that pickleball players are already lined up on Laurel to get first dibs on the new courts. This new park will enhance the popularity of northeast Venice and may be considered another consideration for one to buy a home in the area.

And we have some late breaking news.....

The Community Association recently submitted an application to the city and now has officially adopted the park as part of the City's Adopt-a-Park program.

HRT UPDATES

HRT: PLEASE "CHECK ON ME" PROGRAM

The HRT (Hurricane Response Team) is offering an additional service this year under the ***"Check On Me"*** program. We understand that a hurricane can be a frightening experience and for your peace of mind (and that of your families), you may wish to have someone ring your doorbell and check on you and your family after any storm that we may experience. (Our HRT members will also have information such as phone numbers that you might need to obtain for post-storm services).



To have a member of the team check on you and your family after a storm, you will need to register. Look for an email coming out soon that provides a link to an online form that provides our team with the necessary information to provide this service. This service is in addition to the service that we offer to our neighbors who have medical needs and are contacted before and after a hurricane.

FACEBOOK

In May, The HRT launched a private Facebook site that will be used after a storm to receive and convey information in a timely manner. (The twice daily emails to the community will continue). To date, 432 people have signed up. If you are interested, please see:

www.facebook.com/groups/hurricanecornervgrcca

Joe Browne - a member of the HRT, the webmaster for the Community Association's web pages, and a CA board member - is offering classes every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am at the River Club on how to navigate the webpages and sign up for the private Facebook page. Bring your laptop or other device to the class and start navigating right away. Just let Joe know if you would like to join him. You can sign up for a class by sending Joe an email: vgrccaweb@gmail.com

Did you know that you can directly access flood zones and evacuation levels on the CA Front page now at vgrcca.org? Also, a composite way to protect your information on Facebook as well as being cyber safe and savvy is also there for the taking.

LOCAL NEWS

New Owner...Venice Golf Shop

The Venice Golf Center located in the strip center on Jacaranda has had over the years many customers from the Venetian. The business has been sold to a new owner who assures customers that the store will still have an abundance of golf equipment and supplies along with the ingredient that counts....excellent customer service from Mr. Patel and staff.



Faster than a speeding bullet

Speaking of the Jacaranda strip center, there is a new Circle K being built -- and built in record time. It is scheduled to open in August. You might want to count how many service stations are located on Jacaranda, between Laurel and 41. With the Circle K addition, Parcels counts 8. Jacaranda is a busy interstate exit which makes you wonder whether Exit 195 will see an increased number of hotels and service stations.

Don't take a Chance

If you feed the VGRC alligators or take your dog near an alligator-occupied lake, especially at dawn or dusk, you risk your life and possibly your canine. Years ago there was a resident who had habit of feeding the alligators.... and he paid the price...not of his life but of a serious injury. Please heed this announcement.



It Blew Away

Ever since Parcels has been published, the **Wee Blew Inn** Restaurant on Rt. 41 has been mentioned as a great eating place, especially breakfast. The service could be described as "homey" with customers often referred to as "sweetie or honey." Sadly, the Wee Blew Inn Restaurant is closing unless there is a buyer to continue its tradition. Let's hope so.

Hilton on Laurel Nixed

For the time being, it ain't going to happen. The scheduled Hilton Hotel on Laurel in front of the apartment complex was rejected by the Planning Commission in a recent hearing. Whether the plans will be altered is to be seen.

Who Do you Call?

Parcels mentioned the following subject various times over the years. Let's say you notice some teenaged trespassers fishing in one of the lakes or even catch a glimpse of one of those infamous Porch Pirates. What you don't do is call the Guard House.... **instead call 911**. Our privacy officers have no authority over any possible criminal activity. Also, for those who are new to the community, there is a misconception that our security officers have authority to deny someone from entering the property. No they don't! Anyone can be admitted to the VGRC. Guards can ask where the individual is going (i.e. purpose) and will certainly take a picture of the guest's car, but that's it.



THE VARIETY PACK

You Look BEEutiful (Billy Crystal)

For those who are snowbirds, wait until you get back and see the refreshing new painting of the River Club exterior. The CDD gets the applause for making it happen. Good job, folks!

New City Manager

The Community Association reported in a special July email that James Clinch will become the new City Manager of Venice in early August. Previously, he served as Assistant City Manager. He replaces well-respected and Venetian resident Ed Lavallee. Many say that Mr. Clinch got the nod because the city is moving in the right direction, and given his experience in various city positions, that positive direction should continue.



A Special Prayer

Many residents have added a new line to their evening prayers:

- I pray for peace on earth
- I pray for goodwill for all mankind
- I pray that something soon will be done with the Welcome Center eyesore.

The Season Begins...

Bears, Bills, Eagles, KC, Giants, Bengals? Who is your pick for leaving Levi Stadium in February with the trophy? And related to the previous story, will we know what will become of the Welcome Center by Super Bowl time?

New Center for Community Empowerment

The community outreach and after-school educational programs offered by Laurel Civic have outgrown their original location at the Sandra Sims Terry Community Center, with an ever-growing waiting list of families for its after-school tutoring program. Last month Laurel Civic Executive Director unveiled plans to build a new 70,000-square-foot "Center for Community Empowerment" and a \$50 million fundraising campaign to build it on four acres across from Laurel Nokomis School, on the property that is currently being cleared. Laurel Civic will be able to expand its adult and youth empowerment programs and welcome other nonprofits under its roof to create a community resource.



They're Back



Think of Jack Nicholson's famous line of "I'm Back" in the movie, The Shining. Well. Walmart has purchased 22 acres of land in the area that is being currently cleared across from Laurel Nokomis School. They're back. Walmart has a history with Venice, and the VGRC. Back in 2007-2008, there were plans to build a Walmart at the corner of Knights Trail and Laurel Rd. When the new Venetian residents heard the news, they banded together to fight the development. And with the process of addressing the issue, the Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association was born, focusing at that time on "outside the gate" activity. The Venetian team

met directly with the developer to resolve the issue rather than going the judicial route. Walmart and the developer eventually bowed out of their interest in the location.

Besides the Walmart initiative, over the years the CA successfully lobbied for the extension of Jacaranda Blvd, lobbied for the building of the Sarasota Memorial Hospital – Venice, addressed the noise issue from the industrial park to our north and also successfully lobbied for the landscaping project at the Laurel Rd. exit.

There is no timeline yet for the opening of the Walmart.

Parcels has also reported that a Panda Express will be built on this same property. And if you speak to those who know all, you might be hearing about a major big box hardware store and a well-known steakhouse on Laurel that is being cleared.

Upcoming Seminars & Events

The Community Association's Seminars & Events Committee has been very busy and making great progress on planning activities for this upcoming season. More details will follow and a color brochure titled **"Knock Your Socks Off III"** will be available around mid-September listing all scheduled activities.

We started the season early with a special event held on July 8. Arranged by the leader of the Community Association Hurricane Response Team, Mary Rau-Foster, the renowned ABC7 chief meteorologist Bob Harrigan enlightened a packed audience in the River Club with a tour de force of the history, most recent, current, and near future of the weather events which set Florida apart from other states — hurricanes. This event was videotaped and is available for viewing on VGRCCA.org.

We will once again offer the very popular Bike-O-Rama, Shredfest/Junkfest, CPR/AED training and SharPfest events. In addition, we have also scheduled many exciting seminars.

For your planning purposes, here is an early preview of some of our upcoming activities:

- Medicare 101 Seminar – September 29, 2025 at 5pm
- "Finding Purpose in Your Later Years" seminar – October 7, 2025
- SharPfest – November 22, 2025 (at the Golf Course parking lot)
- CPR/AED/Heimlich Maneuver training – November 18, 2025
- Current Scams seminar by Venice Police Dept – December 8, 2025



FINAL THOUGHTS

"It's Only Right"

We often hear the phrase "it's only right." Basically, that translates into something is the correct or appropriate thing to do. **The Community Association (CA)** offers to its residents a variety of events and seminars. If you have been here awhile you should know them...Shredfest, Junkfest, Bike-O-Rama, the Hurricane Response Team, Candidate Forum, Town Hall Meetings and a whole bunch of individual educational seminars. Only a few of these activities are reserved for members. And we can't forget Parcels from Paradise which brings to all residents the latest news. The cost of the above list is paid for by those who join the Community Association ...just \$30 bucks a year.

We know there are those residents who attend and participate in these extras provided by the CA...but **do not** join the CA, letting others pay the cost. If you are reading this edition of Parcels, or have attended CA events during the past year, we respectfully ask you to join the CA by completing the Membership form at the end of this edition or go online at

www.vgrcca.org ...***It's Only Right.***



"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: _____