

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

September 2025



This edition has been financially supported by VGRC Residents

**LINDA
CARLSTROM**

Long time congenial resident
of the VGRC

STAYING CURRENT

Laurel Rd. Widening

Just waiting for a few “behind the scenes” action steps; such as, request for proposals and purchase of right of ways, before we see some earth moving on Laurel Rd. Look to late 2025 or early 2026 for some visible road action.

Shopping Center

There was some work recently on the lake seen immediately after you turn right on Jacaranda. This lake will ultimately be drained which is one of the first steps in the process in changing the land to one ready to house a new shopping center. There is no certain date on the actual clearing of property but the attention to the lake indicates clearing will happen soon.

Northeast Park

On schedule and ready to open in April 2026 or sooner. As indicated in a previous *Parcels*, the VGRC Community Association has adopted the park.

Clearing across from Nokomis School

Two things learned from a recent conversation with a city official: although it was reported that Walmart would be building on this location, they have not officially applied for a permit. In addition, and not reported in the last *Parcels*, a carwash will also be on property. Naturally there is concern with the shopping center being located across from Laurel Nokomis School. Both school and county officials (Laurel Road is a county, not city road) are getting an early start on how to best handle this situation.

Border is Getting Busy

There is future activity taking place on Border and Auburn Rd. A new housing community will be built on 40 acres of property along Auburn, north of the Fox Lea Farms. Also on Border Road, overlooking interstate 75, there will be a new storage facility. One thing you might notice about the growth in Venice is the number of storage facilities being built. One could speculate as to why the apparent need for additional storage facilities. Perhaps it can be attributed to those who downsize their northern homes when moving south and bring many of their cherished belongings including that Lazy Susan which was received at your wedding in 1971 or the lamp shade that grandma gave you when you moved into your first house and finally, those 12 perfect attendance and honor roll plaques you received in high school. Trust *Parcels*. ultimately you will emotionally be able to release your past which will allow you to reduce the need and cost of a storage facility.



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Get Ready....Here we Come

It will be worth the wait! The Community Association's Seminars & Events Committee is finalizing its color brochure titled **"Knock Your Socks Off III"** listing the scheduled seminars and events for the upcoming season. We expect to distribute this brochure in the next week!



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

- **Medicare 101 Seminar** – September 29, 2025, at 5 p.m.
- **"Finding Purpose in Your Later Years" seminar** – October 7, 2025
- **SharPfest** – November 22, 2025 (at the Golf Course parking lot)
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cryptocurrency overview for non-experts** – November 3, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- **CPR/AED/Heimlich Maneuver training** – November 18, 2025
- **Current Scams seminar by Venice Police Dept** – December 8, 2025

Except for SharPfest, these activities are offered free to residents. When an activity has limited availability, VGRCCA members will have priority registration. To check the status of your membership or to join, please go to the "Membership" tab on VGRCCA.org.

Laurel Road Landscape Project: Enhancing Beauty and Security

(We asked CDD Board member Cheryl Terrana to write the following article elaborating on the landscape work on Laurel Rd.)

As you may have noticed, the Venetian CDD is beginning work on the landscaping along the Laurel Road border. Much of the existing landscaping is being replaced in preparation for new plantings. This project aims to restore areas damaged by recent hurricanes while enhancing the overall beauty of our community and creating a natural barrier for added security.

Over time, we've observed an increase in non-residents entering through the buffer area—often for activities like fishing. To address this, the CDD Landscape Committee and Board of Supervisors has worked with a landscape architect to design a landscape plan that will not only improve aesthetics but also act as a deterrent to unwanted entry. The new plantings will feature terracing with fire bush and cardboard palms, creating a dense, visually appealing barrier. The updated landscaping will also include vibrant, native plants such as Liriope, Ixora, ornamental grasses, as well as beautiful trees like Pink Tabebuia and Lacebark Elms. For homes closest to Laurel Road, where headlights and noise can be a nuisance, the terracing and plant density was designed to help reduce these disturbances. In some areas, you'll notice certain existing plantings marked with tape. These are healthy plants that will be trimmed and preserved as part of the final design. The funds for this project come from the hurricane assessment we collected previously, thus ensuring no additional cost to residents.

The landscaping work will start on the west side of the community (near the 9th hole of the golf course) and continue eastward, all the way to the Venice Myakka River Park at the very end of Laurel. In the park area, we'll be adding a row of cardboard palms to further discourage entry. Please note that this phase of the project does not include updates to the entry monuments. Our next project, focused on refreshing the community's entrance and surrounding areas, has already begun. This includes a design for the entrance, the three islands after the entrance, and the area along Veneto Drive. These changes will create a cohesive theme for the community and replace trees lost during the hurricanes. Additional landscaping updates will also be made to the large roundabout near the River Club and the River Club entrance. Together, these projects will enhance the beauty of our community and improve property values. We're excited to see these improvements unfold, and we thank you for your patience as we work to enhance our shared spaces.

THE VENETIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES "YOUR DONATION MATTERS"



The Venetian Community Association ("CA") has just launched a donations option, conveniently available on the Membership & Donations page of its website, <https://vgrcca.org/membership/>. This change was made after numerous residents expressed a desire to help the CA offset increasing operating costs and improve its services without increasing dues.

Donating is quick and easy: simply visit the Membership & Donations page on our website. Donations can be made by credit card or PayPal, or by downloading and printing the Membership form and mailing it with your check. Donations of \$50 (Gold) and \$100 or more (Platinum) will be acknowledged by annually publishing donors' names in Parcels, although donors may choose to remain anonymous.

We are thankful for the support the Venetian community has shown the CA over the years. With your help, we will work to make living at the Venetian even more stimulating and engaging!

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR ALL VGRC RESIDENTS.

Dear Beloved Residents:

Me and the rest of the birds (pronounced "boyds" on Long Island) have flocked together to write this note to you. The last thing we want to do is to start birddogging you about an important issue that affects our longevity. But first, on behalf of my fellow birds, I must apologize for some of our inconsiderate birds for not obeying pedestrian laws. We also apologize for dropping doodoo on your new car as well as stealing those cheap and stale crackers you leave in your golf carts. We certainly know that a couple of my feather friends walk in the street. Let's face it, we were meant to fly. On the other wing, from my bird's eye view, I have noticed that some of you are also flying by (i.e. driving really fast) and not obeying the 25-mph speed limit. So do us a favor..... slow down and if you see us strolling in the streets, toot your horn and let us know you need to move on. I promise you, on behalf of my fellow wing companions, that we will NOT flip you the bird.

Thank you,

Sandy Krane, President

The Birds of the Venetian



(That's me on the left, my wife Dee next to me and my son, Dion who will be leaving us next month to go to Aviation school.)

HOMETOWN STUFF

H2O-4-Life Therapy

With a many aches and pains seniors occasionally endure, Parcels recently found a new aquatic physical therapy program near the Venetian. The **H2O-4-Life** is located as a tenant in the Goldton, a senior assisted living center. Just to get your bearings, the location is behind Wendy's just down the road on Laurel. **H2O-4-Life** has trained physical therapists who work with patients in 90 degree salt water. Their phone number is 941-400-1505. They will take insurance once qualified. It's a different form of physical therapy that appears to be helpful.

9/11 Tribute

The City of Venice's 24th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony will be held at Patriots Park, 800 Venetia Bay Blvd., at **9:59 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 11.**



The event will include first responders with emergency vehicles, guest speakers and tributes, Venice Police and Fire Rescue presenting the colors, a proclamation presented by Mayor Nick Pachota, Venice Fire Rescue bell ringing for those lost, local student participation and music. All are invited; bring chairs. Arriving by 9:30 a.m. is encouraged. Patriots Park includes a 2-ton steel beam from the World Trade Center wreckage on Sept. 11, 2001, and a piece of rubble from the attack on the Pentagon. 9:59 a.m. is the exact time the South Tower fell.

History Buffs....Take Notice

As part of Venice's Centennial celebrations, the Venice Museum is pleased to announce its newest seasonal exhibit: **VENICE TURNS 100!** which celebrates the City on the Gulf's Centennial. The exhibit, which opened on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, offers a glimpse into Venice's transformation throughout the decades. See how the city has grown from a plan laid out by renowned city planner John Nolen to the thriving community it is today. The Venice Museum is located inside the historic Triangle Inn, listed in both the Venice Register of Historical Resources and the National Registers of Historic Places. The museum is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and the first and third Saturdays in October through April from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stayin Alive

The Venice Performing Arts Center (VPAC), located on the campus of the Venice HS, is often mentioned as the home of the Venice Symphony, which begins its season on October 10th. Besides the Venice Symphony, the VPAC has a number of other forms of entertainment; such as BeeGee Gold, the Tribute; Seals and Crofts 2 and a Tribute to Queen. For a complete listing of concerts at the VPAC go to <https://veniceperformingartscenter.com/> The nice thing about the VPAC is that it is about 15 minutes from the Venetian with plenty of parking.



I Could Have Danced All Night

Looking for a fun opportunity for couples? The Venice Community Center, located on the island, offers dance classes. You are never too old to take dance classes. Starting on November 5th, you can learn to dance the Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing, Cha-cha and more. For more information contact 941-496-9692. And just think, today -- dance classes in Venice, and tomorrow -- a contestant on Dancing with the Stars.

WHY THE MIDDLE LINE?)

You may have noticed an unusual line in four of the parking spots by the tennis courts. Grievous mistake by the painters? They ran out of paint? What's up with the extra line? It's not a mistake or lack of paint. It signifies a new "dual use" parking spot that can accommodate either one car or two golf carts. So when you use a "dual use" spot, remember what your first grade art teacher told you, "stay between the lines".



A Trip to the Van Wezel

Although a little further away in Sarasota, you will find the Van Wezel Performing Arts which recently announced its shows for 2025-26. They offer a wide range of performers such as Dave Koz, several Broadway Shows and the well-known Blue Man Group. With only 1,700 seats, popular event tickets go fast. The Van Wezel got hit hard last year by the hurricane and had to close its facility for several months. The hurricane caused the Van Wezel to look at preserving the current location with hurricane protection or replace it with a new, shinier center. The price tag for a new performing arts center stands at about \$407 million. It appears the direction is to keep the current location and facility but address the need to "hurricane proof" the facility.



WE DON'T WANT TO FORGET...

The Wall of Something is Really Something

Lots of Venetian residents are climbing on to the Wall of Something (www.vgrcca.org.) The electronic messaging board is open to any Venetian resident. The Wall is always looking for recommendations of providers...physicians, electricians, airport transportation, pest control companies, landscapers, wildlife removal, etc. It's just another amenity provided to residents by the VGRC Community Association. There is no cost to post but we hope those who do use the Wall join the Community Association.



Demonstrating Your Support

You will note on page one of this edition; there is an advertisement in the top right-hand corner of the front page. We thank Linda Carlstrom for advertising in this month's edition. The cost of an advertisement is \$99.00. Parcels is sent to approximately 2,100 emails as well as to key officials in the city. There are various ways to help YOUR community, and this is just one of them. If interested, send your contact information to vgrcca@gmail.com.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Not so far, far away

This edition has mentioned many entertainment venues in the area; such as the Venice Community Center, VPAC and -- although not mentioned but quite visible -- The Venice Theatre. The Venice Theatre is still in the rebuilding stage after getting hit very hard by one of our devastating hurricanes. When you think about it, we are fortunate to have so many choices available and very accessible from the VGRC. You always have multiple choices when it comes to pre- and post-concert dining. Look at the websites of the ones that interest you and before all the tickets are gone, make a commitment to attend one of the performances. We guarantee that you will have a great time....not far from home.

September



"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: _____