

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

October 2025



This edition has been financially supported by VGRC Residents

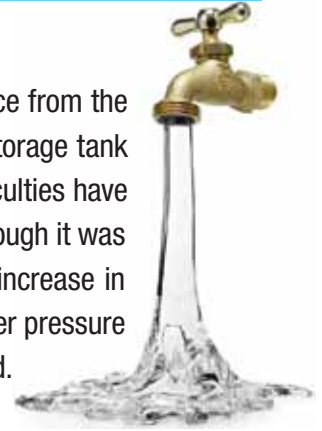
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KEEPING UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING

Water Booster Station Ready to Start Operations

The Venice Water Booster Station, which has been under construction for 2 years, has received clearance from the Department of Health to operate the tank and pumping system. The city is currently filling the ground storage tank with fresh drinking water in preparation for the system soon being put into service. Some technical difficulties have delayed dates given in earlier information that the system might have been operating in spring 2025, although it was originally forecast to be operational in late 2025. We expect another month before you may notice an increase in pressure. We should anticipate a slight increase in our water bills in the northeast Venice area as the water pressure increases through our fixtures. The station lies to the northwest of VGRC and east along Gene Green Road.

See map and additional information on our website at vgrccaweb.org.



Welcome New Management Team

October 1st marked the beginning of the new management team, Hampton Golf, who will manage the operation of the River Club. The Community Association and its many members welcome Hampton Golf to this great community and wish them the best of success with this all-important job. According to Hampton Golf officials, they are in the process of naming a new GM, in collaboration with the CDD.

Salute to Veterans

On Thursday, November 6th, the 9th Annual Golf Charity event will be held at the Venetian Golf Course. Proceeds from this charity event go to the Fisher House on the grounds of the VA hospital in St. Pete. The Fisher House is a Ronald McDonald House concept hosting families who are visiting relatives in the VA hospital. The Charity Golf Event is very popular... it sells out once posted, very quickly. There are several corporate sponsors with the majority having connections to this community. **The opening ceremony, starting at 8:30 a.m.**, is breathtaking.... presentation of the colors, the singing of the National Anthem and a flyover (weather permitting) which you can probably see from your own home. We salute our Veterans who gave so much to our country.



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

The Bump

For a short time in September, the Venetian went through a “bumpitis” crisis. Some residents were concerned with the number of bumps, especially new bumps, that went from one curb to another. Within a few days the bumps were cut in half making them more functional. Speaking of bumps, back in the 70’s there was a dance craze called the Bump. Some of you remember that wonderful dance with music performed by the famous group, KC and the Sunshine Band. If you do, Parcels will give you permission to close your living room blinds and you and your housemate can start doing this well-known dance along with the following You Tube version. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RheYzUWoxU>

Safety First

If you live or drive on an east-west street in the community such as Padova or Pesaro, please be extra careful in the morning when the sun hits you directly in the eye. We also ask runners or walkers to be extra safe and consider doing your cardio on the sidewalk. Bikers need to be especially careful at this time of the day and perhaps consider a red blinking light on the tail end of their bike. Safety is always preached in our community.

CRIME REPORT

Parcels never included a crime section but recently the 7-Eleven store off of Laurel had an armed robbery. Venice Police Department (“VPD”) quickly responded but the bad guys got away. In the days following, the VPD collaborated with the FBI to locate and apprehend the suspects very quickly.

So why the FBI? The FBI took the lead due to the number of robberies occurring across multiple counties and the proximity of the establishments along I-75. The FBI can apply the Hobbs Act, which pertains to interstate commerce and results in enhanced sentencing guidelines. Additionally, this aligns with the FBI's reported shift in focus from political investigations to addressing violent crimes that impact communities across the nation. The ATF and US Marshals Service were also involved. This was an extremely effective collaboration between municipal, county, and federal law enforcement agencies and resulted in a remarkably swift resolution.

The bad guys, in order to boast about their conquest, decided to post their picture on social media with a handful of dollars. They got caught! You don’t need to be a U Conn graduate (or maybe it is now U **con**) to know that you don’t glorify your robbery by posting it on social media.. Perhaps they will ponder their decision and surely will have plenty time to think about it.

Parcels appreciates the assistance of VPD Chief Andy Leisenring with this story.



GET INVOLVED

Helping Out Your Hometown

The 12th “Make a Difference Day” (“MADD”), a day of community service for volunteers of all ages, will be held in the City of Venice on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Landscaping, raking, cleaning and litter collection events are planned at over 25 City parks, beaches, and public spaces. Each year, hundreds of volunteers turn out for this citywide community service effort, saving the city thousands of dollars and benefiting our local environment. At the last MADD in February (postponed from 2024 due to hurricanes Helene and Milton), over 370 volunteers participated.

Volunteers are invited to enjoy a complimentary lunch following the event at 11 a.m. Oct. 25 at West Blalock Park, 401

Pensacola Road at Nassau St. S., across from the Venice Museum and Venice Community Center.

Groups and teams can register by calling 941-223-1771 or emailing jimfouby@gmail.com. Individuals can register online at www.togetherwecan.life; look for the pop-up registration button.

Interested volunteers can also just come to the Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave. S., at 7:30 a.m. Oct. 25 to help. All volunteers should drive to the south side of the building near Turin St. to receive their assignments and a T-shirt. This will be a drive-thru; you do not have to get out of your vehicle.

MADD volunteers should wear old, comfortable clothing and work shoes, and bring sunscreen. Other supplies, including drinking water and gloves, will be furnished.

Who are the Board members?

The Community Association Board currently has eleven active members. The latest Board member is our new Treasurer, Salli Duncan, replacing Chip Melvin. The background of Board members includes an array of experience and qualifications including:



- 25 years of experience with the 3M company
- Financial planner with investments and securities
- Specialized expert in food safety
- An executive at Nabisco, Chiquita, and Ocean Spray
- A former Naval officer who served as a dentist during their tour of duty

To match the experience with the people, go to www.vgrcca.org, where you can read the bios of all the current Board members. If you have an interest in serving as a Board member for the CA, send your name to vgrcca.org. It's a great way to help your community.

HERE AND THERE

A New Way of Playing the Game

Sports in America is somewhat different from thosewho we shall say respectfully,... have gray in their hair. Recently, Parcels was invited by one of the player's parents to attend a Girl's volleyball match at Venice Middle School. The match was the best of 2 out of 3 games. The Venice Middle School trounced the opposing team in two games. Parcels was ready to leave but the parent said to wait a minute there's one more game....yea, but you said 2 out of 3 and one team won two games. Parcels was informed that there was one more game where those young ladies who did not play in the regular games, would play a game. In other words, everyone from both teams would get on the court. As a result, all the players, the coaches, and the many parents from both schools, along with Parcels, left feeling good about the competition. You can't blame them.



November Elections

There are no statewide elections in Florida in November but there are a few municipal elections on the ballot. Venice is NOT one of those municipalities which was a result of a vote last year. Stay tuned, a large voter turnout is predicted in 2026.

Just a few eyes catchers

- Fifth Third Bank at Pinebrook and Venice Ave will be vacating the building and moving across the street in the mini plaza
- The Circle K service station on Jacaranda is now open
- The Breakfast House, a well-known breakfast place in Sarasota, will have a new location on Executive Circle off of Jacaranda. They will have indoor breakfast, outdoor breakfast and a carry out window. Great place for a morning eatery.
- Venice Pier is fully opened...fishermen are in their glory
- North Jetty repairs are months and maybe even years away...completely closed
- North Venice Park construction is progressing well...both dogs and pickleball players are counting the days.
- Hibachi Express, a new eatery in the plaza at Laurel and 41

Smart Thinking

In every edition, we plug the wonderful Wall of Something. We urge residents to place on the Wall, great restaurants, the best electrician around town and inquiries as to the best roofer around. Recently there was a first on the Wall. A resident posted that he found sunglasses and wanted to alert the community of his find. We never thought the Wall would be placing lost and found ads, but given this wonderful resident's initiative, please feel free to post similar items in the future.



The Sound of Music

The Venice Symphony, under the direction of the dynamic Troy Quinn, opens its season on Friday, October 10 and Saturday October 11th with Spooktacular. All Symphony concerts are held at the Venice Performing Arts Center on the campus of Venice H.S. For details about this upcoming concert and the entire season go to www.thevenicesymphony.org.



NATURE CALLS

We live with nature in this community...alligators, sand hill cranes, armadillos, rabbits and raccoons. Some we see, some we don't, and some become a little more problematic. Below are stories about two of our prominent animals.

Bunnies, Bunnies Everywhere!

Have you caught a glimpse of Peter Cottontail lately? One of the most common rabbits in Southwest Florida is the Eastern Cottontail. These rabbits thrive in brushy fields and open areas, and they are most active during dawn and dusk. Their breeding season stretches from mid-February through October, with activity peaking between February and September. They are relatively large, with a soft grayish-brown coat and their signature white "powder puff" tail. Another rabbit often spotted in the region is the Marsh Rabbit, a smaller, darker cousin that prefers wetland habitats. Adapted to life near the water, these rabbits are excellent swimmers and will even dive



beneath the surface to escape predators such as alligators. They are most active at night as well as during dawn and dusk. Unlike the cottontail, Marsh Rabbits breed year-round, with the highest activity from December through June. They can be recognized by their shorter, coarser brown fur and a flat brown tail. In addition to these wild species, domesticated rabbits that have been released or escaped occasionally establish feral populations. Many of these animals face difficult survival challenges. Thankfully, organizations such as the Southwest Florida House Rabbit Rescue work to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome domestic rabbits while also educating the community about proper care. A note on safety: While it is delightful to observe rabbits in their natural environment, it's important to watch from a distance and resist the urge to feed them. Supplemental feeding can unintentionally expose them to predators and increase mortality. Finally, it's worth remembering that Florida's climate poses unique challenges for rabbits. Hurricanes, storm surges, and flooding are significant threats to young rabbits and their nests.

Hey...Who's Up There?

Several residents have heard a noise coming from the attic and have discovered raccoons making a home in this isolated part of the home. It's surely a very frustrating experience for the homeowner. Parcels recently reached out to the owner of Assurance Wildlife, a licensed trapper to address a few questions related to this problem:

- **How do they get into the attic?**

Raccoons are part of the bear family, a direct descendant making them highly intelligent and capable, equipped with dexterous fingers enabling them to climb a pool/lanai screen, downspout or even nearby tree with ease.

- **Why do they choose the attic?**

Attics are dark, quiet, and safe, off the ground, free from weather elements and predators.

- **How long is their normal stay or is it their permanent home?**

Often anywhere between 9 months to all year making it a permanent home.

- **How does a homeowner know they have raccoons?**

Generally thumping/scratching, and breached eaves in soffits are some examples.

- **What can a homeowner do to prevent raccoons?**

Professional Animal home proofing/preventative warranted exclusions.

- **Is there any time in the year that they prefer making a home in the attic?**

Spring/all year in SW Florida as it is not cold enough to hibernate.

- **How do they get their food if housed in the attic?**

They leave the attic to forage for food; raccoons are omnivores (meat & vegetation etc.)

- **If they have babies, do the babies stay with the mom, or do they leave?**

The mother nurses their young for 2 to 3 months (8-12 weeks). The mother then begins to bring them with her to teach them how to find their own food with females up to 6 months old their first heat (sexual maturity) and males up to 9 months of age.

- **Is there anything the homeowner can do himself, to get rid of them?**

Not removing/relocating them runs the risk of them coming back, Male raccoon urine/replicas will sometimes encourage them to leave if the issue is a pregnant female or with young raccoons. Certain State laws/licensing applies. If it is a male raccoon this strategy is not effective (every situation is different) and at times the mother needs to be gone and home needs to be excluded (raccoon proofed) with young removed and reunited outside of the attic where mother has access to them.

This story was furnished free of charge by Assurance Wildlife Trapping LLC

Assurancetrapping.com

Assurancetrapping@gmail.com

941 456 TRAP (8727)

941 468 1237



Help In Facing A Challengng Disease

A recent contact with a well-respected Estate Lawyer in Venice led to a Medicare program instituted in July 2024. As there are community members who are facing what is mentioned in the below article, the information should have some relevance.

GUIDE-A Game Changing New Program Combating Dementia and Care Giver Burnout by Kevin G. Staas, Elder Law Attorney

For families suffering from a loved one with dementia, government benefits have not always been a source of relief. Medicaid, which is a means tested government program is better suited for helping families pay for assisted living and skilled nursing care. However, in July 2024, a game changing program was created by Medicare. Medicare, which is NOT means-tested and available for citizens over the age of 65, launched the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) program designed to offer structured, no-cost dementia care navigation and support to eligible beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. GUIDE's purpose is to improve quality of life, reduce caregiver burden, and keep people with dementia safely in the community for as long as possible.

Services Offered Under GUIDE:

The GUIDE program provides a comprehensive set of services to both the person with dementia and their unpaid caregivers. These services include:

- Assignment of a dedicated dementia care navigator who helps coordinate care, connect with community resources, and guide the family through planning and support needs; and
- Care coordination and transitional care management, integrating medical, social, and support services; and
- Comprehensive assessments and home visits to understand the person's cognitive, functional, social, and safety needs; and
- Medication management and reconciliation to reduce harmful interactions or duplications; and
- Care planning and ongoing monitoring, adjusting care plans over time; and
- Caregiver education and support, including training, counseling, and support group; and
- 24/7 access to support, via helpline or clinical team availability; and
- Referral and coordination of social services, such as transportation, meal support, home modifications, etc.; and
- Respite services, with Medicare covering up to \$2,500 per year for eligible respite care to provide temporary relief to caregivers.

Participant Process and Enrollment:

For interested individuals, the process is as follows:

1. Check eligibility To qualify, a person must have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, be enrolled in Original Medicare (Parts A and B), and not be enrolled in Medicare Advantage, hospice, or a long-term nursing home stay.
2. Identify a participating GUIDE provider / program GUIDE services are delivered through organizations (called Dementia Care Programs, or DCPs) that have contracted to participate under the model.
3. Referral or enrollment request The beneficiary or caregiver can contact the participating organization, which will verify Medicare eligibility and dementia diagnosis, and enroll them in the GUIDE program.
4. Baseline assessment and care plan development The care team conducts a comprehensive intake, often via a home visit, to assess cognitive, functional, medical, safety, social, and caregiver needs. Based on that, they develop a tailored care plan.
5. Ongoing service delivery, monitoring, and adjustment The care navigator and interdisciplinary team maintain regular follow-ups, coordinate services, monitor progress, provide education and support, arrange respite care as needed, and adapt the plan over time.
6. Caregiver engagement and 24/7 access Caregivers have continuous access to support, counseling, and education, and may request interventions when stressful events arise (e.g. night crises).

Local Assistance in Sarasota County & Next Steps:

In Sarasota County, the Alzheimer's Association plays a crucial role by assisting prospective participants with the application, navigation, and connection to local GUIDE services. (That support helps applicants understand eligibility, complete enrollment steps, and access caregiver resources.)

The above was furnished for the publication in Parcels free of charge. Families and individuals interested in exploring GUIDE and accessing its benefits can also contact the Staas Law Group, PLLC, an elder law firm on Venice Ave, for guidance and support at 941-408-8555.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Sometimes you must erase the past and just start over. That was true when Heritage Golf Group took over the Venetian Golf Club. Since then, they have put "mucho" money in the golf course to improve golfer's experience. They are now addressing the landscaping in front of the club house. They have added a new patio outside the grill room. We also have a new company assuming the management of the River Club. And they have made some changes with their Saturday dining and new text message system. If you have been concerned about what has happened in the past with this resident owned amenity, get that eraser out and start taking advantage of what appears to be an exciting time at the River Club.



Join Our Venice Team

Volunteer in Your Community

We are looking for friendly and service-oriented people to join our volunteer team for this upcoming tax season.

The program has several types of volunteer opportunities. You'll receive training and support, learn new skills, and feel great while helping others.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides free tax-filing help to those who need it most.

Join us for an Information Session

Venice Library

October 1, October 14, November 3

Jacaranda Library

September 30, October 15, October 30

10:15 AM

AARP Foundation
Tax-Aide



Venice-D18157 (9/25)



Knock Your Socks Off III

To astound or greatly impress someone

The **VGRC Community Association** is proud to present its 2025-26 series of events and seminars referred to as the **Knock Your Socks Off III** season. As you peruse the list, you will see some new and exciting events as well as repeats of previous resident favorites. We will elaborate on all of these events via our monthly newsletter, **Parcels from Paradise**. Get your calendar out and mark those events you would like to attend.

Seminars & Events 2025



September 29, 5:00pm
Medicare 101 Seminar

Key Medicare Options and their benefits.



October 28, 5:00pm
SMH – Healthcare in Our Community

SMH's growth which will improve medical care.



November 18, 10:00am
CPR/Use of AED

Venice Fire Department: hands-on training for residents.



December 8, 5:00pm
"Current Scams"

Venice Police Department: Overview of current predatory Scams.



October 7, 5:00pm
"Finding Purpose in Your Later Years"

Challenges and opportunities by a noted expert defining our role and purpose after retirement.



November 3, 9:00am
Short Takes - AI and Cryptocurrency

Basics about AI and Cryptocurrency for non-experts.



November 22, 9:00am-2:00pm
SharPfest Location: Golf Course Parking Lot

Bring your tools and kitchen knives for this wonderful service, at a reasonable cost.



"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
☐ Three Years (best deal)	 \$70 (\$20 discount)
☐ Two Years	 \$50 (\$10 discount)
☐ 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: _____



**YOUR DONATION
MATTERS**

VGRC Community Association