

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

November 2025



This edition has been financially
supported by VGRC Residents

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Your Venetian River Club
Neighborhood Realtor

IN HOUSE

Hear Mayor Nick Pachota at Board Meeting

The next meeting of the CA Board will take place at the River Club on **Monday, November 17th beginning at 10am**. The first part of the meeting will be dedicated to the City of Venice Mayor, Nick Pachota, who accepted the CA invitation to speak about the Seaboard Master Plan which is explained on the CA website, www.vgrcca.org. If time permits, the Mayor will take questions from the audience. We encourage you to attend this meeting with the city's top elected official.

A Moving Ceremony

The 9th Annual Veteran Charity event held at the Venetian's golf course on November 6th was a huge success. The event was a sellout and, in fact, sold out in less than five minutes after being posted. Over \$31,000 was raised for the Bay Pines Fisher House located on the grounds of the VA Hospital in the St. Pete area. The Fisher House is a home away from home for families visiting loved ones in the VA Hospital, similar to the Ronald McDonald concept. Through this charity golf event at the VGRC, we provided an opportunity for families of veterans to spend precious time together during difficult times. Starting off the event was a moving opening ceremony featuring a flyover, presentation of the colors by the Venice High School Junior Marines ROTC and the honoring of a 100-year-old WW II veteran (saluting). Pictures of the opening ceremony, including the 100-year-old veteran, can be viewed at <https://vgrcca.org/see-veterans-day-flyover-on-november-6th/>.



Last Call

The 17th of November is the day that Ajax Paving will be picking up the barrels of food as part of our Fill the Barrels Thanksgiving Food Drive program. The barrels are in the lobby of the Venetian's Golf Club which is open 7 am-5 pm, seven days a week. If you are reading this and have not yet donated, perhaps look in your pantry or run down to Publix and be another contributing resident. The need is great this year and our residents have come through in an amazing fashion during previous campaigns.



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

All was Quiet on the Western (Florida) Front

As we close out another hurricane season, we are most grateful that our members of the Hurricane Response Team (HRT) were prepared and even more grateful that we dodged a bullet this season. Bob Harrigan, Chief Meteorologist at ABC7, predicted that we would have a quiet season but had concerns about an October event. He was correct; we did have a quiet season and there was a very destructive (Cat 5) hurricane that occurred impacting Jamaica in October. We will not speculate as to how Bob acquires his knowledge but will respect his skills and talents that may be otherworldly. If you stocked up on food items in preparation for the season and wish to donate them, there are several organizations in the Venice area that will accept them. South County Food Pantry, 121 Warfield Ave., Venice, the Seventh Day Adventist Church Distribution Center, 2375 Seaboard Lane, the Salvation Army 1501 Albee Farm Rd, are but a few food distribution centers in the area. And, you also have until November 17 to donate to the Fill the Barrels Food Drive detailed in the above article. Thank you to the fifty-one (51) members of the VGRC community who stepped up to serve on the Hurricane Response Team. They have played an important role in the preparation for and response to storms impacting our area. After a busy few years, they are glad to have a quiet, but anxious, hurricane season.



Knocking Your Socks Off

It appears that those who have attended seminars this season have been very pleased and have learned a great deal from them. The last back-to-back seminars were on Cryptocurrency and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Those who attended were very pleased with both wonderful presentations. Two additional seminars round out November. The first event is CPR training by the Venice Fire Department on November 18. The second event is "SharPfest" taking place on November 22 where we welcome back our friend "Eddie Swing and his trailer" to sharpen knives, tools and other items that need Eddie's expertise. There is a small cost for his service. Members of the Community Association gain priority registration for these events.... just another reason to join if you are not a member. [Go to www.vgrcca.org/membership/](http://www.vgrcca.org/membership/).



SOLID ADVICE.... A MUST READ

This story was prompted by a resident who was going outside and when she opened the door... yep... there he (or maybe she) was just sitting there. Let's hope you never have that happen but if it does, look at this story.

You have a doctor's appointment at 8:30 am. You open the garage door and sitting in your driveway is a 7 ft. alligator. Who do you call; how long will it take them to get to your house; can you do anything yourself to scare him/her away; should you cancel your appointment; why did he choose my driveway, etc. etc. etc.?

All the above are very important points to address if this should happen. The main thing to do is:

- Stay at a safe distance and do not approach the alligator.
- Contact our Field Manager, Keith Livermore (941-485-8500), Monday thru Friday 9 am to 5 pm. If you have made contact with Keith, he will usually contact the Wildlife Authorities for you.
- Contact the Front Gate after 5 pm during the week and on weekends (941-488-7108).

Continued on page 3



- Contact local Wildlife authorities or animal control for assistance (see next paragraph).
- Avoid making loud noises or sudden movements that could startle it.
- Keep pets and children indoors until the alligator is removed.
- Do not attempt to feed or provoke the alligator in any way.
- Wait for professionals to safely relocate the alligator to its natural habitat.
- And, finally, cancel your Dr. appointment!

Who You Gonna Call?

If you are concerned about an alligator on your property or believe it poses a threat to people, pets, or property, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is here to help. The FWC administers the **Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program (SNAP)**, which is designed to address alligator-related concerns in developed areas while prioritizing public safety. To report a nuisance alligator, call the **Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286)**. A contracted nuisance alligator trapper will be dispatched to assess and resolve the situation.

The SNAP Hotline is available 7 days a week from 8 am to 5 pm. Should your incident occur before 8 am or after 5 pm, please contact Wildlife Alert at 888-404-3922, This is the number for the FWC Law Enforcement.

If you click on <https://vgrcca.org/resources/> you will find several key contacts that you might need while living in the Community. The information is especially helpful to those who are new to the community. The Community Association's website provides volumes and volumes of information for our residents and is freshened on a regular basis.

Calling 911 - Important Information Just in Case

Hopefully, you don't have to call 911, but if you do, the following paragraphs should give you valuable information about the process. Parcels reached out to Sarasota County which has the 911 Center (Venice PD and VFD use the county services) to present the following article.

At the beginning of every 911 call, the primary focus is to identify the location. This is the most critical piece of information needed to initiate a response. Call takers will ask for the **address, city, cross street**, and whether you're in a **subdivision or at a business**. Location is always asked first because without it, we cannot dispatch help. While a full address is preferred, if the caller does not know it, landmarks, business names, parks, or other identifiable features can help narrow down the location. It's important to note that we dispatch for multiple municipalities, and some addresses or business names are repeated across jurisdictions. For example, consider Bay and Tamiami Trail—there are five intersections with that name in Sarasota County. Two of them are in the City of Sarasota (Bay Road, which becomes Bee Ridge at Tamiami Trail, and Bay Street), and each has a Publix and McDonald's at the intersection. This can make it especially challenging for visitors to provide accurate location information.

There are many factors that can affect response times, including staffing, personnel availability, distance, call priority, traffic and time of day to name a few. One misconception is that when you call 911 the operator will ask you several questions to share with the responding unit. Some people get frustrated because they think that they must answer all the questions before the unit responds. Once you place the call indicating the nature of the emergency and the location, the appropriate unit is dispatched immediately -not after all the questions posed are answered.

Finally, we have pointed out in previous editions of Parcels that if you have an emergency at your home and in the evening, please make sure to turn on your outside lights. Depending on the emergency, you might even open your garage door. If there is an emergency on the golf course or River Club or even at your home, having a "waver" out in the street waving down the emergency vehicles is very helpful and may save precious time.



THIS AND THAT

How Long Could You Last?

After reading this story, Parcels asks if you could endure the experience which an acquaintance is going to try. It is referred to as a “Silent Retreat” where you spend 10 days (let me repeat that...10 days) saying nothing...no texts, no phones, no conversations with anyone, no finding out if the Eagles won.... you just meditate, silently. Check out this interesting opportunity but keep quiet about it. Click on <https://www.dhamma.org/en-US/index>.

Recycling Reminders:

On Wednesday mornings after the Recycle garbage truck goes by, we see plastic bags and other types of plastic flying around the streets. Plastic bags should not be placed in the recycle bins. There is a place for you to recycle those plastic bags, plastic wrapping and the foam: Publix!! Outside every Publix store there are bins to deposit all those plastic bags and egg cartons and Styrofoam. Plastic wrappings used to package water bottles, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, etc., are NOT being collected by the City of Venice as recycling. These items may be brought instead to local retailers such as Publix for recycling. Publix also accepts overwrap from shipping cases; Ziploc and other resealable bags (without the zipper); bread, produce and cereal bags; dry cleaning bags; newspaper sleeves; ice, salt and wood pellet bags; single-use plastic bags; clean and dry cling wrap; #4 and #5 plastics; and Styrofoam egg cartons. Clean, dry Styrofoam packing peanuts may be bagged and brought to shipping outlets such as UPS for recycling. Shredded paper is recyclable and should be placed in a paper bag with the top rolled down to prevent spillage, then placed inside the recycling cart. Check out the City of Venice Recycle page online (Recycling | Venice, FL) for recycling information.



Other Reminders:

- Please pick up your Community Directory at the River Club Receptionist desk.
- Please delete your SELL postings on the Wall of Something if your items have been sold or donated.
- Check the status of your Community Association membership online at Membership and Donations – Venetian Golf & River Club Community Association: <https://vgrcca.org/membership/>. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining the approximately 65% of our residents who are contributing to the financial operation of the Community Association and the HRT for 100% of our residents. YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Laurel Rd.... Getting Busier

Driving west on Laurel, you see construction just beyond Willow Chase. That location will be Mirasol retail including two buildings for medical, some retail and a QSR – Quick Service Restaurant. Parcels will report on further developments at this site.

Just beyond the above location, an Echo Hotel with 124 rooms is being built. Echo Hotels is a national chain.

No updates on the Laurel Rd. widening or the shopping center planned for across the street.

Sprouts on Jacaranda near Center Road opens on November 14th. The Aldi store in the shopping center near Sprouts is also soon to open.

NE Park is on course to open in the spring and the shelter is underway.

Free stuff from Amazon?

One of our residents, like many of you, is a regular reviewer of items he purchased. In the middle of posting a review last year, he was surprised by a popup message that asked if he would like to participate in a program called Amazon Vine, whereby merchants would ship him items for free in exchange for writing detailed reviews with photos. He said yes, of course!

There was no pressure to give 5-star reviews, but he was required to order and review at least 80 items every 6 months, and to report the retail value of the items as taxable income. A big limitation was that he could only order items offered within this program -- not anything in the vast Amazon catalog. He has written over 170 reviews and received over \$4,000 worth of merchandise over 18 months. Others might like to take part in such a program, but there is no way to "apply". You are invited based on the number, quality and helpfulness of reviews you have written, plus an element of random luck. If you like to write reviews, keep it up!



"Your Donation Matters" is off and running

After announcing this initiative in early September, your Community Association (CA) is gratified with the initial response from many Venetian residents. "Your Donation Matters" was launched after we considered ways to reverse a long-term trend of increasing costs (insurance, supplies, event costs and more). Raising dues from their historic \$30 per year was an obvious option, but we hesitated because we wanted to keep our activities affordable to the greatest number of residents. Instead, we simply encouraged residents to make additional voluntary contributions based on their ability to do so and their level of appreciation for the benefits the CA provides, such as our seminar series, Parcels, the Hurricane Response Team, CPR training and other free events such as Shredfest and Bike-O-Rama. Donating is extremely quick and easy, either with a few clicks on our website or by downloading and mailing in a simple form with your check. Please see <https://vgrcca.org/membership/> to participate – and thank you!



A Unique Museum on the Island

There is an interesting museum on the island behind the Venice Community Center. It's interesting because it's never open. Instead, you can look through the window and read the information on panels to see "Old Betsy" anytime, day or night, 365 days of the year. "Old Betsy" is a Type 75 Triple Combination (Fire Truck) Pumper. It was delivered to Moore Haven, Florida, on September 9, 1926, to begin work fighting fires in that town on the shores of Lake Okeechobee. You may have seen "Old Betsy" in various City parades and events.



Advertise in Parcels

Want to advertise in Parcels as did a resident in this edition? Whether you want to promote a business or just show your support of the community or the Community Association, the cost is only \$99.00. The circulation of Parcels is approximately 2,100 emails with a phenomenal opening rate of over 80 pct. For inquiries, send an email to vgrcca@gmail.com.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Not sure when the so-called holiday season officially begins but whenever it does you will see a number of on-property organizations have fundraisers. Recently there was a Toys for Tots campaign in the River Club and the Community Association's Fill the Barrels Campaign. This community has always answered the call for charities, and we hope that the upcoming holiday season sees a repeat giving performance by our wonderful residents.

"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: _____