

# PARCELS



FROM  
*Paradise*  
Now in its 16th year of publication.

April 2026

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## Hurricane Season 2026

Here We Go Again?! Wasn't it just yesterday that we closed out another hurricane season? My, how time flies. The members of the HRT will once again be stepping up to serve their community. These wonderful and committed individuals have come forward each year to volunteer to serve the VGRC community before and after a storm. They are willing to put the time and effort into yearly training and service after a storm.

The VGRC community has expressed its appreciation for the gallant efforts of this group and for the Community Association that sponsors this group. If you are interested in becoming a member of the HRT, and would like more in depth information about the group, please see <https://vgrcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/HRT-document-6-12-24.pdf>. An application to join the team is available at 2026 HRT Application Form.

Here's to another quiet, but prepared, hurricane season.



### Helpful Emergency Notification

**Alert Sarasota County** will attempt to contact users by landline, cellphone, text message, email or mobile app push notification, depending on which contact information is provided. Manage your alert subscriptions at any time by returning to this website and logging in to your account. Alert Sarasota County provides specific information to Venice residents. Go to <https://www.alertsarasotacounty.com/> for sign up instructions. It's well worth it.

## Around Town

### NOT FAR AWAY

It's a special event: **The Venice Sharks Tooth Festival 2026** on **Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 10 am to 8 pm and Sunday, April 12, 2026 from 10 am to 5 pm**. The Festival is held at the Centennial Park in the heart of downtown Venice. Come enjoy live music, food trucks, merchandise, fossil vendors, a kids' corner, and more at the 2026 Venice Sharks Tooth Festival hosted by Venice MainStreet. It is a free, 2-day event with a free trolley to -- and from -- parking. For more details visit [venicesharkstoothfestival.com](http://venicesharkstoothfestival.com).



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

VISIT: [www.vgrcca.org](http://www.vgrcca.org)

## Can't Resist those Sandwiches

Who doesn't love those wonderful cheesesteaks with melted cheese and grilled onions. The good news is that there is an eatery coming soon in the nearby Jacaranda Plaza (by the roundabout). It's called **G-Boys Philly Cheesesteaks** taking the place of the Japanese restaurant which apparently went out of business. In terms of history, Pat and Harry Olivieri operated a hot dog stand near Philadelphia's Italian Market in the 30's. Looking for a change, they grilled thinly sliced ribeye beef with onions and put it on a roll, which immediately became popular with local taxi drivers. And today, the Philly Cheesesteak has become a favorite to almost everyone.



## Red, White and Blue

For those here in May, if you want to attend a wonderful outdoor Patriotic concert, you might consider getting tickets for the **Venice Symphony Orchestra's Patriotic Pops scheduled for May 23rd, at 7:30 pm**. This wonderful concert, with a flyover and post-concert fireworks, is held at the Cool Park Stadium in Wellen Park, the home of the Atlanta Braves spring training baseball. Tickets for this concert are found at Ticketmaster. If you plan to attend, we recommend that you leave early as the concert is quite popular.



## Old Bank, New Concept

Banking has become a little different for consumers. Fifth Third Bank was located on Pinebrook at Venice Ave. Now Fifth Third Bank is located on Venice Ave at Pinebrook. No, that's not a mistake ... the bank moved across the street. But that's not the story. This bank has taken a new approach to banking with an inviting, personal atmosphere according to bank officials. You might hear some soft music (also called "white music") in the background. When you walk in you will see a big "tech" table where you will be immediately greeted by an employee directing you to the appropriate service and location in the bank. Teller lines have changed also with the name now being known as a "Transaction Bar". There are small "booths" where you can conduct business with a representative. Get this... near the Transaction Bar, there is a small round table in what Fifth Third calls a "café" enabling customers to sit down and enjoy a free cup of brewed coffee. They also have a library which specializes in local books. The tellers have a machine that doles out the exact amount of money that the customer requests rather than reaching into a money drawer. It's the next generation of banking now located in our own hometown. Perhaps the bank you frequent will make some internal changes to address the changing needs of its customers.



# CAUGHT IN THE WEB...



## Water, water, everywhere

Go to [vgrcca.org](http://vgrcca.org) to view a very up-to-date description of Venice's Gene Green Road Water Booster Station. Venice water utility engineers have optimized water system operations citywide, resulting in NE Venice now experiencing pressure levels comparable to the rest of the city. According to Venice Utilities and the Water Booster Station (WBS) pressure sensors, every resident in Venice receives between 51 and 56 psi from 6 am to 1 am on the following day. Overnight, from 1 am to 6 am, the pressure is reduced to facilitate water storage tank refilling and maintain water quality throughout the system.

Register at <https://vgrcca.org/about/seminars-and-events/seminar-event-registration/> for a place on the tour of the newly operational water facility scheduled for **Tuesday, April 14th at 10 am**. Attendance is limited.

## BabyFace

### NATURE CALLS

For those new to Florida, April/May is alligator mating season. The alligators become more mobile and friskier going from lake to lake trying to find that perfect mate. Occasionally, but not often, they may take a short cut through your property. Don't panic....just the route they chose. Remember, no matter the month, never, ever feed them and watch your dog and kids if you are by a lake. If you feel you are dealing with an aggressive gator, call the CDD Field Manager, Keith Livermore, not Florida Wildlife. As mentioned, this is mating season for the gators. You may hear a loud barking-like sound alerting fellow gators they are here and "ready". Parcels has spent endless hours interpreting the barking. With young males, there is one bark signaling, "I will be over shortly". For the mid-age alligators, there are two barks which signify, "I will be bringing over turtle soup and fish for a lovely candlelight dinner outside the lights of a Montelluna lanai". Finally, there is the senior citizen gator with three barks which translates into, "I will be over to see you honey, but I need 24 hours if you know what I mean".



And for those who really want to know more, alligator eggs typically have an incubation period (gestation) of approximately **60 to 65 days**. Eggs are laid in late June or early July, with hatchlings emerging around August or early September. The mother guards the nest, which is made of vegetation, during this 2-month, incubation period. Not sure if you will use the words, "aren't they cute" when you spot the little ones.

## Congratulations! Felicidades! Glückwunsch! MazelTov!

Congratulations to the parents, Harriet and Herman, for the birth of their two chicks, Helene and Hawkins. Yes, it's that time of the year when you will see these cute little chicks being led around by their parents—stay clear of them, as momma may get a little peeved. It is also another reason to slow down when driving, since mom and dad don't do a great job as pedestrians. It's a yearly event and often brings one's phone camera out to capture the moment.



# Key Updates

At the recent Community Forum, the CDD had an opportunity to make a presentation regarding key issues they are facing. Given the importance of these issues, the CDD Vice Chairperson has written the following update at the request of Parcels.

Your Venetian CDD is actively managing several key improvement projects across the community. Below is a summary of progress in major areas, including our transition to Hampton Golf, enhanced privacy measures, and ongoing beautification efforts.

## Hampton Golf Transition

Following an early separation from our previous management company, initial billing issues occurred due to undocumented system interfaces. Hampton Golf (HG) has since identified and resolved nearly all issues and has provided dedicated accounting support to ensure accuracy moving forward.

HG is also strengthening operations by continuing to hire staff. Reception services at the River Club are now available seven days a week, and the Tiki Bar is open daily (Monday and Tuesday afternoons for beverages only).

## Privacy Management

New procedures at the gatehouse help ensure visitors are expected and directed appropriately, reducing unauthorized access. For smoother entry, residents are encouraged to use the TekWave system to generate a visitor QR code or notify the gatehouse in advance. To address trespassing concerns along Laurel Road west of the main entrance, fence installation is being evaluated for the area behind the new vegetation and along the ninth hole of the golf course.

The Ciltadella gate (secondary exit) will remain exit-only for now. Traffic patterns will be reassessed once construction begins on the new shopping center.

## Beautification Process

Plant replacements along Laurel Road will begin April 20 under warranty. Irrigation issues have been corrected to support healthy growth. Additional sod will also be installed along Laurel Road and the Medici Berm. Cul-de-sac renovations are underway, including hedge removal, new plantings, and irrigation repairs. Work is expected to be completed by the end of April, followed by mulch installation. The CDD is also working with a landscape architect on a new design plan for the main entrance, Veneto, and the River Club to enhance overall appearance and establish a cohesive community theme with additional trees.

Although not related to the CDD report, at the same Forum, Commissioner Joe Neunder estimated that we may see the beginning of the Laurel Rd. widening project in December 2026.

# Close to Home

## Wrong Guess

There is construction of a building on Jacaranda, across from the 7/11 that, from the street, looks like and shaped like a motel. **Parcels reported it as a motel...but was wrong.** It is called Altera Jacaranda which describes itself at a "luxury apartment". It has an interesting website...go to <https://livealterajacaranda.com/>



## Consider Running for Office

CDD members are elected by the residents of the Venetian, but not all residents. To participate in the November election, you must be a registered Florida voter. This year, Seats 2 and 4 are up for election. The filing deadline is noon on **Friday, June 12, 2026**. Perhaps if you are interested in a CDD elected position, you might want to confer with a member of the current CDD Board to learn more about the responsibilities of a member including what issues the current CDD is facing. For more information go to <https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/201/Special-District-Offices>

## Let's Hear from You

As you may know the Community Association have termed the series of seminars and events as **"Knock Your Socks Off"** We have one seminar left, scheduled in June. Then it's back to the drawing Board planning for the 2026-27 Knock Your Socks off season. In our planning we would like to hear from our residents as to:



1. Do you have any suggestions for a seminar and or a speaker (please note that we do not pay a fee for our speakers)?
2. Are there any seminars, speakers or events you attended in the **past, that you would like repeated next year?**

Send your input to [vgrcca@gmail.com](mailto:vgrcca@gmail.com)

# FINAL THOUGHTS

## Day of Giving

**The 10th Giving Challenge**, hosted by the [Community Foundation of Sarasota County](http://Community Foundation of Sarasota County) with support from The Patterson Foundation, will take place from noon to noon on **April 15-16, 2026**. This 24-hour online event connects donors with over 700 local nonprofits in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties, featuring a 1:1 match for donations up to \$100. You may receive several requests from the non-profit world and/or individuals associated with the business. VGRC resident have always responded well to charitable giving and we hope that our community will answer the call again for this once-a-year campaign.

# April



“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much”  
~ H. Keller



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_