

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

Now in its 16th year of publication.



June 2026

DATE SENSITIVE

City Website Survey ...Take it!

The City of Venice has a history of reaching out to its residents to get their input. Their latest project is the city's website. This project is also being tackled by the City's Citizen Advisory Board, which will hear from the web consultant at its next meeting on June 20th, 2 pm.

If you would like to take the short survey providing your input, you can find it at the Community Association website, www.vgrcca.org

How about Helping Out??

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding on July 4th, 1776, the Venetian Community Association will again "dress" the front gate and River Club entrances by placing flags along the roadway on **Thursday, July 2nd at 8:00 am**. For those interested in participating to help out their community, please meet at the Welcome Center parking lot at 7:55 am.



Upcoming August Primaries

The Florida Primary is being held on **August 18th**, with the voter registration deadline being July 20th. Most of the ballot issues require party affiliations; however, according to the Sarasota Election Board, voting for school board offices on August 18 will be open to all registered Florida voters.

Northeast Park Opens!

The Northeast Park has been completed and will have a public ribbon cutting on **Monday, June 15th at 9 am**. Venetian residents have been actively involved in the development of this new park since its onset. In fact, the VGRC Community Association has recently been named this park's "partner" in the City's Adopt a Park program. Northeast Park will feature pickleball courts, a fitness trail, big and small dog park, a playground for the little tots and more.

Let's have a large turnout from our residents for the grand opening; however, we suggest carpooling or, if you want the cardio training, enjoy the walk to the park.

Hey Coach, Gimme the Scoop

Come spend an hour with Venetian resident, Chris Tabor, as he presents an "Inside Look at the NFL". Coach Tabor has been coaching football at all levels since 1993. Coaching at the professional level since 2008, Chris is currently the Special Teams Coordinator of the Miami Dolphins. He graciously agreed to give us insight into the "behind the scenes" preparations a NFL squad conducts to get ready for kickoff on Sunday. **Coach Tabor will present at our Community Association Seminar on Tuesday June 16th at 5:00 pm.**



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

OF HIGH INTEREST

Joining the HRT

Want to do something for your community? Join the Hurricane Response Team or HRT. Applications and details are located on the Hurricane Corner section of the website, www.vgrcca.org. Your service to our community will be appreciated by all.

Florida Power & Light brings 2026 Infrastructure Upgrades to Venice

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) will continue building a stronger, smarter and more storm-resilient electric grid in Venice in 2026, advancing its ongoing commitment to reduce outages and restore power faster following major storms.

What are the upgrades FPL is making in Venice in 2026?

This year, FPL plans to complete the following local infrastructure improvements in Venice:

- Three main power lines will be strengthened, including those serving critical facilities such as hospitals, 911 call centers, police and fire stations, water treatment facilities and county emergency operation centers. Stronger poles are less likely to fail in severe weather, which can help crews restore power more quickly after a storm event.
- 747 miles of power lines will undergo tree and vegetation trimming, addressing one of the leading causes of power outages.
- 23,702 power poles will be inspected, strengthening or replacing those that no longer meet FPL's industry-leading standards.



The web site for Florida Power and Light is www.fpl.com. Keep it on your phone to track details of a possible power outage in your neighborhood.

What the Heck is that Tower?

The noticeable large tower being constructed at the new fire station (Engine Company 52) on Venice Ave is indeed a firefighter training tower. The training tower serves multiple purposes and allows firefighters and EMS personnel to safely practice a variety of emergency response scenarios in a controlled environment. Some of the training activities conducted in the tower include standpipe operations, ground ladder deployment, rope and rappelling exercises, and moving both conscious and unconscious patients up and down stairwells during rescue and EMS scenarios. These evolutions help personnel maintain proficiency in

skills that may be needed during emergencies in multistory buildings and other challenging environments. The tower is also used for physical fitness and conditioning, as stair climbing and equipment carries are important components of firefighter readiness. Training in a realistic setting helps ensure personnel are physically prepared. One of the key reasons the tower is located directly in front of the fire station is to ensure that emergency response times are not impacted during training. Fire engines and ambulances remain parked nearby in a response-ready position, allowing crews to stop training and respond to 911 calls without delay. This enables firefighters and paramedics to maintain and improve their skills while continuing to provide the high level of service the community expects.



Review of Selva Grill, UTC Mall

Terrific dining experience at the Selva Grill, UTC Mall. It's Peruvian/Latin American fare is consistent & never disappoints. We sat in the bar area with livelier atmosphere, though I would choose the ½ booth with 2 opposing chairs next time vs "1/2 oval booth". We arrived at 5:30pm on Saturday & took advantage the "Happy Hour Bites" menu (4-6 pm) where portion sizes are the same as the regular menu for a few dollars less. Complementary plantain chips with a creamy cilantro dip + nuts were yummy. Cocktails were well-made though in smaller glasses. All 4 of us had Selva's unique/delicious Caesar Salad which starts with traditional romaine lettuce (shredded & chopped, not torn) & adds a semi-traditional "Caesaresque" Rocoto dressing. The "Selva difference" is the mix of manchego cheese, chopped red onion & crushed plantain chips (in lieu of croutons) which makes it gluten-free, for those of us who require it, then plated in a mound. Selva also has a separate gluten-free menu. My wife ordered solely from the "Happy Hour Bites" menu & had the short rib spring rolls filled with beef short rib, red onion, manchego & mozzarella cheeses with a balsamic pear chutney topped with a yellow pepper aioli (excellent) & shared the sea bass croquettes, which were a bit salty. One friend had the triologia, wild spicy tuna & mayan shrimp cerviche on wonton crisps which was fresh & delicious. Our other friend ordered the starter portion of Argentinian empanadas filled with beef (also comes with spinach & cheese). I had the strawberry amberjack tradito-slices of sushi grade fish, sliced strawberries in a lime marinade + red onion, cilantro & chili-infused oil. My main dish -arroz con pato - generous portion of sliced duck, green pea risotto, and roasted red pepper salsa/chimichurri/passion fruit puree. Only disappointment was the Tirimasu - the lady fingers were too soggy.

4 stars! ★★★★★☆



R U Serious ...It's Really Here???

If you are from "New Yook" or even better, "Looong Island", you might have left the area with an addiction for **Carvel Ice Cream**. Boy, does Parcels have great news for you!!!! Carvel has just opened in the Pelican Plaza Shopping Center. The Shopping Center is the one north on Tamiami near Beneva with stores including Total Wine and Sprouts. Did you know that Carvel started back in 1934....and now in 2026 just about a 20-minute drive from the Venetian. Before the return of snowbirds, it is recommended to get your licks in while the line is short.



One Run Difference

Congratulations to the Venice H.S. baseball team for coming close, but as they say, "no cigar" in its quest for the state baseball title, losing 2-1 to Stoneman Douglas High School. Over the years, Venice H.S. has sent many teams to the state finals and in some cases left smoking the cigar. With the new Wellen Park H.S. opening in the fall of 2026, Venice H.S. will lose some students to the recently built school. It will be interesting to see how the loss of enrollment affects Venice's long history of championship teams.

"Just throw it in my mailbox"

The above phrase is often heard when neighbors tell friends to drop something off at their house. Beware that it is a federal offense to put anything into a mailbox that does not bear official USPS postage. This restriction protects mail from theft and tampering and keeps boxes clear for regular delivery. For those Perry Masons out there, just check out 18 U.S. Code § 1725 May we suggest you think twice about putting your party invite in someone's mailbox.



Drone Show Extraordinaire

The Venice Symphony Patriotic Pops concert at Cool Today Park was a huge success, despite a 70-minute delay caused by rain. Many Venetians were seen at this annual concert. For those who wouldn't let the rain send them home, the highlight was certainly the post-concert drone show. Because of drought conditions, drones replaced the planned fireworks, and the display was a truly jaw-dropping spectacular. Parcels found a YouTube



recording of the concert, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLsWBwJ9Vkg> with the drone show beginning at the 52-minute mark. You will certainly be impressed. No word yet as to whether the Venice Symphony will have a repeat drone show next year.

Heed the Advice

Recently, the CDD Field Manager distributed an email asking residents not to park across from each other due to the difficulty, or in some cases impossibility, of emergency vehicles getting through. This also goes for those streets which have a cul-de-sac ...a large fire truck would have a difficult time circling the area. Every minute counts when emergency vehicles respond to your home, and a vehicle impediment is sure to delay the response.

A Major Transformation

Sarasota Square Mall, where Costco is located, will have several new retail stores. Whole Foods Market will anchor Phase One of the retail development, leasing approximately 35,828 square feet of space. Adjacent to Whole Foods, home decor and furniture retailer HomeSense has signed a lease for 24,214 square feet. Three fast-casual restaurants — Chipotle Mexican Grill, CAVA Mediterranean and Joe & The Juice (home of the well-known Tunacado sandwich), will occupy a combined 7,418 square feet. You will see 1200 luxury apartments being built on the grounds. Finally, if you didn't catch it in a previous edition of Parcels, across the street on Beneva, they are converting the Staples Store to a Trader Joe's.

Community Association Board Plans for Future

As it has done every other year recently, the CA Board of Directors held a 4-hour off-site "retreat" on May 12. The purpose was to step back from day-to-day events and consider how well our activities are fulfilling our stated mission to, "Provide for the common good and general welfare" of the Venetian. Although generally pleased that we are providing information and programs of interest and value to residents, we used this session to develop ideas for improvement. We identified four focus areas and formed teams to address them over the coming months. They are:

- Website. Manage the transition from our recently retired board member to a new board member with website design experience, and explore new feature ideas such as contests, surveys, a FAQ section and more to increase the appeal and popularity of our already popular website.
- Improve CA visibility (public perception and awareness) outside the gates. Build on existing activities and contacts to help ensure that The Venetian remains a known and influential entity in the City of Venice.
- Increase resident engagement in both meetings and events. Explore new ideas such as "topic of the month", surveys, pre-meeting Q&A, door prizes, and, of course, new and different events.
- Risk Management. Work to balance the ever-increasing cost of insurance against necessary protection against risks to members and volunteers. Insurance made up a whopping 42% of total CA expenses in 2025.

As always, we welcome suggestions from all residents toward improvement of your Community Association.

Write to: vgrcca@gmail.com

FINAL THOUGHTS

A Piece of the Rock

Remember the old Prudential ad stating, “Get a Piece of the Rock”? You as a resident of the Venetian are part of “The Rock,” which means you have a real stake in our River Club. Your tax dollars help support this wonderful place, so in a very real sense, you are invested in its success.

And, like any investment, you want it to thrive. Sure, you may have a few minor gripes now and then—maybe the eggs at Sunday brunch could have been a little more over easy—but in the end, when the River Club succeeds, you as a taxpayer and resident benefit too.

If you have never been for dinner, lunch, or Sunday brunch, give it a try. Need a stretching class to loosen up the joints? Sign up. Curious about Bocce Ball? The River Club offers that now too. Every time you participate and show your support, you help make the River Club stronger for everyone... just like a rock.

HURRICANE SECTION

What is the HRT and Why Can the Team be so Important to our Community?

In 2014, the Community Association (CA) of the Venetian Golf and River Club (VGRC) established a team of resident volunteers who could respond to the threat of a hurricane. This CA-sponsored team, now referred to as the Hurricane Response Team (HRT), boasts fifty (50) of our neighbors who serve the community as members of this trained group.



So, what do the members of the HRT do for this community when there is the threat of a storm?

- 1. Security:** They provide round-the-clock coverage at the front gate after the security guards leave (when conditions are too threatening pre-storm) and coverage after a storm until the paid guards return.
- 2. Post-storm general assessment of the community:** They assess the damage caused by the storm that can be observed from the street. The HRT then provides a written report to the homeowners, the POA, CDD, and neighborhood HOA's that highlight observable damage to any home or community property.
- 3. Reach-Out program:** They reach out to those who want to be checked on post-storm. Many of our residents live alone, have medical needs, have never been through a hurricane, or want the comfort of knowing that they will be contacted (by phone or home visit) after a storm.

Education and Communication

The CA and the HRT provide education through community meetings at which City Manager James Clinch, Fire Chief Frank Giddens and Chief of Emergency Management for Sarasota County, Sandra Tapfumaneyi serve as our speakers. In 2025, Bob Harrigan, ABC's Chief Meteorologist, spoke at VGRC and gave his prediction for the hurricane season. He was correct! We have asked him to return this year. We will also have a presentation later this summer by a representative from the Venice Police Department.

The HRT also sends out emails to the community containing news, hurricane updates and other important information.

Other sources of information, education and communication that the HRT provides may be found at the Hurricane Corner webpage, <https://vgrcca.org/hurricane%20corner> There, up-to-date hurricane information and videos can be found, and you can also learn more about the HRT, including how to become a volunteer.

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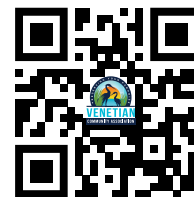
Finally, there is a Facebook page (much like what the city, county and state use) that can provide and receive information in real time. It is a private site (no spam) that is open only to VGRC community members and their family members. You can join by going to the Facebook page: (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/hurricanecornervgrcca>)

HRT at the Expo

The City of Venice hosted another Hurricane Expo on Friday, May 29th at the Venice Community Center. For the second consecutive year, City officials invited our HRT to host a table and to share information with attendees on how to create and maintain a community hurricane response team program. The VGRC was the only community asked to participate to showcase its program, and there was a great deal of interest and appreciation expressed by those who stopped by our table. A couple attendees said that they had a group of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members who are activated after a storm; but unfortunately, most of those with whom we spoke said that there was no team in their community and agreed that one was needed. Handouts with an outline of our program contents and contact information was provided to anyone who was interested. City officials stopped by the booth and, as in the past, applauded the community for such a wonderful program.



"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: _____