

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise

Now in its 16th year of publication.



July 2026

KEEPING YOU UPDATED

The Endless Story of Mission Valley and Laurel Rd.

One of the most frequent questions *Parcels* hears is: “What are they building at the corner of Mission Valley and Laurel Road?” Over the years, *Parcels* has tried to gather more information about the construction. Since it appears to be a private residence, details have been limited, but here is what we have learned so far:

- There are many subcontractors, and they park at the kennels across the street.

But wait—there’s more. Recently, *Parcels* “cornered” one of the construction foremen at Super K in hopes of getting an update. When asked when the project would be completed, the foreman replied, “We don’t know. The owner keeps requesting changes at the site.” Sorry, readers—*Parcels* wishes we had more to report.

Sounds Delicious, ...But Be Patient

Whataburger is scheduled to come to the Venice Crossings shopping center on Laurel Rd. If you are not familiar with the chain, its classic burger features a large beef patty with lettuce, tomato, pickles, diced onions, and mustard on a large, toasted bun. Mustard? Whatever happened to ketchup? The menu also includes plenty of other choices, so burger fans will have something new to look forward to.



Water, Water... No where.

We have seen various alerts about this topic since at least April, and restrictions have not yet been lifted. Homeowners should be aware of this not only to avoid being fined, but also because it is the right thing to do. There is an important distinction between irrigation water and potable (drinking) water. Irrigation at VGRCC (using reclaimed water) is managed by our CDD, who puts out a schedule dictating when irrigation can be done depending on your address. Potable water and the corresponding restrictions are managed by Venice and Sarasota County, who have also limited watering to certain times only. Due to the length and complexity of these requirements, *Parcels* cannot go into detail here but instead refers you to a more detailed article of the same title available on our website, <https://vgrcca.org/>. There you also find links to the CDD schedule, and a FAQ put out by Sarasota County. We hope you will avail yourself of these resources and do your part to comply with important requirements during this unusually dry period.



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Grand Opening a Success

If you are reading this from somewhere in Michigan, wait until you return to Venice and visit the new Northeast Venice Park on Laurel Road. You will be impressed. The official opening was well attended in June, and visitors got their first look at the park's many features: separate dog parks for large and small dogs, eight pickleball courts, a small walking trail, adult fitness equipment, and plenty of play equipment for visiting grandchildren. Yes, it has been hot, but for children climbing on playground equipment, heat rarely seems to be a barrier. This park is a welcome addition to the area and may even be a small plus for local property values. The Community Association was appointed as the park's sponsor in its "Adopt-a-Park" program. Parcels just received an update that a contractor has been authorized to construct additional fencing between the playground and stormwater pond; the fencing is on order and should arrive within the next few weeks.



JUST FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

Keeping it Clean

Many of us have been watching the World Cup on television. Some of us may still be a bit fuzzy on the rules of soccer, but we can appreciate the athleticism, the enthusiasm of the crowds, and the pride people feel for their countries. One lesson worth noticing is the Japanese practice of leaving a place cleaner than they found it. After major events, including World Cup matches, Japanese fans often take time to clean up their section before leaving. It is a simple idea—and maybe one worth borrowing here at home.

Where's the Canned Mushrooms?

Here is a clever approach to overcoming language barriers. Walmart has added several valuable non-English-speaking employees to its workforce. When a customer asks a question, the employee can use a phone translation app: the customer speaks into the phone, the question is translated, and the employee can respond or point the customer in the right direction. So, if you are looking for canned mushrooms, technology may help get you to aisle 8.



Hot as You Know What

It is hot—really hot. Heat stroke can sneak up quickly, especially when you least expect it. The first and simplest step is to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water, take breaks, and pay attention to how you feel when you are outdoors. We do not want to see anyone end up in the SMH emergency room. To keep you out of the Emergency Unit, SMH has provided helpful information about heat stroke and heat exhaustion here: <https://www.smh.com/blog/protect-yourself-from-heat-stroke-heat-exhaustion>



Cheesesteak Craze

G Boys Cheesesteaks in Jacaranda Plaza has finally opened. As you might expect, cheesesteaks are the star of the menu—do not go looking for a garden salad. There are several varieties to choose from, and on a recent visit the line was literally out the door. Whether it was the excitement of a new restaurant or the irresistible pull of a Philly cheesesteak, the place was packed, with an estimated 30-minute wait to order and receive food. Give it a try and support a local business—but for now, do not be in a hurry.

FUTURECAST

Craft fair in November

It is great to see the River Club sponsoring its first craft fair. A previous fair was sponsored by the Community Association several years ago. The entry deadline was June 30. If you have questions, please contact the Lifestyle Director at the River Club. Here is the basic information for shoppers:

Member Market & Craft Fair

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026

Place: River Club Time: 10am – 2pm

Shoppers will find a unique marketplace featuring talented VRC artisans and creators showcasing handmade goods, artwork, crafts, home décor, gifts, and more—just in time for holiday shopping!

Venice Theatre

If you are new to the area, Venice Theatre is one of our local gems, located about 15 minutes away on the island. The theatre took a serious hit during the hurricanes, but it is steadily returning to its old self—and perhaps becoming even better. This year's season includes 15 shows, with familiar titles such as *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Kinky Boots* and *Catfish Moon*. The theatre also offers classes and workshops for adults, as well as auditions for those who have always dreamed of stepping onto the stage. See their website for more information.



Golf Course improvements

During the summer, when fewer golfers are playing, the golf course typically shuts down periodically to address maintenance issues. This summer, however, the course is not shutting down entirely over the summer for maintenance. Instead, nine holes at a time are being closed, usually for about a week, so major renovations can be completed. Many areas of the course need a complete makeover, which requires digging up the affected areas and installing new sod. The course is really beginning to take shape and return to its original beauty. As a reminder, a notice was recently sent to all residents emphasizing that the golf course is strictly private. Dog walking, strolling through the course, and even using the restrooms are prohibited.



Snook Haven Coming Back

When relatives from up north came to visit, Snook Haven was probably on your “must-see” list. A trip there offered a chance to travel along the Myakka River, enjoy Old Florida scenery, and maybe even spot a large alligator in the water. After the hurricane, Snook Haven closed. The good news is that it is expected to reopen in fall 2026 after a \$8.75 million renovation. The new Snook Haven will be set farther back from the river to reduce future flood vulnerability. The project will replace the old restaurant with a new concession stand, pavilion and bandshell. The dining will be more casual, with covered outdoor seating and live entertainment expected. Sarasota County is leading the project.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Answering the Call

The city made a focused effort this year to get the updated 2026 Hurricane Guides into residents' hands. One distribution site was the Saturday's Farmers Market on the island, held from 8 am to 1 pm. And who did the city ask to staff the booth? Members of our HRT! On a Saturday in June, a team of seven volunteers spent the morning distributing guides. Although attendance at the Farmers Market has declined somewhat with the departure of snowbirds and the oppressive heat, the HRT still placed approximately 200 guides into the hands of passersby. Compliments came from City Hall officials as well as from residents who received the guides—especially those who had recently moved to the area. Many newer residents were surprised to learn that such a helpful resource was available, so extra time was spent explaining topics such as flood zones versus evacuation zones. A round of applause goes to our HRT for this valuable volunteer service.



Wanted: Competent Photographer

VGRCCA and the broader community recently lost a truly dedicated resident who generously shared his photography talents at community events. Many of his photos appeared in the Directory, and he also created "Mugshots," a popular feature where residents could have portraits taken with their dogs. He never charged for his professional services, and his contributions were deeply appreciated. The Community Association is now seeking someone willing to continue this tradition. If you are an experienced photographer who would enjoy attending community events to help capture special moments, we would love to hear from you. Please send your name, email address and phone number to vgrcca@gmail.com. This is a meaningful way to volunteer and give back to your community.

Ajax Shoe Drive

Ajax, the paving company on Knights' Trail, has been a wonderful neighbor addressing some of the concerns our community has had. Together and again this year, we will link with them prior to Thanksgiving for our annual "Fill the Barrels Food Drive." At this time, they are working with Twig for a shoe drive. The flyer is at the end of Parcels. Donations and/or shoes are acceptable contributions. Again, let's support Ajax with this charitable act.

Have You Been to Spanish Point?

Spanish Point is a 33-acre historic site located on Little Sarasota Bay in Osprey, and it's been part of Selby Gardens since 2021. Archeological records have revealed there was human habitation at Spanish Point dating back almost 4,500 years, and indigenous people lived in the area until about 800 years ago. In 1867, John Webb from Utica, New York moved his family



here, which included 5 children, because his wife suffered from severe asthma. The Webbs became among the first pioneers to settle in Florida under the Homestead Act. They built a packing business of oranges and other crops which were sold in the northern US and established the Webb's Winter Resort as the first tourist resort in Sarasota County. Pictured here is the original house built in 1901 by Frank Guptill, a Webb son-in-law. In 1910, a wealthy Chicago businesswoman named Bertha Honore Palmer visited Sarasota and eventually came to own 90,000 acres in this area. Included in that land was the Webb homestead at Spanish Point. She preserved the pioneer buildings and built lavish formal gardens, including the Sunken Garden and Pergola shown here. Tours of Spanish Point may be scheduled between 11 am and 3:30 pm. The duration of a guided tour is 90 minutes.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Can You Read?

Recently, a youngster, perhaps 10 years old, was seen driving a four-seater golf cart down the road with "Papa" sitting beside him. After 6 pm, a nonmember was spotted putting on hole 6 of the golf course. Despite the water restrictions (see the first article), some residents have been watering during the current dry spell. So, why share these examples? In a community our size, email is the most effective way that important information is shared. Messages from the POA, CDD, River Club, and Community Association are clearly identified, yet many residents still do not open or read them. Community safety and general welfare depend on communication, but that communication only works if residents pay attention. And, of course, those who most need this reminder may not be reading this article. Darn.

11TH ANNUAL FOSTERING FEET Shoe Drive



JOIN US!
July 23rd @5 pm
826 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34285

Help us make a difference for local foster children by donating new sneakers for the upcoming school year. Together, we can help every child step into school with confidence and excitement!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Bring shoes to the event at the Twig
- Send a monetary donation **by July 15th** & we will do the shopping
 - make check payable to Ajax Paving Industries
 - add **shoe drive** in the memo section
- Drop off shoes or mail check to your local Ajax office
 - 1 Ajax Drive, North Venice, FL 34275

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
One Pair at a Time.



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SHOP THE TWIG'S
AMAZON WISH LIST**

The **Twig**



"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

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 and ADDITIONAL NAME: _____

PREFERRED TELEPHONE #'s: _____

ALL E-MAIL ADDRESSES: _____

VENETIAN ADDRESS: _____

OTHER MAILING ADDRESS: _____

A copy of our official registration, number 81775, and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling 800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or website www.fdacs.gov within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.