

PARCELS

FROM
Paradise
Now in its 16th year of publication.



August 2026

CLOSE TO HOME

A New Place to Sit and Ponder

Residents may notice a new green outdoor bench in the small alcove to the right of the stop sign on Veneto Boulevard, near the golf cart crossover. This is the fourth bench on the property, giving residents another shaded place to relax and enjoy the lake view. It is one more small feature that helps make our community feel like paradise.



Names and Faces

The Community Association continues to thrive under the leadership of its Board of Directors. Residents can learn more about current board members including their biographies by clicking on the Association's website, www.vgrcca.org

Advertising in Parcels

Last year Parcels was highly successful in gaining advertisers for each seasonal edition. We had individuals who owned companies and other residents who just wanted to support this monthly newsletter. Parcels is distributed to a list of approximately 2100 email addresses plus local officials and business leaders with an average opening rate at 85 percent. If you and your family or your business would be interested in advertising, please send your contact information to vgrcca@gmail.com. Only \$99 per monthly edition! Our advertising coordinator will be in touch with you.

Requesting a Photographer

As mentioned in the June edition of Parcels, the Community Association is seeking a volunteer who has expertise as a photographer. The individual would be attending various, but not all, Community Association seminars and events taking those pictures that capture the event. If interested, let us know via vgrcca@gmail.com. It's just another way to contribute to YOUR community.



Hear those School Bells

The 2026–2027 local school year begins on August 10th. As students return to class, drivers are reminded to slow down in school zones, where the speed limit is 15 mph. If speeding, the fines are costly. Laurel Nokomis School (K-8) is expected to serve about 1,400 students. With the opening of the new Wellen Park High School (see picture) it will most likely reduce enrollment at Venice High School. Best wishes to all Venetian students for a successful school year.



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

VISIT: www.vgrcca.org

Laurel Road Widening Update

Sarasota County Commissioner Joe Neunder, who serves the VGRC, recently provided to Parcels an update on the Laurel Road widening project. According to Commissioner Neunder, “the project’s private partner originally bid the work in June, but the bids exceeded the project budget. The solicitation is being reconfigured for rebid on August 6, with bids due September 3. The resulting bid amount is expected to be structured into a construction agreement for Board consideration, likely in November. If all proceeds as planned, construction activity could begin in late calendar year 2026 or early 2027.”

Golf Close to Home

The overwhelming number of golfers who are members of the Venetian’s Golf Course are residents. Make sense when it is so convenient. Besides an 18-hole course, the golf club offers a dining facility and various activities throughout the year. They are currently conducting a special deadline-oriented membership program. Residents interested in this special opportunity should look at the flyer included at the end of Parcels and contact the Club’s Membership Director as noted.

SPECIAL INTEREST STORIES

Fish without a Home

During the current drought there are some lakes, such as one on Padova, that completely dry up. Gone are the birds and the fish. But when the water returns, so do the fish. How in the heck does that happen...do they fly in or be delivered by Amazon? Parcels had that question and went to the experts at the University of Florida IFAS Extension. Here was their response:

“Several native and non-native freshwater fish species in Florida are remarkably resilient to drought conditions. Some species, such as the Florida gar and bowfin, can survive extended dry periods by taking refuge in damp mud until conditions improve. Others, like the armored catfish, possess specialized air-breathing adaptations that allow them to move over land between bodies of water. Species such as killifish rely on drought-resistant eggs that remain buried in the substrate until favorable conditions return. Another interesting factor is that studies have shown the eggs of some fish species can remain viable even after passing through the digestive tract of birds and other predators. As these animals move between water bodies and defecate, viable eggs may be deposited into ponds, contributing to the natural recolonization of fish populations. While freshwater fish cannot survive indefinitely in a completely desiccated, baked-dry pond bed, certain species have evolved some neat physiological adaptations that allow them to endure severe drought conditions for varying periods, as described above.



You Got to be Kidding... Elephants at Myakka Elephant Ranch

Raise your hand if you associate elephants with the great state of Florida. Well, the Sunshine state has a home for these big guys. Myakka Elephant Ranch is a nonprofit conservation center dedicated to educating guests about elephant conservation while offering memorable, one-of-a-kind experiences.

One of the ranch’s most distinctive offerings is WILDCORE, a curated wellness experience that combines movement, nature, and quiet reflection. With wellness stations and elephants visible in the distance, the program is designed to help guests reconnect with nature, nourish the body, and enjoy an evening unlike any other. For more information about this extraordinary place including how to visit the site, go to <https://www.myakkaelephantranch.org/>



PLAY OR PRAY

Here is something creative and unusual. One nearby and newly built church reportedly has eight indoor pickleball courts. Whether you pray before you play or after the final point, it is just another creative way to attract individuals of all ages to their respective place of worship.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

August Primary Election

The August primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 18th with the precinct conveniently located at the River Club. Some ballot items may require party affiliation, but the School Board race is open to all registered Florida voters. With no incumbents in the race, many residents will be watching the School Board race closely.

Music to your Ears

Individual tickets for the Venice Symphony upcoming season went on sale August 3rd. If you are interested in purchasing specific concerts, the Symphony box office is open from 10 am – 4 pm and is located at the Bypass, in the same strip center as Joey D's Chicago Pizza. If you have not attended one of the Venice Symphony concerts, with the charismatic conductor, Troy Quinn, (pictured) look at the upcoming season and join the many concert goers who enjoy this wonderful cultural gem in our city. Click on <https://www.thevenicesymphony.org/>



Bin Worthy: Goodwill Bargain Barn Opens

Goodwill has opened a Bargain Barn in the former Tervis headquarters on Triple Diamond Boulevard off Knights Trail. This location is different from the Goodwill drop-off center in the nearby strip center aka "Subway Plaza". The Goodwill store prices items by the pound, with sellable goods displayed in open bins that rotate every 30 minutes. Hours are daily from 9 am to 6 pm. Take a short trip to this newly opened store.



Dog Lovers

Enough about Cheese Steak sandwiches. ... let's turn our attention to another delicacy for those who are not watching their cholesterol.hot dogs. The good news is that the Salty Dog Restaurant, located on the island next to Carroll GMC, is on the national list for best hot dogs. Whether it is relatively plain and simple with mustard and relish (boring) or the fully loaded dog with sauerkraut, grilled onions, mushrooms and multiple cheeses, you will walk away knowing you ate one of the best dogs in the country. Let the dogs out.



Venice Hospital...What's Happening?

Venice Hospital has sat empty ever since it closed at noon on September 22, 2022. The hospital served the community for 71 years. Recently there has been discussion between city officials and owners of the hospital. It's too early to call as to what will take place at the old hospital but some of the talk about plans include two office/residential towers. It appears that the facility will also include a medical facility but not a hospital. Getting information about the future of this facility has been very difficult but as plans unravel Parcels will stay close to this story.

TROPICAL STORMS: DO I NEED TO WORRY?

IF IT IS ONLY A TROPICAL STORM AND NOT A HURRICANE, WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

There is a natural tendency not to take a tropical storm threat as seriously as that of a hurricane. We are learning that this mindset is not a wise approach to preparing for and responding to a tropical storm warning or threat. Here are some facts that may sharpen our vision and help us be more proactive in preparation and response. A tropical storm has winds in the range of 39-73 mph. (Note: a hurricane can range in 74-95 mph for a hurricane Cat 1). The danger of a tropical storm includes storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, high surf and rip currents. Earlier in July, Tropical Storm Bertha made her way across the northern part of the Gulf this month, making two landfalls and causing flooding, dangerous surf and significant beach erosion. When she made landfall on July 18th at St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana (40 miles east of New Orleans) she had maximum SUSTAINED winds of 45 mph. Think of the damage that these winds and flooding could cause, which includes downed trees, flooded parks, power outages and flash flooding. As we cautiously navigate this hurricane season with a nod to living in paradise, let's be aware and prepared (to be ready and equipped with a mindset that gives you the greatest level of comfort and confidence in dealing with a potentially catastrophic event).

Don't Evacuate....Depart

Occasionally you read about something and say to yourself "unbelievable." Recently there was publicity about a membership-based air flight company which will fly you out of Sarasota to Atlanta if there is a hurricane approaching the area. It appears the membership covers your flight expense but it ain't cheap. Click on <https://www.priorityevac.com/>.

Semper Gumby= Beach Replenishment project

The official motto of the Marine Corps, "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful), is well known. Another unofficial saying in the Corps "semper gumby" (always flexible) is well known among troops who frequently experience multiple schedule changes. Schedule changes may be something currently experienced by local visitors to our Gulf Beaches due to the ongoing beach replenishment project which began in May.

The beach replenishment project replaces lost sand due to erosion and storms. The last time beach replenishment occurred was in 2015. The current project extends 3.2 miles from the south side of the Venice Inlet (think of the Crow's Nest Restaurant) to south of the Venice Fishing Pier (think of Sharky's Restaurant). Go to the North Jetty and you will see some of the operational aspect of this major project. The fully Federally funded project is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineer. Initiated in May, the beach replenishment is scheduled to be completed in September of this year (barring any unforeseen complications). Continual environmental monitoring and assistance from the Mote Marine Laboratory to relocate turtle nests is included in this project. Sand for the beaches will be taken from an area in the Gulf, 11 nautical miles southwest of Venice. Beach closures will occur in 1,000-to-1,500-foot segments so that beachgoers can enjoy the Gulf waters at beach areas not under maintenance. Portions of the beach area parking lots at the north and south ends of the replenishment zone will be unavailable due to equipment parking. So, what does this mean to me? Be flexible. If a beach trip is planned, you may not have access to your favorite spot. Remember, if your spot is closed, there is roughly 2.9 miles of beach available to enjoy (Semper Gumby).

Supporting our Chamber of Commerce

The Venice Chamber of Commerce does a great deal of work for the City. Please note at the end of Parcels, a flyer advertising a great program that they are now offering that benefits all residents.

FINAL THOUGHTS...."I STINK"

"I stink. I never played before. I will be embarrassed". These are the three common phrases you hear from individuals who are taking up the game of golf. Golf offers three benefits: First, is the game itself which is for any age group ...there are folks in their 80's who are playing regularly on courses everywhere. Secondly, the comradery of engaging with other players...not sure there is another game where you are riding with someone for about 4 hours. And finally, you are out with nature....and the birds, the gators (they won't bother you) and the beautiful landscape are all part of the game. Perhaps you want to give this great game a try and as everyone knows, our Venetian Golf Club is so convenient. As mentioned in a previous article our golf course is offering a special membership program. No, Parcels can't guarantee that you will be on the pro tour soon, but we guarantee that you will have fun at any age. "Hit 'em straight."


VENICE AREA
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACCREDITED ★★★★★

2026 Valued Investment Partners

TITANIUM

The Absolute Family





VENICE PIER GROUP



PLATINUM























VENICE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **TASTE OF SUMMER SPECIALS**

**DURING THE WHOLE
MONTH OF AUGUST!**

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOCAL
DEALS FROM YOUR FAVORITE
RESTAURANTS!**

**BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND
DINNER SPECIALS!**

**SCAN HERE TO SEE
PARTICIPATING
RESTAURANTS AND
THEIR MENUS**



VENICE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

BUYING LOCAL PAYS BACK THIS SUMMER

\$3,000

Each Month 1 Lucky Local Winner
Will Receive a **\$1,000 CASH PRIZE**

**Buy Local Between July 1st through
September 30th for your chance to WIN BIG!**

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1:** Save Your Receipts for any Purchase Made Locally Dated July 1st - September 30th 2026
- 2:** Bring Your Receipts to The Venice Area Chamber Of Commerce, 597 S. Tamiami Trail, Between 10am & 4pm From Wednesday, July 1st Through Wednesday, Sept. 30th 2026 To Be Entered!
- 3:** Contest Eligible Receipts Will Be Honored From Venice Chamber Members & More Than 5,000 Venice-Area Businesses in Zip Codes 34285, 34292, 34293, 34275, 34229, 34223 and 34272

Winners announced on Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page each month at 9am on Monday, Aug. 3rd; Tuesday, Sept. 1st; and Thursday, Oct. 1st.

*Buying Local Sweepstakes Official Rules Apply. Receipts dated between July 1st 2026 - September 30th 2026 ending at 4 pm are eligible. Minimum purchase of \$25 required (per receipt). Maximum of 1,000 entries per person



LABOR DAY LUXURY

JOIN BY LABOR DAY AND RECEIVE UP TO \$5,000 OFF YOUR INITIATION FEE PLUS A \$1,000 CLUB CREDIT.



Experience everything Venetian Golf Club has to offer as a Private Club for a Full Golf Member. Enjoy 18 holes of dynamic championship golf, exceptional private dining, and a vibrant social calendar. All with no waitlists and no assessments.

Better yet, you can defer the start of your membership dues until as late as January 1, 2027, making now the perfect time to secure your Membership.

**Join as a Full Golf Member
by September 7, 2026, and receive:**

- Up to \$5,000 OFF your Initiation Fee
- \$1,000 Club Credit
- Use toward dining, the golf shop, and club events.
- Option to defer dues until January 1, 2027
- Restrictions may apply.

**THIS OFFER WON'T
LAST LONG**
Schedule your
personalized club
tour today and
discover why so
many are choosing
Venetian Golf Club.

VENETIAN GOLF CLUB

DANIEL NYSELIUS | MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

(941) 441-2290 | DNYSELIUS@HERITAGEGOLFGROUP.COM

Scan to Learn More!



"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.