



# PARCELS FROM PARADISE

**August 2014**

*Published by the VGRCCA as a service to its members and residents of the Venetian Golf and River Club.*

## **•Behind The Scenes Efforts for Our Area**

The majority of the VGRC Community Association's work is focused on areas outside of the Venetian gate, and much of the effort is "behind the scenes." We talk, we call, we write letters, and sometimes probably pester City, County and state officials who are ultimately responsible for making key decisions that impact the quality of life for Venetians. Some of our past results include lobbying for the Jacaranda Blvd. extension, pushing for the paving of Laurel Road to the Myakka River Park when the pipeline was installed, establishing a landscape buffer on the northern border of the Venetian, and the rezoning of the property south of Laurel Road along Jacaranda Blvd.

Currently there are three projects that we are staying on top of:

**First**, the VGRCCA gave its support to the rezoning of a 700 home Neal Community called the "Villages of Milano". This new community will be built on both sides of the Jacaranda extension between Laurel and Border Roads. The rezoning calls for the reduction of allowable density from 1,840 to 700 homes. The City Council has approved the change and this project is now in the site development plan stage.

**Secondly**, the VGRCCA supported Sarasota Memorial Hospital's request to the Venice Planning Commission for its medical campus to be built at the southeast corner of Pinebrook and Laurel Roads. Ultimately it will need approval by the Venice City Council. This will be a medical complex, not a hospital, and development is probably years away.

**Finally**, there is the I-75 Exit 195 landscaping project that will beautify the exit and designate Laurel Road as the “Gateway to Venice.” The VGRCCA was instrumental in gaining support letters from businesses in the area and lobbying our City and County politicians to move this project along. These supporters include WCI Communities, Neal Communities, John Peshkin (Vanguard Group), Willow Chase POA, VG&RC POA, Gulf Coast Foundation, Elks Lodge, D.R. Horton Homebuilders, John Ask (Nokomis Civic Organization), AJAX, Publix Super Markets, Hal Hoeland (Plaza Venezia owner), and the Nielsen Corp. There are several layers of government that need to approve the project and then decide what the landscaping design will be and how much to spend. If successful, this will certainly enhance the attractiveness of the exit for everyone.

*Parcels* will provide further details on these and other events as they emerge.

### •**Exciting Programs Ahead**

There are a number of community resources and specialists in our area. Last year, the VGRCCA called on the Venice Police Department who put on an excellent program on “Identity Theft”, and followed with Dr. John Vidolin who discussed “Knees and Hips.” Both seminars were very well received and residents asked for more. This year the VGRCCA has planned a number of programs that should be of interest to many. These programs are open to all residents but we surely we hope that they will be one more reason to become a member of the Community Association. Currently, we have planned:

#### **Live and Learn One Hour Seminars**

- Are your papers in order: wills, estates, & trusts
- Everything you want to know about pharmaceuticals
- Dementia and Alzheimer’s
- My aching back

#### **Horticulture**

- Colors in your garden
- Snakes and bugs

#### **Community Updates**

- Candidate Forum
- Annual Town Hall Meeting

#### **Special Activities**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bike-O-Rama
- Health Fair

More details will be provided on each event in future editions of *Parcels*. Also, the dates and times of key community events will be listed in the *calendar section* of the VGRCCA website [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us) We are all looking forward to a great upcoming season at the Venetian.

•**Hurricane Readiness Team meetings**

Information meetings for the HRT will be held on **Tuesday, August 19 at 9am & 4:30pm** at the River Club. If you are interested in learning more about this program, and if you would like to serve on the HRT, please plan to attend one of these meetings (both will have the same content). They will last no longer than 1 hour and are not training sessions.

•**Public Hearing on the Annual VCDD Budget**

The Venetian CDD will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for 2014-2015 as part of its regularly scheduled meeting on **Monday, August 25 at 9:30am** at the River Club. Please attend and learn the details on how your VCDD assessment is spent.

•**Local Tragedy Makes National News**

*Parcels* sends its sympathy to the Irizzary family who were vacationing in Venice and lost two members when a small airplane made an emergency landing on Casperson Beach. Sgt. Irizzary was serving in the Army and stationed in Georgia. His nine year old daughter was accompanying him on a walk on the beach when they were struck by the disabled plane. The incident grabbed the attention of national media, and it's a truly sad story.

•**Improvements To Our Website**

Over the summer, a subcommittee of VGRCCA looked at our web site with the goal of increasing its usage. There will be two notable changes: First, we realized that there are a number of meetings (POA, VCDD, VGRCCA, etc.) that take place and attendance is encouraged. As a result, we have set up a community calendar on the website. We will also add neighborhood meetings (i.e. Tiziano 1) to the calendar. If you are the president of a neighborhood group, you can submit information to *Parcels* with the name of your organization and the details of your meeting. This will give residents a single website to check for meetings and events. The calendar will not include River Club or Golf Club events.

The second change is a long awaited need for this community, especially for the many new residents who purchase homes in the Venetian. It should also be a selling point for realtors. In the near future, our web site we will have a "*Common Interest*" forum where Venetian residents can post areas of interest to connect with others in this community who are similarly inclined. For example, you may be involved in genealogy and want to connect with those who also share that interest and would like to meet. The *Common Interest* forum serves that purpose. Like anything new, we will evaluate its success and progress. It's anticipated that this new feature will be up and running next month.

•**Membership Is Important**

Hopefully after reading this edition of *Parcels* you can see the work that your VGRCCA performs both inside and outside of the Venetian in accordance with its mission. Last year was a banner year for our numbers, and thanks to everyone who renewed their membership and to those who joined for the first time. The membership form for 2015 is on page 6. You can also go to our web site [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us) and click on "Membership" where you can pay safely online via your credit card. There is a discount for a multiple year payment. We're looking forward to another great year for the VGRCCA!

## A SPECIAL LETTER TO OUR SNOWBIRDS FROM CAMP VENETIAN

DEAR MUDDA, DEAR FADDAH --

I'M HAVING A GREAT TIME AT CAMP VENETIAN AND REALLY MISS YOU. LIFE IS MUCH DIFFERENT WHEN YOU AREN'T HERE. WE GET INTO RESTAURANTS EASILY, CAN QUICKLY MAKE TEE TIMES, DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT TRAFFIC, AND THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITH RESERVATIONS FOR CHEESEBURGERS IN PARADISE.

BUT WOW, MUDDA, IT IS HOT DOWN HERE. VERY HOT AND HUMID WITH RAIN SHOWERS IN THE PM. I DO SEE LOTS OF CAMPERS STILL BICYCLING, PLAYING GOLF AND TENNIS, WALKING AND SOME EVEN RUNNING. FADDAH, IF YOU WERE HERE, I DON'T THINK WATCHING FAMILY FEUD COULD BE CALLED A SUMMER ACTIVITY.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE LAKES ARE FULL AND ALL OF NATURE'S CREATURES SEEM TO BE THRIVING. BUT SINCE YOU AREN'T HERE, I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE LATEST ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP VENETIAN AND IN THE AREA.

THE NEW MCDONALDS IS MOVING ALONG WITH THE COMPLETION DATE IN ABOUT A MONTH AND IT WILL BE OPEN 24/7. IT'S AT THE CORNER OF LAUREL AND PINEBROOK AND I'LL BE FIRST IN LINE FOR A BIG MAC AND FRIES. I'M SEEING PROGRESS WITH THE BUILDING OF HONORE AVENUE WHICH WILL COME OUT ON LAUREL RD AT PINEBROOK. SEEMS TO BE A HUGE PROJECT BUT WILL ALLOW AN ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR NORTH/SOUTH DRIVERS. GROUNDBREAKING HAS STARTED ON A 90 HOME COMMUNITY ON PINEBROOK RD. JUST SOUTH OF THE NEW PLAZA VENEZIA.

THE VCDD RESPONDED TO NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS ABOUT SPEEDING IN THE CAMP BY PLACING A TRAFFIC RADAR SIGN WITH A MPH DISPLAY ON VENETO BLVD. IT CAN BE MOVED AROUND TO OTHER LOCATIONS IF NEEDED. IT'S DEFINITELY MADE EVERYONE AWARE OF THEIR SPEED. DON'T WORRY, MUDDA AND FADDAH, I ALWAYS OBEY THE LAW.

LAUREL RD. HAS BEEN REPAVED FROM PINEBROOK TO ALBEE FARM RD. NOW YOU CAN DRIVE ON IT WITHOUT A BUMP. THE VGRCCA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN MOVING THIS PROJECT FORWARD. THE "YELLOW" HOUSE NEXT TO CVS IS STILL IN A STATE OF DISARRAY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A LANDSCAPING BUSINESS WILL POSSIBLY EMERGE THERE.

HOME BUILDING IS MOVING AT A RAPID PACE AT THE CAMP. MOST NOTABLE ARE THE CONDOS NEAR THE RIVER CLUB AS WELL AS THE HOMES BEING BUILT ON THE EXTENSION OF PADOVA WAY. THEY'LL BE PUTTING THE FINAL LAYER OF ASPHALT ON SECTIONS OF VENETO BLVD. AND PESARO DRIVE, ALONG WITH SOME OTHER SIDE STREETS, VERY SOON. I HEARD FROM CAMPERS DURING THE MARSHMALLOW ROAST THAT REAL ESTATE IS MOVING WELL AT THE CAMP. WHEN YOU RETURN, YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE PROGRESS THAT'S BEEN MADE.

PINEAPPLES ON THE ISLAND IS UP FOR SALE AND HAS CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER. A NEW CARRABBAS IS BEING BUILT NEAR LOWE'S ON HWY 41. THERE HAS BEEN NO ACTIVITY WITH THE PROPOSED ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN PLAZA VENEZIA. IN FACT, NO NEW STORES OTHER THAN THE MCDONALDS HAVE SHOWN UP. AND FINALLY, BECAUSE WE KNOW YOU WOULD WANT TO KNOW, SUBWAY IS STILL IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

YES, SINCE YOU'VE BEEN GONE, A LOT HAS HAPPENED. IN SPEAKING FOR ALL THE CURRENT VENETIAN CAMPERS, WE WILL WELCOME YOU WITH A SMILE WHEN YOUR CAR ENTERS THE GATES OF CAMP VENETIAN. BUT WITH THE EASE OF RESERVATIONS AND THE LACK OF TRAFFIC FOR US CAMPERS, YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO RUSH BACK.....JUST KIDDING!!!

SAFE TRAVELS,

YOUR FAVORITE CAMPER!

# Venetian Calendar

## Upcoming meeting dates

**These meetings are held at the River Club and are open to all residents:**

August 19 – Hurricane Readiness Team meetings – 9am & 4:30pm  
(same program at both times) [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)

August 20 – POA Board Meeting – 10 am [dliston@castlegroup.com](mailto:dliston@castlegroup.com)

August 20 – POA Rules Committee – 3:30 pm [dliston@castlegroup.com](mailto:dliston@castlegroup.com)  
(meetings are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 3:30 pm)

August 25 – VCDD board meeting & budget hearing – 9:30 am  
(meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 9:30am)

August 25 – VGRCCA board meeting – 3:30pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)

Sept. 9 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm  
(meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2:00 pm) [dliston@castlegroup.com](mailto:dliston@castlegroup.com)

Sept. 17 – POA Board Meeting – 10 am [dliston@castlegroup.com](mailto:dliston@castlegroup.com)

Sept. 17 – POA Rules Committee – 3:30 pm [dliston@castlegroup.com](mailto:dliston@castlegroup.com)  
(meetings are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 3:30 pm)

Sept. 22 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am [www.vcdd.org](http://www.vcdd.org)  
(meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 9:30am)  
(no VCDD board meeting on Sept. 8)



COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION

www.vgrcca.us

## 2015 DUES & MEMBER INFORMATION FORM

*Dues Per Household* (Please check the appropriate box)

Membership Term	Membership Cost (Prior to 12/31/14)	Membership Cost (After 12/31/14)
<input type="checkbox"/> One year	\$ 30.00	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Two years	\$ 55.00	\$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Three years	\$ 75.00	\$80.00

**THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO JOIN:**

*Pay securely on-line with PayPal at [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us) Click on "membership"*

*Or mail your check to:* Treasurer  
305 Martellago Drive  
North Venice, FL 34275

*Payable to:* VGRC Community Association, Inc.

**MEMBER INFORMATION:**

Property Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Venetian Golf & River Club Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Signature