



PARCELS FROM PARADISE

MARCH 2014

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

• **A Jam Packed Town Hall Meeting** A standing room only crowd of 450 people packed the Laurel Nokomis School cafetorium for the 2014 Town Hall Meeting, sponsored by the VGRC Community Association, and was the largest ever. Audience members heard from developers John Peshkin and Pat Neal, Venice Mayor John Holic presented a relatively bright picture for the city of Venice, while County Commissioner Charles Hines outlined some major improvements in this area including the paving of Laurel Rd. near the school. WCI's Rick Barber discussed areas at the Venetian that will be developed as the company approaches build-out. Police Chief Tom McNulty gave a short overview of the alleged burglary in the Venetian, indicating it was an "isolated incident." Prior to the meeting, entertainment was provided by a talented quartet of musicians from Pine View School. Thanks to all who attended.



•**Identity Theft Seminar** Do you always check your credit card statements to confirm all purchases? Do you shred important documents? Is your Social Security card in your wallet or purse? Identity theft can strike anyone. On **March 17th at 9:30am at the River Club**, the VGRC Community Association will hold a one-hour seminar. This program will be put on by members of the Venice Police Dept. who have expertise in this area. Given the size of the room, there will be limited seating.

•**Venice Emergency Notification System: CodeRed** The recent water main break outside the Venetian emphasized the need for residents to be alerted by Venice's CodeRed system in the event of an emergency or urgent situation. CodeRed employs a one-of-a-kind internet mapping capability for geographic targeting of calls, coupled with a high-speed telephone calling system. CodeRed is for city of Venice residents only and does work with cell phones. We urge you to sign up for CodeRed by going to www.venicegov.com and click on "Emergency Notification" on the bottom of the page.

•**VCDD Takes Action on Speeding** For the past few months, the VCDD board has been wrestling with the challenge of individuals speeding in the Venetian, where the posted speed limit is 25 mph. The solutions are not simple. The Venice Fire Dept. frowns on placing higher speed bumps, and bringing in the Venice Police Dept. for enforcement is filled with many legal issues. The VCDD at their February 24 meeting approved the purchase of a speed detector which flashes the vehicle's speed. This device is similar to the one on Jacaranda Blvd. It will be initially posted on Padova Way where residents have voiced their concerns about traffic speed. The item is mobile and can be moved to other areas. *Parcels* applauds the VCDD for taking action, but we all know that the real solution for speeding is having drivers take responsibility for how much pressure they put on the pedal.

•**Important POA Rule Issue** There's a buzz around the community regarding a proposal to change rule 2.5 of the Venetian Property Owners Rules & Regulations. Under this amendment, homeowners would be allowed to display a limited number and color of sculptures, ornaments, etc. in their front and rear yards. Rick Barber, chair of the POA, distributed the text of the amendment at the Town Hall meeting. If you have comments on this change, please submit them in writing to David Liston, Castle Property Manager, at dliston@castlegroup.com. A special meeting of the POA board of directors in conjunction with the Architecture Control Committee and the Rules Committee is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 1:00 pm at the River Club**. Please plan to attend.

•**A Great Idea: Grandma's Attic** Relatives flying in and you are looking for a crib and car seat for the infant? Thanks to resident, PJ Smiley, Venetians will have access to "Grandma's Attic. PJ will be the contact & coordinator and keeper of the list. Her email is pjsmiley@gmail.com Residents should email her with items they are willing to loan out to others in the community when their homes are filled with company.....i.e. cribs, car seats, booster seats, bikes, beach chairs, beach umbrellas, golf clubs, tennis rackets, inflatable beds, folding chairs, tables, dog crates, pots, pans etc. When a resident is in need of items to borrow, they email PJ and she will refer them as to who has whatever they are looking for. Great idea! Let's get on board.

•**Dog Park** *Parcels* received an inquiry as to whether there could be a dog park on Venetian property. The quick answer is there are no plans at this time for such a park. You are welcome to attend a VCDD meeting if you would like to discuss any issue that pertains to Venetian roads, grounds or lakes.

•**The Dogs Just Can't Wait** Poochie is counting the days in anticipation of the 2nd annual Venetian Dog Walk to benefit Sun Coast Humane Society. This event will be held on **Saturday, March 15 at 10am** at the River Club parking lot. A \$10 donation would be appreciated to support the Humane Society. This year, craft items will also be displayed. For questions, contact Linda Hewitson at designsunleashedarf@gmail.com

•**Upcoming Election** On March 25th, Sarasota County voters will go to the polls to vote on the renewal of a 1mill County school district ad valorem tax that was originally passed by voters in March 2010. Also on the ballot are three questions about the Venice City Council regarding compensation, meeting schedule, and partial terms of office and term limits. Voting is very easy for Venetian residents as our precinct is located at the River Club.

•**Restaurant signed** According to the property manager at Plaza Venezia (new Publix), a lease has been signed with Asaro's Italian Restaurant. They will take the corner unit, and it will be probably six months before the doors swing open. As details emerge, *Parcels* will share them with residents.

•**Oops** Imagine you are sitting at the River Club pool on a hot day, sipping on a strawberry daiquiri, and oops, it falls into the pool, dumping its contents. Not good for the pool or swimmers. That is why there is a rule at the pool that no drinks of any nature should be consumed in the pool or within 5 feet of the edge. And *please* observe the **"no glass containers in the pool area"** rule.

•**Festival of Quilts** *Parcels* occasionally likes to point out Venice events which may be of interest to residents. On March 8 and 9th at the Venice Community Center there will be the Festival of Quilts. Over 200 contemporary and traditional quilts will be on display. Admission is \$7 or \$12 for both days. Although *Parcels* has never attended a Quilt Festival, it could be an experience long remembered. And it's just one more thing to do in Paradise.

•**VGRCCA Annual Meeting** The annual meeting of the VG&RC Community Association will be held on **Tuesday, March 18 at 5pm at the River Club**. At this meeting, board members will be elected and officers chosen, and it is open to members and those who would like to join.

•**VCDD Board Meeting Change** Meetings of the Venetian CDD board of supervisors will now be held at 9:30am on both the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. This is a change from the afternoon meeting on the 4th Monday. These are held at the River Club and all homeowners are welcome.

•**Volunteer Opportunity** The ESJ Branch of the YMCA has the pleasure of hosting the YMCA Masters Swimming Champs on April 10-13 at the Selby Aquatic Center, 8301 Potter Park Drive in Sarasota. This meet is open to swimmers throughout the USA who belong to a YMCA. These are Masters athletes between the ages of 18-99. The meet will start at 8am and run until approximately 1pm each day. The "Y" needs volunteers for the timing and hospitality of this meet. The greatest need for volunteers is on Thursday, April 10th. The remaining days will be handled by groups which have already committed to filling those timing spots. The website is www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CAAAC29A13-2014 and you can sign up there for a position that may interest you.

•**VGRCCA Membership** If you have not paid your dues for 2014, there will be a membership table at the Identity Theft seminar on March 17. We accept cash, checks or credit cards. You can also pay at anytime via our web site www.vgrcca.us. Thank you!

•**Mazel Tov (Congratulations)** And our final story of note: congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Sand Hill Crane for the birth of two new baby chicks seen on March 2nd. These two cuties are the first of the season, and get your camera ready because certainly this is a Kodak moment. We ask all residents to be on the watch for birds on our streets and to please drive carefully as some of our sand hill crane friends just don't heed the signs. Yes, the mother and father were protecting their young and if you want to know how to determine the father from the mother, well, there are those that say the male is usually walking a few feet behind the female. Go figure!

Venetian Calendar

Upcoming meeting dates

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

- March 10 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.vcdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- March 11 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm
(meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 pm) dliston@castlegroup.com
- March 15 – Venetian Dog Walk – 10am designsunleashedarf@gmail.com
- March 17 – Identity Theft seminar – 9:30am www.vgrcca.us
- March 18 – VGRCCA annual meeting – 5pm www.vgrcca.us
- March 19 – POA board meeting – 1pm dliston@castlegroup.com
- March 19 – POA Rules Committee – 3:30 pm dliston@castlegroup.com
(meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 3:30 pm)
- March 24 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.vcdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- April 1 – New resident orientation – 9:00am (call 441-2267 to reserve)
(held the 1st Tuesday of each month in season)
- April 8 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm
(meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 pm) dliston@castlegroup.com
- April 14 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.vcdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- April 16 – POA Rules Committee – 3:30 pm dliston@castlegroup.com
(meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 3:30 pm)