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# PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

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***February 2017***

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

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*And MORE*

*Thank you for reading Parcels.  
If you have a story idea click on “reply” and let us know.*

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## RIGHT IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD — ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT THE VENETIAN

### • What's the Name of that Bird?

We are fortunate in having for the **Backyard Birds and More Seminar**, Charlie Sample, Venice Area Audubon Rookery Coordinator and noted Bird Guide. The seminar will be held on **Monday, February 6, 2017, starting at 4 pm** at the River Club.

In this one hour seminar, Mr. Sample will show birds of Florida that everyone sees, but often just don't know the name or anything about these birds. With the presentation, there will be tips to identify these birds. Whether you are a serious bird watcher or just want to know more about the birds you see everyday, the **Backyard Birds and More** seminar should address your interest.

Your VGRC Community Association sponsors this seminar. A membership table will be at the seminar for those who wanting to pay their annual dues.

### • Shredfest II is here

By now, Shredfest has become a household word. But for those who need a refresher, Shredfest involves a shredding truck (see below) that comes to the Venetian, and before your own eyes, shreds any documents and other shreddable items. The date is **Wednesday, February 15, from 8-9:30 am** in the River Club parking lot. As there are those that have to go to work, an attendant will be on duty at 7:30 am where you can give him your "stuff." He will put the "stuff" into the truck when it arrives later. The VGRC Community Association sponsors this event. There is no cost to members, but if you are not a member, the cost is \$10.00.

### • Added Seminar

Based on suggestions from our CDD, the VGRC Community Association will sponsor a very informative seminar on **Alligators**. The seminar will be held on **Monday, March 27, 5 pm** at the River Club. Details to follow in the March edition of *Parcels*.



### • Bike-O-Rama IV..... So Many People, So Many Bikes

Bike-O-Rama IV was successful...highly successful. In fact, bike enthusiasts were lined up even before the event opened and the line continued throughout the morning. Those in line were very patient but walked out pleased after their bike went through a maintenance check. But there was a glitch. Due to the huge crowd, a decision was made to close off the area earlier than publicized. The lines were so long that if more people were added to the line, the three bike maintenance workers would have to be on site way beyond 12 noon, the time the event was scheduled to close. Even with the line closure, the maintenance team remained until approximately 1 pm. The VGRC Community Association apologizes to those who had to be turned away. Assuming there will be a Bike-O-Rama V next year, event planners will be putting their heads together to determine how to deal with this oversized crowd.



### • **Bus Loading Procedure Change at the Venetian**

Recently the Sarasota School District moved the drop-off location for the school bus from the Welcome Center to the Laurel Road community access point. In response, parents picking up their children have started to form car lines extending down our access road (driveway) coming on to the property. This parking pattern creates safety and traffic congestion concerns. For example, a youngster eager to get to his parent's car but on the left side of the car, runs into the street where cars in the second lane are coming into the Venetian. Bad scene! Parking along the access driveway also violates our community rule of no parking along this road. The CDD urges parents to begin meeting their children at another location in order to avoid further enforcement actions and for residents to be extra cautious when the buses are unloading their precious cargo.

### • **VGRC Community Association Board**

If you have an interest in serving on the Community Association Board, please contact President John Moeckel at [jcminfl@yahoo.com](mailto:jcminfl@yahoo.com).

### • **The Wall of Something**

The Wall has certainly becoming something! There are more and more posts every day. Many are just fascinating such as a waller who found antique stamps and wanted to give them away, an awesome Camaro and a very fine Baldwin piano and a resident looking for an upholsterer. We are trying to set up a special category (on the right corner of the first page) which would list just service providers that you would recommend....i.e. window cleaners, electrician, power washers, plumbers, etc. Therefore if you have a great service provider go to the Wall today and list them. Thanks to the many, many people who are now using the Wall. Go to [www.vgrcca.us/wall-of-something](http://www.vgrcca.us/wall-of-something).

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## **THE ANNUAL TOWN HALL MEETING: ENGAGING THE AUDIENCE**

On **Monday, February 27, 2017**, at the **Laurel Nokomis School** the VGRC Community Association will hold its **Annual Town Hall Meeting**. **The event will begin at 5 pm.**

Recently a survey was sent to all Community Association members asking them to let us know what topics they would like to see on the agenda. The top items selected were:

- Future land development around the Venetian (including the Portofino project)
- Update on parks in the northeast area of Venice
- Purchase of WCI by Lennar
- Status of the new Sarasota Memorial Hospital and the new Venice Bayfront Hospitals
- Issues Venice will be dealing with over the next five years

As of this writing, we are working on speakers for these topics. **What we can tell you at this point, the CEO of both Sarasota Memorial and Venice Bayfront Hospitals have graciously accepted our invitation to speak.** We are working on the other speakers especially efforts to get a representative from Lennar, assuming the sale has been consummated.

### **The Challenge**

Recently, the Board took a good look at the Town Hall meeting. We have been very pleased with the attendance especially with last year's attendance just over 400.

However, we have struggled to do two things in the meeting, all in about an hour or so. First, allow the speakers enough time to provide a report of substance to the audience. Secondly, to engage the Venetian audience by taking questions and comments. We believe that the THM seems rushed and the opportunity for our residents to ask questions has been cut short.

We believe that an important aspect of a Town Hall meeting is to dialogue with the speakers. So this

year, we have made a small adjustment in the agenda to provide sufficient time for questions for the speakers. The change will align the THM with a true Town Hall Meeting.

### **The New Format**

The THM will start at 5 p.m. sharp with our guest speakers addressing their topic. As in the past, we will give each speaker a time allotment for his/her topic. For the most part, speakers adhere to the time given to them.

We will not take questions and comments during the speaker section of the agenda. **Once ALL speakers have presented their topics, we will take a five-minute break. Those who want to leave may do so.** Those who have questions and comments for the speakers can remain for this part of the agenda.

We believe this new format, even though it may extend the time

1. Gives ample time for speakers
2. Provides a time after the speakers where audience members can leave
3. Segments the questions and answer to a separate part of the agenda, allowing sufficient dialogue to take place

More details will be forthcoming about the Town Hall meeting.

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## **OUTSIDE THE GATES**

### **• OYE..... I'm SO FULL**

One of the annual community events where you will see a number of Venetian residents in attendance is the **23rd Annual Jewish Food Festival**. The event is held at the Jewish Congregation of Venice on Auburn, just a few minutes away from the Venetian on **Sunday, February 19 from 10 am to pm**. The main focus is food including corn beef and pastrami sandwiches, matzo ball soup, potato knishes, (if only *Parcels* could generate the smell), homemade pastries and more. Entertainment, a flea market and a book and jewelry sale add to this event. So before you attend the Annual Jewish Food Festival, you might want to bring some Tums or a bottle of Vichy that you have stored from the 60's.



### **• A New Aldi's**

Aldi's, the grocery chain, is being built on Tamiami Trail just north of Laurel Rd. It will be located on the property between the Speedway and CVS. Aldi's uses the words, "unique style" when describing the shopping experience at one of their stores. Get ready to "rent" your grocery cart for a quarter (you get it back when you return the cart). You can also bring your own bags or purchase reusable bags. The closet Aldi stores are located in Bradenton and North Port. *Parcels* will alert readers as to the expected opening.

- **New Publix Manager**

The Community Association welcomes new store manager, Mackenzie Mast to our local Publix's. Please give her a warm Venetian welcome when you see her walking around the store. Former store manager, Toni Lowery, has been moved to the Publix's at Pinebrook and Venice Ave. We have been fortunate in having very community friendly managers at the Plaza Venezia Publix.

- **Activities: Venice's 90th Year Anniversary**

The City of Venice has announced two major activities to commemorate the city's 90-year anniversary.

There will be a City of Venice 90th anniversary exhibit at the Venice Museum & Archives, opening Feb. 6 and running through July 31. The photographs and items on display at the VMA present an overview of the development of Venice over the course of the city's history. Along with the museum's permanent exhibits, this temporary exhibition provides a glimpse of the forces, people and organizations that were instrumental in creating the city of today. The exhibit includes information and photographs on the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Kentucky Military Institute, the Venice Army Air Base, and the Winter Quarters of the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus, as well as other influences.

Venice Florida Tours will hold a series of historical walking tours downtown on Saturdays throughout the year, with the first on Feb. 25 (max 12 people each tour). A portion of each individual cost to take the tour will be donated to Venice Heritage Inc.

- **Bye, Bye, CVS**

It came out of the blue. The CVS store at Laurel by Knight's Trail is closing on March 11. The store opened in 2009. This is one of the 70 stores that CVS plans to close. No word as to what will happen with the building. Prescriptions have been forwarded to the CVS store at the Jacaranda roundabout.

- **Atlanta Braves on the Way...Possibly**

Word is it that the Atlanta Braves will be building their spring training facility in South Venice off of the River Rd. exit. You may ask what implication this facility will have on Venice? Spring training often brings visitors who are real baseball aficionados. This means hotel rooms, restaurants and other services. As the City benefits from a sales tax, a tourist development tax and an alcohol tax, those who stop in Venice will add to the city coffers. One more possibility. The Jacaranda exit is getting to the point of getting fully developed with service stations, places to eat and two hotels. Land developers indicate that once an area is fully developed on the interstate, they look to the nearby exit. Exit 195 may be that choice and there is plenty of land for sale.



- **Herman's Meats – A throwback to the good ol' days**

If you have not been to Herman's Meats on (701) Shamrock, you might want to go. It is an old fashion grocery store in business for 38 years. They have a wide assortment of wonderful homemade side salads (cucumber, potato, tri bean, coleslaw, etc.) that they make on site. Herman also has a butcher, a deli counter and many take home frozen foods. On Saturday mornings (10 am - 2:30pm) they fire up the outdoor grill and Belly Buster Hot Dogs, Ribs, Chicken and Sausage. Once you taste one of these items, you will become a Saturday regular. Herman's reminds you of that great neighborhood grocery that was down the street where you grew up.

• **Hearing on Another Concrete Crushing Plant**

Another concrete crushing plant has been announced. If approved by the City, it would be located on Gene Green Road directly north of the old Venice Minerals mining pit.

The company proposing the facility, presently known as “700 Gene Green LLC”, is holding a neighborhood workshop at **Venice City Hall on Monday, February 13, 2017 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**. Please attend if you wish to know more about what they have in mind for this property.

• **Let’s Play Membership Jeopardy**

*Answer: No secondary outlet, large box store without planning; possible jail; dust flying from the road leading to the park on the Venetian’s border; litter on Laurel Rd; uncontrolled noise from the industrial area to the north; development planning without input.*

*Question: What are some of the issues that your VGRC Community Association has addressed over the years?*

**Let’s never put our wonderful community in Jeopardy - join your community association today!**

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## EXTRA HELPINGS

• **Keeping it Local**

One of the fine things we see at the Venetian are the number of events benefitting worthy charities. Since September we have seen the spectacular Big Brothers/Big Sisters charity benefit, the Veteran’s Day Golf Scramble and the Laurel Civic Association Fundraiser Event. In a few weeks, the Swing for a Cure charity golf event will take place. With most charity benefits, you have to reach outside the Venetian walls to ask merchants for a helping hand. It may be a cash donation or merchandise used in a silent auction. The good news is that most merchants are generous even though being bombarded by requests. Many of these merchants, especially those in downtown Venice Ave. are local residents who decided to open a business. They rely on tourists a great deal but throughout the year, they must count on residents like us. When you visit local businesses consider thanking the merchant for supporting the Venetian Golf & River Club’s charitable events. The feedback and support will be very much appreciated, and as a result they’ll continue to feel that their generosity pays dividends in many ways.

**“For a community to be whole and healthy,  
it must be based on people’s love and  
concern for each other.”**

– Millard Fuller



Happy Valentines

# Venetian Calendar

## Upcoming meeting dates

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

- Feb. 1 – POA board meeting – 1:30pm [cwilz@castlegroup.com](mailto:cwilz@castlegroup.com)  
(meetings are held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 1:30pm. )
- Feb. 6 – Florida’s Backyard Birds & More – 4pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)  
(seminar led by Venice Area Audubon Rookery coordinator and bird guide)
- Feb. 13 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am [www.venetiancdd.org](http://www.venetiancdd.org)  
(meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- Feb. 14 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm  
Contact Christine Wilz at [cwilz@castlegroup.com](mailto:cwilz@castlegroup.com) to submit ACC forms  
(meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2:00 pm)
- Feb. 15 – Shredfest II – 8 to 9:30am [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)  
(bring your unwanted documents and papers to the River Club parking lot)
- Feb. 21 – Check Your Hearing – 8:30am to 12:30pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)  
(sign up at the River Club starting Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Feb. 23 – POA Rules Committee – 9:00 am [cwilz@castlegroup.com](mailto:cwilz@castlegroup.com)  
(meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 9:00 am)
- Feb. 27 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am [www.venetiancdd.org](http://www.venetiancdd.org)  
(meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- Feb. 28 – VGRCCA board meeting – 3:30 pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)  
(meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 3:30pm)
- March 1 – POA board meeting – 1:30pm [cwilz@castlegroup.com](mailto:cwilz@castlegroup.com)  
(meetings are held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 1:30pm. )

**This meeting will be held at Laurel-Nokomis School on Laurel Road:**

- Feb. 27 – Town Hall Meeting – 5:00pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)

# 2017 DUES & MEMBER INFORMATION FORM



## *Joining The VGRC Community Association*

Thank you for your VGRC Community Association membership. Your dues keep both our organization and community strong!

Please complete the items below.

### **THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO JOIN:**

1. Online at <http://www.vgrcca.us/membership/> We accept credit cards and use Pay Pal as our secure server. The information below is on the website.
2. Write a check, payable to VGRC Community Association and mail to:  
Treasurer  
305 Martellago  
North Venice, FL 34275

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

Membership Term	Membership Cost	Membership Cost (If paid prior to 1/1/17)
___ One year	\$35.00	\$30.00
___ Two years	\$55.00	\$50.00
___ Three years <b>(Best Offer!)</b>	\$75.00	\$70.00

*Note the discount for multi-year membership.*

### **MEMBER(S) INFORMATION** (Please Print)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Venetian Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***We consider our household*** (Please check the appropriate box)

- Full-Time at the Venetian       Part-Time at the Venetian       We do not live at the Venetian, but own property at the VGRCCA

Thanks again for joining, and through your email we send you our very informative newsletter, *Parcels*.