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# PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

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***March 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

- **A new QR for the Community Association**

Thanks to one of our tech savvy residents, we have a QR that you will see on most communications the VGRCCA publishes. A **QR code** is the trademark for a type of matrix barcode (or two-dimensional barcode) first designed for the automotive industry in Japan that can be scanned by a smart phone. When you scan it, you will have before you, the web site for the Community Association. So no matter where you are, you can read *Parcels*, post on the Wall of Something and of course, pay your membership.



- **WOULD YOU SHUT UP, PLEASE!!!!**

Enough is enough. Are you getting tired of “that bird” with the constant loud wail? The culprit is the Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*). Better known as the “crying bird.” In their description, the Audubon Society states, “Mostly solitary; Limpkins may be overlooked as they stalk about in marshes and swamps; they draw attention with their piercing banshee wails, often heard at dawn or at night.” No wonder it is a “solitary” bird. With a wail like that, what other bird wants to hang around the Limpkin. For those who want to hear the bird’s call, we have it just for you @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M62WR1gBRUc>.

- **Box Top for Education**

We continue to collect the pink BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION for our Laurel/Nokomis School. We collected over 200 from the month of January, but we need to step it up during this school season. Let’s make sure every child can take the field trips this year. **Collection boxes are at the River Club.** So, eat your Cheerios, your Betty Crocker cakes, and Progresso Soups and collect those BOX TOPS.

- **A Community Event Open to All Residents**

The 3rd Annual Golf Tribute Invitational will be held on **Friday, April 7 with 1:00pm Shotgun start.** We need your input in honoring one of our own outstanding residents who is making a difference in our community! Submit your recommendation, together with a bio of this person, telling us why you think he or she is deserving of our recognition. Submissions must be in no later than MARCH 15 via email to: [noel.samuels@hotmail.com](mailto:noel.samuels@hotmail.com) or hand deliver it to: Noel Samuels at 106 Martellago Drive.

- **The Wall**

The Community’s Wall of Something has been quite active. Thanks to all those who post as well as those who have responded to one of the postings. One happy Waller commented, “The bike rack is sold, I got my price and my garage is less cluttered” Get to the Wall today at [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us) and click on **Wall of Something**.

- **Who Are The Laurel Rd Road Warriors?**

Did you know Venetian has its own Road Warrior team? They’re not professionals and didn’t play in the Super Bowl, but some may have bet on it. They’re just good ol’ Venetian volunteers and they do a lot of good work. You may have seen them dragging their trash and recyclables “gleaning” bags (popular items include plastic water bottles, beer cans, and trash from fast food meals; BUT WAIT! There’s more!). Or, you may have noticed that Laurel Road between Knights Trail Road and the Myakka River Park looks

especially nice, or-- and this is the hard one-- you may have seen the bags of “gleaned gifts” stacked at the base of the County cleanup signs and awaiting pickup. One of the most recent ventures gathered six bags of the aforementioned (and some unmentionable) trash, plus two bags of recyclables, and a couple of old signs, a length of pipe, and even an old car battery. To help with the haul, the County provides rubber gloves and the Community Association, which manages this venture into ecotourism, provides grabbers to keep our volunteer’s hands out of the bushes where strange things live. The Community Association has recruited about three dozen volunteers who staff this enterprise, and, from this pool we normally, after working around golf activities, anticipated weather challenges, and folk’s travel plans, we generally have 12-15 actual road warriors to get out there and attack the crud. We typically get it all knocked out in about two hours and leave knowing we have made a tangible improvement in our local environment. If you have a burning desire to help, contact our local coordinator, Fred Williamson, at [fwmson1@verizon.net](mailto:fwmson1@verizon.net).

• **Congratulations! Mazel Tov! Felicitaciones!**

Yes, the Great Blue Heron birds on hole 12 of the golf course recently became proud parents of baby chicks. This annual birthing rite is a sight to see as the birds return to the same nesting area every year. You may even see mama or papa going out for food, while someone stays home with the newborns. Thanks to our Treasurer, Fred Baughman, for providing this year’s pictures.



• **The Future of Communications**

We are fortunate to engage Professor Ed Cheetham to speak on the Future of Communication. Professor Cheetham is head of the Department of Motion and Design at the world famous Ringling College. He will take us into a world that is fascinating and new to all of us. The one hour seminar is **Monday, March 20, 5 pm at the River Club**. We are confident that this will be a valuable learning experience for all.



• **Alligator Seminar**

The Alligator seminar will be held on **Monday, March 27 at the River Club, beginning at 5 pm**. Our alligator expert speaker will address everything you want to know about an Alligator but were afraid to ask. We will do everything to accommodate the anticipated crowd for this excellent presentation however, get there early.

• **Town Hall Meeting**

With over 400 plus in attendance, the annual Town Hall Meeting, sponsored by your VGRC Community Association, was able to provide current and useful information to those in attendance. John Moeckel with the assistance of a northeast Venice map gave an update on the properties around the Venetian. Mayor John Holic did his usual good job of letting our community know about issues including affordable housing and parks. For his first appearance before Venetian residents, Florida VP of Lennar Homes, Darren McMurray introduced himself and Lennar Homes. With only a few days on the job, understandably, he said little about the golf course or Welcome Center. Finally, the CEOs of both Sarasota Memorial and Venice Regional Bayfront addressed primarily their request for a new hospital in this area. Interestingly, this was the first time that the two had personally met. There was no

indication as to whether their current disputes about a “new hospital” would soon be resolved. For the first time at the Town Hall meeting, the agenda was divided into two parts. The second part was devoted to questions and answers. The question and answers portion went very well. Questions were excellent, and for the most, the responses were quite direct. The question and answer section lasted less than 30 minutes. Thanks to all of our speakers, as well as the many who attended.



• **We forgot to tell you at the Town Hall Meeting....**

The one topic that surely emerges every Town Hall Meeting is “there anything developing in the “Subway Plaza” on Laurel next to the Shell gas station?” The simple, quick response, according to the Property Manager is “no.” That is all we can report.

*(Lost and found – Parcels picked up a woman’s sunglasses found on a chair in the middle section, about six rows up. If they are yours, hit Reply to this email.)*

• **SHREDFEST**

They came by bike, by car, by foot and by golf cart to Shredfest held at the River Club in mid February. An estimated 135 Venetian residents took advantage of this once a year event. The service was free to any member of the VGRC Community Association. Might want to begin collecting your stuff....most likely you will see Shredfest III next year.



• **The Cost of Doing Business**

Our Community Association has a membership....only \$35 a year. We feel that we enhance the quality of life for residents through various on property activities. But there is a cost of doing business. For example, the recent Town Hall Meeting expenses included rental of the facilities, copy services for agendas and signage, payment to an off duty officer to help with parking and even a few cold waters for the speakers. If you attended Shredfest, you know that there was a cost for the rental of the truck. There is even a small cost to having the Wall of Something as we pay a Webmaster and the cost of the domain. All of these various activities and events can take place because we have the (voluntary) financial support of our residents. Thank you! For those who are not members, isn’t it time to complete the membership form at the end of *Parcels*? We would greatly appreciate it.

• **WHAT’S A STREET TRUCK TACO?**

You will find a “Street Truck Taco” on the new lunch menu that the River Club unveiled. The River Club serves lunch in the La Sala and The Tiki Bar on Wednesday – Saturday from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm and Sunday 1:00 - 2:30 pm. Our River Club is a great place for a casual lunch with friends and visitors and while you are there, you might want to try one of those street truck tacos.

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## OUTSIDE THE GATES

### • **Jacaranda Roundabout Makeover**

Work has started on the redesign of the infamous Jacaranda Roundabout in order to make it easier for motorists as well as reduce the number of accidents at this location. The work should be completed by summer, 2017. Some nighttime lane changes will be necessary. When the first version of this roundabout was completed, a video and brochure were distributed that informed motorists how to navigate the puzzle. We believe that the new version of the Roundabout will be so simple, that pre-instructions will not be necessary. Design and construction costs are estimated at just over \$1 million dollars.

### • **Asolo Theatre**

Whether you are new or a long time Venetian resident and enjoy great acting, get to one of the wonderful plays at the Asolo Repertory Theatre. The Theatre is located on the grounds of the Ringling with plenty of parking for theatergoers. The theatre is very historic looking and quite intimate. Their last production of the Originalist, which focused on the career of Supreme Court Justice Scalia, was simply outstanding. For details, go to <http://www.asolorep.org/shows/the-originalist/2016-2017>. And if you want to go to dinner before the play, try “Muse” which is conveniently located in the building across the street from the theatre on the Ringling grounds.

### • **A Generous Event – The WaWa Opening**

WaWa opened the second week of February with a bang and a hefty check for some worthy organizations. As part of their grand opening, they had a hoagie building contest between three teams. The VGRC Community Association assisted by inviting teams from the Venice Fire Department Benevolent Fund, the Laurel Nokomis PTA and our own Swing for a Cure Scleroderma Team. Each team received \$1000.00 for just participating. As to the winner, the fire department was first on the scene. Thanks to WaWa for their community generosity. Pictured are the Schleroderma team members who were kindly advised that currently there are no openings in the WaWa hoagie building division.



### • **Peanuts, Popcorn and Cracker Jacks**

There is still time to catch a spring training game in the area. Most convenient is Ed Smith Stadium (take 75 to Fruitville, right on Tuttle) the home of the Baltimore Orioles. Actually it is a very fine stadium that was renovated a few years ago. If you want to travel a little further, you can catch the Rays, Red Sox and Phillies nearby. Great way to spend an afternoon – see baseball, get an autograph or two and chomp down on a weenie smothered with stadium mustard.

### • **Book Lovers Festival**

A Book Lovers and Writers Festival is being held in Centennial Park (downtown Venice) on Friday, March 24 (3-7:30 pm) and Saturday, March 25 (9 am-3 pm). For more information, go to [www.VeniceBookFair.com](http://www.VeniceBookFair.com)

- **See Click Fix**

*We had mentioned this program in a previous Parcels, but felt that it would be worth reprinting.*



The City of Venice has partnered with SeeClickFix to launch a new program, Venice Connect, that allows citizens to report quality-of-life issues (such as potholes, roadside junk and tall grass) and request city services. With free SeeClickFix mobile app and website tools, Venice citizens will now be able to provide city staff with pictures, videos, specific descriptions, and more – valuable information needed to get the job done efficiently. Sarasota County is also a SeeClickFix partner, so issues that are actually outside of Venice city limits in unincorporated Sarasota County will be sent to the County Contact Center for assignment.

- **Opera Lovers Take Notice**

The Sarasota Opera Guild will make its annual visit to Venice with a Social & Singers Meeting at the Jewish Congregation of Venice on Auburn Ave on **Tuesday, March 14**, beginning with a coffee and cake reception at 9:45 a.m. to be followed by a short business meeting and an Opera program featuring singers from the Sarasota Opera. Sam Lowry, Director of Audience Development for Sarasota Opera, will discuss the current opera season, provide details on the opera programs for the coming season and be available for questions.

The event is open to local residents, Opera Guild members and JCV members at no charge. Last year’s event drew an audience of over 200 people.

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## UPDATES ON KEY EXTERNAL ISSUES

- **Public Workshop of Interest to Venetians**

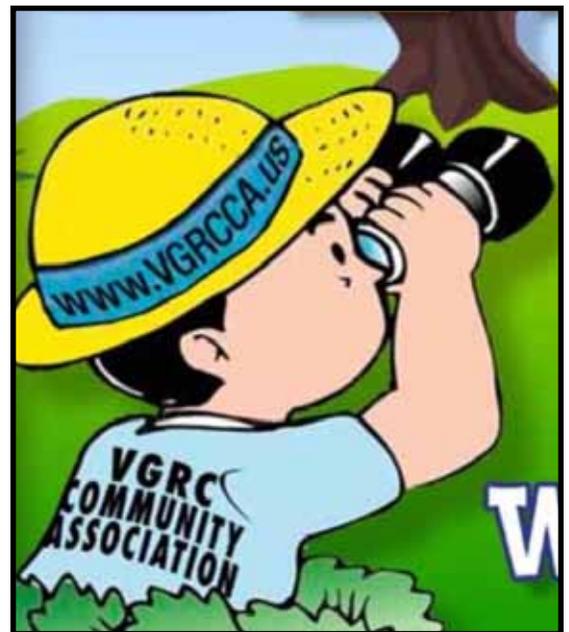
Just a reminder that a Public Workshop will be held by the developers of the 2201 Knights Trail 534 unit apartment complex on **Monday, March 13 at 6:00 PM**. These units will be primarily directed at the line employees at PGT, Tervis and other companies located in the Knights Trail Commerce Park. An earlier email message to the community provided you with detailed information on this project. It is being proposed under the present City of Venice “Comp Plan.” In the plan, the proposed rental rates and annual incomes of potential renters would categorize these units as “Low Income Housing.” Others like to refer to these housing units as “affordable housing.” Information regarding this important public workshop is as follows:

**Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm**

PGT Conference Room

1070 Technology Drive (Off Knights Trail)

We urge you to attend this important public workshop.



## • **Other Nearby Housing Projects**

The article above relates to just one “Affordable Housing” project proposed for our area. The City is doing a complete revision of the Comp Plan and will address multiple properties in the Knights Trail and Laurel Road neighborhoods which would qualify for high density bonuses. High density bonuses, as they are called, could increase base densities from 13 units per acre to double that at 26 units per acre. The housing categories per the City of Venice revised Comp Plan (Section 3 – Housing, pg.4) that can take advantage of these bonuses are noted as anything from “Extremely Low Income Housing” to “Moderate Income Housing” with the maximum bonuses going to Extremely Low, Very Low and Low Income Housing.

The City is providing residents with the opportunity to express their opinions regarding this category of zoning within the Knights Trail and Laurel Road neighborhoods. The first is a Planning Commission Workshop meeting that will be held on **Wednesday, March 22, at 1:30 PM** in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The second is Joint City Council-Planning Commission Meeting on **Thursday, March 30 at 1:00 PM**, again in Council Chambers. There will be public comment periods at both these meetings.

Additional information will be forthcoming prior to these meetings. In the meantime, if this topic is of interest, you might like to “Save the Date” on your calendar.

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## **NOTES FROM THE POA**

The POA board meeting was held on March 1st and 2 residents attended. Discussion topics included:

- Oak tree removal – the board has asked the City of Venice for the landscape plans on file for VG&RC to determine where trees were to be planted by the developer and what type. Depending on what is shown, the board will decide how to move forward. The ACC is in the process of revising our regulations on tree removal to follow the Sarasota County requirements.
- Administrative assistant hired – the board approved the addition of a part-time administrator to assist Christine with the increasing amount of work in the property manager’s office. Virginia Horkan will be in the office 3 days per week and is contracted through the end of 2017. The board will re-evaluate the need for this position during the 2018 budget meetings.
- Irrigation compliance – the board approved fines for those homeowners who were in violation of the irrigation rules in January and February. (Residents are allowed 1 violation in a 90 day period before fines are assessed.)
- POA website – [www.venetianpoa.com](http://www.venetianpoa.com) – residents are encouraged to visit and use the new website for POA rules, regulations, forms and general information.

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## **EXTRA HELPINGS**

### • **Preventing a Terrible Community Disease**

The worst disease that a community can suffer from is apathy. Apathy’s symptoms include but are not limited to a let the next person do it attitude, a statement such as, “they’ll do what they want to do anyway” and “why should I help.... I did enough of that in my past life?” Communities, which are known for a high level of resident involvement and engagement usually end up with high property values and a vibrant quality of life for all residents. Our relatively new community, soon to be built out, requires residents to get involved by running for open seats on various Boards (POA, CDD, VGRCCA); attending public workshops on issues such as affordable housing or parks; getting to a CDD or POA meetings just to see how things operate around here and taking time to read not only *Parcels* but the many other communications that are distributed by the CDD and POA. The future of this community rests with us. The only hurdle is apathy..... a disease, if it spreads, can quickly doom a community’s future.

# Venetian Calendar

## Upcoming meeting dates

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

- March 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)*
- March 14 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm  
Contact Christine Wilz at [cwilz@castlegroup.com](mailto:cwilz@castlegroup.com) to submit ACC forms by  
March 8. *(meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2:00 pm)*
- March 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)*
- March 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)*
- March 28 – VGRCCA annual meeting – 5 pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)  
*(meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 3:30pm)*
- April 5 – 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. )*
- April 10 – 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)*
- April 11 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm  
Contact Christine Wilz at [cwilz@castlegroup.com](mailto:cwilz@castlegroup.com) to submit ACC forms by  
April 5. *(meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2:00 pm)*

# 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
<input type="checkbox"/> One year	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Two years	\$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Three years (Best Offer!)	\$75.00

*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*.