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# PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

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***June 2016***

*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

### • **Thank you, Patriotic Volunteers**

A relatively large number of volunteers showed up at the flag placement for the Memorial Day Holiday, sponsored by the VGRC Community Association. The group not only placed flags on the entry driveway but also on every corner of the Venetian. We would like to thank those who volunteered their time as well as those who have joined the Community Association providing the funds to purchase the flags. The next holiday will be July 4th with the flag placement being held on **Friday, July 1st, 9 am** at the guard house. Again, we would hope a number of volunteers will show up to help with this patriotic task.



### • **Hurricane Prep Meeting: A Must To Attend**

The important element when it comes to hurricane preparation is **to have a plan**. If you plan to be at the Venetian anytime from June – November 1st, you should start thinking about your own plan. If there is a hurricane warning, are you going to leave or stay? Do you have sufficient food and medicine to last for a number of days? Where are the shelters in this area and are there any shelters at the Venetian?

Recently, representatives of the POA, CDD, Community Association, Golf Course, and the River Club met to discuss their roles prior to, during and after a hurricane. The Venice Fire Department attended the meeting to give valuable guidance.

To ensure that the residents are aware of what will take place (or not take place) at the Venetian in the event of an impending hurricane, three meeting times have been established. You can attend any one of the three. The meetings, which will be held at the River Club, are as follows:

**Monday, June 27, 4 p.m., River Club**

**Monday, June 27, 7 p.m., River Club**

**Tuesday, June 28, 9 a.m., River Club**

We hope a member of your household will attend to learn more about what efforts will be taking place at the Venetian if a hurricane is heading this way.

### • **Notes from the POA**

The POA Board of Directors met on June 1 and about 25 residents attended. Topics covered included:

- an appeal from the San Marco 1 neighborhood on replacement trees that don't meet the 10' minimum height requirement, which was denied
- a discussion on maintenance and a replacement cost survey of the Boardwalk
- forming a committee (within the board) to research available insurance options
- discussing the possibility of using electronic balloting for the annual POA board election

Short-term home rentals were discussed again and the property manager is regularly checking rental websites for any Venetian properties that advertise rentals in violation of the 2 month minimum.

The property manager reported that there are only two properties left with fruit trees and Norfolk pines that must be removed, and both have been personally contacted about their violation.

The property manager has begun preparations for the upcoming budget planning, which will begin in earnest at the August meeting.

The summer meeting schedule for POA board meetings has been altered due to member travel schedules. Meetings over the next four months are: Wednesday, July 6 - 1:30pm • Monday, August 29 - 1:30pm • Tuesday, Oct. 11 - 1:30pm

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## OUTSIDE THE GATES

### • **Election Information**

Are you now a Florida resident and want to know how to register to vote? Are you interested in running as a candidate for the CDD, City Council or even the Board of Education? The best source for information for both of these questions is the **Sarasota County Supervisor of Election**. Their web site is [www.sarasotavotes.com](http://www.sarasotavotes.com) Their phone number is 941-861-8600. If you are interested in running for Venice City Council, the best source according to the Supervisor of Election is to contact, Lori Stelzer, Venice City Clerk at (941) 882-7390 Some of the deadlines are fast approaching so don't delay.

### • **Jacaranda Roundabout Update**

When the Jacaranda Roundabout became a reality in May 2011, all were expected that it would benefit those who traveled this area. Now some five years later, we have learned that the Jacaranda roundabout has benefitted only those in the auto body repair business. This area has had the largest number of auto crashes in the county. Now the county has taken on this challenge and will soon develop plans to make it more driver friendly. The timeline looks like late June for the planning phase with construction following. The cost for the new project is approximately \$500K. As a side note, last time the county furnished hundreds of CD's on how to navigate the roundabout. There is an unfounded rumor that to really make its point on how to navigate the roundabout, another CD will be made but this time with Sean Penn and Jennifer Lawrence with direction by Stephen Spielberg and Miley Cyrus singing her hit, *Wrecking Ball*. Perhaps people will pay more attention.

### • **The Word About Our Own Venice Library**

The VGRC Community Association has been following the events related to the Venice Library. In previous editions of *Parcels*, it was stated that the library was permanently closed due to a mold issue with plans to open a temporary location. The County has selected the City's Cultural Campus as the location of the new library. This area is also known as Balock Park, the location of the present (old) Library, Art Center and Community Center. Soon the library will announce the opening of a temporary site on the island.

- **Tropical Storm Colin: More Bark than Bite**

Tropical Storm Colin passed through in early June and at the Venetian, it was basically unnoticeable. The City of Venice did a superb job of alerting its citizenry through Code Red. In Sarasota, a number of streets were flooded and in Venice the beaches had some erosion and damage.

- **Business Updates**

Helios, the Greek restaurant on Venice Ave is now history. The Word of Mouth, a well known Sarasota breakfast/lunch eatery, will take the location on E. Venice Ave. Doors are scheduled to open in mid to late July. Anita's, the restaurant on 41 whose length of time for renovation probably qualifies for some notation in the Guinness Book of Records is now open. According to the property manager, there are no new businesses slated for the "Subway Plaza" on Laurel.

- **Sarasota Memorial Hospital Request Denied**

On June 3rd, the VGRC Community Association informed residents that the Sarasota Memorial Hospital's (SMH) request to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration for a new hospital in North Venice (Laurel and Pinebrook) was denied. Sarasota Memorial Hospital has indicated that they will appeal the decision. We will keep you informed of any request from SMH to provide additional support from the community.

- **Horrific!**

*Parcels* usually stays away from national incidents but the recent horrific shooting just some two hours plus away in Orlando requires some comment. First and foremost, we extend our sympathy to the families of the 49 victims who lost their lives in the nightclub shooting. No one can really fathom the thought of a parent receiving a phone call from police/fire officials stating that his/her son or daughter was killed at a nightclub by a crazed shooter. Regretfully, we are seeing many incidents in cities where many of us have lived....Boston, Newtown, Denver and now Orlando. All of these events make us become even more vigilant of our surroundings and personal safety even when we go to the movies or shopping center in Sarasota or Venice. Yes, it could happen here. With the shooting in Orlando, the phrase, "See Something, Say Something," is now taking hold across the nation. In our own state, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement as well as our local law enforcement officials encourages anyone who sees suspicious activity to report it to local authorities or call 1-855-FLA-SAFE (1-855-352-7233). It can also be reported online through FDLE's website at <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us>.

- **City of Venice Bond Issues**

It appears that Venice voters will see two bond issues on the November ballot. The first bond issue, if passed, will provide for the repaving of 70 lane miles of road in Venice. The second bond issue, if passed, will provide for the building of a new hardened city command center that will house the police department. Details of these referendums will appear in a future edition of *Parcels*.

- **Ice Cream and Gas**

RaceTrac on Jacaranda has been closed due to a major renovation. According to RaceTrac officials, they will reopen on July 19th with a 6000 square foot store. They will have as part of their store, "Swirl World" at this location. Swirl World is RaceTrac's variety of frozen yogurt, ice cream with over 40 topping options. This location will also have outdoor seating options and inside as well. As noted in previous *Parcels*, on the same side of the street within walking distance a new WaWa is being built. Its opening is months away.

**SPECIAL ARTICLE:**  
**DISTRACTED DRIVING**

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Let's ask a question? Does it irritate you when you are driving or riding on I-75 and look over and spot another driver texting and occasionally looking up? Let's ask a tougher question. Do you text when you are driving? Texting, which is all part of what is known as "Distracted Driving", is of national concern. You see reminders about it on the electronic signs on the expressway. *Parcel's* reached out to the Venice Police who furnished the following:

The information below pertains to traffic crashes in 2016 that are directly or indirectly attributed to distracted driving. The totals are broken down by county and city. These are all validated crashes from the State of Florida DOT where some sort of internal, electronic, or other external type of distraction was noted.

**Sarasota County**

1,641 crashes  
577 injuries  
6 fatalities

**City of Venice**

197 crashes  
76 injuries  
1 fatality

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), distracted driving is defined as "any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving." It's not just texting or making calls on a cell phone; any activity that diverts a driver's attention puts that driver, and their passengers, and everyone else sharing the road at serious risk. A partial list of what counts as a distraction would include things such as using a cell phone or smart phone, including texting, eating and drinking, smoking, attending to or disciplining child passengers, grooming, reading, including maps, using a navigation system, watching a video, adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player or adjusting temperature controls.

Traffic safety experts classify distractions into three main types: Manual, Visual and Cognitive.

- **Manual distractions** are those where you move your hands away from the task of controlling the vehicle. Reaching for a soda in the drink carrier is an example of a manual distraction.
- **Visual distractions** are those where you focus your eyes away from the road. You drop your soda and when it spills all over the floor of the car, you look down at your ruined shoes and stained slacks. That's a visual distraction.
- A **cognitive distraction** is when your mind wanders away from the task of driving. You start to consider whether you can afford to replace the clothing you just ruined and what stores have bargains this week. You are no longer paying attention to the essential job of driving. Bingo: cognitive distraction.

This is why texting has such a bad reputation: it always involves **all three types** of distraction, all at once.

*(Parcel's note: Thanks to Sgt. Keith Quick from the VPD for furnishing information on this important topic)*



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## UPDATES ON KEY EXTERNAL ISSUES

### • **Concrete Crushing Plant**

We are still awaiting the Phase I submittal of the revised Site Development Plan that, if approved, would allow Crush-It to proceed with the preparation of the property to the extent that acoustical testing could take place. This Phase I application may also request permission to construct an office building and enclosed maintenance shop. The latest information we have indicates this Phase I application should be submitted to the City within the next few weeks.

### • **City Purchase of Old Venice Minerals Property**

The sale is scheduled to close on June 17. Under an agreement with the City, Ajax has until December 2016 to remove any stored materials from the site.

### • **Willow Chase “Bullet” Incident**

The VPD continues to monitor properties between East Laurel and Border Roads that might be used for firearm target practice or other purposes where the discharge of firearms might occur.

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## EXTRA HELPINGS

*C'mon we haven't been hit with a Hurricane here in Venice for so long that the chance of getting hit are really small. I heard that this area is less prone to hurricanes because it's a peninsula on a peninsula and there are iron deposits at the bottom of the bay which create a negative ionic flux that breaks up hurricanes and we're protected by an ancient American Indian blessing.*

You have probably heard them all but the reality is it's too late to start planning if a hurricane is on the horizon. As previously mentioned in this edition, there are three meetings scheduled to hear about the overall plan at the Venetian. We have even scheduled one at 7pm to accommodate those Venetians who are still employed. Knowing what is planned at the Venetian helps you make a decision as to whether you will remain or leave and if you do remain, what to expect. It's worth your time to get informed about a matter that some day may affect you and your neighbors.

# Venetian Calendar

## Upcoming meeting dates

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

June 20 – POA Rules Committee – 9:00 am [cklopotic@castlegroup.com](mailto:cklopotic@castlegroup.com)

*(meetings are held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 9:00 am)*

June 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)*

June 27 – Hurricane season prep meeting – 4 & 7 pm [cklopotic@castlegroup.com](mailto:cklopotic@castlegroup.com)

June 28 – Hurricane season prep meeting – 9 am [cklopotic@castlegroup.com](mailto:cklopotic@castlegroup.com)

June 28 – VGRCCA board meeting – 1 pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)

*(meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)*

July 6 – POA board meeting – 1:30pm [cklopotic@castlegroup.com](mailto:cklopotic@castlegroup.com)

*(meetings are held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 1:30pm)*

July 12 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm

Contact Christine Klopotic at [cklopotic@castlegroup.com](mailto:cklopotic@castlegroup.com) to submit ACC forms

*(meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2:00 pm)*

July 11 – 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)*



## 2016 DUES & MEMBER INFORMATION FORM

***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	\$75.00

**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