



PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

January 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.

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

• **IMPORTANT TO DO TASK: The Community Directory**

The 2017 VG&RC Community Directory will be finalized within the next several weeks. If you need a 2017 Directory Release Form, go to the websites www.VGRCCA.us or www.venetianpoa.com. We have also placed a release form at the end of this edition of *Parcels*. If your information in last year's Directory is correct, do nothing. If you have only one small change, the entire form needs to be resubmitted and signed. New homeowners must submit the signed form in order for your information to appear in the 2017 Directory by mail, email, or hand deliver.

A. Mail

VG&RC POA Manager
102 Pesaro Drive
North Venice, Florida 34275

B. Email

cwilz@castlegroup.com

C. Hand Deliver

To the on-site Castle Group office located in the side entrance of the Welcome Center.

The Community Directory is a collaborative effort between the VGRC Community Association and the POA.

• **Beware of Contractor Scams**

A Venetian resident mentioned to *Parcels* that there have been a few instances on property where a contractor failed to perform the complete job, even after payment. The resident suggested *Parcels* provide a few tips for fellow residents to avoid contractor scams. *Parcels* reached out to the Venice PD, who referred us to an article from the Federal Trade Commission. Key bits of advice from the article includes doing research with friends and neighbors who have used the contractor or get references; find out how long they have been in business; check for qualifications including licensing and insurance (personal liability, worker's comp, property damage); do not pay cash and limit down payment and finally, know when you can withhold payment. The complete article, which *Parcels* would advise residents to read is located at www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0242-hiring-contractor.

• **GET YOUR STUFF READY....SHREDFEST II is coming**

Interest in growing in Shredfest II, an event sponsored by the VGRC Community Association providing an on site shredding truck to destroy your items. It will be held on **Wednesday, February 15, 2017** in the River Club parking lot. Although the truck will be here at 8 am, those who need to get to work early can give their "stuff" in a box to the Shredfest attendant beginning at 7:30 am. The Shredfest truck, where you can actually see your materials being shredded on a television, will remain on property until 10 am. **There is no cost to members of the Community Association; the cost for non-members is \$10.00 due to cost of hiring the shredding company.**

• **Save the Date: The Annual Town Hall Meeting**

This is the biggie. Last year 400 plus attended. Put it on your calendar. **Monday, February 27, 5:30 pm** at the Laurel Nokomis School.

• **Membership**

Our 2017 membership campaign is moving forward. Our numbers are increasing which leads to a very strong organization. If you are interested in determining your membership status, you can go online at www.vgrcca.us and click on Membership. Under membership there is a section where you can enter your name and it will tell you the status of your membership. It's that easy. For those still pondering membership, we trust you understand the importance of how each and every resident adds to the strength of this growing community and its quality of life.

• **The Wall of Something**

Wow. Activity from “Waller’s” has increased significantly. It is interesting to see the variety of items posted. However, remember the long term existence of the Wall is based on activity from the community. The Wall allows you to post most anything including congratulatory notes, items you need to borrow (i.e. child’s car seat for a visiting grandchild), services you can provide (a seamstress recently posted her services) and common interest groups you would like to either organize or see if already in existence. Although the Wall has postings listed chronologically, there is in the upper right hand corner of the Wall, various categories that will allow you to click on one of them and the items related to the category are displayed. Go to www.vgrcca.us/wall-of-something to view, post or both.

UPDATES ON KEY EXTERNAL ISSUES

• **Community Gardens**

The Nokomis Community Garden is one of a number of community gardens that County Extension office manages throughout Sarasota County. The Nokomis Garden (see picture below) is located on Nippino Trail just behind the Nokomis Community Center and just off the Legacy Trail. There are approximately 30 plots at Nokomis and each one is bursting with glorious vegetables and butterfly loving plants from Sept.-May. There are hand tools, some power tools, and water available to the gardeners and a lot of fun too. To get more information and how to sign up for such a plot contact Stacy Spriggs at sspriggs@scgov.net.



On a related note, the next **Garden Seminar at the Venetian will be held on February 6, 4 pm, at the River Club.** The topic is Florida’s Backyard Birds and More. The garden sessions are very popular and well attended.

• **A New Attempt at the Jacaranda Roundabout**

After being crowned the intersection with the highest incidents of crashes in our county, changes are coming to the Jacaranda roundabout. Here are the details provided by the county:

Cost estimate of \$1 million for design and construction and is totally funded by the State. Construction start date is tentatively scheduled for March 2017 and completion early summer 2017. A public outreach effort including an open-house style public information meeting is anticipated in March/April. In order to reduce conflicts, the following lane configuration adjustments are proposed in conjunction with modifications to the entry and exit curb lines. They are:

1. Modify the westbound entry lane configurations to make the outside lane right-turn only.
2. Reduce the northern portion of the circulatory roadway to one-lane.
3. Reduce the westbound exit to one-lane.
4. Increase the eastbound exit to two lanes and modify the eastbound entry and circulatory roadway lane configurations to allow through movements from both lanes.

• **Fast Food Heaven**

For those who are lovers of fast foods, your dream has come true. Plans indicate that the Jacaranda exit will have two new future additions. One is Taco Bell; the other is Sonic Drive Through. FYI... Sonic's Bacon Double Cheeseburger with Mayo is only 1240 calories. If you leave off the mayo, you can reduce your calorie in take. What the heck.....just ask for a large glob of double mayo this one time.

Also WaWa will be open in February and Culver's should open probably in the second quarter of the year.

• **Attention: Philatelists**

Parcels spotted something of intersection the City of Venice calendar that really demonstrates the wide variety of interest of city residents:

Event Title: Stamp Collecting 101

Where: Venice Presbyterian Church, 111 Firenze Ave. E., Venice

Thursday, February 16, 2017, 9 am - 2 pm

Time: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Deadline to register is Feb. 1; call 941-485-1193 or email dawnthephilatelist@gmail.com

This is a course for adults interested in learning about the hobby and those returning to the hobby. Registration includes lunch, a binder of materials and stamps. Venice Stamp Club sponsors the event.

• **Improvements to Trail System**

Border and Auburn roads just got new paving, bike lanes, and vinyl reflective lane coating to improve our trail system. Many from the Venetian bike in this area and welcome the improvements.



• **Prescription Drug 'Take-Back' Program at VPD**

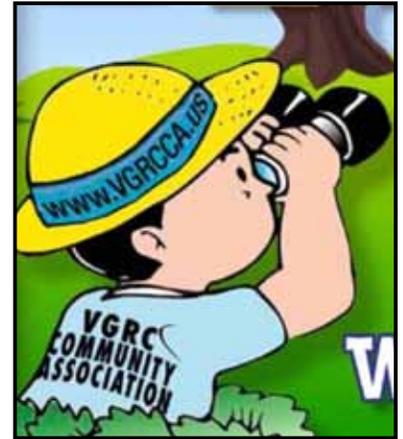
The City of Venice reminds citizens of the ongoing program that allows the public to return unused medications/prescriptions into a controlled collection system. In doing so, the medications are destroyed without being deposited into our landfills or water system, substantially reducing any potential environmental damage and the chance of the meds becoming a health hazard. Safe disposal of these medications also decreases access to addictive drugs for accidental or intentional misuse.

A drop box for controlled substances, expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications (pills only; no needles or liquids) is available in the lobby of the Venice Police Station at the intersection of Capri Isles Blvd. and Ridgewood Ave. (1350 E. Ridgewood Ave.), adjacent to Pinebrook Park, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

• **Turtle Lights Installed**

The City of Venice in collaboration with Florida Power & Light representatives installed new turtle lights over Venice Beach Park. Prior to these lights being installed, the city had to shut off the old lights during turtle season. Now our night Beach visitors can see the improved conditions for our precious turtles.

EXTERNAL ISSUES WE ARE WATCHING



• **Concrete Crushing Plant Update**

The City of Venice’s Planning Commission approved the Site & Development Plan for the “Proposed development of an office, shop/warehouse, large equipment storage, aggregate storage and associated parking”. A facility(ies) for on-site crushing of concrete is not a part of this application and will be considered under a separate application at a later date. This project being proposed by Crush-It Inc. is located in the industrial area on the north side of Gene Green Road, west of the Preferred Materials asphalt plant.

• **Proposed Apartments at Portofino**

The 53 acres on the northeast corner of Knights Trail and Laurel Roads, known as Portofino, is zoned Commercial Mixed Use. This zoning allows for up to 650 residential units to be built on that property along with other retail and commercial uses. Permitted residential uses include but are not limited to multifamily housing (rental and privately owned), assisted living facilities and convalescent homes.

The owner of this property is working with Zilber Ltd. on the possibility of constructing approximately 272 apartment units at the eastern end of the property. This would place the apartment buildings just west of Willow Chase. The units would be located to the north, approximately 300 feet from Laurel Road, allowing for future retail businesses between the apartments and Laurel Road. Preliminary plans show eight (8)-three (3) story buildings plus a clubhouse with a pool and other amenities. The 272 proposed units are well within the 650 presently permitted under the governing CMU zoning. As required by the City, the Portofino Advisory Board, consisting of three residents from the Venetian as well as three from Willow Chase, is working with the developer on this project in the early planning stages and as it threads its way through the City’s planning and development process. That said, this Board’s advisory capacity is limited to suggestions relative to architecture, buffers and parking area and landscape.

For information regarding similar apartments being built by the same developer, go to www.echolakeatlakewoodranch.com and www.youobserver.com/article/echo-lake-is-open-in-lakewood-ranch. If you do so, please note that the exterior architectural treatment will not be as shown but consist of Northern Italian Renaissance elements such as was applicable to the Venetian and CVS pharmacy.

NOTES FROM THE POA

The POA board meeting was held on January 4th and about 12 residents attended. Re- elected board member Jerry Flood and new member Steve Thomaston were welcomed.

Discussion topics included:

- Oak tree removal – Sarasota County is looking into the ACC’s policy for allowing removal of oak trees. This will be reviewed in detail at the January ACC meeting.
- Office hours – Property manager Christine Wilz announced plans to hold open walk-in office hours on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9 am – 1 p.m. and on Thursday afternoon from 1 p.m. – 4:30pm. Other times will be by appointment only.

- Irrigation compliance – Monitoring of violations of the wet check day policy and regular evening schedules is continuing. Residents are allowed 1 violation in a 90-day period before fines are assessed.
 - Home rental policy – the committee of 2 board members and 3 homeowners is actively checking website rental ads for Venetian properties.
 - Auditor selected – the POA board decided to continue with the firm of Hafer & Co. as the POA's auditor.
 - New POA website – www.venetianpoa.com – residents are encouraged to visit and use the new website for POA forms and general information.
-

NOTES FROM THE CDD

The Venetian CDD will hold the second of two public workshops on **Traffic Enforcement** within the Venetian on **January 24**. The workshop will be at the River Club and will start at 5:00 pm. Responses to questions and comments from the initial workshop will be addressed as well as a discussion of additional information obtained since that last meeting.

The Venetian CDD Board of Supervisors will hold a **Public Hearing at the River Club on March 6 at 9:30 am** to seek resident input on fees for Fitness Classes and Tennis Clinics. At the conclusion of that Public Hearing, it is the intent of the Board to take under consideration possible changes to the present fees being charged for these instructional activities.

EXTRA HELPINGS - 2017 NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

The Annual Parcels New Years Resolutions include:

- Attend a CDD or VCDD meeting – listed in *Parcels* at the end.
- Get to one of the many weekend art festivals that occur regularly during season.
- Purchase fresh vegetables and fruit either at the Venice or Sarasota Farmer's Market on Saturday morning.
- Volunteer with the many local charitable organizations including Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity or one of our local hospitals.
- Do nothing, sit on your lanai and realize how good you have it.
- Slow down while driving in the Venetian to ensure safety for all.
- Sign up for Comedy School at McCurdy's Comedy Theatre.
- Find out more about tweeting or learn about tweeting, because we believe you will see a lot of it.
- Attend your high school reunion where you will realize you are the youngest looking person at the event.
- And of course, join the VGRCCA if you are currently not a member.

Parcels always appreciates hearing from its readers. You can suggest a particular story, tell us what's of interest to you when reading Parcels and ask any question regarding a current edition. Hit "reply" to this email and your comments and feedback will land in Parcel's mailbox. Thank you.

Venetian Calendar

Upcoming meeting dates

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

- Jan. 23 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.venetiancdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- Jan. 24 – VGRCCA board meeting – 2:30 pm www.vgrcca.us
(meetings are held monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 3:30pm; time change this month)
- Jan. 24—VCDD Traffic Enforcement Workshop – 5pm www.venetiancdd.org
(workshop to discuss bringing traffic enforcement into the Venetian)
- Jan. 26 – POA Rules Committee – 9:00 am cwilz@castlegroup.com
(meetings are held monthly on the 4th Thursday at 9:00 am)
- Feb. 1 – POA board meeting –1:30pm cwilz@castlegroup.com
(meetings are held monthly on the 1st Wednesday at 1:30pm.)
- Feb. 6 – Florida’s Backyard Birds & More – 4pm 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
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- Feb. 14 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm
Contact Christine Wilz at cwilz@castlegroup.com to submit ACC forms
(meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 pm)
- Feb. 23 – POA Rules Committee – 9:00 am cwilz@castlegroup.com
(meetings are held monthly on the 4th Thursday at 9:00 am)
- Feb. 27 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.venetiancdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)

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

- Feb. 27 – Town Hall Meeting – 5:30pm 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 (Best Offer!)	\$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*.



2017

2017

Dear Homeowners,

It is again that time of the year for us to start working on the **2017 VG&RC Directory**. As many of you may remember from several years ago, the Florida Homeowners Association Act was amended to prohibit disclosure in association publications of certain resident information, including telephone numbers and email addresses.

Please read the following carefully:

1. If all the information in last year's listing is **correct, do nothing**.
2. If you have even one small change, the entire form needs to be resubmitted and signed.
3. **NEW HOMEOWNERS** must submit the signed form in order for your information to appear in the 2017 Venetian Directory.

The directory is intended for the sole use of the residents of the VG&RC POA. Please be aware that SunDown Publishing will not release the information provided to anyone outside the VG&RC community and that the directories are distributed via the Guard House, requiring identification and a release signature. Please return the completed form to the POA manager at the on-site Castle Management Office (address and email below).

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT TO DISCLOSE
LIMITED CONTACT INFORMATION
VENETIAN GOLF AND RIVER CLUB PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION, INC.

I (We) are all record owner(s) of a Lot in the Venetian Golf and River Club, which is operated by the Venetian Golf and River Club's Homeowner's Association, Inc. (the "Association"). Association is a "Homeowner Association" and governed by Chapter 720, Florida Statutes. Section 720.303(5)(c)(5), Florida Statutes, provides in part, as follows:

[Notwithstanding what has been previously stated in the preceding provision of this statutory section] the following records are NOT (emphasis added) accessible to unit owners:

Social security numbers, driver's license numbers, credit card numbers, electronic mailing addresses, telephone numbers, emergency contact information, any addresses for a parcel owner other than as provided for association notice requirements, and other personal identifying information of any person, excluding the person's name, parcel designation, mailing address, and property address.

I (We) acknowledge that the Association publishes or may wish to publish certain information about its members, such as telephone numbers (land line or cellular), electronic mail ("e-mail") addresses in directories, message boards and "blogs" ("Association-related media). By signing this document, I (we) hereby authorize and consent to the Association's use and publication of the contact information as noted below.

Mail to: VG&RC POA Manager, Castle Group, 102 Pesaro Drive, North Venice, FL 34275
Or Email to: cwilz@castlegroup.com
Or, hand-deliver your form to the on-site POA office, side door of the Welcome Center.