



PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

September 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.*

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

• The New and Improved

The VGRC Community Association spent the summer months updating its web site, www.vgrcca.us The easy to navigate web site contains an all inclusive community calendar of events, meeting dates and times, etc., so as to keep our VG&RC community informed of current and future events.

You will also find current and past editions of *Parcels from Paradise*, links to key city and county sites, an easy to use method for paying CA dues and important forms such as the ACC Application.

And for the first time, a **community electronic bulletin board**, appropriately named, “**The Wall of Something.**” We have heard from residents over the years regarding the need for a community electronic bulletin. The **Wall of Something** has a wide range of opportunities to post **SOMETHING**. Take a look at the **Wall** and see everything that you might want to post plus how the **Wall** will serve those looking for that person that can fix a problem you are having with your computer or finding a reliable florist that is known for their creativity. Check the **Wall** out at www.vgrcca.us and feel free to post **SOMETHING**. It is currently free to the community but beginning January 1,2017, only members can post. However it will always be open for anyone in the community to view.

• A Super Duper Great Event

Don't miss the event of the season! Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast fundraising soiree, “**A NIGHT IN OLD HAVANA**” is happening Saturday Nov. 19, 2016 at 6pm at the Venetian Golf Club. Join us for authentic Cuban cuisine, a Latin dance contest, Mojitos, rum tasting, a cigar bar, and dancing under the tent. The Silent Auction and Raffle promise to be the best ever! The generosity of our local merchants is overwhelming this year. Come help support the children of the Sun Coast. \$95 per person. Seats will sell out quickly. Individual or entire table reservations are welcome. Wear your casual Cuban attire and Salsa the night away! Contact Rosemary BeCraft 513-315-1635 or Linda Cautero, 203-240-0715.

And as a special service *Parcels* has provided a link to a You Tube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVtWSZOttC0> to help you learn how to do the Salsa. Yes, you can learn the Salsa in the privacy of your own living room in time for the wonderful “A Night in Old Havana.”

• City Elections

We have gone back and forth with who is on the ballot for City Council. Here is the latest and final information. The Mayor race is set. Incumbent John Holic will face Frankie S. Abbruzzino. Incumbent Council person Jeanette Gates originally stated that she would not run. Former Council member Emilio Carlesimo then threw his hat in the ring. Gates reconsidered and filed. Carmeliso withdrew. That's it!

• **So What Is it?**

The picture on the first page was sent to *Parcels* by one of our fine residents. It is the result of a lightning strike on hole #2 of the golf course. Often we think of lightning hitting a tree or another object, but in this case, lightning hit the ground and certainly left its mark. The spider like web impression should be a reminder of the power of electricity and the need to take cover when you hear that burst of thunder.



• **Candidate Forum, October 10, 5pm**

The Candidate Forum on **Monday, October 10th, 5 pm @ RC**, will likely be well attended. This annual event will feature the race for Mayor plus candidates for our own VCDD. The event will be videotaped so snowbirds can view the Forum. It will be placed a day or two after the event on www.vgrcca.us Candidates for the VCDD are:

- Seat 1 – David Lusty, Herman Moore
- Seat 3 - Susie Lentile, James Shea
- Seat 5 - Richard Bracco, Gabe Levinson

Send In Your Questions for the Candidates

The Candidate Forum format will include an introduction of candidates followed by questions posed by the moderator. **WE ASK ANY RESIDENT WHO WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A QUESTION (S) FOR THE MAYOR OR CDD RACE TO SEND THEM BY CLICKING ON REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. We will look at all questions to determine the most common themes. Questions have to be given to all candidates, not specific candidates. Time limits for this event will most likely prevent all submitted questions to be given. Your name will not be given at the Forum but you must include your name when submitting a question(s). ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH.**

• **Coffee and Conversation with our City Manager, October 17, 8am**

We had great success with our Coffee and Conversation last spring and plan to do three more this year. The first one is **Monday, October 17th** at the River Club. This is a very informal gathering at 8 am in the morning, lasting about an hour. Coffee is free provided by your Community Association. About ten minutes are given to the presenter as an opening with the remainder of the hour for questions and comments from those attending. The presenter for this first **Coffee and Conversation** for the season will be Ed LaValle, the City Manager for Venice. Want to ask a question? Want to share your comments or perspective? Then come to the Coffee and Conversation on the 17th....we'll have the coffee waiting for you.

• Swing for a Cure...Save the Date

The ever popular “**The 6th Annual Swing For a Cure**”, will take place on President’s Day, **February 20, 2017**, at our own Golf Club. The event is open to all residents. Scleroderma, or systemic sclerosis, is a chronic connective tissue disease generally classified as one of the autoimmune rheumatic diseases. The event includes a golf scramble plus a delicious dinner. The yearly event benefits research for this life changing disease. Swing for a Cure is spearheaded by Cos and Ronni Mallozzi who live at the Venetian. Mrs. Mallozzi has been battling Schleroderma for a number of years and her fight has been an inspiration to all. The event is strongly supported by our community.

OUTSIDE THE GATES

• Dodged Another One

It was a little unsure for a few days while watching Tropical Storm Hermine churn in the Gulf. There were some early forecasts that had Sarasota County within range. Fortunately it went north of this area, but left a great deal of rain behind. The two Venetian Hurricane Response Team captains of the week were on duty ready to launch the comprehensive plan if needed. In retrospect perhaps Hermine served as a reminder that yes, we are in the Hurricane season, and yes, the west coast of Florida can become a target of a tropical storm/hurricane.

• A “New” Venice Hospital on the horizon

In a recent press release from the CEO, Venice Regional Bayfront Health Hospital, it states that, *“Yesterday, we filed a letter of intent with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration stating our plans to file a certificate of need (CON) application for a replacement hospital. The complete CON application with all details is due to the state on October 12,2016.”* The press release did not give specificity of where and when. The VGRC Community Association will keep close tabs on any new developments.

• Yummies for Your Tummies

The very popular and family operated **Chez 51** on Knights Trail Rd. has expanded its hours and is now open Friday and Saturday until 8:00pm. They have a beer and wine license for those who need to imbibe. Food is fantastic!

Another family owned breakfast/brunch and lunch restaurant **The Original Word of Mouth**, has opened its doors on 1740 E. Venice Ave. in the location where Helios once operated. The inside of this restaurant has been remodeled into a bright and inviting atmosphere. There is seating outside and the menu is quite extensive. Hours are 7-2pm. This is the second restaurant with their first one located at the Gulf Gate Plaza in Sarasota

We have reported that the newly renovated Race Trac on Jacaranda would offer a special ice cream/yogurt feature called, “**Swirl World**”. After months of delays, the Race Trac opened on September 1. Great ice cream or yogurt available 24/7.

Although not a restaurant, keep an eye open for the new **Sprouts** in the old Sports Authority on Tamiami. It is in the same phylum as Whole Foods, Trader Joe’s and Fresh Market. Visit their web site at www.sprouts.com

- **Free at Last**

On Saturday, September 3, at 6:30 pm at the North Jetty, staff of the Wildlife Rescue of Venice released four birds that were under their care. A spokesperson for the Wildlife Rescue indicated that the four were injured, being tangled in fishing lines at the Venice Pier. When the cage opened the four emerged on the beach; one took off immediately, two hesitated and then took off and one, probably thinking about the gentle care and great food he had the Center, possibly realizing that it wasn't a bad life after all, finally tested his wings and flew away. The Wildlife Rescue, located on Border Rd., will be conducting their annual fund raising drive in a few weeks. They have been called many times over the years to rescue injured birds at the Venetian. Put their number **(941) 484-9657**, in your cell phone in the event you need to call them. Their web site is <http://wildlifecenterofvenice.org/> and are always looking for volunteers.



- **A New Way of Contacting Venice**

The City of Venice has partnered with **SeeClickFix** to announce a new platform called **Venice Connect** that will allow 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 web 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. In addition, the SeeClickFix platform provides city officials with a centralized issue management system to manage issues from creation to resolution – engaging citizens throughout the process. SeeClickFix Venice Connect is available as an app for Android and iPhone. Select SeeClickFix from your app store on your device and choose Venice, Florida.

There is also a link to the program on the city's website, www.venicegov.com, or go directly to SeeClickFix at SeeClickFix.com/Venice.

- **Bicycle Run**

The City of Venice Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator is launching a monthly bicycle ride in the city, open to the public. It will be a fun, casual, 6-mile ride around the Island of Venice, traveling along the ever-so-popular Venice Island Loop that is highlighted on our bicycle maps. The free ride will take place on **the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.** There will be a brief safety discussion prior to the ride, as the group will be riding along shared bicycle lanes. Participants will need to bring their own bike and will be required to wear a helmet and sign a short waiver. Bicyclists should meet in the City Hall parking lot at 401 W. Venice Ave.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership team is gearing up for its annual membership drive. For the past three years, we have surpassed our membership goals. If you are not sure of your membership status, go to our web site www.vgrcca.us and click on the membership tab. Enter your name and address and our system will tell you your current status.

Now, let's talk to three groups regarding your membership:

First, to those who need to renew. You can renew online or fill out the attached membership form. Remember, you get a discount by paying prior to January 1, 2017. Thanks for being a member!!

Second, to those who are new to the community. We're glad to see have you as a resident of "Paradise". If you take a short jaunt to the River Club, you will see a brochure about the VGRC Community Association telling you everything you need to know about the Community Association. This brochure is also on our web site, www.vgrcca.us Once you read it, you will be convinced to join.

And finally, those who have not joined. Bike-O-Rama, flag placement honoring those who served, our Hurricane Response Team, our recent effort with the Concrete Crushing Plant and Affordable Housing Proposal, Shredfest, flu shots, the building of the Jacaranda Extension, Candidate Forum, Coffee and Conversation. That's just a sample what we do for our wonderful residents. We bring both an oversight of those outside issues that impact our community plus a number of wonderful activities, programs and events that enhance the quality of life for Venetians. Isn't it time to join the Community Association? We're counting on you this year!

NOTES FROM THE POA

The POA Board of Directors met on August 29 and about 30 residents attended. The primary topic was the 2017 budget, which was reviewed in depth. A new 3 year agreement with Castle Management was approved, which will lock in a fee of approximately \$4 per home per month. The board unanimously voted in favor of a proposed budget which will hold the POA dues at \$184 per home per quarter, the same as this year. The proposed budget will be mailed to all homeowners in mid-September. This budget will be further reviewed and voted for approval at the next board meeting on Oct. 11. If you have any specific questions, please contact Christine Klopotic, property manager, at 441-1813 or cklopotic@castlegroup.com.

EXTRA HELPINGS

• An Injection of Enthusiasm

Parcels has observed something interesting after interacting with various new residents. One went on and on about how he and his spouse just love it here despite the summer heat. Another new resident talked about some of the great restaurants he found and just couldn't believe the number of Italian eateries on the Island. Of course, many new residents couldn't get over how close the beaches are to the Venetian and how easy it is to park. One mentioned her shopping experience at St. Armand Circle and how she was glad to see an all day rain, giving her time to visit the Ringling Museum. Another resident could not say enough about the breakfast buffet at the River Club on Sunday...especially the cost. These types of conversations from the "newbies" should be a reminder to the "veterans" to take stock of the fact that we truly live in a wonderful community. Oh my, how fortunate we are!

Venetian Calendar

Upcoming meeting dates

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

- Sept. 12 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.venetiancdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am. Meeting moved to Golf Club since the River Club is closed this week.)
- Sept. 13 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm
Contact Christine Klopotic at cklopotic@castlegroup.com to submit ACC forms
(meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 pm. Sept. meeting moved to Golf Club since the River Club is closed this week.)

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

- Sept. 22 – POA Rules Committee – 9:00 am cklopotic@castlegroup.com
(meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 9:00 am)
- Sept. 26 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.venetiancdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- Sept. 27 – VGRCCA board meeting – 1 pm www.vgrcca.us
(meetings are held monthly on the 4th Tuesday)
- Oct. 4 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm
Contact Christine Klopotic at cklopotic@castlegroup.com to submit ACC forms
(meetings are normally held monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 2:00 pm. Change in Oct. due to meeting time conflicts.)
- Oct. 10 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.venetiancdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- Oct. 11 – POA board meeting & budget adoption – 1:30pm
cklopotic@castlegroup.com *(meetings are held normally monthly on the 1st Wednesday at 1:30pm. Change in Oct. due to Board member travel conflicts.)*

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*.