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# PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

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***October 2016***

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

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## ***INSIDE THIS EDITION / HIGHLIGHTS***

*Candidate Forum....pg 2*

*Volunteers needed for annual Flag Placement pg 3*

*Bricks and Mortars pg 5*

*A breakfast you would die for pg 5*

*New Clinic on Laurel pg 6*

*Bold Landscaping Project pg 6*

*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**

### **• HUGE CROWD**

As that Kia spokesperson says in his commercial, we had a **HUGE** crowd at Monday's, October 10th Candidate Forum. For the Mayoral race, John Holic and Frankie S. Abbruzzino both took on questions such as taxes, safety and road bonds and the role of northeast Venice. Candidates for the CDD took the majority of the evening. As with this Mayor's race, they handled a number of questions including the feasibility study for the Golf Course and Welcome center, River Club fees for classes, increased assessments and solutions to cars speeding down our Venetian streets. The Forum was videotaped and can be seen on [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us). Three seats are up for election and here are the races:

Seat 1 – David Lusty, Herman Moore

Seat 3 - Susie Lentile, James Shea

Seat 5 - Richard Bracco, Gabe Levinson



### **• BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

School is back in session and we continue to collect the pink BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION for our Laurel/Nokomis School. We collected over 200 from the summer months, but we need to step it up during the 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.

• **Charity Benefit: Veteran Scramble. Thursday, November 3, 8:30am**

After notable success in its initial year, the 2nd Annual Venetian Veterans Scrambling for Charity Golf Event will again be held at the Golf Club. The event is open to men and women, members and non-members. **You do not have to be a veteran to participate in this great event.** The day consists of a moving opening ceremony, a golf scramble and a luncheon where veterans are honored. The event benefits the Fisher House Foundation that provides lodging for veteran and military families receiving treatment at military medical facilities. The Golf Pro shop has further information and prices. A very worthy and enjoyable event.



• **Calling All Veterans**

Speaking of Veterans, *Parcels* received a request from a Venetian resident mother of two daughters and VGRCCA member inviting any Veteran to participate in a breakfast and assembly at her children's school. The event is **Friday, November 11th** at Pine View School. The Veterans Day breakfast begins at 8:30 am with an assembly honoring veterans at 9:30 am. Hopefully, we will have a strong representation from the Venetian in support of this activity. For more information, please contact Janna Kim at 941-525-3750.

### • **Learning from a Major Event**

Members of your Hurricane Response Team (HRT) were watching carefully the events associated with Hurricane Matthews, which was a Category 3 when it hit the east side of Florida. We learned a great deal, most notably:

- Gas and food supplies ran out quickly
- Those who want to evacuate must make a decision early enough to avoid the interstate parking lot
- Storm surge is a key element of a hurricane. We believe we are at a high enough elevation at the Venetian that we would not be directly impacted by a severe storm surge
- With the major wind gusts, come many flying objects that cause destruction. Therefore, residents must heed the call to put away all patio chairs, tables and potted plants in order that they do not become flying missiles.
- Clean up after the hurricane is a major part of the event

We believe that if a hurricane hits this area, we could implement the Hurricane Response Team program as planned. Finally, special acknowledgment to the Venice Fire Department who sent a fire truck along with three firefighters to the affected area.

### • **Volunteers Needed: Annual Flag Placement Throughout the Venetian**

Get on your calendar, **Friday, November 11th** to assist in putting flags throughout the Venetian to honor those who served. Last year, we were successful in having enough volunteers to cover the entire property. Please report to the front Privacy Gate at **9 am** where you will receive instruction. This time involved in this volunteer effort is usually less than 30 minutes.

### • **Wall of Something**

Have you been to the **Wall of Something**? It is an electronic bulletin board open to any resident. Details and instructions are found at [www.vgrcca.us/wall\\_of\\_something](http://www.vgrcca.us/wall_of_something). The Wall has great potential for this community allowing instant communication about basically anything or as the wall says, **Something**.

### • **Garden Seminar: Florida Friendly Basics: Pests and Pollinators**

The VGRC Community Associations has scheduled this year the ever-popular Garden Seminars. The upcoming one is **Tuesday, October 18, 4 pm**, at the River Club. More than 99 percent of the world's insects are beneficial or harmless. That includes bees, butterflies and other pollinators, which research shows are responsible for one in three bites of food we take. Yet, random pesticide applications destroy many beneficial insects. In the "Pests and Pollinators" seminar, we will identify and discuss pests to watch for in Sarasota County, as well as our popular insect and non-insect pollinators, from bees to bats.

### • **Congratulatory Note**

*Parcels* wanted to send its congratulations on behalf of the Community Association to our outstanding Property Manager, Christine Klopotic. Christine was married to Nick Wilz on October 14 in a beach side wedding. May you have many years of happiness and good health, Mr. and Mrs. Wilz!

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## OUTSIDE THE GATES

### • **Library Information**

The Venice (Temporary) Library is open at its new quarters at 260 N. Nokomis. Hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Speaking of libraries, the Jacaranda library offers a number of free technology classes. In this techno world, many who grew up in an Olivetti typewriter era, are somewhat hesitant to jump into today's social media world. For more information, please call the Jacaranda Public Library at 941-861-5000.

### • **The World Series**

With the World Series upon us, *Parcels* felt it was important to get everyone in the baseball mood by providing this you tube video featuring two of the great comedians of the past. Take a look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82mlqZGRBz4>

### • **Is Mom Ok?**

During the recent Hurricane, the American Red Cross mentioned a service called "Safe and Well." Concerned family and friends can search the list of those who have registered themselves as "safe and well" by clicking on the Search Registrant Button. Go to <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief/contact-and-locate-loved-ones>. It is a unique but very helpful resource during a disaster when communication is extremely limited.

### • **Bricks and Mortars**

Here are some quickies of items going up near and around the Venetian. Wawa on Jacaranda should be ready after the 1st of the year. The Wawa on 41 leading to Englewood should open in December. Max's Table, a breakfast lunch restaurant just north of Walmart should open in about a month. The building next to the CVS on 41 at Laurel is going to be a new Chase Bank. According to Culver officials, their new location on Jacaranda should open in February. Prime Serious Steak should open in the Westfield Sarasota Square Mall in November.

### • **Lovers of Scrapple & Kielbasa**

There are few places in town where one can see these two "delicacies" on a breakfast menu. If you are a fan of the two, go to **Jim O'Hara Café**, touted as the "Best Breakfast and Lunch in Venice". It is located at 3974 Tamiami Trail near Jacaranda next to the county office in a small shopping center. The ambience is diner-like, the service is ultra friendly and Mr. Jim hangs around just chatting with all of his customers. Cash only, like the old days. Think about starting the day with biscuits and gravy, kielbasa, eggs over easy and a double order of crisp hash browns. If you are a breakfast lover, you are probably now reaching for your car keys. One bit of advice...if you have a scheduled cardiologist appointment, having a cholesterol filled breakfast beforehand at Jim O'Hara's would not be in your best interest. Otherwise give the place a try.

- **Laurel Primary Care Clinic**

We welcome Dr. Catherine Fedako and Dr. Albert Charron who will staff the new Laurel Primary Care Clinic in the Plaza on Laurel where Publix is located. Both doctors are accepting new patients. The Primary Care Clinic is open 8-5, Monday through Friday. It's such a convenient location for our community. The Clinic is also planning a special after hours open house exclusively for Venetian residents, sometime in November.

- **Sending A Message: Joining the Community Association...**

The Community Association is launching its membership campaign for 2017. Soon, you will receive a letter in the mail about your membership. You can also go online at [www.vgrcca.us/membership](http://www.vgrcca.us/membership), put in your last name and address and it will come up with your membership status. You will also be receiving in the mail, a colorful tri-fold brochure announcing all of the events the Community Association has planned this year. As we all know, there is a cost of doing business. The Community Association relies on our residents to help defray the cost of many of our events. Your membership more importantly, sends a message that you believe in a strong community, understand the importance of property values and finally, realize that a community in northeast Venice cannot sit idly by while watching all the changes outside the walls. The next segment, "Updates on Key External Issues," describes just a few proposed changes for "outside the walls" that your Community Association is carefully monitoring. We look forward to receiving your membership for 2017. A membership form is the final page of this edition of *Parcels*.

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## UPDATES ON KEY EXTERNAL ISSUES

- **Laurel Road Mini-Storage**

The Community Association's External Affairs Committee recently met with the attorney for the company planning to build a mini-storage facility on the Knights Trail extension south of Laurel Road. The Committee is asking that the density of the landscaping buffer on the north side of the facility fence facing Laurel Road be increased. Their request is being considered.

- **Milano Residential Development Rezoning Meeting**

Neal Communities is holding an informational meeting for Venetian residents at **5:30 pm on October 20** at the River Club at which they will share their plans for their newest community located west of Jacaranda Blvd. across from our Milano neighborhood. They are planning to incorporate additional property to the west, presently know as Laurel Lakes, into the new development. The purpose of the meeting is to inform you of the nature of the project, to solicit suggestions and concerns, and discuss the proposed plan. Should you be interested but not able to attend the River Club meeting, they will be holding a public informational meeting on the same topic at 5:30 pm on October 25 at the Venice-Nokomis Elks Club, 1021 Discovery Way, North Venice.

- **Bold Landscape Project, at Laurel Road/I-75 Interchange**

The contract for the landscape contractor from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has been issued. Currently the contractor is using a 60-day acquisition period to acquire the plant material and will then have 150 days to finish the project. The anticipated completion is April 8, 2017 depending on weather and other factors. FDOT has allocated \$1,072,000 for this project and once completed will greatly enhance our I-75 interchange into a gateway to the area that should have a very positive impact. The Community Association has been involved with this project since its onset.

### • **Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) at Laurel Road Update:**

On October 12 SMH submitted their new Certificate of Need application to the state. The new application increases the number of acute beds from 80 to 90 with an additional 20 observation beds. The increase in the 10 acute beds is due to the addition of an obstetrical unit to better serve south county mothers.

Our Community Association coordinated the effort for the letters of support campaign for North Venice. Publix Super Markets, Inc., PGT, Tervis Tumbler, Nielsen, Neal Communities, Toscano Isles, several home owner associations and of course your Community Association all wrote very compelling letters. Special thanks goes out to all of you who wrote letters. The ball is rolling and we will keep you posted. A decision from the state is expected in December.

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### **NOTES FROM THE POA**

There were about 20 residents present the September POA meeting. The key topics covered were:

The board approved the 2017 budget, and the quarterly fee will be \$184, which is the same as last year. There was discussion on several line items, particularly management, the Comcast contract, and insurance.

The charters for the ACC and Rules committees, which cover responsibilities and terms, were reviewed with a few changes requested.

Home rentals were addressed, and Board Members Jerry Flood and Lew Perry volunteered to form a committee and ask a few other homeowners to join. They will review websites with ads for rentals at VG&RC to verify that they meet the minimum rental period of 60 days.

Irrigation violations were discussed, and the problem of misuse of the wet check days continues to be a problem. A new policy was approved that will allow one violation in a 90 day period, with succeeding violations resulting in escalating fines.

The updated website at [WWW.VENETIANPOA.COM](http://WWW.VENETIANPOA.COM) is up and running and homeowners are encouraged to log in to review their personal information. You can register for auto-pay for your quarterly dues here. General POA information such as documents, standards, forms and rules can be accessed at this site without a login.

There are two board seats up for election at the POA annual meeting on December 6. A “Meet the Candidates” forum will be held on **November 14 at 5 p.m.** at the River Club.

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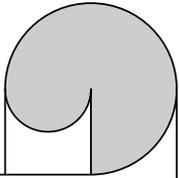
### **FINAL HELPING**

November 9th, for some residents, can't come soon enough. That is the day after the Elections. *Parcels* usually avoids political issues so don't expect to read who the endorsement goes to. No matter what candidate you are putting your x next to, you probably have to admit that this has been a Presidential campaign rarely seen in one's lifetime. Even the many state races have ads that force you to put your TV on mute. With all the ads and news station, it was very refreshing to see the Candidate Forum at the Venetian last week. The mayor candidates were respectful to each other and answered with substance the various questions directed at them. Our own CDD candidates also took a professional approach to the Forum, were well prepared and answered the questions clearly so you knew where they stood. The audience was highly respectful to both the process and candidates and listened carefully to the answers. Small as it was, it demonstrated that there is still a positive side of campaigning, where issues, not personalities nor demeaning comments, are the primary focus.

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## JUST SITTING AROUND

*Parcels* is just sitting around by his computer waiting for your comments, suggestions for future articles, compliments, criticisms, etc. Please hit reply to this email and send them in. *Parcels* would love to hear from you.



# Venetian Calendar

## Upcoming meeting dates

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

- Oct. 17 – Coffee & Conversations with Ed Lavallee – 8am [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)  
(open discussion and coffee with the Venice City Manager)
- Oct. 18 – Florida Friendly Basics: Pests & Pollinators – 4pm  
[www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us) (seminar on types of insects and pesticide use)
- Oct. 24 – 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)
- Oct. 25 – VGRCCA board meeting – 3:30 pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)  
(meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday)
- Oct. 27 – POA Rules Committee – 9:00 am [cklopotic@castlegroup.com](mailto:cklopotic@castlegroup.com)  
(meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 9:00 am)
- Nov. 2 – POA board meeting – 1:30pm [cklopotic@castlegroup.com](mailto:cklopotic@castlegroup.com)  
(meetings are held normally monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 1:30pm. )
- Nov. 8 – 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.)
- Nov. 14 – 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)
- Nov. 14 – POA Meet the Candidates Night – 5pm [cklopotic@castlegroup.com](mailto:cklopotic@castlegroup.com)  
(forum for candidates running for the 2 seats on the POA board)

# 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*.