



PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

August 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

• **A Season Full of Great Programs and Activities**

In September, the VGRC Community Association will distribute its brochure listing a plethora of activities and events for 2016-17. These events and activities have in the past been very well attended. Resident Renee Pearlman has again put together two outstanding garden seminars for green thumbs. And yes, we will be having Bike-O-Rama IV in January and for a second year, Shredfest. (Might be a good idea to start your box of documents and other things that you want shredded.)

We tried our 8am “Coffee and Conversation” last spring and it was highly successful...there will be more! And finally, for those who need a flu shot, we want to make life easier for you and have scheduled the Publix pharmacist to give the shots at the River Club on October 24th. Sounds like another great season. Look for the brochure soon.

• **The Wall of Something**

OK, what is the Wall of Something? Here’s the background. A number of residents have been “pestering” *Parcels* and the Community Association to start an electronic bulletin board where individuals can post a host of items.....including items to be sold, services needed, property to be rented and anything else you can think of. The Wall of Something will do just that. Of course, there will be some restrictions so that the Wall of Something does not become the Wall of Negativity or Gripping. Currently, we are preparing the Wall of Something intending to launch it in late September. The site will be open to all residents during its trial period. Ultimately, posting will be available only for those who are VGRC Community Association members. We hope the **Wall of Something** becomes a valuable tool for all Venetians.

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

As stated in a previous Parcel, the VGRC Community Association will sponsor its Annual Candidate Forum **on Monday, October 10, at 5 pm**. The majority of the Forum will be the CDD race where six residents have thrown their hat in the ring for three seats. The Community Association at print time is in the process of contacting the candidates for the mayor’s race which will also be on the Forum’s agenda. This year, the Forum will be video taped and placed on the Community Association’s web site, www.vgrcca.us, approximately 36 hours after the event. This will allow those who cannot attend the Candidate Forum an opportunity to evaluate the candidates prior to voting.

• **HRT Program: Update**

The Hurricane Readiness Team is on standby ready to activate if there is a Hurricane on the horizon. We still have room for volunteers. Please complete the HRT yellow volunteer card found at the River Club if you can help.

We are compiling a list of those who have chain saws and generators. If you have one or both, please hit “Reply” and let us know how you can help.

• **Breakfast Buffet Continues at a Great Price**

The \$8.95 Sunday buffet breakfast at the River Club will continue throughout August and possibly longer according to Food and Beverage Manager Tom Nurney. The response from Venetian residents has been simply outstanding. Due to its popularity, serving hours have been extended. The new hours are 9:30 am- 1:30 pm with reservations required. If you and your family love those breakfast buffets with plenty of choices at an unbelievable price,, you are a candidate to get on the phone or online to make your reservations for Sunday. And as *Parcels* stated in a previous edition, don't forget to try the blintzes!

UPDATES ON KEY EXTERNAL ISSUES

The picture below provides a better understanding of the many issues your VGRC Community is currently monitoring.



• **Updates on Parks**

Perhaps you recall some months ago, residents across the city filled out a survey about parks and recreation. After the results were tallied, a consultant put together a very comprehensive 90 pg. Master Plan. You can read the entire plan by clicking on <http://www.venicegov.com/Files/Parks/ParksMasterPlan.pdf>

In the report, there were recommendations for what is termed, “the Ajax property” (the area to our North). We have extracted from the report the recommendations for this area. Please do not get your pickle ball team organized or tell Poochie that he will have a dog park, because these are just recommendations and the process from beginning to end will probably be a long one. With that in mind, we still wanted to give you the first bit of information from the new Master Plan.

Recommendations:

Design park as multi-purpose Community Park with:

- Pickleball courts
- Fishing
- Dog park
- Picnic shelters
- Playground
- Restoration of native habitat and landscape
- Wellness trail
- Parking
- A softball field (multi-purpose)
- Restrooms
- Kayaking/canoeing access to a 400 acre county lake
- Shade

OUTSIDE THE GATES

• **Venice makes ‘Most Affordable Small Sunny Town’ listing**

Venice, Fla., has been identified as one of the 50 Most Affordable Small Sunny Towns in the United States in a recent ranking by www.light-therapy.net. The ranking considered the top sunniest towns in the country and was narrowed to include the most affordable of these locales.

With 266 sunny days annually, Venice was ranked No. 16. The article notes: “Located on the western coast of Florida, Venice is the place to be if you love perfect weather, wearing a swimsuit all year round and any water sports. ... Venice is a palm tree-covered dream! When people think of quaint and peaceful parts of Florida, this town has to be what they imagine.”

• **The Clock Has Stopped**

One of the island’s best known restaurants, the CLOCK after 38 years of business, has turned off its grills and closed the doors. At the Clock, customers could get a great breakfast, lunch or dinner at an affordable price accompanied by wonderful service. There is no news about what, if anything, will replace this long time establishment.

• **Bullying on the Tennis Court**

For local news watchers, you might have caught a story about a group of tennis players at Hecksher Park hiring an attorney in anticipation of suing the city due to a “tennis bully.” According to news sources, the tennis group is suing on grounds of “intentional infliction of emotional distress and civil rights violations.” Maybe the Venetian should lend its mind mannered tennis pro, Charlie Sandemenico, to the group to teach everyone about tennis etiquette. What Hecksher Park’s tennis followers definitely need is something that is part of tennis scoring . . . Just a little **LOVE**.

• **Who's on First?**

A lot of last minute changes with the upcoming city council race. OK, let's see if we can get it straight. Council member Jeannette Gates indicated she would not run for another term. Venetian resident Bill Ahern indicated he would run for her seat and was, for a period of time, unopposed. Recently Bill Ahern withdrew his candidacy. With Ahern out of the race former Council member, Emilio Carlesimo said he would run for Gates' seat. Shortly after his announcement, Gates said she has reconsidered and will oppose Carlesimo for her seat that she originally was going to vacate. There's more. Initially Mayor John Holic was unopposed. Then, Frankie S. Abbruzzino filed to run against Holic. The deadline for filing has not been reached so there may be more.

• **For Food Lovers**

Here's the latest, food lovers. Curry Creek on RT. 41 is history. Taking its location is the Crab Shack which specializes in well... do we really need to tell you? Also, Culver's restaurant is being built in Venice immediately south of the Wawa under construction on Jacaranda Boulevard at Executive Drive in the Jacaranda Junction Shopping Center. Culver's touts its fresh frozen custards, as well its scrumptious Butter Burgers plus its heavenly ice cream featuring the flavor of the day such as Chocolate Chip Cheesecake. Building will start soon with limited details about the actual date of Culver's opening. And remember, the newly renovated RaceTrac will feature an array of yogurts. So, with Wawa, RaceTrac and now Culver's, you will have a hard time selecting where to stop to celebrate the good news you just received during your visit to the cardiologist or Weight Watchers.

• **Health Fair, August 31 & September 1**

Venice will hold its annual Health & Wellness Fair at the Venice Community Center on Aug. 31 from Noon - 5:00 pm & Sept. 1 from 7:00 am - 11: 30am There is no admission charge. As in past years, there will be a host of exhibitors.

MEMBERSHIP

The Community Association is gearing up for its 2017 membership campaign. At the end of *Parcels* you will see the latest membership form. Dues remain the same, with discounts for those who pay prior to January 1, 2017, as well as for those who sign up for multi years. The last two years have been banner years for membership. Our primary mission is addressing external issues and taking action, if necessary. We sponsor a number of on site activities to enhance this community's quality of life. We sit down with politicians and land developers to discuss our interests. We attend meetings, write letters and encourage our residents to attend important meetings where numbers say a lot. Our dues are minimal to cover costs for the distribution of *Parcels*, our annual Shredfest and Bike-O-Rama, the many seminars we sponsor, the equipment and supplies needed for the Hurricane Readiness Team, the rental of the school for the well attended Town Hall Meeting in February and more. In addition, we hold a reserve fund in the event that we run into a very sticky issue where an attorney or consultant needs to be employed.

From the beginning, the VGRC Community Association has focused on the bigger picture....our property values and the overall quality of life for our residents. With all the development around us and more coming, the need for the Community Association has grown. If you have not been a member, or its time to renew, remember your nominal membership dues reinforces the importance you place on your property values and the quality of life in the community where you reside.

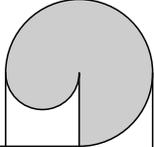
If you have not been a member, isn't today a good time to complete the attached membership form?

NOTES FROM THE POA

The POA Board of Directors will meet on **August 29, 1:30pm at the River Club** with the key topic being the 2017 budget. In advance of this meeting, board members have been working with Castle Management on the agreement for next year. They have also met with our insurance carrier to review coverage options. Updates on both items will be discussed at the next board meeting, and all homeowners are encouraged to attend.

NOTES FROM THE CDD

A Public Hearing on the Venetian CDD 2016-2017 Budget will be held at the River Club on **Monday, August 22 starting at 9:30 AM**. The proposed budget will be considered by the VCDD Board immediately following the Hearing. Prior to the meeting, you may want to review the recently updated "Funding Reserve Analysis" documents for both the Venetian CDD and the River Club. These studies are the basis for the two Reserve Accounts that will be considered at the August 22 meeting.



Venetian Calendar

Upcoming meeting dates

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

- Aug. 22 – VCDD board meeting – 9:30 am www.venetiancdd.org
(meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:30am)
- Aug. 24 – POA Rules Committee – 9:00 am cklopotic@castlegroup.com
(meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 9:00 am)
- Aug. 29 – POA budget workshop – 1:30pm cklopotic@castlegroup.com
- Aug. 29 – POA board meeting – 1:30pm cklopotic@castlegroup.com
(meetings are held monthly on the 1st Wednesday at 1:30pm)
- 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)
- 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. 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)

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*.