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# PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

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***August 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.*

***Remember, hard copies of this month's Parcels can be picked up at the River and Golf Clubs.***

• **Paying Attention to the Fire Fee**

All Venetian residents should have received both an email from the Community Association regarding the proposed fire fee and a letter from the city on this same topic. We hope all residents have paid close attention to this issue. Council has studied this issue with the help of an outside consultant. There still remains some confusion regarding the fire fee since it is new to Venice. Sarasota County and many other cities have the fee. Council will discuss the fire fee at **9 am on August 21, 2017**, in Council Chambers. If you want to comment, there will be a period of time at the meeting for audience participation. You can also send an email to Venice council on this topic but leave sufficient time for the email to be read.

Recently, the City of Venice announced an Informational Sessions on **Wednesday, August 16, 2017**, at the Venice Community Center. There will be two sessions... one from 9 am to 11 am; the other from 5 pm- 7 pm. According to the city, the meeting will be to exchange information and to answer questions.

As the Fire Fee will impact all Venetian residents it would be valuable to learn more about its impact on your taxes.

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## **RIGHT IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD – ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT THE VENETIAN**

• **Residents Welcomed**

The Community Association Board meets usually the fourth Tuesday of every month at 3 pm at the River Club. Part of the agenda is devoted to hearing the public. If you want to surface or discuss an issue that is within the realm of the Community Association, please come to the meetings. If you want to just observe we would love to have you. Please note that the August meeting has changed to August 29th at 3 pm.

• **Road Cleanup**

Pictured to the right are those who volunteered to assist with the Road Cleanup on Laurel Rd. Thank you volunteers for taking time to make this a better community. We are planning another clean up on **October 2nd** (Monday). Sarasota County gives us the tee shirts to wear and we have a supply of them for new volunteers. We will put out an announcement on the October clean up, as we get closer to the date. The VGRC Community Association sponsors this worthy activity.



• **The HRT is “Ready to Roll”**



The Venetian has organized a Hurricane Response Team (HRT) that will spring into action if and when a hurricane takes place in this area. FYI, the last hurricane to actually hit both Sarasota and Manatee Counties was in 1960 (Hurricane Donna). The plan involves basically three layers.... the Command Center Leaders who basically direct and coordinate the program; the Team Leaders for each of the three teams (Assessment, Security and Outreach); and volunteers who actually do much of the groundwork. Last year we had a sizeable number of residents volunteer for the program.

• **Candidate Forum: October 2nd**

As of this writing, it appears that there will be only one competitive race for Seat 1, Venice City Council. The two candidates (at this time) will be featured at the annual “Candidate Forum” which will be held on **Monday, Oct 2, 2017**, at the River Club beginning at 5 p.m. If you have questions for the candidates, please hit “reply” to this email and send them in. Due to time limits, all questions may not be given.

If you need to register to vote in Florida, you must do so, “29 days prior to the Election” in which you want to vote. Go to <http://www.sarasotavotes.com/> for more information.

• **City Advisory Boards**

The City of Venice has a number of advisory boards that play a major role in providing input to Council. We are pleased to indicate that currently there are a number of Venetian residents who voluntarily serve on city boards. With term limitations, the City is always looking for qualified replacements. We would certainly like to see representatives from North Venice. You can apply for one of these Boards through the city’s website, [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com), click on “Advisory Board.”

• **Quick Thinking**

A resident sent *Parcels* an email regarding an incident, which he witnessed on Friday, June 30th. A landscape truck coming into the community, stopped and a man exited the truck, falling to the pavement. He was experiencing a very serious seizure, accompanied by uncontrolled shaking with the inability to speak or focus his eyes.

The resident called 911. At the same time, Security Guard Tom Gable left his post and ran to the emergency. Mr. Gable took control of the situation and applied water to the victim’s face, just in case the seizure was due to excessive heat. After a short time Mr. Gable was able to bring the victim to the side of the road where he cradled him in his arm, warding off fire ants which were in his location. Shortly, the ambulance arrived and took the victim to the hospital.

Nice job, Tom Gable. We appreciate your service and quick thinking.

• **Time to Sit and Meditate**

The VGRCCA through its Community Betterment program donated two benches (handicap accessible) to the VCDD for placement along Pesaro Dr. and Veneto Blvd. We would expect many of those who walk the area that borders the golf course, to take advantage of the opportunity to rest and relax while looking at one of our beautiful lakes. Ahhhh...yes, you are in Paradise.

We hope that these benches, which were placed on August 7th, become a reminder to those who need to join the Community Association. A membership form is available at the end of this edition. If you need to see if you are a member or want to know when your current dues expire, you can click on [www.vgrcca.us/membership](http://www.vgrcca.us/membership) where you will find a form allowing you to find your status.



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## OUTSIDE THE GATES

• **Pickle Ball Courts: Update**



The city understands the need for more Pickleball courts but finding the right place is quite challenging. The latest discussion has focused on Hecksher Park on the island and possibly the shuffleboard courts in downtown Venice. One may ask why don’t you reconfigure existing tennis courts into Pickleball courts allowing both to play on the same court? Won’t that solve the problem? First, Pickleball courts are much

smaller, the net for Pickleball is lower and many tennis players just don't want to see their court marked up with additional lines. The city understands the need but the solutions are not easy.

#### • **It's Greek to Me**

If you are a lover of Greek food, you will be glad to know that there a relatively new restaurant opened in downtown Venice. **Bodorumis**, located at 225 Miami Ave. Tampa, "in the alley" near Burgundy Square. The young owners are very engaged with their customers and bring an upbeat ambience to their new venture. There are approximately 10 tables however, when packed, the noise level is not that bad. The food is traditional Greek-Turkey. If you start with an appetizer, followed by an entrée and dessert you should walk away feeling full. The seasoning that is used on the meat clearly brings out the flavor. They are open at 4 pm and while the foot traffic is low, you might give it a try.

#### • **Corresponding with Council**

We often encourage residents to write a letter to Council on a particular issue. When the VGRCCA makes a request and individuals respond, we greatly appreciate those who take the time to share their perspectives. Remember, all emails are public records and appear on the city's server for anyone, including the press, to read. If you go on the web site, you will see letters ranging from logic and facts to those filled with anger and threats. We recommend when writing letters, in order for it to be seriously considered by council, you select the logic and fact method.

#### • **Airport Hotel...116 rooms**

New hotels are becoming a hot item in Venice. The latest hotel to open is the Hilton's Home2Suites, which is located on Albee Farms Rd. off of Rt. 41 There, has been recent discussion of a hotel being built near the Venice airport that would have 116 rooms. It appears that the predicted travel to the Venice area requires more pillow space.

#### • **School Bells Ring**

In mid August the majority of Sarasota County Schools open. First, to those parents who live at the Venetian, we hope that your child(ren) have a great year! To all of our drivers especially those who travel down Laurel Rd., remember to obey the 15 mph speed zone. If not, you might see a car (better known in "Dagnet" as the black and white") with blue lights flashing right behind you.

*Parcels* went to the Venice Police regarding questions about when you must stop for a school bus with flashing lights. Take the first part of Jacaranda Blvd from Laurel which has a grassy median. Venice Police cited the following: "On a highway divided by a raised barrier or an unpaved median at least 5 feet wide, drivers moving in the opposite direction do not have to stop for the bus (painted lines or pavement markings are not considered barriers)."

Secondly, what about a four lane highway with no middle barrier? The response from the VPD is "Yes, in this scenario all lanes would need to stop since there is not a raised barrier (i.e. curb) or grassy median separating the lanes."

In all cases, please slow down when you see a school bus.

#### • **Update: Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Venice**

Last year, Florida's Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) granted Sarasota Memorial's plan to establish a new hospital at Laurel and Pinebrook roads. The state also approved Venice Regional's request to construct a replacement hospital near Jacaranda Blvd. and East Venice Ave.



The hearing on the challenges to AHCA's decision is taking place this month in Tallahassee. During the hearing, Sarasota Memorial will highlight the need to improve South County residents' access to the hospital's high quality, cost-effective services.

The judge is expected to issue a recommended order later this fall. Then, the state Agency for Health Care Administration will review the judge's recommendation and issue a final order, likely in early 2018.

Sarasota Memorial has sent a communication to President John Moeckel expressing how greatly they appreciate the many Venetian residents who have shared their strong support for Sarasota Memorial's new hospital throughout the state approval process.

### • **A Visit to St. Pete**

Looking for a great day trip? It takes a little over an hour to get to downtown St. Pete. There are two museums that are worth a visit:

- Situated on the curve of Bayshore Drive in downtown St. Petersburg overlooking the Bay, **The Dali Museum** is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by the late Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali. The collection includes 94 original oils, over 100 watercolors and drawings, plus 1,300 graphics, sculptures, holograms, objects of art and photographs.
- On Central Ave in downtown St. Pete, you will experience the **Dale Chihuly's permanent glass exhibition**. Dale Chihuly's works belong to museum collections from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to the Louvre.....but his permanent collection resides in downtown St. Petersburg at the Chihuly Collection presented by Morean Arts Center. Tour the collection, visit the Glass Studio and Hot Shop at the nearby Morean Arts Center and watch glassblowers create original pieces.

Finally, take a walk along Central Ave in St. Pete. You will find an array of small shops.....consignment, antiques and art. You will also find plenty of restaurants to choose from including the Cider Press Cafe specializing in Vegan food. This is one of those areas that was slated to be demolished by the city, but a grass roots effort persuaded the city to turn it into an array of individually owned small shops. You will find your visit to the two museums with a trip down Central Ave., an all day affair.

## **A SPECIAL UPDATE FOR OUR SNOWBIRDS**

**Just to keep you up to date, we want to give you a quick summary of what's happening while you are gone.**

- Plenty of rain; almost a daily occurrence; lakes are full
- Some new and stronger electric poles have been placed at the VGRC
- Nothing new at the old CVS store nor the Subway plaza
- No decision yet on the new Sarasota Memorial Hospital(see article)
- The community is just about built out with the Bella Vista area the one area that still needs to be completed
- No official word, just a bunch of rumors regarding what is going to happen with the golf club
- A new Dollar General will be built on Laurel Rd, across the street from the Blessing Shop and Laurel Tire.
- The Sunday brunch is still \$8.95

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## OUTSIDE THE GATES

- **McLeod Concrete Crushing Plant**

The City is pursuing code violations as a result of unauthorized activities on the site of the McLeod Concrete Recycling Plant. The VGRC Community Association is in support of the city's proactive stance with this company.

- **Four-lane Laurel Road**

This was discussed as part of the Neal presentation at the River Club in July. It appears that this idea will not come to fruition anytime in the near future.

- **John Nolen Gardens Rezone**

This rezone was approved 4 to 2 by City Council with the stipulation that only multifamily rental apartments can be built on the property.

- **John Nolen Gardens Site & Development Plan Application**

The applicant has received word from the city that an environmental Assessment and a full traffic study must take place prior to this plan being considered by the Planning Commission. Many other hurdles must be overcome before this project can become a reality.

- **Toscana Isles**

Those Venetian residents who live near Hole 5 should be pleased to know that the developer has agreed to move plantings planned for the area behind #5 berm to the open area west of the #5 green in order to provide a denser landscape buffer at this location.

- **Treviso Grand Apartments**

The proposed apartment complex is located in the northeast corner of the large vacant farm field at Laurel and Knights Trail. An advisory committee including representatives from both Willow Chase and the VGRC has been established and recently blessed changes in the architecture, which adds considerably, more Northern Italian features to the buildings.



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## NEWS FROM THE POA (JULY AND AUGUST)

The POA board meeting was held on August 2nd and 8 residents attended. Discussion topics included:

- Property management expectations – as we are in the midst of changes to our property manager, the board reviewed our Castle management agreement and duties of the on-site PM to determine the staffing requirements.
- 2018 budget – the board reviewed the latest draft of the 2018 budget, which includes two full-time people in the on-site management office (Property Manager and administrative assistant). This change, along with the full community build-out charges from Comcast, will likely result in an increase in quarterly POA dues from \$184 per dwelling to \$202, an increase of 10%. Further budget discussions are scheduled for the Sept. 6 POA board meeting, with final approval at the Oct. 4 board meeting.

- Updated communications – the board, along with Rules Committee members, discussed and approved revisions to the correspondence sent out to homeowners when there is a rule compliance issue or notice of a pending fine.
- Renter approval process – the board approved the use of a data input system from Tenant Evaluations to make the application process easier and more efficient on the part of renters, homeowners, and the Property Manager.
- Irrigation compliance – the board approved fines for 6 homeowners who were in violation of the irrigation rules in July. (Residents are allowed 1 violation in a 90-day period before fines are assessed.) Residents who were reported by the front gate rover to be in violation are contacted via email within 2 days of the report and asked to check their irrigation control for errors.
- POA website – [www.venetianpoa.com](http://www.venetianpoa.com) – residents are encouraged to visit and use the new website for POA rules, regulations, forms and general information.

# Venetian Calendar

## Upcoming meeting dates

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

- Aug. 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)*
- Aug. 24 – POA Rules Committee – 9:00 am [deven@castlegroup.com](mailto:deven@castlegroup.com)  
*(meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 9:00 am)*
- Aug. 28 – 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)*
- Aug. 29 – VGRCCA board meeting – 3:00 pm [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)  
*(meetings are held monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 3:00pm)*
- Sept. 6 – POA board meeting – 1:00pm [deven@castlegroup.com](mailto:deven@castlegroup.com)  
*(meetings are held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed. at 1pm.)*
- Sept. 12 – New Homeowner Orientation – 9am [www.venetianriverclub.com](http://www.venetianriverclub.com)  
 (Held every other month in season. Please call the River Club for reservations)
- Sept. 12 – Architectural Control Committee (ACC) – 2:00 pm  
 Contact Dana Even at [deven@castlegroup.com](mailto:deven@castlegroup.com) to submit ACC forms by the middle of the week prior. *(meetings are held monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 2pm)*

**Have You Been To  
 The Wall Of Something Lately?  
 Go to [www.vgrcca.us/wallofsomething](http://www.vgrcca.us/wallofsomething)**

# 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
<input type="checkbox"/> One year	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Two years	\$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Three years (Best Offer!)	\$75.00

*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*.