



# PARCELS FROM *Paradise*

KEEPING VENETIAN RESIDENTS CONNECTED...

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

NOVEMBER 2019

*Parcels is a publication of the Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association (www.vgrcca.us) a voluntary, membership-based organization founded in 2008. Its mission, primarily focusing on issues "outside the gates" is separate and distinct from the Property Owners Association ( POA ) and the Venetian Community Development District ( VCDD)*

## NEWS INSIDE THE GATES

### Election Results

The November 5th Venice Council Race results are in. All three winners are newcomers to Council. Nick Pachota, Joe Neunder and Ron Feinsod are the newly elected officials with Feinsod (pictured) now serving as Mayor. Citywide there was a 46 percent turnout with the precinct located at the Venetian noting a 52% turnout rate, just 3% below the leading precinct in the election. On page 5 of this edition of Parcels, there is a more detailed analysis of this election and what it means for our residents.



### There Was Only One Winner

The 5th Annual Veteran Charity Event held at our golf course was highly successful with over 120 attendees. There was only one winner...The Fisher House in Tampa, Florida which houses families of those military men and women who are being treated at the Tampa VA hospital.

Fisher House has received over \$50,000. in donations from this event since the charity golf event began five years ago at the Venetian. Thanks to all those that have donated over the years and/or participated in this wonderful charitable event.



### Apple, Strawberry, Pumpkin, Lemon Meringue, Blueberry, Cherry, Rhubarb

What's a great Thanksgiving without freshly baked pies? Pie experts in the Venetian recommend three nearby places for pies ...Herman's Meats and Deli on Shamrock, Yoder's on Bahia Vista in Sarasota and the ever popular Detweilers on 41 between Venice Avenue and Center Road. Because of the pie rush, you might call ahead to place your orders. According to Venetian rule 1242.723, every morsel of pie must be eaten by the end of Thanksgiving Day.



*Thank you for reading Parcels. If you have a story idea click on "reply" and let us know.*

**Facilities Advisory Committee To Hold Important Meeting**

Due to the importance of the meetings noted in this article, the chair of the Facilities Advisory Committee which reports to the VCDD, has asked Parcels to help publicize the following. On **January 20, 2020 and February 10, 2020, at 5 pm** at the River Club, the Facilities Advisory Committee will hold a meeting in order to presents facts and information about the River Club Pool Pavilion project. Architect David Humphrey will be present to answer questions about this project. Suggestions will be reviewed from the March 19,2019 meeting where this project was discussed. Your input is vital and welcomed at the January and February meetings.

**VGRC on his GPS**

Because this is a special community, Santa has permanently placed our River Club in his GPS, in order to be part of **Breakfast with Santa**. This year’s event is being held on Sunday, December 15th. Cost is the usual breakfast buffet price of \$9.95 with Santa usually arriving after 9 am, depending on North Pole rush hour traffic Bring your children, grandchildren or even children of your friends. It’s a great tradition at the Venetian. Get your reservation in soon.



**An Expert Perspective on Law Enforcement**

The VGRCCA will hold one of its more interesting seminars on **Tuesday, December 17 at 5 pm**. The speaker will be Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight who recently announced his retirement after serving this county for over a decade. The topic is “ Law Enforcement: Past, Present and Future.” Sheriff Tom Knight is the 10th Sheriff of Sarasota County, serving after a 20-year career with the Florida Highway Patrol where he held the position of Troop Commander. With law enforcement being such a hot topic in today’s news, it will be interesting to gain the perspective of this highly respected law enforcement official.



**The Answer is “Yes”**

Will the VGRC Community Association have Bike-O–Rama this year?

January 11, 2020. Free to members.

Will the VGRC Community Association have Shredfest/JunkFest this year?

March 4, 2020. Free to members.

Will the VGRC Community Association have CPR training?

January, two sessions. Specific dates to be announced.

Members receive priority registration.



## Membership Drive Starts Off on a Successful Note

The VGRCC Community Association membership drive is well underway. Thanks to everyone who is a current member and those that have recently renewed. If you haven't renewed or enrolled for membership (or want to check on the status of your membership) you can easily do so using our web site <https://www.vgrcca.us/membership/> and/or the enrollment form included in this edition of Parcels. The Community Association is a totally volunteer organization, distinct from the POA or CDD. Our mission is to preserve your paradise by interfacing with the local government, attending and speaking at City Council Meetings and meeting privately with government officials on key issues "outside the gates," such as ensuring our local waterways are clean and beautiful, helping prevent overdevelopment, and reacting to any potential activity that can have an impact on your property value. The Community Association also runs important initiatives inside the gates. These include the Hurricane Readiness Team and CPR training, activities to make your life easier, such as Shredfest and Bike-O-Rama, and presentations on a variety of topics to keep you up to date and informed. We also publish this ever-popular Parcels from Paradise. Thank you to the overwhelming number of Venetians who support our activities and mission!

## End of Hurricane Season

The 2019 Hurricane season is over and fortunately we escaped getting hit by nature's wrath. Hurricane Dorian put the Venetian on high alert but the directional change a few days prior to the anticipated strike was good news for all. Without patting this community on our back too much, we owe a great deal to the men and women who served on this year's Hurricane Readiness Team. This year, the HRT core team participated in



a ninety-minute training session to ensure that their skills were up to date. The HRT also improved its texting system to alert and call out members. A resident ham radio operator also volunteered his services to the HRT. This year for the first time since the HRT was formed, in preparation for Dorian, a unified effort was held with all of the key organizations (CDD, POA, VGRCCA) sitting around the table in an important planning session. Three informational community meetings were also held in the early part of June with over 200 residents attending. Finally, the HRT continued its "Special Needs Team" for those in the community who may need special assistance before or after a hurricane.

**The VGRCCA funds this initiative. Your dues are helpful to maintaining the equipment and supplies necessary for this program. Remember, every property owner whether here or not, benefits in some way from having the HRT. We hope that our community again supports next year's HRT through their dues. A membership form is at the end of Parcels.**

## Be a part of the City of Venice's 1st Citizens University!

Learn how the City of Venice operates. Meet City staff. Get an overview of how the City works. Tour our many different departments. Citizens University is a free eight-week program running every Wednesday from 1-3:30 p.m., January 15, 2020, through March 4, 2020. **Open to participants who live or work in the City of Venice.** Participants will meet City staff from various departments and learn about what their department does, providing citizens with the ability to ask questions. Some weeks will be offsite while other classes will be at Venice City Hall, located at 401 W. Venice Ave.

A more detailed course schedule will be provided to those accepted to the program, which is limited to 25 participants. **Deadline to register for this program is December 13, 2019.**

An [application form](#) (fillable PDF) can be found on the City's website, [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com), under "I Want To" on the homepage, "Be a Part of the Citizens University." You can email your completed application to Shirley Gibson at [sgibson@venicegov.com](mailto:sgibson@venicegov.com) or by mail to City of Venice, 401 W. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285; Attn.: Shirley Gibson

For more information, Shirley can be contacted at 941-882-7439 or emailed to [sgibson@venicegov.com](mailto:sgibson@venicegov.com)



# OUTSIDE THE GATES

## Women's Resource Center( WRC) of Venice – Donations or Volunteers Needed

WRC is a nonprofit organization which assists women getting back into the workforce or transitioning into new life circumstances. There are a vast array of services from resume writing, interviewing skills, various job search opportunities as well as mental health counselors, attorney assistance, computer training and career coaching. All of these services are on a volunteer basis and at no cost or minimal cost to the client. There is a Career Closet available in Sarasota where women can shop for clothes every 6 months and select up to 6 outfits at no cost to client. These slightly worn clothes are donated from the public. Everything from dresses to jeans to shoes and handbags. The Venice location is looking for volunteers as well as clothing donations. Contact phone number is 941-485-9724. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 5:30 pm.

## Book Sale

The Venice Public Library on the island is holding a **"GIANT BOOK SALE"** on November 15th and 16th with everything being just a \$1. The sale starts at 10 am and ends at 4:45 pm. Get there and bring plenty of singles.

## Venice Holiday Parade: November 30

The Venice Holiday Parade, set for **Saturday, November 30th, 7 pm** in downtown Venice, is back on West Venice Avenue this year. Although there is early setup of chairs along the parade route the Wednesday evening before the parade, there will be no chairs set up or spectators allowed in the medians of the 100-300 blocks of W. Venice Ave. The "traditional" setting up of chairs to get that perfect spot for the parade and rushing for the best spot is similar to the old west where settlers scampered to put their claim on the best land. The parade route will be closed to all traffic at 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30. This includes both side of W. Venice Ave. and N. Nokomis Ave. between Tampa and Venice avenues.

## Hungry?

If so on December 7th, attend the ever popular **Taste of Hungary** located at 165 N. Jackson Rd. in Venice. It's from 11 am- 5 pm and if you love traditional "Gulyas" soup, along with stuffed cabbage and fresh sausage, this is the place to be.

## The Goodies

A resident pointed out a very fun and entertaining event performing here. It's the "The Goodies" being held at the Venice Community Center on **Thursday, November 21** with a single performance by the Legendary Girl Group. Sing along with music dating back to the great groups like the Shirelles (*Tonight's the Night*), the Chiffons (*He's So Fine*) and of course the Ronettes (*Be My Baby*). Information can be found at <https://www.thegoodiesgirlgroup.com/>



# POST ELECTION OBSERVATIONS

(prepared by your VGRC Community Association External Affairs Committee)

## New Faces on City Council

Election returns are in and there was a record turnout for this election! Thanks to all who took the time to vote in the November 5 City Council race. This election certainly showed that your vote counts, as out of 9,000 votes cast, 2 of the 3 positions were decided by around 100 votes!

We have a new Mayor, Ron Feinsod, and two new council members-Nick Pachota, and Joe Neunder. They take office on November 19, joining the rest of council including our own Rich Cautero and Mitzie Fiedler.

All three winners (and in fact, all candidates who ran), shared our concerns on the environment—particularly the need to fight red tide, and all expressed our shared concern on overdevelopment—whether expressed as “smart growth,” “sustainable growth,” or “responsible growth.” Many also talked about the need for infrastructure, particularly roads that can handle the increased traffic. We know we have a key need on Laurel Road-making it safer, beautiful, and able to carry the upcoming traffic load-particularly with a fire station on it now, and Sarasota Memorial hospital on its way.

## Laurel Road.....This is what they said

At the candidate forum that the Community Association put together, here's what the winning candidates had to say on that issue:

**Nick Pachota:** *“While you may not see an issue on the road now, it's very important to get done sooner vs. later. It's projected by the City to be a failing road, and needs to be addressed. We should also explore a public-private partnership to get it done, as anything that can relieve taxpayer burden, without sacrificing quality, is important.”*

**Joe Neunder:** *“Absolutely in favor. We must be proactive rather than reactive. I have experience in Government, and can advocate for you. I can take your concerns to the County Government and have them heard immediately.”*

**Ron Feinsod:** *“Agree it's needed, and should be a priority, though we can't forget there are other roads in Venice that also need help. A public/private partnership could be a way to go—it needs to be studied and we need to have exact facts and figures, and wording of contracts has to be clear.”*

## New Senior Living Facility on Laurel

A public workshop was recently held for a senior living facility on Laurel. The facility will be adjacent to the Grand Treviso apartments, and actually will share the same entrance. It will have 167 units, mostly independent living, though with some assisted living and memory care units. It will be called “Legacy Reserve, Venice,” and assuming city approval will begin construction in the spring and be complete in approximately two years.

The Community Association had representation on an advisory committee formed by the property owner, and ensured that the aesthetics would fit in with our community—which per the photo below, you can see they do. The other positives of this land use is that it's not yet another home development, and that given the nature of the facility, it is not expected to add a lot of traffic.



## EXTRA HELPING

### The Train Leaves the Station...

Sometimes government acts very slow; sometimes very fast. Much of it depends on the issue at hand. Sometime the timing is set by state statute such as the development of a budget.

In our community, there are three organizations that are considered part of our own alphabet soup. Both the CDD and the POA receive funds from residents. These organizations are able to make rules and regulations which govern this community. Both have web sites. Both have a newsletter. CDD members are elected by Florida voting residents, not all Venetian residents. The CDD is governed like any other State of Florida governmental body by “sunshine” laws.

The VGRCCA is a voluntary membership organization. It primarily keeps its ears and eyes glued to other governmental bodies outside the community....mostly the City of Venice and Sarasota County. The VGRCCA communicates items of interest via Parcels, the decade old monthly newsletter. Their web site is [www.vgrcca.us](http://www.vgrcca.us)

All three organizations have a portion of their meetings where residents can offer opinions and comments.

Government, whether it be the CDD or Venice City Council, has an inherent responsibility to keep its citizenry informed. Citizens, on the other hand, can spend as little or as much time as they choose knowing what government is doing via web sites, newsletters or even the media. If one really wants to see government in action, attending a meeting or using the portion of the time devoted to “hearing the public” is always an option.

**Government often goes at its own pace unless restricted by law. Therefore, if you are not paying attention to what is taking place, the train will leave the station without you.**

**Hopefully this brief article will serve as a reminder to all Venetians that if you care to know about those issues that may impact your quality of life, including your wallet, it is in your best interest to pay attention to the information distributed by the various on property organizations as well as attend a meeting or two just to make sure you are getting information first hand. It may not be the most enjoyable activity for you in Paradise but in the end, knowing what is taking place in your community will surely make life less stressful.**





## 2020 Membership Enrollment Form

Thank you for joining the Community Association, which is dedicated to preserving your paradise. The board of this volunteer organization interfaces with local government on key issues “outside the gates,” such as ensuring our local waterways are clean and beautiful, helping prevent overdevelopment, and reacting to any potential activity that can have an impact on your property value. The Community Association also runs important initiatives inside the gates. These include the Hurricane Readiness Team (HRT) and CPR training, activities to make your life easier, such as Shredfest and Bike-O-Rama, and presentations on a variety of topics to keep you up to date and informed. We also publish the popular “Parcels from Paradise.” All of this is made possible by your membership dues, for which we thank you.

### There are two ways to become a member:

1. **On-line** at <http://www.vgrcca.us/membership/>.  
We accept credit cards and use Pay Pal as our secure server.
2. **Write a check**, payable to VGRC Community Association and mail with this form to:  
Treasurer  
305 Martellago Dr.  
North Venice, FL 34275

### Membership Dues per Household (Please check appropriate line)

Membership Term	Membership Dues
<input type="checkbox"/> One Year	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years (Best Offer)	\$70.00

### Member Information (Please Print)

Name		Additional Name	
Preferred Telephone #		Preferred Telephone #	
E-Mail Address		E-Mail Address	
Venetian Address			
Other Mailing Address			