



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.

AUGUST 2020

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)

Candidate Forum, October 6

The VGRCCA is working out details for the annual Candidate Forum, which is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6th, beginning at 6 pm**. This year’s session will be conducted via a zoom webinar, allowing residents to view the Forum from their electronic devices. The Forum will open with the race for Venice Council Seat number 2, followed by the CDD race where three seats are up for contention, with two residents running for each seat.



Questions for both the Council and CDD races may be submitted by clicking on “reply” to this email. Questions will be reviewed by a subcommittee from the VGRCCA with the understanding that it is possible not all questions will be asked at the Forum. Instructions for zooming this event will be provided in the September edition of Parcels as well as the Community Association’s web site, www.vgrcca.us. As a final note, for those who are new to the Venetian, if you vote in person, the polling location is at the River Club. Voter registration deadline for the November Election is October 5th.

Supply the Supplies Drive

The publicity has gone out and early returns of “**Supply the Supplies**” look great. Drop off location is the golf clubhouse. Supply the Supplies is an initiative of the Community to collect school supplies for Laurel Nokomis School. Attached is the requested list of needed school supplies received from officials at Laurel Nokomis School, just “down the street.” According to Principal Ray Wilson, the need for school supplies for his over 1000 students has been compounded by the unemployment rate of his parents due to



COVID-19 plus the implementation of a “ no sharing supply” rule for students. If you are up north or even on property and care to donate for the purchasing of school supplies, you can go through PayPal located on the home page of the VGRC Community Association, (www.vgrcca.us), the organization which is spearheading this project.

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

An Eye on the Eye

When the media uses those two words, Tropical Storm and Florida, in the same sentence, it's time to pay attention. Certainly, the National Hurricane Center (<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>) dedicates its information to hurricanes throughout the world. The HRT also relies heavily on **ABC's 7 First Alert Weather app**. It is very localized, and the report Chief Meteorologist Bob Harrigan and his team provides is easy to understand and frequently updated. Whether you are up north or on property and hearing about hurricanes in this area it is recommended you download the ABC 7 weather app so you can get a better understanding of what's brewing in the place where you live.

4 Legged Officer

Meet Palmer the newest addition to the Venice Police Department. Palmer and his handler, Detective Erin Skaggs, will be patrolling the streets in order to continue Venice's reputation as a very safe city. Palmer's specialty is locating missing persons and sniffing out narcotics. Funds for Palmer's "vehicle" came from forfeiture funds (seized drug money.) He was donated by the Southeastern Guide Dogs, the group that presented at the River Club last year. His training has been provided by the North Port Police Department. Like any Labrador, he is particularly friendly if you meet him, however, when it's time to do some valuable work for the VPD, he's all business.



Need to Get Gassed Up? Soon You're Gonna Have A Choice!

A corporate owned 7-Eleven Convenience Store-Gas Station-Car Wash is being proposed for the northeast corner of East Laurel and Knights Trail Roads, just across Knights Trail from the existing Shell station. Planned are eight gasoline fueling stations with an additional three diesel pumps in the rear. Full access will be provided off Knights Trail. Your Community Association has been in talks with the developer of this property to make sure it's as attractive as possible given the proximity to the VGRC. While it's zoned for this use, the developer will have it well landscaped on both Laurel and Knights Trail Roads. In fact, an extensive forty foot wide landscape buffer on Laurel will be put in, consisting of canopy trees and a continuous hedge situated atop a sodded earthen berm. In addition, a Northern Italian Renaissance architectural theme will be used, meaning barrel tile roofs--even on the canopies over the fueling stations. The developer is projecting seven to ten months to obtain all the necessary City of Venice approvals with an added six months for construction. We will keep you updated as this project progresses through the various stages of approval and construction.



Bravo to the Laurel Civic Association

The Venice Chamber of Commerce announced that the **Business of the Year 2020** award went to the Laurel Civic Association in the Non-Profit Category. With the backing of more than 300 active volunteers, donations, and grants, the Laurel Civic Association has been able to provide programs designed to improve living conditions, decrease hunger, improve health and access to health information and provide educational support for children and adults. Various VGRC residents has been very active in its support of the Laurel Civic Association through tutoring and fund raising. The Laurel Civic Association is located just a couple miles from the Venetian on Collins Rd. not far behind the small post office on E. Laurel.

Mask Distribution Plan a Success

The line was long at the River Club with cars when the mask distribution project got underway at 7:30 am on July 21st. The masks were donated by our fine city. It is estimated that approximately 200 plus mask packets were passed out at the River Club. The VGRCA Community Association was also pleased to staff the Laurel Rd. Firehouse last month distributing masks to city residents.



Special Needs Reminder

Leaders of the Hurricane Readiness Team (HRT) were certainly monitoring the path of Hurricane Isaias and gave a sigh of relief once it moved further eastward. Perhaps this early August hurricane has motivated all residents to begin their own preparation plan.

As part of the HRT and as mentioned in the July Parcels, the HRT has a Special Needs Unit that will check on any resident(s) post Hurricane. To receive a check up by the Special Needs unit please complete the form at the end of Parcels and return it to the receptionist at the River Club. The Special Needs unit will make contact with any resident who may have a medical issues, may live alone or just will feel better if someone checks on his/her welfare.

Free Seminars about Medicare

The Area Agency for the Aging of SW Florida operates the SHINE program of Medicare counseling in Sarasota County (as well as 7 other counties in SW FL). It is a non-profit agency funded by the Federal and State governments. The SHINE program trains volunteers to provide free, unbiased Medicare counseling to all Medicare-eligible individuals, including those approaching their 65th birthdays. Below are the calendars for Webinars on Medicare issues for August and September. There is no charge for the Webinars, but advance registration is required. The calendars for the webinars are attached at the end of Parcels.

Great report for SMH

We think those returning to the Venetian will be amazed to see the progress being made at the new Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice. Most noticeable are the inclusion of windows as seen in the picture below. When U.S. News & World Report released its annual hospital rankings last year, Sarasota Memorial Hospital was rated "high performing" in nine conditions and procedures. A new one in cardiology and heart surgery and transcatheter aortic valve replacement was added this year and SMH aced that one as well. The hospital was rated five points out of five in all the subcategories under cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, orthopedics and pulmonology and lung surgery. Less than 1% of the more than 4,000 hospitals evaluated nationwide earned the top score, according to an SMH news release. Its designation as a "standout" hospital also reflects a high level of care for Medicare patients, it states. It's the No. 1 hospital in the region and No. 7 overall in the state, up one place from last year. The building is on schedule ready to open in 2021.



The Wall of Something is in Love with...

...recommendations posted by our residents...all of them.... urologist, chiropractors, salons, saloons, roofers, estate attorneys, divorce attorneys, safe places to eat, pet sitters, upholsterers, transportation to Punta Gorda, opticians, travel agents, fortune tellers, genealogists,the list goes on and on. Join the love group by posting on www.vgrcca.us.wallofsomething.



Visit us at www.vgrcca.us and Click the wall of something

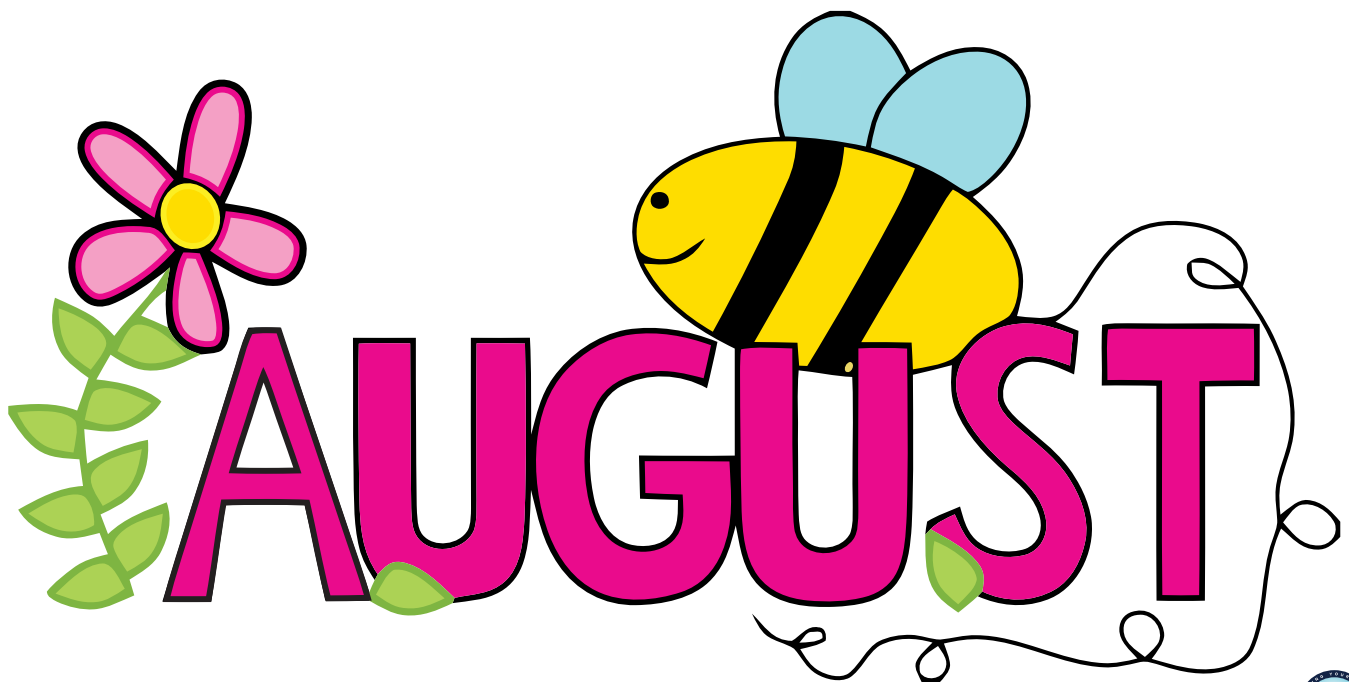


Amazon Donates To Your Favorite Charity

A Parcels reader suggested that with the struggles that charities are facing, those who use Amazon might consider a program from Amazon called **Amazon Smile**. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, they will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization—no fees, no extra cost. The charities are numerous including such categories as Arts and Culture, Veteran, Education and Youth, Health and many more. Check the program out at smile.amazon.com

Fire!!

Crowds gathered on Bella Vista as a large smoke cloud rose above the condos on August 1st. The 3 acre fire was not on Venetian property, but north of the Fish Camps. The Venice Fire Department was on the scene and had to bring in a helicopter to dump 4 buckets of water on the fire. Thanks to one of our fine residents for furnishing the pictures below.



VGRCCA

The Community Association's meeting are still being conducted by Zoom.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, August 18, beginning at 3 pm. Zoom instructions are as follows:

Diane Maskol is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Diane Maskol's Zoom Meeting

Time: Aug 18, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82535087959?pwd=emNZeHhLSW45WjN2cFJZSm1iaFBUUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 3508 7959

Passcode: VGRCCA

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,82535087959#,,,,,0#,,408750# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,82535087959#,,,,,0#,,408750# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 825 3508 7959

Passcode: 408750

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcFacEgvE4>

SPECIAL NEEDS TEAM: A SERVICE OF THE VENETIAN'S HURRICANE READINESS TEAM, 2020

Your Name _____ Address _____

Email _____ Best Phone Number to Reach You _____

Secondary Contact with Phone Number if We Need to Reach Someone _____

Special Instructions: Please explain below the circumstances you face that may require a member of the HRT to just check on you.



Please submit your completed form to the receptionist at the River Club





Supply Request List for Laurel Nokomis School

- #2 Pencils
- Black Permanent Marker Ink Pens
(Sharpie Ink Pens)
- Colored Pencils
- Composition notebooks
- Crayola Crayons
- Crayola Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Boards (small whiteboards)
- Facial tissues
- Five-Subject Notebooks; Three Subject Notebooks
- Glue Bottles
- Glue Sticks
- Highlighters Spiral
- Over the ear headphones
- Pastel Chalk
- Play Dough
- Plastic Pencil Boxes
- Printing/Copy paper
- Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Sanitizing Items- hand sanitizer, Lysol wipes, etc.
- Three hole supply pouch with zipper
- Two pocket folders
- Writing Composition Notebooks
- Watercolor Paint

You can also donate to our community project, **“Supply the Supplies”** by clicking on www.VGRCCA.US where you will see the safe and secure, PayPal form.



September 2020 Webinar Schedule & Media Information

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will be hosting Zoom classes for anyone interested in learning more about Medicare!



Class Options	Date	Day	Time (EST)	Register
Medicare 101 <i>Virtual Classroom - Join us to learn the basics of Medicare and important enrollment periods.</i>	September 2, 2020	Wednesday	11:30AM	Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tqZGz3tEeJXu6S6S-VKoXkgH-ng
Medicare Part C <i>Lunch & Learn series - Join us from your kitchen table as we talk about Medicare Advantage options available in Florida.</i>	September 9, 2020	Wednesday	12:00PM	Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tqZGz3tEeJXu6S6S-VKoXkgH-ng
Medicare Part D <i>Lunch & Learn series - Join us from your kitchen table as we talk about Part D coverage and changes to the donut hole in 2020.</i>	September 16, 2020	Wednesday	12:00PM	Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tqZGz3tEeJXu6S6S-VKoXkgH-ng
Financial Assistance <i>Lunch & Learn series - Join us from your kitchen table as we talk about Financial Assistance. Are you living on a fixed income? You might be eligible to save money, learn about cost-saving programs.</i>	September 23, 2020	Wednesday	12:00PM	Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tqZGz3tEeJXu6S6S-VKoXkgH-ng
Medicare Open Enrollment Period (OEP) <i>Rise & SHINE - A Kitchen Table series where you can learn about Medicare and enjoy your favorite cup of brew! Learn about your Medicare options, how to save on Part D costs and prepare for the OEP.</i>	September 30, 2020	Wednesday	10:00AM	Register in advance for this webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tqZGz3tEeJXu6S6S-VKoXkgH-ng

Media Information: We encourage you to share any or all of the communication below with the public.

SHINE counselors are able to assist with any matters related to Medicare, including access to preventive services, cost-saving programs, and identifying and reporting Medicare fraud. To learn more about the SHINE program or Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida, visit: www.floridashine.org or www.AAASWFL.org

SHINE trained counselors continue to provide services with your safety and theirs in mind; you can speak with a SHINE counselor by phone.

Please call the Elder Helpline at 866-413-5337 to request help with Medicare.

SHINE Tip of the Month: Check Your Mail

If you have Medicare Advantage or a Part D plan, check your mailbox for your **Annual Notice of Change** (or your Evidence of Coverage statement).

These letters will tell you about important changes to your plan's benefits, coverage and costs.

If you are dissatisfied with any of your plan's changes, you can enroll in a new plan during Open Enrollment.

Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15 - December 7

