



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.

JUNE 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)

We're back! This month begins the return of the regular edition replacing our Pint Sized Parcels. We hope that you will take time to read this very informative edition especially about some very significant activity outside the gates.

BETTER WATER PRESSURE COMING TO THE VENETIAN!

Have you noticed some activity on the “Perimeter Road” recently? The perimeter road is the dirt road between us and Willow Chase. It heads North from Laurel and proceeds along the west side of the Palermo Neighborhood and then eastward, bordering the north end of Mestre Place. The vehicles you may have seen in that area belong to the City of Venice or their Engineers and Contractors as they gather data



for final design of the project which will give Venetians higher water pressure in our homes. This is a project your Community Association has been pushing for. To do so, the City is planning a Water Booster Pump Station (BPS), which will improve the level of service to customers in the northeastern area of the City. It also is being done in recognition of the increased housing built and being built in our area. The BPS will be located on the northern portion of an approximately 40-acre City-owned parcel at the eastern end of Gene Green Road adjacent to Sarasota County's future Dona Bay Surface Water Storage Facility. Further good news is that the City also intends to construct a solar panel system to power the proposed BPS. In addition to the pump station, the project will also include two new 16-inch water lines along Knight's Trail and the VG&RC Perimeter Road, an Emergency Operations Center for the Utilities Department, and an Emergency Interconnect with Sarasota County's Potable Water System. The BPS design and permitting are expected to be complete in the first quarter of 2021 with construction to follow immediately. The construction is expected to take a year and be complete in the second quarter of 2022. The City is planning public meetings, to keep residents informed, which board members of the VGRC Community Association will attend. In addition, a website to follow the City's progress will be available-- as soon as it is, *Parcels* will let you know.

At the end of this edition of Parcels is a map of the above project.

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

Preparing for Next Season's Seminars

The VGRCCA is currently working on the best way to provide a season of events and activities from September – May. Needless to say, there are a number of unknowns which is part of the planning equation. The goal is to provide to our residents by September, a list of safe activities and events that the VGRCCA has planned for the year.

Half Way Mark

The new Sarasota Memorial hospital at Laurel and Pinebrook is making great progress and should be complete by the Fall of 2021. General contractor Gilbane Building Co. noted that the construction team has worked 390 days and 321,500 hours since site preparation began in late February 2019 to bring the 365,000-square-foot, 5-story hospital to this phase. In recent weeks, the transformation has continued, with crews busily working on exterior walls and windows, framing interior rooms and spaces, and installing electrical, mechanical, medical, gas and plumbing systems. SMH-Venice will initially have 110 private patient rooms, a 28-room Emergency Care Center and 8 surgical suites. The all-private suites include a 10-bed Labor & Delivery/Post-Partum Unit, where women can deliver and room with their babies throughout their recovery. The 65-acre hospital campus is designed to be flexible and expandable, with the capacity to expand to 300 patient rooms, 16 ORs and a 50-bed Emergency Room to accommodate future growth.

New Plans for Knights Trail Development

Some three years ago, a workforce housing development consisting of 534 apartment units was proposed for a 30 acre parcel on Knights Trail Road, across from Toscana Isles. According to the developer, the project was eventually abandoned as they were not able to get impact and other City and County fees waived, leaving it financially unworkable. A new and different project is now being proposed for this site by Kaplan Residential. It will include a maximum of 326 units, be known as



*CONCEPT IMAGE- PROJECT UNDER DEVELOPMENT

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HILES BOLTON ASSOCIATES

the **Wayford at Venice** and will consist of one and two story townhomes and cottages. These residences will be market rate rental units similar to those shown in the rendering below. Sizes will vary from 800 sq. ft. to 1,300 sq. ft. Preliminary discussions with Kaplan indicate that rents will be in the \$1,500 to \$2,100 range. While not actually mentioned by the developer, we suspect that these townhomes and cottages will be directed toward some of the approximately 660 employees needed to support the new Sarasota Memorial Hospital being built at Laurel and Pinebrook. Your Community Association feels that this lower density is more compatible with the Northeast Venice residential area and will work with the developers to assure that it is a good fit for our community.

Vote for our Favorite Coastal Small Town

Sarasota County's favorite small coastal town is in the running for 'USA Today's 10 Best' competition. Venice is up for the honors of "Favorite Coastal Small Town in America." You can vote for Venice by clicking the following link:

<https://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-coastal-small-town/venice-florida/>

You can vote for your favorite once per day until polls close on Monday, June 29 at noon ET. The top 10 winning small towns will be announced on Friday, July 10.

Physical Activity for All

We have become more familiar with the Center for Disease Control during the pandemic. In addition to Covid-19, the CDC distributes a comprehensive piece on physical activity. Take a look at their extensive coverage of the importance of physical activity by clicking on <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/index.html>

Officers for VGRCCA

Officer election recently took place for the VGRC Community Association at the Annual Meeting. Results are as follows:



President - Diane Maskol

Executive Vice President - Michael Wendroff

Vice President - Jerry Jasper

Vice President - John Moeckel

Vice President - Lew Perry

Secretary - Nancy Spokowski

Treasurer - Fred Baughman

In addition, Michelle Trent became the newest Board member replacing Tom Long. The VGRCCA Board meets every third Tuesday of the month at 3 pm at the River Club or via a Zoom meeting. Details are available on www.vgrcca.us.

What's Behind the Wall?

Probably the number one question Parcels gets is "what are they building at the corner of Mission Valley and Laurel Rd?" Thus, we searched the county records for this location and what we found was a huge greenhouse, a large cabana like building and an extensive water feature. It appears that the water feature will have a flow to it serpentine east and west parallel to Laurel. It is unclear whether it will be a swimming area or possibly a large aquarium. There might be a below grade "room" to provide an underwater view of the water feature. Unless the VGRCCA is willing to procure a drone, it looks like we have to rely on the county records to know what's behind the wall.

Zoom to Stay in Touch

Have you heard of Zoom? Perhaps you have already used this video conferencing tool to see friends and family, participate in a meeting or church service, or watch a live conference. Many organizations use Zoom, including your Community Association. In the coming months we'll provide more information on how to watch our upcoming seminars via Zoom Webinar. It will be a great way to stay in touch for those who are at a distance (out of state) or prefer to stay in the comfort of their home here. If you haven't checked it out yet, go to Zoom.US and download the app to any device that has a camera (a smart phone, tablet, laptop, computer). Whenever an organization or someone wants to connect via Zoom they will send you a meeting code and a passcode. This is the info you will need to enter in your device to watch the live video of that meeting. If you are using Zoom to connect with friends or family, remember to "unmute" your microphone so that they can hear you. If you are watching a town hall meeting for example, your microphone may be muted by the host to reduce background noise. If you haven't tried Zoom do it soon because it is currently the preferred method for many people to communicate and see and hear one another without being in the same room.

Moving Down The Road - Another Big Step

The VGRC Community Association has reported on the widening and beautification of East Laurel Road in the past, which we have been pushing for more than three years on our residents' behalf to ensure it is a safe, congestion-free roadway. This is a multi-step process and we are happy to report we have had another win on a key step. At the June 9 City Council meeting, by a unanimous vote of 5-0, approval was given for the City to enter into a Funding Agreement with the County to release \$400,000 of Road Impact fee funds which will allow the City to proceed with preliminary engineering on this project. These Impact fees are funds collected from developers as new construction is completed and we might add, the vast majority collected within the City originated right here in northeast Venice. Upon the completion of this preliminary engineering phase, scheduled for this fall, sufficient information will have been gathered to determine the right-of-way needed and other factors necessary to establish a firm estimate of cost for this project.

I'll Take Mine Medium Rare

In downtown Venice, there are many choices of restaurants and adding to that number is the recently announced building of Prime Serious Steakhouse, which will be located on the corner of Venice and Business 41 as you enter downtown. Previously, this was the site of Pineapples restaurant. PSS will be a 180 seat restaurant and is scheduled to open in the summer of 2021. You may remember that this chain steakhouse was previously located next to Costco's in the Sarasota Square Mall. Also, downtown, you will see a new 7-11 being built where a Shell gas station was previously located.



Great Success with HRT Applications

The Hurricane Readiness Team or HRT, funded and managed by the VGRCCA Community Association, received over 50 applications. This is an awesome number. The hurricane season runs from June 1 – November 30th with September and October being the months where hurricanes frequent the sunshine state. Check at the end of Parcels, “Ten Tips for Coping with a Hurricane at the Venetian.”

New Tenant at the Plaza

We always like to welcome new businesses to the community and with that, we welcome Sherry Brenneman, a financial planner with Edward Jones, located at Plaza Venezia next to the Stretch Zone. Edward Jones is an investment company that offers a personal approach to investing. Sherry works with clients to create a financial strategy that helps them achieve their Income, Retirement and Legacy Planning goals. Her phone number is **941-375-2010**. Check her web site at:

<https://www.edwardjones.com/sherry-brenneman>

Weekend Cookout at the River Club

The River Club has scheduled cookouts every Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 am – 2 pm, weather permitting, near the front portico. Truly, ain't nothing better than a “dog” on a hot summer day. Besides the weenies, they will have Burgers, Chicken and a Blackened Mahi Sandwich. Chow down in the dining room, back patio, the back lawn or even in the comfort of your own home. Hopefully the community will get behind the River Club team as they begin to open up many activities.

Election 2020

This fall, the November Election will not only feature the vote for the President, but many local elections. The Venetian CDD will have 3 seats on the ballot and it appears that there are two residents running per seat. Please remember that only Florida residents/registered voters (thus, not all Venetian residents) are eligible to vote for the Venetian CDD members. For City Council, Venetian resident and incumbent Mitzie Fiedler will be on the ballot as well as Bill Wilson. At this time, both are unopposed with the qualifying period being August 17-21. With Sheriff Tom Knight retiring, voters will see candidates for this vacancy. The VGRCCA is planning its annual Candidate Forum in late September/early October.





Ten Things to Know about Coping with a Hurricane at the Venetian

10. The old “folklore” indicating we are in a location that cannot be hit by a hurricane is hogwash.
9. With Irma, there was little known structural damage to the homes in the Venetian. We witnessed a few trees falling onto roofs and some homeowners reported damage to their lanai screening. Overall our homes are built well.
8. Water, more than wind, counts for most of the damage during a hurricane. Although the VGRC borders the Myakka River, unless we have a so called 100 year flood, it is doubtful that there will be flooding in the Venetian.
7. If you decide to evacuate and head north or east, better go early (at least 4 days according the experts) because highways fill up quickly, gas is at a premium and hotel rooms are scarce.
6. On the inside of many garage doors in the Venetian there is a sliding lock. It is advisable to use this lock in the event of a hurricane.
5. Police and fire do not respond at the height of a hurricane but still call 911 if you have an emergency. Your call will be placed on a priority list. An HRT volunteer security team will be placed at the entrance to the Venetian and we expect full cooperation from our wonderful residents when passing through the one lane that will be open.
4. After the hurricane, it would be helpful if everyone who is able to pitch in to help cleanup. Prior to the hurricane, you might also check your gutters and if you live near a street sewer, check that also.
3. The HRT, CDD, and the POA will most likely be distributing information before, during and after a hurricane. Please be careful about reading information on other web sites that may contain unconfirmed facts or rampant rumors.
2. Although there are many weather apps, perhaps the best and most localized weather information comes from ABC First Alert Weather with Bob Harrigan. Even if you are up north, you can download their app via the App Store. The app can pinpoint our community as to its proximity to a storm
1. Start now in preparing for a hurricane by obtaining batteries, canned foods, cash (ATM’s may not be working after a storm), battery operated fans, water and medical supplies.



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			

FIGURE 1 - ALTERNATIVE PIPELINE ROUTES AND EMERGENCY INTERCONNECT LOCATIONS



Legend

- Existing City of Venice WM
- Existing Sarasota County 42" WM
- BPS Pipeline Alternatives
- BPS Pipeline Alternatives
- - - Proposed 8" City of Venice Interconnect
- - - Proposed Sarasota County 8" Interconnect

• Both Routes 1 and 2 are also portions of Alternative Routes 3 and 4

0 225 450 900 Feet

FIGURE 2 - RECOMMENDED PERIMETER ROAD UTILITY EASEMENTS



- LEGEND**
-  Existing Easement
 -  Myakka River Trust Easement Request
 -  V.G.R. Club Easement Request

