



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.

DECEMBER 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)

Happy Holidays

An End of Year Message from VGRCCA President, Diane Maskol

2020! Who would have thought our Town Hall meeting on March 2, would be our last in person event of the year. We were not deterred. We worked with the City of Venice to secure funding for a plan to widen Laurel Road. We provided input for planning a new North Venice park. Our HRT (Hurricane Readiness Team) was on call. The VGRCCA spearheaded various community wide charities including the collection and gifting of Venice hospital workers with a van load of treats, the Supplied the Supplies for the Laurel Nokomis school and the Ajax's Fill the Truck food drive. We cleaned Laurel Road. We put up flags for patriotic holidays. We hosted a forum for the Venice City Council race and for our CDD election. We will go forward with Bike-O-Rama and Shredfest. To continue our very successful seminars we have hired a Sarasota tech company to stream these events. There may be sharks, manatees or dolphins in your future.

I am happy to report that your Community Association is working hard for you. We are looking forward to a busy 2021. Thank you for being a part of our great organization.

Diane Maskol, President, VGRCCA

THE CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN CONTINUALLY ANSWERED

Thank you to the overwhelming number of Venetians who are members of the totally volunteer Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association and to the many residents with December 31st membership expirations that have renewed so far. If your membership is due to expire, or if you are not a member, please renew/join at your earliest convenience, so that we may continue our work on your behalf. We are proud of our ten plus years preserving your paradise, publishing Parcels, advocating at City Hall, hosting many seminars and events, running the Hurricane Readiness Team, Bike-O-Rama, and Shredfest, etc. and with your financial support we will be able to continue our efforts.

You can check the status of your membership on our web site at <https://www.vgrcca.us/membership/>. Also note that a Membership Enrollment Form can be found at the end of this edition of Parcels.

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

TEMPORARY WATER SHUT OFF FOR VENETIAN RESIDENTS

The City of Venice Utilities Department will be performing backflow maintenance in VGRC for the next several weeks. A City employee or an authorized Babe's Plumbing technician, contracted by the City, will be providing the required maintenance on the City-owned backflow preventer located on your property. Your water service will be briefly shut off during this time. You do not need to be home nor do anything else. The City will attempt to alert you when work is being performed in your specific area through the Alert Sarasota notification system. The City of Venice has partnered with Sarasota County to provide all customers with updates on activities happening in your area. To receive these notifications, please visit www.alertsarasotacounty.com (City of Venice jurisdiction) to sign up today. If you have any questions, please contact the City of Venice Utilities Department at (941) 480-3333.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa

Have you made reservations for a visit from Santa on Saturday, December 19th? This year Santa will participate in Cookies and Cocoa beginning at 10 am. Contact the River Club for reservations to see the man in the red suit.

An Exciting Season of Events and Seminars

Since June the Community Association has been planning for the many seminars and events they have sponsored. All of the events will be via a Zoom Webinar with the exception of Bike-O-Rama and Shredfest/Junkfest. The VGRCCA has hired a professional audio visual aid company to manage all of the Webinars in order to reduce the potential of technical difficulty. The VGRCCA is still working on some dates and times which will be announced once everything is finalized.

Here are the tentative list of seminars that are planned after January 2021

- Astronaut Sunita Williams - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunita_Williams - January 25, 2021
- The Top Five Questions You Need to Ask Your Doctor/Vaccine Information – Dr. Stephen Taing, MD
- A Journey of Courage Against All Odds: A Miracle Recovery from Covid - The Story of Dr. Steve Hefler and his Battle with Covid 19
- The Big Guys in the Sea: Sharks, Dolphins and Manatees
- ShredFest/Junkfest – February 17, 8 am – 9:30 am, River Club parking lot
- Bike-O-Rama VI – January 9, 8-11 am, River Club parking lot
- Town Hall Meeting
- A Conversation with..... informal engagement with our two resident council persons.

As we get closer to the event, more details will be forthcoming including the time, date and zoom webinar link in. The VGRCCA web site will also contain information (www.vgrcca.us). The seminars will basically be as we have had in the past...one hour in length with the presentation being approximately 50 minutes in length uninterrupted, followed by ten minutes of questions from the audience.

NOVEMBER ELECTION DATA

The Sarasota Supervisor of Election has furnished data for the recent November election with the overall county turnout being 80.09% for the 99 precincts. The precinct at the VGRC which also includes residents from Willow Chase and Toscana Isles was 91.72%, the third highest in the county excluding the one precinct that has only 27 voters. The highest precinct in the county had a 92.54% turnout rate. In the majority of elections in this county, the VGRC precinct turnout rate ranks always as one of the highest.

THIS AND THAT

Venice Regional Bayfront Health Hospital recently announced a multi million dollar capital upgrade at its present location. Patient and guest areas will be improved. Inpatient rooms will be converted to single occupancy. Venice Hospital will not move forward with a replacement facility on their Jacaranda owned property. Work on these physical changes will start soon.

Chaz 51, the popular restaurant on Knight's Trail, will be closing its door in order to move to a new location in the Bird Bay Plaza on the Bypass. It's a bigger location but the same great food.

Brewburgers on Commercial Ct. off of Jacaranda, is now featuring breakfast just on weekends beginning at 7:30 am. The Brewburger's owner has always been a friend of the Venetian when a charitable donation is requested.

For tool lovers, the new **Harbor Freight** store has opened on the Bypass in the strip center where the now defunct Stein-Mart was located. Wow, does it have stuff! Take a look.



A NEARBY OASIS

The Venice Myakka River park is just down the road from the VGRC. It's a healthy one mile walk (or bike ride) from the front gate. Just head East from the gate—it's at the very end of Laurel Road (for a lot of the trip there is no sidewalk, and while there is hardly any traffic on the road at that point, you'll want to be safe and walk on the grass). You'll find a small oasis there.

Walking trails, beautiful old trees, and of course the Myakka River flowing through make it a natural paradise. Plus there are picnic tables and grills if you so desire. There's even a kayak and canoe launch for the adventuresome—you may get a close up view of alligators warming themselves on the banks as you glide by! There is a small parking area, and restrooms. Sorry, no dogs allowed. To see pictures, go to the Wall of Something.



IMPRESSIVE LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the year 2020, your Community Association’s External Affairs Committee:

1. Successfully lobbied:
 - a. The City and County, including many personal presentations, to provide initial funding for the widening of East Laurel Road.
 - b. The City to provide the initial funding for a Northeast Venice City Park and the formation of a City sponsored Stakeholders Advisory Board to help direct the development of that park.
 - c. The Board of County Commissioners for a Comp Plan Amendment to allow the Knights Trail Road to be extended to Clark Road and to the I-75 Hwy 681 interchange.
 - d. The City to provide ample berms, buffering and sound proofing for their proposed Water Booster Station to be built north of the VG&RC
2. Worked with the developer to improve the landscape buffer at the Senior Living Facility in the Mirasol Development.
3. Met with the City Council candidates prior to the election to assure they were aware the needs and desires of the Northeast Venice area in general and particularly, the VG&RC.
4. Met with the Venice Police Chief and County Sheriff on a continuing basis to assure both are familiar with the concerns and desires of our community.
5. Participated on the SMH-Venice Neighborhood Advisory Council to assure facility compatibility with our community.
6. Met with the County Commissioner representing our area on several occasions to promote the well-being of our community.
7. Participated in the City’s Citizens University program.

BEST OF...

Post your “Best of” on the Wall of Something, www.vgrcca.us which will allow your fellow residents to learn about almost everything you consider the “ Best.”

MISSED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The following names were inadvertently left off the list of HRT members in the December edition of Parcels. We apologize for this error.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Jim Allen | Richard Bracco |
| Fred Bass | Joe Brown |
| Cynthia Bass | Elana Carnes |
| Fred Baughman | Tyler Cassell |
| Igor Bishko | Jack Challenger |

THE WALL OF SOMETHING

An Electronic Bulletin Board for all Venetian Residents!



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



2021 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	
Telephone #		Telephone #	
E-Mail Address		E-Mail Address	
Venetian Address			
Other Address			