



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# 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.

OCTOBER 2021

*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)*

## INSIDE THE GATES

### Lunch and Learn...a First for the Community Association

This year the VGRCCA will be having its excellent seminars and events but plan to add to a few of them a few extra features.. Coming up on **Thursday, October 28th at noon will be a Lunch and Learn event, entitled "Let's Stay Active, No Bones About it!"** Attendees will be treated to a **complimentary lunch** thanks to our sponsor, the Center for Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, (Drs. Mehserle, Jaquith and Roberts) located at 1525 Tamiami Trail. The physicians speaking will provide very helpful advice and information for the active adult. If you are a current member of the VGRCCA, and you would like to attend this no cost event, you can sign up for it on the Community Association's web site, www.VGRCCA. (Do not go through the River Club to sign up). The sign up will go live on Thursday, October 14th. The seminar with lunch should be about 75 minutes. Seats are limited. The topic is one which should be of high interest to community residents with expert advice and tips from the very well experienced and well-respected physicians.



### Candidate Forum Goes Live

A sizeable number of residents donned their masks to attend the Annual Candidate Forum at the River on October 4th, sponsored by your VGRC Community Association. As you may recall, last year's Forum was 100% online due to Covid. This year's Forum was also highlighted in a Herald Tribune article on October 6th (<https://tinyurl.com/3xsnc6sn>).

The five candidates who you will see on the ballot seemed well prepared in responding to the many questions developed by a team from the VGRCCA. Topics of broad interest were discussed including growth, red tide, challenges the city is facing, the Laurel Rd. widening and parks in northeast Venice. If you would like to see the complete Candidate Forum please click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPRIT6WZ29c>. Also, a special thanks to those residents who showed up in person for the Forum. Remember, our community has a reputation for a large turnout for all Election. Let's keep up the streak on Tuesday, November 2nd. Please vote!

### Nature Lovers...Take Notice of an Upcoming Seminar

Mark down on your calendar, **Wednesday, November 17th**, for the seminar, "Plant It and They Will Come." The event will be held at the River Club beginning at 9 am with free coffee and scones being served. Mary King, VASS Conservation Chair will share information from National Audubon's Plant for Birds program.

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

### Wanna Show Off Something of Yours?

In 2019, the VGRCCA had a very well received event in January entitled, "Volunteer Fair/Show Off". We invited about 12 local organizations to set up a booth for the purpose of telling their story in hope of obtaining volunteers. Residents could visit any booth to get more information. The **"Show Off"** portion of the event gave any resident (must be a Community Association member) to basically show off anything they have made, written, produced, created, etc. We had those who wrote a book, collected fishing poles, made jewelry and more. This is not a sales event but an opportunity for residents to "show off" something they are proud of. The variety was great and quite interesting. Therefore, we are going to have a repeat performance of this event including the Volunteer Fair, on **January 18, 2022, at the River Club from 9 am - noon**. We are seeking residents who want to be a part of this year's "Show Off". If interested, please fill out the form attached to Parcels, and when completed, turn it in to the congenial receptionist, Dale Miller, at the front desk of the River Club.

### Waiting for the Smoke

The symbolic white smoke has not been seen coming out of the Golf Club's chimney, officially announcing a new owner for the Club. Parcels will keep his eyes open for the smoke and will update the community when it is seen.

### It's That Time Again

It's that time again -- as of December 31, memberships to the VGRCCA are up for renewal (unless you purchased a multiyear membership). We thank those that have supported us, allowing for our totally volunteer organization to publish Parcels each month. We also lobby the local government on behalf of Venetians to preserve your paradise. Further, the VGRCCA holds many interesting and informative events, such as the Candidate Forum, Bike-O-Rama, Shredfest, CPR training and more, and runs the Hurricane Readiness Team (HRT). All of this is made possible by your membership dues.

Help us help you to avoid numerous emails and mailings regarding your membership by checking the status of your membership at <https://www.vgrcca.us/membership/> and if you are due to renew, follow the instructions provided there or on the Membership Enrollment Form included at the end of this edition of Parcels.

**Thank you for getting ahead of the game and renewing now.**

## EATS AND MORE

### A Cannabis Café Experience

Parcels thinks a restaurant of this nature might be a first for Venice. On the right side of the street as you enter downtown Venice at 116 Venice Ave., you will see this new restaurant, Seed and Bean Eatery. This is the second location in Florida for the restaurant with the first in Ft. Myers. According to their web site, they were founded in 2018 after four founding members with cannabis industry roots, cultivated their passion for CBD, great coffee, unique beer, and delicious food. They have a pretty normal menu with some interesting



additions including "Breaded Alligator; Cajun Garlic Aioli as an appetizer; a Zucchini Boat listed on the dinner entrée and Zhu rou Stir Fry." They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner and have a full beer and wine selection. Vegan options are available. Give them a try..... you will not only be supporting a local downtown business plus experiencing a restaurant that has a different twist and maybe even a different taste for some.

### Your Go To For Neapolitan Pizza

If you have the craving for pizza and/or good Italian food, take a trip up to Bavaro's at 27 Fletcher Ave, off Main Street, in downtown Sarasota. It is a beautiful setting with plenty of outdoor seating including a firepit and live music. They are known for their Neapolitan pizza which is described as pizza with a "pillowy, chewy crust." They have full menu besides pizza including wood-roasted gulf oysters, Cavatelli, Rigatoni al Funghi plus a full bar with unique drinks like a caprese martini. Interesting to hear your comments if you visit this Italian eatery.

### Helping in the Recruiting Effort to Find Servers

Here's an idea. The River Club, which our residents "own" is seeking servers as our many other restaurants in this area. If you go out to eat and find that you engage a great server, you might want to mention that our River Club is seeking servers. They may be looking for a part time job or they may have a friend who could be looking for work as a server. The contact person for employment is Chris Vignolini, Food and Beverage Manager at 941-441-2276. By using our customer base, it becomes another creative way of recruiting employees during a tough time for the restaurant industry.

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

**Ready To Throw Your Hat into the Ring?** Speaking of elections, are you Interested in being a player rather than just a spectator? Take note of the below opportunities to serve your community.

- ✓ Nominations for the 3 POA board seats up for election go through the month of October and close on 10/28. The POA candidate forum is on November 16 and voting goes through November until our annual meeting on December 13. For more information contact POA Property Manager Melissa Azbell.
- ✓ The CDD has no election until November,2022. At that time there should be two seats available.
- ✓ The VGRC Community Association has its election in the spring.

We applaud those who have served this community in the past and look forward to others willing to give their time and energy to this wonderful community.

### Representing You

Did you know that the Community Association has Board Members on various "outside the gates" committees including the:

- City of Venice Planning Commission
- City of Venice Environmental Advisory Board
- City of Venice Parks & Recreation Board
- City of Venice Northeast Venice Parks Stakeholders Committee
- Mirasol Advisory Group—To help ensure our thoughts are included as business come to our stretch of Laurel
- Advisory committee for the new Sarasota Memorial Hospital

Over the past few years, northeast Venice residents, including the VGRC, have played more of a role in the decision-making process that impacts this area.



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## The Van Wezel Wants and Needs You!!

You can see some of the best shows FREE by volunteering at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall as an usher. Really... is there anything better than listening to 86-year-old Johnny Mathis when he visits the Van Wezel on April 12th, singing "Chances Are", knowing you are hearing it FREE? For more information or any questions regarding the application process to serve as an usher, please call the Front House Manager, David Colston at (941)263-6737.

Hear Johnny sing by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEH3uqbpsm8>

## Tax Help Seeking Volunteers

Tax Aide is a volunteer opportunity to assist seniors with the preparation of their tax return. It is program sponsored by the AARP Foundation. If you are interested in serving this tax year as a volunteer, please contact resident Joe DeVirgilio ( 845-235-6309) who has been active with this program for several years.

## This and That

### Change in Venice Police Department Leadership

Council approved Charles Thorpe as the new Venice Chief of Police to replace Tom Mattmuller who will be retiring at the end of the year. Mr. Thorpe has a wealth of experience and will take over a very well run and community minded department. You might want to put on your calendar, **February 15, 2022, 7 pm**, when the VGRCCA will host, "New Chiefs in Town" giving the community an opportunity to engage in conversation with both our new police and fire chiefs. If you get to the New Chiefs in Town between 6:30 - 7 pm you will be able to enjoy a complimentary sundae bar called "Build Your Sundae on Tuesday."

### Ollie's Coming to Venice

Ollie's, known for its great deals, will soon occupy the former Stein Mart location in the plaza at Center and 41. They are scheduled to open later in October. Ollie's pride themselves in claiming that they are one of America's largest retailers of closeout merchandise and excess inventory.



### Get the Calendar Out

Many residents are asking about four great events the VGRCCA sponsors.

- **Thursday, November 11, 2021** - Veteran Day Flag Placement, 8:00 am  
Volunteers meet at the front gate. If we have enough volunteers, as we have done in the past, we will be able to place our flags throughout the entire community rather than just the front entrance.
- **Saturday, January 8, 2022** - Bike-O-Rama. River Club Parking Lot, 8:30 - 11:30 am.  
Members receive priority registration access.
- **Tuesday, February 22, 2022** - CPR with training by the Venice Fire Department; two sessions, 9 am and 1 pm, held at the River Club
- **Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 7:30 am** - Shredfest/Junkfest, 9 am at the River Club parking lot. No cost.

APPLICATION FORM: SHOW OFF  
January 18, 2022, 9 am – 12 noon, River Club

INSTRUCTIONS/GUIDELINES

- Please complete all the items below
- The event will open at 9 am and end at noon. You as an exhibitor must set up no later than 8:45 am the day of the event in order to be ready for our guests.
- Only those who are current members of the VGRC Community Association will receive consideration to be part of Show Off
- If there are more applicants than space available, the VGRCCA will make a decision as to the exhibitors, with priority given to those who exhibited at the first Show off, two years ago.
- There must be no monetary exchange the day of the event for those who may be selling their product. However, exhibitors may take requests from the guest in order to consummate a financial transaction after the River Club has been cleared of all exhibitors.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF EXHIBIT \_\_\_\_\_

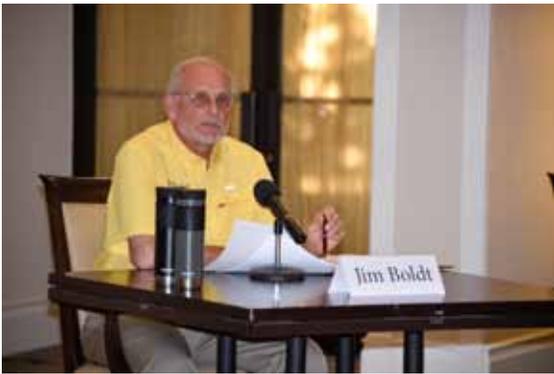
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE EXHIBIT

WHAT APPEAL FACTOR(S) WILL YOUR EXHIBIT HAVE THAT WILL ATTRACT GUESTS TO YOUR EXHIBIT?

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

Thank you for completing this application. Please submit this application to Dale Miller, the receptionist at the River Club. We will contact you soon after the November 19 deadline for receiving an application.

# The Faces of the Forum





## 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			