Ellen Hillstrom, former president and state representative for the Venice Chapter of the Florida Council of the Blind, received the Mayor’s Pillar of the Community Award from Mayor John Holic at the July 11 City Council meeting.

Born in Marengo, Wis., Hillstrom was the fifth of nine children; six girls and three boys. “Having been born during the Great Depression, Ellen grew up knowing the value of a dollar and had the ingenuity, energy, intelligence and desire to excel in everything she tried,” Holic said in his presentation of the award.

While Hillstrom was still in high school, she worked part time for an attorney. After graduating, she enrolled in Business College and became a legal secretary.

“Inspired by that occupation, Ellen later moved to Detroit and opened her first private employment agency, Hillstrom and Ross for legal secretaries,” Holic said. “She operated that business for 15 years and was so successful that lawyers could not hire a legal secretary in the Detroit area without going through the Hillstrom and Ross agency.

To be placed on the newsletter distribution list, email city Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson at landerson@venicegov.com or call 941-882-7401.
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>FAST FACT: Venice has free parking downtown and at the beach. There is a two-hour limit on the downtown streets, three hours in the Miami Avenue parking lot, and five hours in the Centennial Park parking lot. The fine for parking overtime is $25.</td>
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<td>City Council on break.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td>10 a.m. Municipal Code Enforcement Board 5 p.m. Traffic Advisory Task Force</td>
<td>9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td>Venice MainStreet free, Friday Night Live Concert, Mindy Simmons, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>9 a.m. City Council Fire Fee Final Resolution Public Hearing</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td>Wine Walk, Downtown, 5-8 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m. Historic Preservation Board</td>
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<td>9 a.m. Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>9 a.m. City Council</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Environmental Advisory Board</td>
<td>9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td>Venice MainStreet free, Friday Night Live Concert, Koko Ray, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>9 a.m. City Council Comprehensive Plan Transmittal Public Hearing</td>
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<td>Like us on Facebook: Venice, Florida Municipal Government</td>
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**FAST FACT:** Patriots Park was created by the Leadership Sarasota County Class of 2002 to remember those who perished on 9/11, as well as the heroes who saved other lives that day, and those who have made sacrifices in the name of freedom in all wars. A 2-ton steel beam from the World Trade Center wreckage is displayed at the Venice memorial.

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Miami Avenue Craft Festival, Downtown, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
<td>Labor Day City Hall is closed. Garbage, yard waste and recyclables will be collected on residents’ next regular pickup day.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td>10 a.m. Municipal Code Enforcement Board 5 p.m. Traffic Advisory Task Force</td>
<td>Venice MainStreet free, Friday Night Live Concert, Kat &amp; The Rhythm Gators, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>YMCA Triathlon, Sharky’s on the Pier, 7:30 a.m. Miami Avenue Craft Festival, Downtown, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.</td>
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<td><strong>Patriot Day</strong></td>
<td>9 a.m. City Council</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. Public Art Advisory Board 5:01 p.m. City Council Budget Public Hearing</td>
<td>9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td>9 a.m. Historic Preservation Board Sidewalk Sale, Downtown, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Sidewalk Sale, Downtown, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>3 p.m. Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td>3:30 p.m. Economic Development Advisory Board</td>
<td><strong>Rosh Hashana</strong></td>
<td>First Day of Autumn Venice MainStreet free, Friday Night Live Concert, Rick Andre, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>9 a.m. City Council</td>
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<td>5:01 p.m. City Council Budget Public Hearing</td>
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<td>9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
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<td>Yom Kippur</td>
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**August 2017**
In 1965, Hillstrom married for the first time and by 1970, she and her husband moved to Englewood. She came to Venice in 1971 and quickly became involved with the community.

In the 1970s, she opened the first employment agency in Venice. After first serving as Secretary, in 1978 Hillstrom became president of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce — the first woman to do so. In 1983 she was hired as the Executive Director of the Chamber, also the first woman to serve in that position, where she remained until her "retirement" in 1998.

Starting in 1999, she served as Development Director of the South Venice Civic Association and led the successful effort to create the South Venice Beach Trust, of which she was a founding Trustee.

She was also the first female bank director in Sarasota County.

Hillstrom chaired the committee in the 1980s that brought Manatee Community College (now State College of Florida) to Venice — her proudest achievement, she says. Earlier she served with the I-75 Task Force. She has also been involved with the Business and Professional Women's Club, Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County, Sarasota County Arts & Cultural Alliance and the Venice Area Historical Society.

"When Hillstrom began losing her sight around 2007, she moved — as always — on to the next thing," Holic said. "Ellen heard about the Venice Chapter of the Florida Council of the Blind through a young lady who is deeply admired and appreciated in Venice, Lillian Reilly. Lillian approached Ellen at a picnic and told Ellen she needed to come to a meeting next week. At that meeting, Lillian announced her resignation as State Representative for the Chapter, and nominated Ellen for that position." Ellen was elected as State Representative of the Chapter and went on to serve as president.

She is also an active participant in White Cane Safety Day on Oct. 15 each year.

"The Lighthouse and Lions Club actively raise awareness of White Cane safety laws, and Ellen has graciously made me aware of the activities each year as we did things like crossing Business 41 at Publix blindfolded, walked from Centennial Park to City Hall blindfolded, and walked through Centennial Park blindfolded but with the help of a seeing eye dog," Holic said. "Participating in activities like this and being temporarily blind has increased my vision for the needs of the
Residents encouraged to choose automated cart size online

The second phase of residential automated trash collection is coming to the city.

**Neighborhoods east of the U.S. 41 Bypass will be included.** Residents living in this area can visit www.venicegov.com and click on a link at the top of the homepage to choose the size trash cart they would like – 35 gallon, 65 gallon or 95 gallon. Specific streets and block numbers affected are listed. **Residents living on one of these streets must choose their cart size by Oct. 15, 2017.** After that date, they will automatically receive the 95-gallon cart.

Twice-weekly trash collection will continue.

Pictures and dimensions of each cart size can be viewed online. Residents are asked to consider choosing the 95-gallon cart, since all trash **must be** inside the cart for collection. Residents should fill out the online form with their name, address, contact information and cart size choice, then click submit.

The Venice Solid Waste Department rolled out the first phase of its automated trash collection in February, in the communities of Willow Chase, Waterford, Sawgrass and Venetian Golf & River Club. For more information, call Venice Public Works at 941-486-2422.

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**Pillar, from page 4**

vision impaired.

“Having people like Ellen work with our City Engineer on sidewalks, streets and crosswalks has made our city a safer and more enjoyable place for those with vision impairment, and it will get even better with our street improvement program over the next several years,” the mayor continued.

Over the years, Hillstrom has received the Women in Business, Lifetime Achievement Award by the Venice Gondolier Sun; the Paul Harris Fellow Award by Rotary International, on behalf of the Venice Nokomis Rotary Club; the Women of Distinction Award, Venice Chamber; and the Woman of Impact Award, Sarasota County.

Like so many of our Pillars of the Community, Ellen exemplifies a lifetime of commitment to the area and shows us all that it’s not the physical address where you live that makes you a Pillar of the Community, it’s the fact that you give the community your love, your time, your devotion and your talent over many years to make this a better place for all of us,” Holic said.

After receiving the award, Hillstrom said: “I think Shirley Temple said it best: Oh my goodness.”
Agape Flights spreads ‘love from above’

Working quietly out of a hangar at the Venice Airport, Agape Flights supports nearly 400 missionary families in Haiti, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic — and as of last year, Cuba — with much-needed supplies.

Agape — a Greek word for “God’s love” — was founded by Keith and Clara Starkey in 1980. The organization spent its first 26 years based in a hangar at Sarasota Airport before moving to Venice.

“It was a great plan to come to Venice,” said Allen Speer, Agape’s CEO since 2011. “Our volunteers, both here and from SRQ, are faithful, loyal and giving of their time. Without them, we couldn’t operate.”

The organization, which Speer calls “unapologetically committed to sharing the good news of Christ,” also sees assistance from church groups and student intern programs such as at Venice High School.

“We have one young man, a high school senior, who’s here at 8 a.m. sweeping the floors,” Speer said. “He’s really committed to what he is doing.”

In season, Agape sees between 100-110 volunteers weekly. The nonprofit has six full-time and two part-time employees, and plans to hire an additional 2-3 people in the next year.

According to Agape’s Flightline publication, in 2016 the nonprofit delivered 209,000 pounds (104 tons) of mail and cargo to 350 missionary affiliates, in 68 flights. Funding comes from over 2,000 financial partners, including 185 monthly donors. The organization’s main cargo aircraft is an Embraer 110; more recently, it acquired a Piper Chieftain that can carry passengers.

Continued on page 7
Agape, from page 6

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Agape flew 90 missions there in the first 100 days.

“We were some of the first (assistance) to get in, because we had a reputation there,” Speer said.

“We’re the connection,” said Abby Duncan, Agape’s Communications Manager. “The people we serve are amazing.”

“That’s where the real work is — on the other end,” Speer agreed.

In these Caribbean countries, missionaries help provide clean water and community resources, education, agriculture, home and church construction, medical and dental care, athletics, orphan care, prison ministry and vocational training, as well as evangelism.

Agape provides its missionary families with “just about anything they need,” including tires, medicine, diapers, clothing and furniture for Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Bahamas, “anything they can’t get there,” Speer said. Cuba, which sees more restrictions, gets deliveries of mainly nonperishable food, water filtration units and religious literature.

“It’s fun to watch the shoppers (for supplies). They really take their work to heart — they’re personally shopping for these families,” said Speer, adding, “I can’t overestimate what our volunteers bring to this place.”

To thank them, Agape has an annual volunteer appreciation luncheon. It also holds an annual “Pie in the Sky” community awareness day/open house, the most recent held on March 4. More than 600 attended the ’50s themed event, and over 200 of those were first-time visitors.

“We really like having Agape on the Airport,” said city Airport Director Mark Cervasio. “It’s good for the Airport to have long-standing organizations, like Agape, as tenants that give us the stability we need to maintain self-sustainability. Not to mention the importance of the good work that they do and how that translates into a positive image for the Airport with the community.”

“It’s easy to drive by here,” Speer said. “Citizens in Venice should know they have in their community an organization that reaches into a portion of the world we really overlook in terms of need.”

For more information on Agape or supporting the organization’s efforts, visit www.agapeflights.com, find them on Facebook and Instagram, or call 941-488-0990.

Agape Flights is located at 100 Airport Ave. in Venice, and “we love it when folks stop by,” Speer said.
Fire assessment frequently asked questions

CITY OF VENICE FIRE ASSESSMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2018 FAQs

The information provided below has been prepared to answer some of the questions property owners may have regarding the City’s proposed fire assessment program.

1. What is the purpose of the proposed fire assessment?

The fire assessment will be used to pay costs and expenses incurred by the City each year in providing fire protection services, facilities, and programs. For the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017 (“Fiscal Year 2018”), the City is considering funding 50% of its fire protection costs with proceeds of the fire assessment. The balance of costs will be paid with General Fund revenues. The City has never had a dedicated funding source to pay for fire protection services and facilities and replacement of aging Fire Department equipment, vehicles and stations. The assessment would provide the necessary funding to enhance the department’s overall level of service to properties in the City.

2. Why is the City considering the creation of a fire assessment?

The fire assessment program will provide the City of Venice:

a) A more diversified revenue base for the City’s governmental activities,

b) A dedicated revenue stream for Fire Department operating expenses, capital acquisition, and replacement costs,

c) The ability to assess properties currently exempt from ad valorem taxes which do not contribute to the cost of providing fire services,

d) A way to free up General Fund and One-Cent Sales Taxes revenues for other needed projects, and

e) A revenue source that is less vulnerable to fluctuations in the economy than the city’s ad valorem taxes.

3. Do other governments have a “Fire Assessment Program” to fund fire service?

Yes. Fire services are funded through assessment programs in many cities and counties throughout Florida.

4. Will my ad valorem property taxes go down in equal proportion to the fire assessment?

No, considering the need for additional funds dedicated for Fire Department expenses, an equal reduction in property taxes would not provide the needed additional funds. However, the City is considering a partial offset to the ad valorem millage of a .5000 mill reduction combined with a 50% fire cost recovery assessment.

In June 2017, the City Council determined the preliminary maximum operating millage rate of 3.6000 for the upcoming fiscal year 2018, or $3.60 per $1,000 of assessed value on each City parcel. However, in the budget workshop on June 29, 2017, the City Council indicated their intent to consider lowering the operating millage rate by .5000 to 3.1000 if the proposed fire protection assessments are adopted as contemplated.

TRIM Notice Information:

In August-September, all property owners in the City will receive the annual “Notice of Proposed Property Taxes” also called a TRIM notice (Truth-in-Millage) from the Sarasota County Property Appraiser. This notice includes the

Continued on page 9
Fire assessment frequently asked questions (con’t)

proposed taxes to be assessed by each taxing authority, dates of public hearings and Market Value and Assessed Value of your property. This TRIM notice will include the preliminary 3.6000 maximum millage rate for the City of Venice. However,

- If the fire protection assessments are adopted, City Council may consider adopting an operating millage rate of 3.1000 (subject to final approval by City Council at its budget hearings set for September 13 and September 27, 2017, both beginning at 5:01 p.m.).

- If the fire protection assessments are not adopted, City Council may consider adopting an operating millage rate of 3.6000 (subject to final approval by City Council at its budget hearings set for September 13 and September 27, 2017, both beginning at 5:01 p.m.).

5. How will the City address the Fire Department’s capital needs?

- If the fire assessment is approved the capital needs are incorporated within the Fire Department’s budget.

- If the fire assessment is not approved the Fire Department will compete with other departments’ capital needs appropriated within the One-Cent Sales Tax Fund.

6. How is the fire assessment calculated for each property?

The methodology currently under consideration by the City apportions costs to properties based on the concept of availability for response. Under this methodology all parcels, improved and unimproved, pay a single base rate (Tier 1). All developed properties would also pay a second charge proportional to the replacement cost of the structure, which is determined by the Sarasota County Property Appraiser (Tier 2). Structure value is defined as the sum total of Building and Extra Feature Values as prepared by the Property Appraiser. This is considered to be the most uniform and cost efficient method to establish the replacement cost.

In order to fund 50% of the Fire Department budget through the fire assessment for Fiscal Year 2018, the proposed rates of assessment are $93.92 per parcel for Tier 1 and $4.81 per $5,000 of structure value for Tier 2. Individual total assessments for fire protection will vary depending on each property.

7. Who actually pays the special assessments?

Assessments are the responsibility of the owner of the property subject to the assessment. So, each landowner will pay the assessment in a fashion similar to paying their real estate taxes.

8. What period of time does the fire assessment cover and when will the assessment be payable?

The fire assessment is re-imposed annually and will cover the City's fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). The assessment for each fiscal year will be collected on the property tax bill mailed in November, beginning in November 2017. The assessment is payable, as part of your tax bill, each year between November 1 and March 31.

9. What will happen if I do not pay the fire assessment?

Because the City is using the tax bill collection method, Florida law requires...
Fire assessment frequently asked questions (con’t)

that all ad valorem taxes and accompanying assessments be paid at the same
time. If you do not pay your taxes and assessments, the Sarasota County Tax
Collector will issue a tax certificate against your property, which may eventual-
ly result in a loss of title.

10. I don’t pay taxes now due to homestead exemption. Will I have to pay
the fire assessments?

Yes. Assessments are different than ad valorem taxes and the fire assess-
ment applies to all residential property uses regardless of homestead exemp-
tion. The concept of an assessment allocates the cost of the service to all prop-
erties that benefit from the service.

11. I received a discount for early payment of my taxes. Will I receive the
same discount for my fire assessment?

Yes. The same discounts and penalties applicable to ad valorem taxes will
also apply to the fire assessment.

12. Is the special assessment deductible like taxes?

Property owners should consult their tax advisors for income tax treatment.

13. Are any properties exempt from the assessment program?

Property owned by governmental entities (County, City, State, & Federal)
and other properties which may be exempt from the payment of special as-
seSSments under state or federal law will not be subject to the fire assess-
ments. All other properties will be assessed.

14. If the information contained on the fire assessment notice is incorrect,
how do I get it corrected?

If information on the notice is incorrect, a correction request should be
made to Linda Senne, Finance Director, 401 W. Venice Ave, Venice, FL 34285
or at 941-882-7421. Staff will research any issues and make corrections to the
fire assessment information before certifying it to the Tax Collector for place-
ment on the tax bill.

15. What will happen at the public hearing scheduled for 9 a.m. August 21,
2017?

The City Council will hear comments from the public regarding the imposi-
tion and collection of the fire protection assessments. After receiving com-
ments, the City Council will finalize its decision regarding imposition of the fire
assessment as well as the rates of assessment.

Should you have any questions regarding the fire assessment, please call the
Finance Department at 941-882-7421, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday
through Friday. Additional information relating to the fire assessment program
can also be obtained on the homepage of the City’s website at:
www.venicegov.com
Urban coyote information for residents

An increase in coyote sightings on the Island of Venice has been reported to the Venice Police Department. Residents have reported seeing coyotes while walking their dogs in low-light conditions (early morning and late at night), and in their yards or neighbors’ yards.

This medium-size animal resembling a small German shepherd is extremely adaptable and able to thrive in an urban setting. Coyotes can weigh up to 30 pounds, travel alone or in small groups, and are usually sighted between dusk and dawn. Coyotes live throughout Florida and in every state but Hawaii.

In the event you encounter a coyote, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recommends waving your arms and shouting until the animal goes away. Coyotes can be curious but are also timid and generally run away if challenged.

The Venice Police Department wants to keep residents and their pets safe, and is asking for your help by following these suggestions:

* Properly secure trash. Do not put refuse out at the curb until the morning of pickup.
* Do not allow pets to roam freely.
* Clean up fallen fruit.
* Never feed coyotes, or leave pet food outside.
* Be aware; be prepared.

* Educate your neighbors and ask them to follow these same steps.

Residents have asked about trapping coyotes; according to the FWC, this doesn’t work. Removing coyotes from one area can result in other coyotes moving in from surrounding areas and producing more pups per litter.

Please do not hesitate in reporting aggressive coyote encounters to the Venice Police Department by calling 941-486-2444 or 911. No human attacks have been reported, according to VPD.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission also has published a helpful brochure on coyotes; copies are available at City Hall for residents. VPD asks that residents follow the recommendations put forth by the FWC concerning coyotes.
PUBLIC SAFETY EXPO

Venice Police and Fire held a Public Safety Expo July 18 for hundreds of kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Venice. Club members checked out gear, sat in vehicles, and received goodie bags from first responders.

At left, VPD Sgt. Ron Perisho shows off the features of a police vehicle. Below, children crowd around Officer Paul Freeman's motorcycle.

Above, firefighters Eric Putnal, Justin Cochera, Sean Conner and Lt. Derek Lowery discuss the equipment on a firetruck. Below, Marine Officer Paul Joyce talks about patrolling Venice waters.
PUBLIC SAFETY EXPO

Above, Officer Ruth Terry distributes law enforcement goodie bags to kids at the Boys & Girls Club.

At left, Fire Rescue Lt. Derek Lowery shows a club member how heavy firefighters’ equipment can be. Above, children take turns sitting in a firetruck under the watchful eye of Justin Cochara.

Members of Venice Police and Fire pose for a group photo July 15 with some of the members of the Venice Boys & Girls Club.
Venice lands on Best Places to Buy a Vacation Home list

Venice has made a Best Places to Buy a Summer Vacation Home listing done by Credit.com.

Daren Blomquist, senior vice president of ATTOM Data Solutions, a provider of real estate data, calculated the 25 best places to buy a vacation home on a budget for 2017. Variables include median sales prices, crime, five-year home appreciation, average summer temperature and the percentage of good air quality days.

Venice’s YTD 2017 Median Sale Price is $225,000, with a 5-Year Home Appreciation of 67%, according to the website.

See the full report by going to: http://blog.credit.com/2017/07/25-places-to-buy-a-vacation-home-on-a-budget-176475/

Wanted: A few good flags

The City of Venice instituted a flag donation program in 2012 to provide an opportunity for American flags to once again fly in honor of our country and those whose courageous acts stand for a free United States.

The city accepts as donations American flags that citizens have received as memorial gifts, or others that individuals or organizations may wish to donate in recognition or memory of a person or institution. The city will accept the flags with the expressed purpose of flying them on public grounds.

The donor will receive a letter of appreciation from the mayor and City Council. With their permission, donors will also be publicly recognized by the council for their civic contribution. Donated flags may be brought to Public Works, 221 S. Seaboard Ave., Venice.

City Hall closed on Labor Day

Venice City Hall will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for the observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Garbage, yard waste and recyclables will not be collected. Residents whose normal collection day is Tuesday will have their items picked up on their next regular collection day. Residents are reminded to have all materials to the curb by 7 a.m.

In the event of Utilities service emergencies like a water line break, residents can call 941-486-2770. This line is designated for emergencies only.
POCKET PARK SPOTLIGHT: JOHN NOLEN PARK

Pocket parks are small neighborhood parks accessible to the general public. The parks are frequently created on a vacant lot or on small, irregular pieces of land.

World-renowned city planner John Nolen, who planned Venice in 1926 for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, dotted the city with these pocket parks. One is named after him at 425 Palmetto Court, at Menendez Street and Avenida Des Parques. Fittingly, the park features signs posted along a trail telling the story of the history of Venice.

Amenities include a handicap-accessible playground and picnic tables in a wooded setting.

More information on Venice parks, along with maps of their locations, can be found by going to www.venicegov.com and clicking on “Parks and Rec” at left.

Photos provided by Kaitlyn Stelzer
Over 500 sea turtle nests reported on city beaches

The number of sea turtle nests on Venice beaches this season is 522 as of July 22, according to data provided by Mote Marine Laboratory.

Five species of sea turtles inhabit the Gulf of Mexico: loggerhead, green, hawksbill, leather-back and Kemp’s Ridley. Between May 1 and Oct. 31, sea turtles — many of which hatched on area beaches — make their way to Southwest Florida, where they come ashore at night to lay their nests. An adult female can spend one to three hours laying around 100 leathery, ping-pong ball-size eggs. Each female can nest four to six times a season. Hatchlings generally appear 45-75 days later. However, an estimated one out of every 1,000 hatchlings survives to adulthood.

For the week of July 16-22, there were 29 new loggerhead turtle nests and one green turtle nest on Venice beaches, with a cumulative total of 520 loggerhead nests and two green turtle nests since season started, Mote reported. In 2016 at the same time, there were 548 nests on Venice Beach. The public can view Mote’s weekly counts of sea turtle nests at www.mote.org/2017nesting.

It is a violation of federal law to touch or otherwise disturb a turtle, nest or hatchling.

Throughout the nesting season, Sarasota County and City of Venice ordinances forbid the use of artificial lights, including flashlights, along the beach. These lights can disorient the hatchlings, causing them to go toward parking lots and roads where they are likely to be run over by vehicles or eaten by predators, instead of making their way to the water. Adult female turtles may also shy away from light when searching for a place to nest.

Last year, there were a total of 638 nests on Venice beaches for the season. There were also 824 false crawls. A false crawl happens when a female comes ashore, but for some reason, whether it is loud noise, artificial lights or the sight of a predator, she does not stay and nest, but crawls back to the water. As of July 22, there were 573 false crawls on Venice beaches, according to Mote data.

If you encounter a nesting turtle or hatchlings on the beach, remain quiet and observe from a distance. Never encourage a turtle to move while nesting or pick up hatchlings that have emerged and are heading for the water.

If you see artificial lights shining on the beach at night, call Code Enforcement Inspector Debbie Sanacore at 941-882-7437 or Inspector George Nixon at 941-882-7436. If you see hatchlings in danger, call the Mote Marine Sea Turtle Program at 941-388-4331 or the Venice Police Department at 941-486-2444. For more information about sea turtles, visit www.mote.org.
VMA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Debb Thompson

Editor’s Note: This feature spotlights the hardworking, dedicated volunteers at the Venice Museum & Archives.

How long have you lived in the area? I’ve lived in Nokomis permanently for 4 years. I was coming down prior to that for 10 years from the Boston area. I worked for the state of Massachusetts for 32 years. I worked my way up the chain to accounts payable manager in Finance and took early retirement.

How long have you volunteered at the VMA? Since 2014.

When do you come in? On Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m.

What are some of your duties? I’m at the front desk, I answer phones and greet people, I’m a docent. I tell visitors about the history of the building and about the different exhibits, and if I know of anything else going on in town. I’m also a picture-taker — it’s like a record for me.

How did you start volunteering at the museum? I looked online for volunteering possibilities. I really wanted something to do with the city, and they were advertising. I always knew I wanted to give back, and at the time, needed something lighter in my life. I’m also the type of person who likes to continue to learn things. Volunteering here helped me learn about the history of the place.

What do you like about the VMA? I love meeting the people. Some people have been in Venice for 40 years and they don’t know the museum is here. I also love doing events — the receptions for new exhibits, the Christmas tree lighting. Any time an event is going on here, you’ll find me outside, serving cookies and punch. My mom saw serving food as sharing love and caring.

Do you plan to keep volunteering? Sure. Everyone who comes from here, they care so much about the city. That’s something you don’t see often. That makes me happy.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

The Venice Museum and Archives could use more volunteers. Those interested in becoming docents should go to the VMA, housed in the Triangle Inn at 351 Nassau St. S., on the Island of Venice, and fill out an application. Museum staff will contact you for an interview if your skills and interests match the museum’s needs. Experience is not necessary, but preferred.

Prospective docents must:
* Be a people person
* Be reliable
* Be available for the same 3-hour shift each week on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday
* Check their email every day (non-negotiable)
* Be computer literate
* Provide tours of the first floor
* Sell items in the gift shop and make change
* Answer the phone
* Assist staff as necessary
PROJECTS AROUND TOWN

The following construction and other projects are ongoing in the city:

- **The Florida Department of Transportation along with its contractor, Southern Road and Bridge LLC, are making improvements to the Circus Drawbridge.** These improvements include bridge (structural steel) painting, mechanical equipment improvements, spall repairs and bridge deck and sidewalk replacement. The $2.7 million project began in early July. Traffic will shift to one bridge (one lane for each direction) while crews are working on the opposite bridge. Night-time/overnight lane closures are expected from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. The speed limit is reduced to 35 mph during construction. For additional information, contact Lauren Hatchell, FDOT Communications Manager, at 941-708-4418.

- **Business US 41 from Palermo Place to Venice Avenue:** Crews are resurfacing the roadway, constructing new sidewalk and installing new bus pads. Expect nighttime/overnight lane closures while crews are working. Estimated completion is summer 2017. Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC is the contractor.

- **US 41/Venice Bypass from Gulf Coast Boulevard to Bird Bay Drive:** Crews continue installing utility and storm drain systems and constructing temporary pavement. Expect intermittent nighttime/overnight northbound and southbound lane closures from 8 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. throughout the project limits while crews are working. Motorists should be mindful of the construction signs in place and traffic control officers and use caution while traveling through the project area. Bergeron Land Development is the contractor. Expected completion is spring 2018.

- **Lime sludge pond closure:** ProLime Inc. continues to transport lime sludge offsite; there will be an increase in truck traffic along Pinebrook Road, Laurel Road and E. Venice Avenue to Interstate 75. For more information, call the city Utilities Department at 941-480-3333.

- **Beginning July 10, and lasting for approximately 2 months, Gator Grading & Paving will be installing an additional turn lane on Harbor Dr. S. at the intersection of Beach Rd.** This turn lane will help to alleviate congestion at this intersection and improve the traffic flow, especially during special events. Please expect traffic delays and temporary lane closures during this construction project. For additional questions, contact James Clinch, PE, Assistant City Engineer, at 941-882-7410.

- **The Venice Community Center at 326 Nokomis Ave. S. is currently being reroofed.** The $600,000 project is expected to last 6-8 weeks. During this work, a small section of the south parking lot will be barricaded off to the public for roofers’ equipment and materials. The building will remain open. The City of Venice is working with Sarasota County, which operates the center, for the duration of the roof project.

*Continued on page 19*
PROJECTS AROUND TOWN (con’t from page 18)

- **The Venice Avenue Drawbridge** (Venice Avenue over the Intracoastal Waterway) will have intermittent eastbound and westbound lane closures, controlled by a flagging crew, on Aug. 1 between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. for routine bridge inspections. A flagging crew will allow alternating eastbound and westbound traffic on Venice Avenue over the Intracoastal Waterway between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. The recommended alternate routes are the Circus and Hatchett Creek Drawbridges at the north and south ends of Venice. All local emergency response teams will be notified. There will be no effect to marine traffic.

- **Water Main Replacement Phase 4 project** on the Island of Venice: Andrew Sitework LLC has installed all new water mains and is completing associated appurtenances. Remaining work consists of abandoning old water mains in rear easement, work on private property and restoration. The project limits are roughly bounded by Villas Dr. and San Marco Dr. south to Golden Beach Blvd., and Circle Dr. and The Corso between Golden Beach Blvd. and The Rialto. For additional information, contact Cynthia Fitzpatrick, City Utilities Project Coordinator, at 941-882-7290.

- **Valve Replacement Phase 10 project**: DeJonge Excavating Contractors, Inc. are performing punch list items and restoration in the following areas: vicinity near 622 Marcus St., intersection at Bayshore Dr. and Bayshore Circle, the vicinities of 620 Riviera St., 540 Riviera St. and 201 San Marco Drive, intersection of Park Boulevard South and West Venice Avenue, the intersection of Barcelona Avenue and Armada Road North, and a valve on Matanzas St. at Cadiz Rd. For additional information contact the City Utilities Department at 941-480-3333.

- **Valve Replacement Phase 11 project**: The work consists of the replacement of four valves, two fire hydrant assemblies, and two air release valves; the installation of two insertable valves; and the installation of one line stop. The locations of work are Area 1 — intersection of E. Venice Ave. and Warfield Ave. N., corner of Warfield Ave. S. and Camion St., 200 block of Warfield Ave. (line stop); Area 2 — parking lot north of 405 Manatee C.t.; Area 3 — vicinity of 120 Grove St. (alley) and southwest corner of Grove St and Cypress Ave.; Area 4 — vicinity of 632 Bird Bay Dr. E.; Area 5 — vicinity of 100 E. Venice Ave. Completion date is anticipated by mid-October 2017. For additional information, contact the City Utilities Department at 941-480-3333.

- **Maintenance contracts project**: **Crews are trimming trees over the roads and sidewalk on all state roads** in Sarasota County. Expect possible daytime lane closures from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through July 28. Use caution and expect possible delays.
Volunteer divers removed 141 pounds of waste from underneath the Venice Fishing Pier during an underwater cleanup Saturday, July 15.

The annual event was organized by the Suncoast Reef Rovers (Venice Dive Club) and Ken Lackmann. There were 27 SCUBA divers assisted by 24 topside helpers, four student volunteers and three boats.

Venice Police assisted by boat, along with members of the VPD Citizens Police Academy pulling refuse onto the Pier. Other groups who assisted were: Florida Underwater Sports, Sarasota Bay Watch, Sharky’s on the Pier restaurant, Reelcycle and NAUI Green Diver.

Interesting marine debris found included sunglasses, a guitar pick, $20, a man’s ring and a cell phone, Lackmann reported, along with more typical items — anchors, traps, rope, knives, lures, lines, and rods and reels.

“It was a fun group of people who enjoyed good company and perfect weather during the event,” Lackmann said.

The next underwater cleanup is set for Saturday, Aug. 12 at the North Jetty. Based on tide charts, the current plan is for divers to enter the water at 10 a.m. to take advantage of the slack tide and exit the water sometime between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. If interested in participating, please email Ken.Lackmann@fl.usda.gov by Aug. 9 if you plan to dive or be a topside helper.

See more photos, page 21
UNDERWATER CLEANUP

Above, VPD Officers Zachary Evans and Brett Woodworth assist during the Suncoast Reef Rovers underwater cleanup at the Venice Fishing Pier July 15. Photo provided by Ron Scurek
Utilities Water Main Replacement Program Phase 5 nearing bid phase

Program History: Prior to and around the 1950s, many utilities, including water mains, were installed in rear lot easements. The City of Venice has many areas where the water mains are beyond their useful life, undersized, and located in rear easements. The water distribution system, supplies homes, businesses, irrigation meters, and fire hydrants throughout the City.

Access to rear lots becomes more difficult over time due to fences, landscaping, and vegetation being introduced to the areas. Gaining access to rear lots is inconvenient to property owners and adds time for service calls, ultimately increasing costs to the City and its customers.

Many of the existing water mains are unlined cast iron which are susceptible to a type of corrosion known as tuberculation. Over time, the pipes become smaller in diameter decreasing the water pressure in the distribution system. Relocating water services and installing replacement water mains, where necessary, to the front or side rights of way allows City staff to safely and efficiently maintain the system.

This program also includes relocating or installing new fire hydrants, evening out assembly spacing and improving fire protection in many areas.

The Phase 5 bid phase for the Utilities Water Main Replacement Program is scheduled for fall of 2017. This phase includes approximately 7,850 lineal feet of new water main will be installed, and 155 water services and meters relocated. Additionally, 22 valves, five fire hydrants and various appurtenances will be installed. When the mains are in and cleared for use, the final step is to grout and abandon, in-place, the old water mains.

At left is the location and limits of construction within Phase 5. The lots showing in red indicate properties where private service lines will be relocated to the right of way.

At right, existing cast iron tuberculated pipe with visible corrosion that was filled and abandoned, in-place in a previous phase.
Backflow prevention is a shared responsibility

The City of Venice Utilities (COVU) department has the primary responsibility for protecting the public water supply from possible contamination from a variety of sources. COVU is required to ensure all residential, commercial and industrial consumers are in compliance with the City's Cross Connection Control Manual, Ordinance 2014-20 and the Florida Administrative Code 62-555.360.

The property owner's responsibility starts at the point of service connection downstream of the meter and includes all of the property's water systems. All property owners are required to maintain their backflow preventers, have them repaired by a licensed plumber or qualified repair technician and, when applicable, tested by a certified tester.

Utilities started the backflow program with commercial and industrial consumers and have begun mailing notification letters to residential properties that are listed as having a backflow preventer.

If you receive a letter, the following are some things to think about before you schedule a test:

- Verify you have a backflow preventer. If it doesn't appear you have a backflow preventer, verify if your property requires one.
- If you have an existing above ground backflow preventer, your property may qualify for a below ground preventer. You may want to consider the cost savings of replacing an above ground preventer with an approved dual check preventer that only requires replacement or possible refurbishment every 10 years.
- Preventers that require biennial testing (every other year) may need replacement parts at that time or time of or between testing.
- Above ground preventers are more vulnerable to damage by lawn equipment, vehicles and vandals.
- Replacing an above ground to a below ground preventer may improve the appearance of your property.

Pictured below are the different types of backflow preventers mentioned above. Please note that in the past, double checks were required to be above ground. If your property is verified as low hazard, double checks can also be replaced with a dual check preventer.

Reduced pressure backflow preventer

Double check backflow preventer

Dual check backflow preventer

Should you have questions regarding the Backflow Program, contact the Utilities Technical Unit, Supervisor Michael Catalano, at 941-882-7311.

Thank you for doing your part to protect our community water system by staying in compliance.

Visit www.venicegov.com to view the Backflow Program Cross Connection Manual, FAQs and other information. At top, choose Departments, Utilities, then at left, Backflow Prevention.
Report city issues on the go with SeeClickFix

Reporting a concern in Venice is just a few clicks away. The city’s SeeClickFix platform, Venice Connect, allows citizens to report quality-of-life issues — such as potholes, roadside junk and tall grass — and request city services. About 936 issues have been logged since the system was launched Aug. 31 of last year, and 786 are closed.

With free SeeClickFix mobile app and web tools, citizens are able to provide city staff with pictures, videos, specific descriptions and more — valuable information needed to get the job done efficiently. In addition, the SeeClickFix platform provides city officials with a centralized issue management system to manage issues from creation to resolution, engaging citizens throughout the process. SeeClickFix Venice Connect is available as an app for Android and iPhone. Select SeeClickFix from your app store on your device and choose Venice, Florida. There is also a link to the program on the city’s website, www.venicegov.com, or go directly to SeeClickFix at http://www.seeclickfix.com/venice.

Use SeeClickFix to request assistance with City of Venice services or report problems, such as potholes, streetlights that are out, broken sidewalks, stormdrain issues, traffic signal/sign problems, code violations, etc. Venice Connect will acknowledge newly submitted issues and forward them to the appropriate departments to take care of the requests. Users will receive email updates and can come back here to check the status of submitted issues. When the issue is resolved, the issue can be closed. Separate issues should be submitted as separate SeeClickFix reports. Note: Please make sure that the address you are providing is the location of the issue being reported. For more information on using the program, call 941-882-7401.

Law enforcement issues of an emergency nature need to be reported directly to the Venice Police Department by calling 911. VPD’s non-emergency number is 941-486-2444. After-hours Utilities emergencies can be reported at 941-486-2770.

Utilities vacation lock/unlock service available for residents

The City of Venice offers a temporary seasonal/vacation Utilities discontinuance for residents. Each customer is entitled to one water turn-off and one turn-on per calendar year. Requests for turn-off and turn-on must be made to the city in writing at least three days in advance.

All additional turn-off and turn-on requests made during normal business hours shall be subject to a $35 fee for each, and a fee of $162 shall be assessed for service requested after normal business hours.

An online form to set up the water discontinuance is available on the city’s website, www.venicegov.com. From the Departments tab, select Utilities, to left, select Online Forms, select Vacation Lock/Unlock. Or, you can follow this link: http://venicegov.com/Municipal_links/Utilities/forms.asp.

Paper forms are also available at the Cashier’s Office at City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave. It is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Hurricane season is well underway — have you signed up for CodeRED yet?

The City of Venice uses CodeRED to send emergency notifications by phone, email, text and social media to keep citizens informed of emergencies such as evacuation notices, utility outages, water main breaks, fire or floods, chemical spills, or other emergency situations.

The city also uses CodeRED Weather Warning, a unique service that automatically notifies citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. The CodeRED Weather Warning is available to city residents at no cost. More than 60 people signed up for the service at the recent 2-day Hurricane Expo at the Venice Community Center. Hurricane season runs June 1 through Nov. 30.

The city may also activate CodeRED to send general notifications to registered subscribers to communicate non-life safety matters, such as planned road closures, water main repairs, and water and power service interruptions. By selecting the box for general alerts, you will also receive these types of notifications. Registering for CodeRED is quick and easy: Sign up online at www.venicegov.com/Disaster_Links/code_red.asp. Add the following numbers to your caller ID: 866-419-5000, Emergency Calls; 855-969-4636, General Calls; and 800-566-9780, Weather Warnings.

Things to know about CodeRED

CodeRED delivers notifications by phone calls to landlines and cell phones, emails, texts, social media, and/or mobile alerts.

CodeRED is compatible with TDD/TTY devices for those with hearing impairments.

Individuals and businesses may add as many phone numbers, emails and text numbers as desired.

Residents and visitors alike can receive enhanced public safety alerts no matter where you are located via the CodeRED Mobile Alert app, a free public safety app for both Android and iPhone users. The CodeRED Mobile Alert app delivers community and emergency alerts to individuals targeted within an impacted geographical area so that you may also receive timely notifications when you’re on the road, or away from home.

If you are currently a CodeRED subscriber who has already registered your mobile phone to receive notifications from the City of Venice, you will continue to receive calls. However, if you download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app, you will also receive alerts via your smartphone anywhere in the country, including Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Alaska. To download the free CodeRED Mobile Alert app, visit the Google Play or iTunes store.

For more information about the CodeRED service, or to sign up by phone, call 941-882-7401.
VENICE ROCKS

Venice has embraced the current rock-painting craze, also known as the Kindness Rocks Project. Children and adults alike are getting together to paint rocks — adorning them with flowers, animals, abstracts, cartoon characters and written affirmations — and “hiding” them in plain sight all over town, including in and around public buildings, parks, beaches and box stores. Rock finders are encouraged to rehide the painted stones or keep them and leave their own. They’re also asked to post their finds on the Group Facebook page Venice Rocks, which is often written on the back of the stones. Some of the works of art are truly amazing. Happy hunting!

The Venice Art Center held a rock-painting class for all ages on July 12 (above, at left, and below). Photos provided by Kaitlyn Stelzer

Rocks found outside City Hall, above, and at West Blalock Park, below.

Above and at left, the Venice Museum & Archives bell is a popular location to leave rocks.
AROUND TOWN

On July 11, Gov. Rick Scott, second from left, visited the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office for the ceremonial signing of House Bill 477. The bill establishes mandatory minimum prison sentences as well as fines for drug dealers charged in connection with the distribution of fentanyl, heroin, or any number of fentanyl derivatives. Also in attendance were Senator Greg Steube, Congressman Vern Buchanan, Sarasota County Commissioner Nancy Detert and community leaders from various municipalities and law enforcement agencies, including Venice Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, far left.

*Photo provided by the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office*

Rodney Jones and Rocky Reid with Utilities work in the field July 18 at Sharky’s restaurant.

Team Keep Venice Beautiful filled its 300th truckload of debris in early July, up 30 percent from the past year. In partnership with the Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Trails Coordinator, Team KVB removed palm fronds, limbs, vines and weeds from a section of the Venetian Waterway Park. Pictured, from left, are Corky Dalton, Paul Bowers, Cindy Lodge, Gene Lodge, Karen Trast, Sue Nee, Russ Johnson, Tom Jacobs and Sandy Vecchione.

*Photo provided by Team KVB*
AROUND TOWN

The city’s monthly 6-mile bicycle ride around the island was held July 12 with city Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Darlene Culpepper, at left. Thanks to Nadine Young with SNN, above, for doing a feature piece on the ride and the enthusiastic cyclists. The next ride is set for 10 a.m. Aug. 9. Volunteers with the American Cancer Society will be handing out bottled water. Just bring your bike and a helmet to City Hall to join in the fun!

City Council Member Bob Daniels expressed his thanks to city staff for improvements at Wellfield Sports Park, including painting of the buildings and green vinyl slats added to all fencing. Then, sponsor banners were installed.

Santa Claus made the rounds via trolley instead of sleigh July 21 during Venice Main-Street’s Christmas in July downtown. Photo provided by Venice MainStreet
AROUND TOWN

Resident Joanna Davis gifted City Hall July 24 with her beautiful Venice rock creation, part of the Kindness Rocks Project that is sweeping the country. Joanna is pictured at left in the City Hall lobby with her sons, Reece, 8 1/2, and Chase, 6, along with city Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson. While this rock is now a permanent art piece at the city, City Hall and its nearby parks are a popular place to hunt for and drop off painted rocks. Check out Venice Rocks on Facebook to learn more.

Venice Police assist with traffic and escorting bicyclists through the city during the July 23 Brotherhood Ride, which started in Collier County. The ride pays tribute to fallen police and firefighters. The Honor Flag was also a part of the ride. Since September 2001, the Honor Flag has flown over Ground Zero, in Iraq during Operation Enduring Freedom, and at ceremonies and funerals for over 1,000 fallen heroes.
**Venice Theatre**  
140 Tampa Ave. W.  
941-488-1115  
www.venicestage.com  

“Zombie Prom”  
July 28-Aug. 12  

“Eli Schildkraut: Songs You’ve Never Heard Before”  
Aug. 3 & 6  

“Sinning Sirens: Let Me Entertain You”  
Aug. 4-5  

“Alana Opie: Classic Country Cabaret”  
Aug. 12-13  

“Ann Morrison”  
Aug. 13  

“Syreeta Banks & Ariel Blue: Soul Sisters”  
Aug. 17 & 20  

“Random Acts: Hold My Beer”  
Aug. 18-19  

“Stephen Ditchfield: Through the Years”  
Aug. 20 & 27  

“Melissa Cripps: Turning Point”  
Aug. 24-25  

**Venice Art Center**  
390 Nokomis Ave. S.  
941-485-7136  
www.veniceartcenter.com  

“H20: The Wetter the Better”  
July 21-Aug. 18  

“Family Fun Day”  
July 29  

“It’s Surreal”  
Sept. 8-29  

“Members’ Show: Artist’s Choice”  
Oct. 6-Nov.10  

**Venice Performing Arts Center**  
1 Indian Ave.  
941-480-3191  
www.veniceperformingartscenter.com  

“Madam Butterfly with Baila Miller”  
Aug. 1  

“Women of Comedy”  
Aug. 8  

“Dave Morgan Jazz Trio”  
Aug. 10  

“The Broadway Boys”  
Sept. 23  

“Russian Grand Ballet Presents: Swan Lake”  
Oct. 14
VPD offers drug ‘take-back’ program

The City of Venice reminds citizens of its ongoing drug “take-back” program that allows the public to return unused medications/prescriptions into a controlled collection system. In doing so, the medications are destroyed without being deposited into our landfills or water system, substantially reducing any potential environmental damage and the chance of the meds becoming a health hazard.

Safe disposal of these medications also decreases access to addictive drugs for accidental or intentional misuse.

A drop box for controlled substances, expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications (pills only; no needles or liquids) is available in the lobby of the Venice Police station at the intersection of Capri Isles Blvd. and Ridgewood Ave. (1350 E. Ridgewood Ave.), adjacent to Wellfield Park, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A more detailed description of the program is available on VPD’s webpage at www.venicegov.com. Click on Departments at the top of the homepage, select Police, then Community Programs on the left, and then Rx Take-Back Program.

For more information, call 941-486-2444.

Connect to government bid opportunities

Onvia DemandStar streamlines the local government procurement process by allowing agencies to manage the bid/proposal process electronically.

Local business vendors can review the City of Venice’s current solicitations by signing up on DemandStar’s website, www.demandstar.com. The site will automatically notify vendors of bids and Requests For Proposals (RFPs) via email. Bid and RFP documents and specs are distributed online.

With DemandStar, you can:
. Be automatically notified of new government contracting opportunities that match your business.
. Select the agencies from which you wish to receive leads.
. Find out which competitors are also responding to bids and RFPs.

DemandStar can also be called for more information toll-free at 800-331-5337.

VHS Class of ‘67 50th Reunion set

Venice High School’s Class of 1967 50th Reunion is set for Sept. 9-10. Planned activities are as follows:

Saturday, Sept. 9: 6 p.m. buffet dinner with a DJ at Hotel Venezia (formerly Ramada Inn), 425 U.S. 41 Bypass North, Venice. $50 per person covers meal, DJ and other costs for the reunion. Cash bar. Two tables will be set up to display any memorabilia you wish to share, so please bring and put your name on the bottom of items.

Sunday, Sept. 10: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. picnic at Maxine Barritt Park, 1800 S. Harbor Drive, Venice (covered picnic area with beach access; the park is on the same street as Sharky’s and the Brohard Paw Park). Bring your own food/drinks — tablecloths, cups, plates and silverware will be provided.

For more information, notify Paula Garavalia at 941-615-7402 or email pgaravalia@gmail.com. Reservations are due to Paula no later than Aug. 1. The class also has Facebook pages.
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Our Stormwater drains into the Gulf
Help keep our waters clean!
Yard clippings and other debris wash into the stormwater system, creating health hazards which result in ‘no swim' advisories.

Do not blow or sweep leaves or yard clippings into the roadway.

Pollution hurts everyone!
A message from the City of Venice Stormwater Engineering Division

Bicycle Safety Tip of the Month

- It’s called the RIGHT HOOK, and it’s one of the most startling and infuriating conflicts that cyclists experience.
- It’s particularly surprising because it seems like the driver should have seen you since he just passed right by you.
- From a technical and legal standpoint the driver has violated your right-of-way.
- Every intersection presents the potential of a Right Hook so ride defensively.

Overtaking Right-hook:
Motorist passes and turns right in front of cyclist.

Savvy Cycling: Keep ‘em behind you. Ride farther left, they’ll wait to turn. Move to the left side of the lane before an intersection with a high volume of right-turning traffic and before a lane splits into a straight-thru and right-turn lane.

The "Bicycle Safety Tip of the Month" is provided by the Venice Area Bike/Ped Advocacy Group. For more information about this group and its initiatives contact: Tom Jacobs at ThomasAllenJacobs@gmail.com or go to www.BikeVeniceFlorida.com and look under the “Bike Walk Venice” tab.
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Florida Department of Transportation
Circus Drawbridge
Bridge Improvement Project

The Florida Department of Transportation along with its contractor, Southern Road and Bridge, LLC, are making improvements to the Circus Drawbridge in Venice. Improvements include bridge (structural steel) painting, mechanical equipment improvements, spall repairs, and bridge deck and sidewalk replacement.

The $2.7 million project begins early July. Expected completion is fall 2017.

Lane Closures

Traffic will shift to one bridge (one lane for each direction) while crews are working on the opposite bridge.

Nighttime/overnight lane closures are expected from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

The speed limit is reduced to 35 mph during construction.

Motorists should obey the posted speed limit and use caution while driving through the construction zone.

For additional information about the project, please call:
Lauren Hatchell
Community Outreach Manager
941-708-4418

Robin Stubien
FDOT Communications Office
863-519-2828

KID'S NIGHT at SNOOK HAVEN

Every Thursday from 6-8pm during Summer starting June 8th!

The Hanging Donut Game
Interactive Games • Water Games
Be Sure to Bring a Bathing Suit!
Fantastic Food & More!
Plus a few surprises along the way!

SNOOK HAVEN
Smokehouse Restaurant
Smack Dab on the Myakka River
5000 E. Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34292
www.SnookHaven.com
941-485-7221

Good Ole’ Fun in Good Ole’ Florida!

RAIN OR SHINE!
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

VENICE ART CENTER
390 NOKOMIS AVE S. VENICE
941-485-7136

GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FAMILY FUN DAY
JULY 29, 2017
10AM-1PM
FREE FAMILY FUN!
"SUMMER FUN"
ARTS AND CRAFTS!
FACE PAINTING!
FOOD AND DRINKS!
STEEL DRUM MUSIC!

THE VENICE INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS...
DR. BAILA MILLER
JOIN LOCAL VENICE FAVORITE, BAILA MILLER, FOR A 3-PART LECTURE SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF THE PERFORMING ARTS.
JUNE 27  "PARIS: THE LUMINOUS YEARS"
2 PM
JULY 18 "1848 EUROPEAN REVOLUTIONS"
2 PM
AUG. 1  "MADAME BUTTERFLY: ART NOUVEAU, ADVENTURE & ARROGANCE"
2 PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! $20 - $30
VENICEPERFORMINGARTSCENTER.COM
BOX OFFICE: 10 AM - 2 PM
(941) 218-3779

VENICE CITY E-NEWS
August 2017
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

BLOOD DRIVE

“Police officers and blood donors are very similar. Both are heroes in their own light, first responders helping someone in need.”

- Lindsey P.

To watch Lindsey’s story or to share your story visit JoinOneBlood.org.

BE A FIRST RESPONDER. DONATE BLOOD

City of Venice
Wednesday, August 2, 2017
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

All donors will receive a OneBlood Tervis® Tumbler and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

Help us better serve you! Make an appointment online at www.ONEblooddonor.org and use sponsor code #9354

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Join us for a community update on the future Venice Library. Learn about the site plan and architectural features of your new library.

The same update will be held in the morning and again in the evening to accommodate as many community members as possible.

Wednesday, Aug. 2
- 10:30 a.m.-noon
- 6:7:30 p.m.

Venice Community Center, Conference Room A
326 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice

RSVP is preferred for meeting resources, but is not required. For more information, call 941-861-5000 or email asklibraries@scgov.net.

Venice City E-News
August 2017
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

EARLY SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY:
Women, African Americans, Celery, Turpentine, and Cattle

The programs of this four-part series will focus on local South County history from 1865 to 1965.

1:30PM on Tuesdays
8/8/17 • 9/12/17

All programs are held at UUCOV
1971 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34292

AUGUST 8, 2017 PROGRAM
“The Vanished Town and Mill at Woodmere.”
Presenters: Chris King, local historian and Brad Jenkins, retired Chair of the History and Political Science Department, Guilford Technical College.

All Programs are FREE and Open to the Public.
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

**Women of Comedy**

Laugh At & With...

Haley Jordan
Tay Tufekjian
Sonya Gray
& Kathy Mcsteen

**August 8th**

**7:30 PM**

At The

**Venice Performing Arts Center**

Adult Language and Themes

Tickets $18-25

How to Get Tickets:

VPAC Box Office
1 Indian Avenue
941 218 3779

Or Online @
VenicePerformingArtsCenter.com

Next ride is Aug. 9!
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Thank you for helping us
Keep The Magic Alive

Partners’ Party
Please join us for
a night of friends, music & food

Hotel Venezia
425 US 41 Bypass N
Music by Andy Perry

Thursday August 10, 2017
Cocktails (cash bar) at 5:00pm
Dinner & Music at 6pm
Dancing till 9pm
Tickets $25 each
Purchase your tickets by August 3rd.
Limited tickets available at:

Venice MainStreet Office
101 W Venice Ave St 23 219 W Venice Ave
941-484-6722 941-488-4999

Learn about KMI history!
*Back by popular demand*
FREE SPEAKING TOURS IN VENICE

Learn about the famed Kentucky Military Institute from B.W. “Skip” Bailey of Nokomis, a retired captain with the U.S. Army and 1963 KMI graduate. Skip will talk about the importance of KMI to Venice, tell military and other anecdotes, and answer questions from participants.

TOUR DATES:
Thursday, June 15
Thursday, July 13
Thursday, Aug. 10

Wear comfortable walking shoes!

Participants will meet at 5:30 p.m. outside the Venice Centre Mall, which formerly housed KMI cadets. Meet on Tampa Ave. W. near Côte France French Bistro. Donations will be gratefully accepted for Venice Heritage Inc.

**Limit 12 people per tour.**
Please RSVP to City of Venice Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson at 941-882-7401 or email, landerson@venicegov.com
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

**Wine Walk**
Rediscover Your Downtown

Thursday, August 17th 5-8pm
Downtown Venice

Get your FREE wrist band
beginning at 5pm, day-of,
at the Kiosk in Centennial Park or at
Burgundy Square Breezeway
Watch for list of participating businesses!

**Rotary Futures College Resource Center Comedy Night**
Featuring the Hilarity of Tim Wilkins

Saturday, August 19th, 2017
5:30 - 10:00 pm
at the Plantation Golf & Country Club
500 Rockley Blvd, Venice, Florida

Complimentary Beer & Wine
Tickets $125 pp
Attire ~ Florida Chic

For information, contact Kim Kindell at Rotaryfuture@gmail.com

**Event Sponsors**

- **Platinum Sponsors**
  - Carol & George Carpenter
  - The Macrae Family Foundation

- **Gold Sponsors**
  - Gulf Coast Community Foundation
  - Polly & Ernie Skinner
  - Picardo/McBurney Group
  - Merrill Lynch

- **Silver Sponsors**
  - Premier Sotheby's
  - Premier Community Bank of Florida
  - Roberts Insurance Group
  - Sharky's on the Pier, Fins, & Snook Haven
  - Turbine Weld
  - Venice Sunrise Rotary
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

ROCKIN', ROLLIN', READIN'
SOCK HOP
FUNDRAISER FOR CHILDREN'S LITERACY

KIWANIS CLUB OF VENICE
WITH FRIENDS OF VENICE & JACARANDA LIBRARIES

dj Goodley Entertainment Group
DINNER FROM SHARKY'S
RAFFLES!!
AUCTIONS!!

AUGUST 25TH
7PM – 10PM
VENICE COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL 941-416-2147 or email jmoore1101@comcast.net
FOR RESERVATIONS

G.A.R.D.E.N. Club
Saturday, June 24, 10:00AM-11:00AM
Saturday, July 22, 10:00AM-11:00AM
Saturday, August 26, 10:00AM-11:00AM

Venice Public Library

Join the G.A.R.D.E.N. Club
(Gardeners and Readers Develop Naturally)
the fourth Saturday of every month
for gardening fun!
Storytelling and learning activities
to inspire the green thumb in everyone!
All activities are totally FREE!
Ages 4-9.

Venice Public Library
280 N. Nokomis Avenue | Venice, Florida 34285 | 941-861-5000 www.sogov.net/library

Sarasota County
www.sogov.net/library
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Venice YMCA Triathlon

DATE: SATURDAY, Sept. 2, 2017
LOCATION: SHARKY’S ON THE PIER
1600 Harbor Dr., Venice, FL
TIME: FIRST WAVE AT 7:30AM SHARP

Splash-N-Dash
5-10 yrs/100 meter swim & 1/2 mile run
11-17 yrs/200 meter swim & 3 miles run
Finisher medals & T-shirts for all participants.

ENTRY FEES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Relay Teams</th>
<th>Splash-N-Dash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Now—April 30</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td>$130.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1—June 30</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1—July 31</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td>$170.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1—August 30</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$190.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 31—Sept. 1 (Packet pick-up)</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Triathlon Awards: 3 deep in standard 5 year age groups. Starting at 18-22 and going to 84-
Clydes & Athenas 39 & under, 40 & over / Relay Teams.
Early Packet Pick-up: Friday, Sept. 1, 3-7 PM. Bicycles International 1744 S. Tamiami Trail.
Day of Race Packet Pick-up begins at 6:00 AM on Race Day.

Splash-N-Dash Hosted by the Venice YMCA Triathlon

DATE: SATURDAY, Sept. 2, 2017
LOCATION: SHARKY’S ON THE PIER
1600 Harbor Dr., Venice, FL
Registration Fee: $20 Mail in
Register before June 30, 2017
Registration Fee: $30 Mail in
Register before July 31, 2017
Do not post mark after Aug. 3, 2017
Packet pickup will be Thursday, Aug. 31, from 3-7 PM at Real Bikes Venice (581 S. 41st Ave, Venice) AND
Friday, Sept. 1, from 3-7 PM at Bicycles International (144 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice). Packet pickup begins again at 6:00 AM on race day.

MUST ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 7AM DUE TO ROAD CLOSURE BEGINS AT 9AM SHARP!

Waiver and Release
I know that swimming is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in this event, including but not limited to fall, contact with another participant, the effects of the weather, traffic and conditions of the course, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing the facts and in consideration of your accepting my entry, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf waive and release Dunning LLC, Venice YMCA, Tri Fit Sports & their representatives and successors from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on part of the person and entities named in this waiver. I certify that I am 18 years of age or older, or that I am the parent/guardian of the entrant, and am granting permission for him/her to participate.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________________
Signature of Parent(s) (Under 18 yrs) ______________________________
Parents Name: ______________________________

Zoomers T-Shirt Size: (XS) [ ] (S) [ ] (M) [ ] (L) [ ] (XL) [ ]
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Women’s Sertoma Club of Venice

SUN FIESTA

2017

www.SunFiesta.net

October 20, 21 & 22 – 2017

- Arts & Crafts Vendors
- Bed Races
- Beer & Wine Tent
- Bungee Jumping, Bounce House, Crafts, Contests
- Food Vendors
- Live Entertainment
- Miss Sun Fiesta Pageant
- Parade
- Raffle & Auction
- Sun Fiesta T-Shirts
- Young Marines Breakfast Sunday AM

Centennial Park - Downtown Venice
Contact: Barbara Quinn (941) 488-0392 WomenSertoma@Outlook.com
All Proceeds to Benefit Local Charities & Scholarships

Join the Fight Against Cancer!

American Cancer Society Relay For Life

Save These Dates!

- 2018 ELT Kick-off – Tuesday August 8th
- 2018 Relay Kick-off – Tuesday September 26th
- Sun Fiesta Parade – Saturday October 21st
- Christmas Parade – Saturday November 25th
- Haunted Trails – Friday/Saturday October 27th & 28th
- Bark For Life – Saturday January 13th
- All Team Flea Market – Saturday February 10
- 2018 Relay For Life of Venice - April 27-28, 2018

Relay For Life


We invite you to join us for the 2018 Relay For Life of Venice!
If you have any questions please contact:
Maryanne Bolduc at mbolduc492@comcast.net or
Brittney Hoogland at brittney.hoogland@cancer.org
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Historic Walking Tour
Of Downtown Venice
Saturdays & Sundays
Times Vary
To Learn more & Sign Up,
Contact Us:
Venice Florida Tours
Facebook.com/VeniceFloridaTours
VeniceFloridaTours@yahoo.com
Call 817-793-8433 (Tiffany)
Reservations Required
$15 (Cash only)

TEAM KVB

Keep Venice Beautiful

JOIN TEAM KVB

TEAM KVB helps to maintain the parks and trails in the Venice area. We meet Thursday mornings to trim, weed, de-litter and mulch our beautiful green spaces.

vabi.nonprofit@gmail.com
941-207-8224
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

THE HISTORIC VENICE TRAIN DEPOT

The only surviving passenger station in Sarasota County

Located on the National Register of Historic Places

Located in the Rollins W. Coakley Railroad Park

The Depot is open Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm, year-round. Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 10 am - 3 pm, November - April. Call for holiday schedule.

For more information, contact the Venice Area Historical Society at information@veniceareahistoricalsociety.org or 941-412-0151, or visit our website at www.veniceareahistoricalsociety.org.

THE HISTORIC VENICE TRAIN DEPOT

is located at 303 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285. From U.S. 41 Bypass, turn west onto E. Venice Avenue. Just before the bridge, bear right. Continue through the Seaboard Avenue intersection to the Depot on the right.

SHINE Medicare Counseling Site

SHINE Counselors can help! SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is part of a national volunteer program that provides free and unbiased counseling services to Medicare beneficiaries by empowering seniors to make informed decisions about their health insurance coverage.

Senior Friendship Center
2350 Scenic Drive, Venice, FL

Monday - Thursday

Medicare Questions?
Come Visit a SHINE Medicare Volunteer Counselor!

Program Courtesy of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs & Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida

For a referral to SHINE Counselor, call 1-866-413-5337 or visit FloridaSHINE.org
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Public parking lots on Venice Island

FREE VENICE ISLAND PARKING

PUBLIC LOTS

1. Centennial Park (3 hr limit)
2. City Hall
3. Lord-Higel House
4. Miami Ave. (3 hr limit)
5. Venice Beach
6. Gracer Park
7. Beckler Park
8. Behind Venice Theatre (until 8:00 pm)
9. Under Venice Ave. Bridge
10. Cultural Campus
11. Venice Fishing Pier

ON-STREET

- W. Venice Ave. (2 hr limit)
- E. Venice Ave.
- Miami Ave. (2 hr limit)
- W. Tampa Ave. (2 hr limit)
- E. Tampa Ave.
- Venice Beach

OBSERVE PARKING LIMIT SIGNS

COURTESY OF Venice MainStreet
SINCE 1987
WATER RULES

City of Venice residents are permitted to irrigate lawns one day per week:
- Even addresses on Tuesdays
- Odd addresses on Thursdays
Before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. for properties under 2 acres. For properties 2 acres or greater, watering is allowed before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.
- Hand watering hot spots and micro-irrigation of other plants is allowed on any day, at any time.
- New and replaced lawns get a 60-day exemption. Irrigation can occur any time of day on the day of installation, and during the restricted hours on any day thereafter for up to 60 days.
- There are no restrictions on car washing, pressure washing, use of fountains or use of reuse or reclaimed water. A shut-off nozzle on hoses should be used for car washing and hand watering of garden plants. Conservation is encouraged.

Watch city meetings

To access meeting agendas, visit www.venicegov.com.
On the left of this page, click on Meetings, find the meeting you want to view, look to the right of it and click on Agenda, click open and view. To watch City meetings, instead of clicking on Agenda, click on Video or “In progress.”
They are also rebroadcast the week after the meeting on Access 19 (Comcast Channel 19; Verizon/Frontier Channel 32).

IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor John Holic recognizes August 2017 as Breastfeeding Awareness Month with a proclamation presented at the July 11 City Council meeting to Arielle Ball, WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County Lactation Counselor, and Lactation Love.

City Council elections info for candidates

The Venice City Council election takes place Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017. Council member seats 1 and 2 will be on the ballot. The first term for Seat No. 1 and the third term for Seat No. 2 expires in November. A term is for three years. Each council member may serve three consecutive terms.
City Council candidates must be residents who have been registered to vote in the city for 12 consecutive months prior to Aug. 21, 2017.
The week for candidates to qualify for the upcoming election is from noon on Aug. 21 to noon on Aug. 25. All qualifying activities must be completed by noon Aug. 25. Appointments can be made with the city clerk to go over the packet outlining the requirements.
To make an appointment with City Clerk Lori Stelzer, call 941-882-7390. The appointment typically takes one hour.