City gets nearly 23 inches of rainfall in 6 days

Venice city limits was slammed with rain Aug. 23-29, receiving around 9 inches alone on Monday, Aug. 28. According to Sarasota County 7-Day Rainfall Gauge Data, the City received 22.92 inches of precipitation over the 6-day span.

“The 9 inches received on Monday was a 50-year rainfall event, stacked on top of 4 days of heavy rainfall,” said Assistant City Engineer James Clinch. “This event exceeded the design criteria for even brand new stormwater systems.”

Added City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, “This event exceeded stormwater capacity across the region.”

The storms — a low pressure system independent of Hurricane Harvey that pounded Texas at the same time — kept Police, Fire, Public Works and Utilities crews running, including much overtime work on the weekend and evenings.

Police officers assisted Aug. 28 in rescuing three special needs students and two adults from a school bus that was taking on water on E. Venice Ave (pictured above). According to Sgt. Ron Perisho, the incident happened in the 700 block of E. Venice Ave. shortly after 7 a.m. Officer Paul Freeman boarded the bus and handed the high school-age students off to
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>Miami Avenue Craft Festival, Downtown, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>3 p.m. Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. Comp Plan Transmittal Public Hearing</td>
<td>10 a.m. Fire Fee Final Resolution Public Hearing</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>3 Labor Day</td>
<td>4 City Hall is closed. Garbage, yard waste and recyclables will be collected on residents' next regular pickup day.</td>
<td>5 1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td>6 3:30 p.m. Public Art Advisory Board</td>
<td>7 5:01 p.m. City Council Budget Public Hearing</td>
<td>8 9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
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<td>9 a.m. City Council</td>
<td>10:30 a.m. Comp Plan Transmittal Public Hearing</td>
<td>11 9 a.m. Public Art Advisory Board</td>
<td>12 5:01 p.m. City Council Budget Public Hearing</td>
<td>13 9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td>14 9 a.m. Historic Preservation Board</td>
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<td>15 Sidewalk Sale, Downtown, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.</td>
<td>16 First Day of Autumn</td>
<td>17 3 p.m. Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>18 1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td>19 3:30 p.m. Economic Development Advisory Board</td>
<td>20 Rosh Hashana</td>
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<td>21 9 a.m. City Council</td>
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## October 2017 Calendar

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<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td>10 a.m. Municipal Code Enforcement Board</td>
<td>Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Expo, Venice Community Center, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>5 p.m. Traffic Advisory Task Force</td>
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<td>Sun Fiesta, Centennial Park, 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Sun Fiesta, Centennial Park, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.</td>
<td>Sun Fiesta, Centennial Park, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td>Venice MainStreet free, Friday Night Live Concert, Eileen Kozloff, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Make a Difference Day</td>
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**FAST FACT:** At the Brohard Beach Paw Park, dogs may romp on the only beach area in Sarasota County where dogs are allowed. There is also a fenced dog play yard that leads to the beach, and other amenities including picnic tables, benches, showers, and drinking fountains for humans and dogs. It is open daily, 7 a.m.-dusk.

Moving to Venice? If you have a lot of cardboard boxes, Public Works will deliver a dumpster to your house to put them in for recycling. Call 941-486-2422.
Officer David Creasy, School Resource Officer Sean Hammett and School Resource Officer Ruth Terry, who carried the youths to safety. All passengers were OK, Perisho said.

Public Works made 6 tons of sand and almost 1,000 bags available at Flamingo and Gardenia for any citizen who wanted them.

Also on Aug. 28, Venice Fire Rescue units assisted about a dozen homes with sandbagging operations and assisted the residence pictured above right with water removal to prevent it from flooding, according to Fire Chief Shawn Carvey. Venice crews also assisted with the evacuation of one resident who had flooding inside her home. The resident was loaded into Fire Rescue’s UTV (Utility Task Vehicle), along with her pets, and transported to safety.
Council sets Venice’s state legislative priorities

Venice City Council members approved 9 state legislative priorities for 2018 at their Aug. 22 regular meeting. They are:

1. Beach Renourishment
   Renourishing the beach serves to protect the safety and welfare of this Florida coastal community. Renourishment is important for storm protection, marine turtle nesting and as a tourism/economic driver. The City of Venice appreciates the funding that has been received to date, including Fiscal Year 18 monitoring that is currently funded under an active state grant agreement.
   The City requests ongoing legislative support for the statewide beach renourishment and inlet management program, as this will provide funding availability as we move toward our next renourishment event in 2025. The City also continues to support the state as it seeks new methods to resolve erosion issues.

2. Annual Appropriation for Road and ADA Upgrades
   The City of Venice is grateful for the $1.3 million grant received in FY17 to support the first-year funding of a downtown road reconstruction and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility upgrade project. With local funding added, the first year of the downtown project will total more than $4 million. The City also appreciates the diligent effort by the Legislature to include $1 million toward the second-year $8 million project in the FY18 state budget, although it unfortunately did not survive the line-item veto. The City has awarded $6.5 million to complete year two in infrastructure improvements.
   The City respectfully requests funding in FY19 for year three of this critical three-year project. With legislative support of $1 million for year three, the City will add an additional $3 million in local funding to continue critical infrastructure upgrades, including rehabilitation of a structurally deficient bridge on Capri Isles Blvd.

3. Utility Infrastructure
   The City of Venice appreciates local Representatives’ and the Legislature’s support in our past appropriation of $500,000 for the City’s Venice Eastgate Water Distribution Improvement and Relocation Phase 1 project in FY16-17. The City also appreciates the support for our appropriation request in FY17-18 for our Water Main Replacement Program Phase 5 project; unfortunately this project was vetoed.
   The City will be requesting support for two critical water projects in FY18-19. The first priority will be the Venice Eastgate Water Distribution Improvement...
Priorities, from page 5

and Relocation project Phase 2, and the second priority will be Phase 6 of our Water Main Replacement Program.

The two projects are to replace old cast iron 2”-4” pipelines from the 1950s that are heavily tuberculated. The new mains and service lines will be PVC pipelines that are resistant to the tuberculation process and will be larger to provide increased fire flow protection, improve domestic flow and pressure, and allow better accessibility – as well as safer and less disruptive maintenance activities at a lower cost for the City to repair and maintain.

4. Increase Programs to help Homeless, Mental Illness and Addiction, Especially for Veterans

Because a lack of social services increases problems for society, especially for the homeless, those with mental illness, and those with alcohol and drug addictions, the Florida Legislature is encouraged to find means of helping these citizens – with a focus on veterans – in dire need of services. Having homelessness in a community undermines the welfare of all residents.

Developing jobs, reinstating state mental health treatment facilities, and increasing opportunities for veterans and others to receive help to be able to become independent and self-sufficient are examples of ways to improve society now and in the future.

5. Support Home Rule

The City of Venice requests the support of legislation that provides for Home Rule authority for cities and counties to make decisions that reflect the unique needs of the community and the wishes of its citizens.

A. It is imperative that the state not impose unfunded mandates or reduce the revenue of local governments by reducing taxes, such as the Communication Services Tax and the Business Tax, or through the $25,000 Homestead Exemption, that affect local government.

B. Provide further relief from the current requirements in funding 175 and 185 pension plans, which can only be used for enhancements to existing contracts.

C. Repeal of the state law that prohibits Home Rule in regard to new short-term rental ordinances or amending existing ordinances.

6. Transportation Funding

Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning, provides equitable transportation funding among municipalities and counties, and provides opportunities for additional options for municipal transportation infrastructure projects.

Continued on page 7

The City of Venice encourages the Florida Legislature to provide any incentives possible to encourage citizens to retrofit their homes and businesses with energy efficient and alternative energy products; and to provide funding opportunities for local governments to use alternative energy products.

8. No Oil or Gas Drilling

The City of Venice is opposed to any drilling for gas or oil in the Gulf of Mexico within 10 miles of its shoreline. The beaches are a natural and economic asset to the area. The City of Venice and other local government entities have joined in a commitment to preserve the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area, which such drilling activities threaten.

Volunteer divers clear 640+ pounds of North Jetty debris

Enthusiastic volunteers gathered the morning of Saturday, Aug. 11 for the SunCoast Reef Rovers (Venice Dive Club) annual underwater cleanup of the North Jetty, a popular fishing spot.

A combination of 19 SCUBA divers, 19 topsider helpers, one kayaker, one snorkeler, and one Sarasota County Sheriff’s police boat worked for a few hours to rid the underwater habitat of abandoned fishing gear.

Sarasota Bay Watch has been partnering with the Reef Rovers to help gather volunteers, sort debris and gather data. The EPA donated sturdy dive bags and Reelcycle partnered to ensure best practices are in place for gear disposal. NAUI Green Diver Initiative also participated.

According to event organizer Ken Lackmann, the North Jetty was cleared of 81 pounds of fishing nets, 82 pounds of lead (removed from the nets), 243 pounds of abandoned traps, 108 pounds of fishing line, 72 pounds of rope, 55 lures, 6 fishing poles and 55 pounds of recyclable materials. Additionally, an anchor, a bimini pole, water filter, large piece of fiberglass, a pair of glasses, umbrella and beach chair were recovered.

Deputy John Fandozzi with the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office patrolled to ensure the safety of the divers in the inlet, and a kayaker worked to communicate between shoreline volunteers and divers.

The Reef Rovers’ next underwater cleanup is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9 at the South Jetty. If interested in participating, please email Ken.Lackmann@fl.usda.gov.
SHOP WITH A COP

The Venice Police Department held its Back to School “Shop with a Cop” event with local students on Friday, Aug. 4 at the Venice Walmart.

Fifteen kids ages 5-11 participated. Students were selected through the Salvation Army, which supplies VPD with a list. Each child is given a $300 budget, but many go over — so VPD makes every attempt to meet each child's individual needs. Kids shopped for new school clothes and shoes, backpacks and their back-to-school supply list. The majority of the money is spent on clothing.

Breakfast was also provided free of charge by Yellow Sub, along with lunch, again at no cost, by Bogeys.

“The event’s goal is not only to supply students with school supplies, but for them to have a one-on-one relationship with a uniformed officer,” said event organizer Officer Brett Woodworth. “The event also showcases the commitment VPD officers have for their community and its future. “We received many thanks from passersby — not only for our service, but for the positive impact from the work we do outside of our job description.”
VMA to debut new permanent exhibit in October


“Venice’s Inhabitants” focuses on the diverse and rich historic heritage of the Venice region. The exhibit will go from prehistoric Venice when woolly mammoths roamed the area, to its descendant, the elephant, being spotted crossing a local Venice bridge in the latter half of the 20th century. The displays put special focus on the human inhabitants including early Native American tribes, early settlers of the area, the first land developers, investors, planners, and the military men who occupied the town.

Come see the development of Venice throughout the decades and learn of the men and women who had a significant impact on its unique cultural heritage.

The exhibit is a new permanent display in the VMA’s Main Gallery focusing on the development of Venice.

“I believe it’s going to be a positive resource for the city to have a permanent space that showcases Venice’s unique historical story,” said VMA Curator Jon Watson. “My hope is people will take pride of this heritage through the displays and encourage others to come and learn about the key figures that shaped our town.”

The VMA, at 351 Nassau St. S., is currently closed for repairs and will reopen Oct. 5.

It is free to the public year-round on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., October through April.

For more information, contact Watson at 941-882-7229 or jwatson@venicegov.com.
NEW LIBRARY UPDATE

Sarasota County staff presented a Venice Library Community Update in 2 sessions Aug. 2 at the Venice Community Center. Residents got to see artist’s conceptions, floor plans and a model of the new library, and ask county staff and the project manager questions about the project. The library is slated to be completed in fall 2018 at 300 Nokomis Ave. S.
Family and friends of Lucille Grey Hall Halifax, a former Venice City Councilwoman who died in June, have formed an “I Love Lucie” team in her memory for the 2017 Walk to End Alzheimer’s Oct. 7 in Dallas, Texas.

Lucie came to Venice in 1944 because her first husband, Stoney, was stationed at the Venice Air Base (now Venice Airport). She ran for City Council in 1979 and is the second woman to be elected to the board. She served for nine years, including a stint as Vice Mayor.

Lucie passed away at age 95 in Orange Park, Fla., from complications of advanced Alzheimer’s disease. The fundraising walk is sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association. Lucie’s donation page can be found at: http://act.alz.org/goto/i-love-lucie

“There was nothing that could have been done to prevent Lucie from getting this disease,” her daughter, Helen Valerie Grey of Nokomis, states on the page. “She did crossword puzzles daily and was very active socially, before Alzheimer’s. This team is dedicated in Lucie’s memory, to raise money for Alzheimer’s research, in hope of finding a cure for this progressive disease that destroys memory and other important neurological functions.” The team hopes to raise $2,000 in the fight against Alzheimer’s.

“I had no knowledge about Alzheimer’s and wasn’t looking for it in my mother,” Helen continued. “Therefore, I did not recognize the signs of Alzheimer’s in Lucie’s beginning stages. But, as episodes of forgetfulness increased more and more, I knew there was a problem. For example, Lucie told me that we were scheduled to take a local cruise, but when we showed up, there was no record of us to do so. … Lucie drove around Venice, the city she had lived in for over 40 years, and most of the time, she didn’t know where she was. She had driven down these streets thousands of times.”

Earnestine Cole, who grew up in Venice and graduated from Venice High School in 1967, considers Lucie her lifelong mentor. Earnestine now resides in Dallas. For the first time, she is a volunteer for the Alzheimer’s Association and will participate in the walk. She created Lucie’s donation page; she’s also working on a book about Lucie she hopes to publish next year.

“I was in the first group of African-American students that integrated the schools in Venice,” Earnestine wrote in an email to the city. “I was in the 8th grade (at the time). My mother Mary Lee Hogan and stepdad St. Clair Hogan lived in Venice for over 40 years. My stepdad was a City of Venice employee and worked in the Public Works Department.

“Ms. Grey and I first met when I was 5 years old and at the age of 7 she started seeing me more often at her home on Narvaezi Street in Venice, because she didn’t want me to be left home alone after school,” Earnestine continued. “Ms. Grey decided to start transforming me into a person who could one day have a successful future – if I made the right choices. This included completing high school and college. I lacked confidence and preferred to hide myself away from other people, including my peers. Ms. Grey changed all of that by the time I finished middle school. Each time we met, she exposed me to something new and exciting. My most memorable times were our trips to the Venice Stationery Store in downtown Venice where she bought me scented paper to write on, to Venice Beach, and to Sarasota Jungle Gardens. Without Ms. Grey’s love, protection and teachings, I would not have become the person that I am today.”

Earnestine was first an elementary teacher for four years, then went on to become a journalist, photographer and motivational speaker.

“The tone has been set for this amazing venture to honor Ms. Lucille Grey Hall Halifax,” Earnestine wrote of the upcoming walk. “She was a courageous, compassionate, gracious lady, who selflessly dedicated herself to serve the needs of others in the City of Venice.”

For her book on her mentor of 50 years, Earnestine is looking to interview people who knew Lucie. She plans to be in Venice Sept. 18-20 to visit Helen. Anyone who can help Earnestine in her writing endeavors is asked to email her at earnestine.cole@hotmail.com.
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
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

Continued on page 15
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-
eties 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-

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 10 a.m. Sept. 7,
2017?

The City Council will hear comments from the public regarding the imposi-
tion and collection of the fire protection assessments. The public hearing will
be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 7 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave.,
Venice. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the City Council will consider
adoption of a Final Assessment Resolution imposing the special assessment for
the City's fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2017.

For questions regarding the fire assessment, please call the Finance Depart-
ment 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 ob-
tained 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.
Local artist Victoria Dietz of Studio V Gallery in Venice created 10 exclusive painted rocks for the City of Venice last month that were “hidden” around the island for lucky individuals to find. Her artworks, at left, included the city logo, Jetties as seen from above, airplane at the Venice Airport, Venice Fishing Pier, the Venice Beach pavilion and a portrait of city planner John Nolen, who planned Venice.

Known across the country as the Kindness Rocks Project, children and adults alike are getting together to paint rocks — adorning them with images like flowers, animals, abstracts, cartoon characters and written affirmations — and hiding them in plain sight, including in and around public buildings, parks and beaches, and outside stores and offices. Rock finders are encouraged to rehide the painted stones or keep them and leave their own.

“We love the positive message of spreading happiness that these painted rocks represent, and Ms. Dietz has created beautiful pieces of art representative of iconic images of the city,” said Venice Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson. “Whoever finds them is definitely lucky!”

Said Dietz, “When I was asked to paint the 10 rocks for the City of Venice to participate in the Kindness Rocks Project, my first thought was, what a great way to do what I love and help the City of Venice contribute in the Kindness Rocks movement within our community, all at once. After painting these rocks, growing up here in Venice and moving back here after college to raise my family, I felt a deeper connection to my city and to my community painting these monumental places and people embedded in our community and history. I continue to feel pride in helping others smile on a daily basis with something as simple as a rock and a little artistic talent.”

Dietz numbered each rock and included the hashtag #venicerocks on each. Rock finders were asked to post a picture of the painted stone on the group Facebook page “Venice Rocks” (administered by resident Joanna Davis) before rehiding, if they chose to do so. They were also asked to come to Venice City Hall and be photographed with their rock — as Susan White, right, did with the shark’s tooth rock she found.
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Don Fisher of the Suncoast BBQ Bash presents the First Responders Annual Challenge Sporting Clays Tournament Award to Venice Police Chief Tom Mattmüller (above) and his VPD team of Lt. Eric Hill, Sgt. Andy Leisenring and Officer Louis White (below) during the Aug. 22 City Council meeting, as Council Member Jeanette Gates looks on.

Kentucky Military Institute graduate Larry Humes of Venice Heritage Inc., far right, presented Mayor John Holic and Venice City Council Members, City Manager Ed Lavallee and Assistant City Manager Len Bramble with certificates (shown at right) commissioning them as honorable Kentucky Colonels, signed by Kentucky Gov. Matthew Bevin, at the Aug. 22 Council meeting. The Colonels are considered Kentucky's ambassadors of goodwill and fellowship around the world, and commissioned for an individual's contributions to their community, state or nation, and for special achievements. Others who have received the honor: President Lyndon B. Johnson, Winston Churchill, John Glenn, Elvis Presley, Muhammad Ali. Top photo provided by Earle Kimel/Herald Tribune
POCKET PARK SPOTLIGHT: GRASER 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.

Graser Park is named for Merle Graser, who was mayor of Venice from 1993-98. His family donated the fountain, including the marble dolphins that were carved in Italy from stone mined in Asia and shipped to the United States specifically for the project. The park is at 740 Barcelona Ave. at The Esplanade, across from the public beach.

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
VMA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Nick Ciavolella

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

How long have you lived in the area? For 4 years in South Venice. I’m currently pursuing an undergraduate degree at the University of Central Florida in history with a minor in archaeology. I plan on moving on to grad school after that.

How long have you volunteered at the VMA? For the past 6 months.

When do you come in? Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

What are some of your duties? A lot of research, digitizing materials — I’m still learning all the features. I also assist VMA Curator Jon Watson and Administrative Coordinator Rhonda Rogers any way I can.

How did you start volunteering at the museum? I saw something online about the museum, and I said, “Where’s that?” I realized it was about 5 minutes up the road from me, and I thought I’d go check it out. I’ve always been interested in history, so I came in one day, poked around and learned there were volunteer opportunities. I had some free time on my hands and it seemed like a good avenue to pursue.

What do you like about the VMA? The working environment is excellent. The opportunity to explore the areas I’m interested in is amazing. I had never even considered working at a museum, never even thought about it — I didn’t realize it was a possibility. I always thought teaching was the only avenue to pursue history. I like to engage history beyond a textbook; I like to get my hands on it. I like to know I’m engaging history other than forcing it onto students. If you walk into a museum you probably want to be there — that’s the great aspect to it.

I’m excited to come here, see behind the curtain, see how it all works. It’s really cool there’s something here to preserve local history. Venice has a far richer history than I thought. Every day I walk in here too is different — I like that.

Do you plan to keep volunteering? Yes, as long as possible. Rhonda and Jon are great to work under; they’ve taught me a lot in a short amount of time. I didn’t realize the effort and work that goes into exhibits. I’ve designed a smaller exhibit, and I like to see the reaction to it.

I like to do anything in the museum that I can. I want to move into a curatorial position myself eventually.

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:

- Beginning in September and lasting for approximately 5 months, Preferred Materials will be resurfacing numerous roadways throughout the City of Venice as part of the voter-approved Road Bond Referendum. They will also be upgrading the ADA sidewalk ramps and replacing any damaged curbs and sidewalk panels. Maps of the specific roadways scheduled to be resurfaced may on the homepage of www.venicegov.com. All roadways shown in color on these maps are scheduled to be resurfaced in this first phase of the project. A street-by-street schedule will be made available in the coming weeks. Please expect traffic delays and temporary lane closures during this construction project. For more information, please contact Assistant City Engineer James Clinch at 941-882-7410.

- 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.

Continued on page 22
PROJECTS AROUND TOWN (con’t from page 21)

- **Beginning in September and lasting for approximately 4 months, DeJonge Excavating Contractors Inc. will be installing a multi-use asphalt trail along the south side of Edmondson Rd.** from Pinebrook Rd. to Auburn Rd. Please expect traffic delays and temporary lane closures during this construction project. For more information, please contact Assistant City Engineer James Clinch at 941-882-7410.

- **Legacy Trail Pedestrian Overpass Utility Relocates:** This project is to relocate the water and wastewater lines on Laurel Rd. at the Legacy Trail intersection to accommodate for the new pedestrian overpass. Construction began Aug. 2. East- and westbound traffic will remain open; however, traffic will be reduced down to one lane each way. Other temporary traffic control measures will be in place where needed. Motorists are urged to use caution while traveling through these areas and be mindful of the work crews and equipment.

- **Water Main Replacement Phase 4:** Andrew Sitework LLC will complete water mains tie-ins and restoration on Fiesole Street, Dawn Street and Nokomis Avenue S. For more information, call the Venice City Utilities Department at 941-480-3333.

- **Valve Replacement Program, Phase 11:** David Kuxhausen Construction LLC is performing construction activities for this project. It is a routine maintenance project to replace valves and fire hydrants within the City of Venice that are aging or are in poor condition. This work will require interruptions to potable water service in areas where work is occurring. There will also be temporary roadway lane closures associated with this work. The work will occur in 5 areas on different dates. A description of upcoming work and its impacts are described below:
  
  Area 1: A valve and fire hydrant at the intersection of Warfield Ave. N. and E. Venice Ave. will be replaced. Preliminary work is scheduled to occur Sept. 1. Work to replace the valve and hydrant is scheduled for Sept. 5. No interruptions to customers’ potable water services are expected. One lane of Warfield Ave. N. just north of E. Venice Ave. will be closed to traffic on days when work is occurring.

  Area 2: A valve will be replaced in the parking lot located north of 405 Manatee Ct. Preliminary work is scheduled to occur Aug. 31. The valve replacement is scheduled to occur on Sept. 7. No interruptions to customer’s potable water services or traffic are expected.

  Area 5: A valve on the north side of E. Venice Ave. just east of U.S. 41 Bypass will be replaced. Preliminary work is scheduled to occur on Aug. 23. The valve replacement is scheduled to occur on Sept. 7. No interruptions to customers’ potable water services are expected. The right turn lane of westbound E. Venice Ave. may be impacted by the work.

  Customers whose potable water service is interrupted will receive boil water notices in advance of the shutdown. Those customers should be prepared to use bottled water or boiled water for drinking and cooking for 72 hours after the water service is resumed. For additional information, please contact the city Utilities Department at 941-480-3333.
AROUND TOWN

Work is nearly complete on the FDOT construction project of Business US 41 from Palermo Place to Venice Avenue, in which Ajax Paving crews resurfaced the roadway, constructed new sidewalk and installed new bus pads.

At left, VPD Officers Ruth Terry, Paul Joyce, Brett Woodworth and Paul Freeman traveled to Orlando to serve as Honor Guard during services for two Kissimmee police officers killed in the line of duty in mid-August.

A generous $100,000 grant from the Julia Cousins Laning Historical Fund at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation will be used for restoration of the City’s Triangle Inn, above, which houses the Venice Museum & Archives. The donation will substantially restore the exterior features of the building in need of repair, including windows and doors, and support replacement and upgrading of the facility’s air-conditioning, heating and ventilation systems. Cousins Laning lived in the building as a young girl. Her mother rented rooms to out-of-town guests and ran a tea room. The building was moved in 1991 to its current location at 351 S. Nassau St., on the Venice Cultural Campus.
AROUND TOWN

William Morgan and friends recently purchased a bench and plaque from Venice Public Works in honor of Mayor John Holic. On Aug. 24, the bench was placed on the east end of Heritage Park by Dan VanAcker, at left, and Tricia Matero with Public Works.

The turn lane under construction at the intersection of Harbor Drive and Beach Road/Airport Avenue — shown above and below from both directions — is now open for use.
**AROUND TOWN**

Marta Ugas-Carpenter and Anna Terpstra, Venice Airport Administrative Coordinators, check out the Aug. 21 solar eclipse while wearing protective glasses.

The solar eclipse cast some funky half-moon shadows on the ground outside City Hall. The next total solar eclipse will be in April 2024.

Resident Stacy Cary thanked Police Chief Tom Mattmuller for taking her sons, Aiden, 9, and Silas, 3, pictured at left and below, on a tour of the station Aug. 17.
AROUND TOWN

Dan Tucci with Public Works helps a resident jump-start her vehicle outside City Hall Aug. 15.

Solid Waste equipment operator Walt Petersen at the county landfill on Aug. 16.

The New Life Church "cookie brigade" stopped by the Venice Police Department Aug. 29. Members gave VPD staff four trays of homemade treats as a way of saying thank you.
AROUND TOWN

On July 20, 12 members of the volunteer group Keep Venice Beautiful (KVB) removed 15 truckloads of debris from along the south side of the parking lot at Sharky’s on the Pier. During the 3 hours the group worked there, they also collected two large garbage bags of trash and uncovered a marine battery.

Before and after shots of the great job 8 KVB members did weeding the front of the U.S. post office on West Venice Avenue Aug. 5.
AROUND TOWN

At right, the Venice Police Department received a number of stuffed animals Aug. 21 from Stitches from the Heart, a community outreach ministry of Unity of Venice. The group consists entirely of volunteers and is funded 100% by donations. Each officer received a furry friend to keep in their patrol vehicle for a child who needs comforting.

Above, members of the Venice Fire Department work to assist homeowners battling floodwaters on Aug. 28.

At left, some of the participants in city Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Darlene Culpepper’s monthly 6-mile bicycle ride around the island of Venice on Aug. 9. The next ride led by Culpepper, second from left, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13. Just bring your bike and a helmet to City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave.
Water production and quality assurance

The Venice Utilities Department has production wells located around the city limits that withdraw groundwater from the Intermediate Aquifer System (IAS). Monthly samples are taken to monitor the quality of the production wells. Additionally, there are observation wells that are utilized to assess the surrounding groundwater levels and quality.

Groundwater is pumped from the wells to the City's Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant. The brackish water, water having more salinity, is processed and the finished product (potable drinking water) is delivered to the distribution system, two storage facilities, and our customers.

We are proud to report that the City of Venice drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state established water quality standards. Utilities staff work around the clock to ensure our customers and visitors are receiving safe, quality drinking water.

Maintaining water quality

While driving around Venice, have you ever noticed water jetting out of a fire hydrant and wonder, what’s that all about? The two main reasons are water quality and hydrant maintenance.

**Water quality:** Flushing is required to maintain quality of the water in the entire distribution system within parameters of several regulatory agencies. A water sample is taken to check the disinfection residuals in the water mains. The Utilities Department flushes hydrants on a scheduled basis to maintain the safest and highest quality of drinking water possible.

**Hydrant maintenance:** Hydrant valves are exercised (opened and closed) to ensure they are operational. Lubrication, painting and repairs are performed as necessary. The PSI (pounds per square inch) is also checked to verify adequate flows for firefighting and pressure to customers.

When maintenance is performed, some customers may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This primarily consists of harmless silt and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after flushing has occurred, clear your pipes by running water from all the outside spigots for 3 to 5 minutes, then indoor faucets, if necessary.

This same philosophy of water line preventive maintenance is one that residents and business owners should implement. A water heater should be flushed annually to keep it working efficiently and protect the quality of water being provided to the property. If there has been no water use for a week or more, it is recommended to run all the outdoor spigots for 3 to 5 minutes, then indoor faucets (hot and cold), before using the water. This will help to ensure that you do not use any stagnant water.

Please visit the City’s website at www.venicegov.com to review our annual water quality report.
City’s Building Code also celebrating 90th anniversary

Provided by FRANK O’NEILL
City of Venice Building Official

With Venice celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, a little praise certainly should be showered on the founding fathers. The forward thinking and insight of the founders has afforded us one of the finest cities in the nation. As abundantly evidenced in numerous national magazine articles, we live, work and play in a very special place.

It began in 1926, when the town council held its first council meeting and formed the police and fire departments. Then on Jan. 18, 1927, at its 3rd reading, Mayor Edward L. Worthington signed into law “Ordinance 4 — the adoption of the Town of Venice Building Code, one of the first Building Codes in the United States. That same year, 1927, was the first year of the “Uniform Building Code” published by the International Council of Building Officials, and was established to govern and regulate building construction in the western United States. It was not until November 1945 that the Southern Building Code Congress published the first Southern Standard Building Code — the code used until 2000 to regulate construction in the southeastern United States.

Venice was not only fortunate enough to have been planned by a renowned city planner John Nolen, it also had a council with enough foresight to adopt a Building Code that until that time was unknown in the southern U.S. The Town of Venice Building Code was compiled by H.N. Hill, a Sarasota architect and engineer known for designing numerous buildings in the area. One most notable was the Women’s Club of Sarasota, another was the Federal Building on South Orange Ave, also in Sarasota.

Venice was built on a solid foundation of practicality, beauty and safety. Very few small southern cities were blessed with the forethought that went into the creation of our small beautiful community. But understanding as important as beauty might be, so was the safety of the citizenry. Hurricanes had ravaged many parts of Florida and fire was an ever-present danger. The forefathers were aware that this southwest Florida idyllic community had an obligation to protect its citizens from unanticipated dangers.

The adoption of the Town of Venice Building Code 1927 was unprecedented. Orlando did not adopt a Building Code until 1947; St. Petersburg, 1950; Daytona, 1954; Clearwater, 1962; and Miami Beach, 1965. This 1927 adoption of a Building Code is an example of the concern our founders felt towards the safety of their new community.

Building departments are the “first protectors.” The Venice Building Department is one of the oldest and finest Building Departments in the nation, and makes every effort to live up to the expectations of our founding fathers. The Building Department does this by assuring the minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment. It also provides safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations. And, always appreciating the forward thinking of individuals that created something very special.
FAMILY FUN DAY

The Venice Art Center held its annual free Family Fun Day on July 29. Kids could do pottery, create bead jewelry, paint rocks, make wands, get their faces painted and draw with chalk out front. They were also treated to a hot dog lunch, snow cones and steel drum music.
VENICE ON FILM

Staff with CGI Communications of Rochester, N.Y., spent 4 days in Venice in late July filming dozens of segments for a refresh of the “Video Tours of Venice” on the city’s website, www.venicegov.com. For some aerial shots, a drone was used. The new videos, showcasing why the city is such a great place to live, work and play, are anticipated to go up in October.
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 1,054 issues have been logged since the system was launched on Aug. 31, 2016, and 868 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.
Stay informed! Sign up for CodeRED emergency alerts

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. 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 or contacts: 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.
CITY HALL SELFIE DAY

The Florida League of Cities sponsored City Hall Selfie Day on Aug. 15, encouraging public servants to take fun photos of themselves and their staff and post them to social media. A sampling of the City of Venice’s photos appear here, with departments including Police and Fire, Engineering, Utilities, Public Works and Finance.
Venice Theatre
140 Tampa Ave. W.
941-488-1115
www.venicestage.com

“Wiley and the Hairy Man”
Sept. 7-17

“The Goldtones”
Sept. 9

“You Can’t Take It With You”
Sept. 26-Oct. 15

“Beehive: The ‘60s Musical”
Sept. 28-Oct. 22

“Rocky Horror Picture Show”
Oct. 27-28, 31

“Buddy Returns”
Oct. 29-30

“Flaming Guns of The Purple Sage”
Nov. 2-19

“A Christmas Story”
Nov. 14-Dec. 10

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

“It’s Surreal”
Sept. 8-29

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

“Branching Out ... Trees”
Nov. 17-Dec. 8

“Art Center Annual Tea”
Dec. 1

“Inspired”
Dec. 15-Jan. 12

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

“The Broadway Boys”
Sept. 23

“Russian Grand Ballet Presents: Swan Lake”
Oct. 14

“American Salute”
Venice Concert Band
Nov. 6

“The Nowhere Band”
Nov. 12

“Majestic Moments”
Venice Symphony
Nov. 17

“Magnificent Joy: Songs for the Holidays”
Venice Chorale
Dec. 3

“Sounds of the Season”
Venice Concert Band
Dec. 4
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Our Stormwater drains into the Gulf
Help keep our waters clean!
Excess rainwater can overload storm pipes, causing flooding and allowing debris into the storm system
Make a mosquito-proof rain barrel to collect rain water from rooftops to use for yard irrigation or watering plants

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

Bicycle Safety Tip of the Month
- It's called the Left Cross, and it is one of the most common bicyclist/motorist crash types.
- Like it or not, most drivers are not looking for bicycles, they're looking for cars.
- From a technical and legal standpoint the driver has violated your right-of-way.
- Every intersection presents the potential of a Left-Cross so ride defensively.

Left-cross:
Motorist turns left into, or in front of, cyclist.
Savvy Cycling: Ride farther left, they are focused on the oncoming traffic lane and a leftward position indicates higher speed. Keep pedaling, if you coast, they think you are yielding to them. Be prepared to execute an emergency maneuver.

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.
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 Stublen
FDOT Communications Office
863-519-2828

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.

vabinonprofit@gmail.com
941-207-8224
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

9TH ANNUAL
DOWNTOWN VENICE
Craft Festival
Sept. 2nd – 3rd Sat./Sun.
10am – 4pm
Free Admission

Artfestival.com
American Craft Endeavors
Information:
(813) 962-0388

Down Island Way Boutique
"Help Us Help Them"
During the month of September, you may drop off gently used wearable clothing and receive 10%, 15%, or 20% off new clothes from Down Island Way Boutique!
Your donations will be given to the Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County, Women Resource Center, and St. Francis Animal Shelter.

WRC
Women's Resource Center
Habitat for Humanity
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

**Snook Haven**

**BREWS & BOOTS on the Myakka**

**Labor Day**

*Monday, September 4th, 11am - 5pm at Snook Haven*

*Live Country Music Featuring:

11 - 12:30        Evan Steele
Event Headliner

JACK MICHAEL BAND

1:00 - 4:00 PM

*Featuring 30+ Craft Beers, Including 20 Local Brews!*

*Food Specials!*

*Canoe & Kayak Specials!*

**Friendship Challenge Events**

*Let's Get Physical!*

**Day of Fitness - Venice**

*Wednesday 9/6 • 9 am - 3 pm*

*Free fitness and dance classes offered every hour*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Senior Friendly Aerobics</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 am</td>
<td>Silver Sneakers</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 am</td>
<td>Tap Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Music and Dancing:</td>
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<td>With Sally Blaser</td>
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**Shake Your Groove Thing!**

*Wrap-up Dance Party - Venice*

*Friday, 9/8 • 5:30 - 8 pm*

*Dance to rock 'n' roll, disco, funk, and contemporary tunes while enjoying FREE light refreshments, beer and wine.*

*Events are open and FREE to the community. Donations are not required, but greatly appreciated.*

*Events held at Venice Friendship Center: 20550 Scenic Drive, Venice*
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 Tuesday
9/12/17

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

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 PROGRAM

“History of the African-American Community of Laurel,”
A discussion by a panel of local African American leaders and Sarasota County historians. Panelists include Betty Intagliata, James C. Sims, Jr., Sandra Sims Terry, John McCarthy and Lorrie Muldoney.

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

Next ride is Sept. 13!

September 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
Sueños de Casas
Dreams of Homes

Wine Tasting & Food Pairing Event
Featuring Spanish Wines and Tapas

At the Venice Art Center - Catered by Blu Island Bistro
to benefit Habitat for Humanity South Sarasota County
$75 per person

Visit www.habitatsouthsarasota.org to purchase tickets
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

SHOPTEMBER

Visit Sarasota County

SHOP THE AVENUES
DOWNTOWN VENICE
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16
10:00 AM UNTIL 5:00 PM

DON'T MISS THIS END OF SUMMER SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA IN BEAUTIFUL, HISTORIC DOWNTOWN VENICE
941-484-6722 • VISITVENICEFL.ORG

COME SEE THE CLYDESDALES

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 20TH
DOWNTOWN VENICE
6PM - 8PM
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)

Venice Honda & Venice Toyota
Presents
VENICE
BEACH PARTY
Celebrating Venice's 90th Anniversary
SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
23
2:45pm-7:45pm
VENICE PUBLIC BEACH • SOUTH SIDE PARKING LOT AND BEACH • 191 THE ESPALIERE NORTH
CHAIRS AND BLANKETS WELCOME • NO COOLERS / NO PETS • RAIN OR SHINE,
CATCH A FREE SHUTTLE FROM DOWNTOWN PARKING LOTS
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Venice High School Indians
Lacrosse Booster Club
& SROLAX

Date: October 15, 2017
Location: Lake Venice Golf Club
1801 South Harbor Dr., Venice, 34285

7:30 am Check-in/Registration
Coffee & Pastry Provided
8:30 am Shotgun Start
1:00 pm Lunch
Raffle & Prizes Awarded

Sponsorship Levels
Title Sponsor: $2000
Ace Sponsor: $1000
Birdie Sponsor: $600
Par Sponsor: $400
Goody Bag Sponsor: $300
Hole/Tee Sponsor: $100
Course Games Sponsor: $100

Raffle Donations of all levels are welcome

Register online at
srqlax.com/vhs-indians

Sponsorship Levels Available
srqlax.com/vhs-indians

VENICE
Wine Feast
SPONSORED BY THE SERTOMA CLUB OF VENICE

THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 19, 2017
6:00 - 9:00 PM
$75 ALL INCLUSIVE

Located On Nokomis Avenue in front of
VENICE WINE & COFFEE

Tickets Available at:
VENICE WINE & COFFEE COMPANY
201 West Venice Avenue
Ask for Richard 941-484-3667
www.SertomaWineFeast.com

Benefiting Sertoma Speech Clinic
& Other Youth Charities

Sponsors
VENICE WINE & COFFEE
STELLA ARTOIS
SERTOMA
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Women’s Sertoma Club of Venice

Sun Fiesta

2017

Free Admission

www.SunFiesta.net

October 20, 21 & 22 – 2017

Friday 5pm-10pm Saturday 9am-10pm Sunday 9am-7pm

- 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) 488-0929 WomenSertoma@Outlook.com

All Proceeds to Benefit Local Charities & Scholarships

Sarasota County

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Venice Library

Monday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m.

300 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities. View the complete policy at scgov.net (keywords ADA compliance).
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

1. **VENICE YACHT CLUB CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**
   - **FUN RIDE AROUND VENICE ISLAND**
   - **SAVE THE DATE**
   - **NOV 12 | 2017**

2. **VENICE YACHT CLUB CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**
   - **VENICE BOOKFAIR & WRITERS FESTIVAL**
   - **FRIDAY, MARCH 23 & SATURDAY, MARCH 24**
   - **DOWNTOWN VENICE**
   - **CENTENNIAL PARK**
   - **3:00PM-7:30PM**
   - **9:00AM-3:00PM**
   - **VENICEBOOKFAIR.COM**

3. **RELAY FOR LIFE**
   - **Join the Fight Against Cancer!**
   - **Hope Lives Here**

4. **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**

5. **RELAY FOR LIFE**
   - **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE**
   - **Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.**
   - **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 Britney Hoogland at britney.hoogland@cancer.org
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

The Historic Venice Train Depot

The only surviving passenger station in Sarasota County

Listed 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.

941-412-0151
www.veniceareahistoricalsociety.org

SHINE Medicare Counseling Site

Medicare Questions?
Come Visit a SHINE Medicare Volunteer Counselor!

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

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
1. Centennial Park (3 hr limit)
2. City Hall
3. Lord-Higel House
4. Miami Ave. (3 hr limit)
5. Venice Beach
6. Grasser Park
7. Neckacher Park
8. Behind Venice Theatre (until 6:00 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.

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**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).

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**COLONEL COMETA**

Kentucky Military Institute graduate Larry Humes of Venice Heritage Inc., right, presented Chetta Cometa, formerly of the Summit at Venice, with a certificate last month commissioning her as an honorable Kentucky Colonel, signed by Kentucky Gov. Matthew Bevin. The Colonels are considered Kentucky’s ambassadors of goodwill and fellowship around the world, and commissioned for an individual’s contributions to their community. Now Director of Sales and Marketing for the Heron Club at Prestancia in Sarasota, Cometa worked tirelessly in Venice to organize community events for people of all ages.

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**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** (not the next 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.