Teens at the helm on Student Govt. Day

On March 6, teens took over City Hall.

Twenty-one students from Venice High School participated in this year’s Venice Student Government Day. Teens began arriving at 8 a.m. that Monday and assembled in Council Chambers for welcome remarks and a brief orientation with City Council Members, Department Directors and Charter Officers. The students were given commemorative T-shirts, then teamed up with Council Members, Directors and Charter Officers to learn their roles for a few hours.

Sandra Elsadek, who was paired with Police Chief Mattmuller, got suited up over at VPD and deployed a Taser on Training Officer Dan Schuler. A video clip is posted on the city’s Facebook page (Search for Venice, Florida Municipal Government). Tre Harris, who shadowed IT Director Jeff Bolen, got an "official" city employee ID.
## FAST FACT: The Venice Police Department has 45 sworn officers, 1 K-9 dog, 13 civilian positions and 13 volunteers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venice Young Professionals Smoothie King 5K, Maxine Barritt Park, 7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission Bible Reading Marathon, Centennial Park Gazebo</td>
<td>Bible Reading Marathon, Centennial Park Gazebo Sea Turtle Lighting workshop, City Hall, 9 a.m.</td>
<td>Venice Shark’s Tooth Special Olympics Fishing Tournament, Marine Max, 8 a.m.</td>
<td>6 p.m. Traffic Advisory Task Force Bible Reading Marathon, Centennial Park Gazebo Shark’s Tooth Festival, Airport Festival Grounds, 4-9 p.m. Bible Reading Marathon, Centennial Park Gazebo Shark’s Tooth Festival, Airport Festival Grounds, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Bible Reading Marathon, Centennial Park Gazebo</td>
<td>April Fools Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Sunday Shark’s Tooth Festival, Airport Festival Grounds, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. City Council Fire Fee Assessment Passover 9 a.m. City Council Happy Time Band, free concert, Centennial Park Gazebo, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m. Historic Preservation Board Relay for Life, Airport Festival Grounds, 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. Saturday</td>
<td>Good Friday Suncoast BBQ Bash, Airport Festival Grounds, 5 p.m. Venice MainStreet free, Friday Night Live Concert, Patchouli, Centennial Park Gazebo Eggstravaganza, Centennial Park, 9:30 a.m. Suncoast BBQ Bash, Airport Festival Grounds, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Sunday 3 p.m. Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission Happy Time Band, free concert, Centennial Park Gazebo, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Earth Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building to a Cure Classic Car Show, Centennial Park, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.</td>
<td>9 a.m. City Council Happy Time Band, free concert, Centennial Park Gazebo, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>Administrative Professionals Day Take Our Daughters &amp; Sons to Work Day 9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td></td>
<td>Arbor Day Venice MainStreet free, Friday Night Live Concert, Robin and the Retros, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### May 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sea Turtle Nesting Season begins May 1. Lights out at the beach through Oct. 31.</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. Planning Commission</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>National Day of Prayer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cinco de Mayo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Week</td>
<td>9 a.m. City Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother's Day</td>
<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>Bicycle Night, Downtown, 5-8 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Armed Forces Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 a.m. Historic Preservation Board</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 a.m. Architectural Review Board</td>
<td></td>
<td>Venice Brew Bash, Downtown, 3-7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>City Hall is closed. Garbage, yard waste and recycling will be collected as usual.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Govt. Day, continued from page 1

Avani Patel was paired with city PIO Lorraine Anderson. Avani took some photos in Heritage Park and downtown that immediately went up on the city’s social media.

Following a pizza and salad lunch, students held a mock City Council meeting, tackling subjects such as regulation of employees’ appearance, public WiFi access in Centennial Park, purchase of a police K-9, and using grants funds to purchase drones.

Student Ravi Patel, in his fourth year participating in the program, served as Mayor. He did a thoroughly professional job of moving the meeting along, calling for votes and supervising Council Member discussion.

Student Government Day “is something you don’t get to do often,” Ravi told the Venice Gondolier. “The city manager (Ed Lavallee) said we got to see how our parents’ tax dollars are being spent. That’s a great way of looking at it.”

Under the guidance of VHS Student Government adviser Mia Slaton, other teen participants were Andrea Stultz, Erika Martineau, Madison Kern, Payton Pissano, Lucy Sensemen, Ashley Kot, Madison Culligan, Kristina Young, Makenna Burns, Loretta Alarcon, Jillian Alexander, Aubrey Duyn, Arianna Huffman, Paige Godfrey, Heather Braswell, Thomas Wildermuth and Jack Farrell.

See more photos, page 5
Above, Venice High student Jillian Alexander enjoys a pizza and salad lunch with Finance Director Linda Senne, who she was paired with for the day. Below, Ravi Patel leads the mock City Council meeting in John Holic’s seat as Mayor.

Above, Jack Farrell attends orientation in Council chambers with Airport Director Mark Cervasio. At right, Tre Harris, who shadowed IT Director Jeff Bolen, shows off his new city employee ID card, which are produced in that department. Below, Andrea Stulz talks city government over lunch with Vice Mayor Rich Cautero.
Venice named Healthy Weight Community Champion

The Florida Department of Health has recognized the City of Venice as one of 98 communities designated 2017 Healthy Weight Community Champions. Florida’s county and municipal governments play an important role in decreasing the prevalence of unhealthy weight in their jurisdictions. Local governments can implement a variety of policies that have been shown to increase physical activity and improve nutrition. These best practice policies are reflected in the Healthy Weight Community Champion submission criteria. Between August and December 2016, local governments were invited to submit best practice policies they have implemented in their jurisdictions.

The Community Champions program is part of the department’s Healthiest Weight Florida initiative. Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, local governments, not-for-profit organizations, businesses, schools, faith-based organizations and entire communities to help Florida’s children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living.

Venice’s program highlights include: The City of Venice has recently been recognized as a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists for the second time. This award was earned based on the multiple bike/pedestrian enhancements made throughout the city. Multi-use trails and bike lanes provide access to downtown shopping, restaurants, festivals and parks and recreation facilities. The City maintains a system of 37 parks complete with beach access, playgrounds, jogging paths and nature trails.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to city staff by Florida DOH-Sarasota County Health Officer Chuck Henry during the March 14 City Council meeting.

“I applaud the efforts of the City of Venice in being recognized as a 2017 Healthy Weight Community Champion. Local governments play a critical role in creating a healthy community both through policy and an environment which supports physical activity and nutrition. As a city, Venice has been recognized as a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists for the second time,” Henry said.

Sarasota County was also named a Champion Community for the fourth consecutive year.

To learn more about Healthiest Weight Florida, please visit www.HealthiestWeightFL.com. A complete list of the 2017 Champion Communities and best practices can be found online at: www.HealthiestWeightFL.com/Recognition.html.
CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Citizens Police Academy is an 11-week program for interested individuals to help understand local law enforcement practices. The Academy is free and encompasses hands-on scenarios allowing an insightful experience of a "day in the life of an officer." Week 5 on March 8 covered Crime Scene/Evidence with Crime Scene Investigator Cheryl Prevatte and Tawnie Murdock. During Week 6 on March 15, the topic was Firearms with Sgt. Eugene Frangioni. Marine Patrol was covered with Marine Officer Paul Joyce for Week 7 on March 18, and Sgt. Mathew Sauchinitz and Officer David Creasy covered SITE ops/Narcotics and Active Shooter Scenarios on Week 8, March 22. See more photos, page 8
CITIZENS ACADEMY
Sea Turtle Lighting Workshop set for April 5

The City of Venice is sponsoring a free presentation for the public on sea turtle lighting at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 5 in Council Chambers at City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave.

Sea turtle nesting season in Florida runs from May 1-Oct. 31. Five species of sea turtles inhabit the Gulf of Mexico: loggerhead (the most common), green, hawksbill, leather-back and Kemp’s Ridley.

Nesting sea turtles had a record-breaking season in Sarasota County last year, building over 2,000 more nests than in 2015, according to data from Mote Marine Laboratory. The total for 2016, 4,588 nests, far surpasses Mote’s count of 2,475 nests in 2015.

Venice saw 638 loggerhead nests on its beaches last season, dwarfing the 2015 total of 255 loggerhead and one green.

During the nesting season, city ordinances prohibit the use of artificial lights, including flashlights, vehicle lights and lights shining on the beach from windows and walkways of nearby structures. Sea turtle hatchlings are often drawn to light, which consequently causes them to move away from the water instead of toward it after hatching. If hatchlings do not get to the Gulf water right away, they can become dehydrated, are more likely to be eaten by other animals, or may end up in a street where they can be crushed by passing motorists.

Sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. It is a violation of the law to touch or otherwise disturb a turtle, turtle nest, egg or hatchling.

Please see the flier at right for more information on the April 5 workshop, which will be led by Richard Herren, Biologist/Project Manager with the Sea Turtle Conservancy. There will be handouts and time for audience Q&A. Please join us.
Above, Vice Mayor Rich Cautero congratulates John Parrish, Electrical Maintenance Technician with Venice Public Works, after presenting him with his 20-year Service Award during the Feb. 28 City Council meeting, as Ricky Simpson, Interim Superintendent of Parks and Maintenance, applauds. Top right, City Council Member Fred Fraize reads a proclamation naming March 2017 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to Rafael Robels, Chief Development Officer of Loveland Village, at the March 14 Council meeting. At right, Mayor John Holic proclaimed March 19-25, 2017, as Surveyors and Mappers Week during the March 14 Council meeting, with the proclamation presented to Bob Heggan, Secretary and District 5 Director of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society.
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Top left, surrounded by Finance Department staff, city Finance Director Linda Senne receives the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year Ending 2017 Budget from Mayor John Holic during the March 14 City Council meeting. Above, Maryanne Bolduc, 2017 Venice Relay for Life Event Lead, shakes Vice Mayor Rich Cautero’s hand March 14 after being presented with a proclamation naming April 16-22, 2017, “Paint the Town Purple” Week. Relay for Life kicks off at 7 p.m. April 21 at the Airport Festival Grounds. At left, Holic jokes around with City Manager Ed Lavallee while presenting him with his 5-year Service Award on March 14, as Lavallee’s wife Sharon and Executive Assistant Judy Gamel look on.
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

New Venice Police Department Officer Marcel Perry is sworn in by Mayor John Holic during the March 28 City Council meeting as fellow officers and Perry’s family members look on.

At right, Mayor John Holic reads a proclamation naming April 2-8, 2017, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, presented to Jennifer Perkins, co-chair of the National Crime Victims’ Week Committee, at the March 28 Council meeting. The service and therapy dogs pictured work with crime victims through the Sheriff’s Office.
Pace returns to city HR Manager post

Marion Pace has returned to work for the City of Venice in her role as Human Resources Manager for the Administrative Services Department. Pace previously worked for the City from January to June 2016 as HR Manager, leaving the post to be with family.

Pace, who is originally from upstate New York, also worked as HR Director for Heidmar Inc. in Norwalk, Conn., from 2004-2014. There, she performed daily tactical HR functions including recruitment, interviewing, exit interviews, coaching, payroll, file management and benefits. Prior to that, she was Employee Relations Manager at Stolt-Nielsen Inc. in Greenwich, Conn., where she worked for 13 years.

“We are delighted to have Marion Pace back as the city’s HR Manager,” said Alan Bullock, Director of Administrative Services. “She was not given the job; she had to earn it again through the application and interview process, which she did in fine style, impressing the joint ASD/Finance selection panel among a strong field of candidates.”

“I am very happy to be back with the City of Venice,” Pace said. “The City is much more than an employer to me, it is an environment that allows me to showcase my abilities in a friendly, non-intimidating atmosphere. My decision to return to the workplace was a thoughtful process; however, my decision to return to the City of Venice was a no-brainer.”

Pace, who lives in Englewood, resumed working for the city on March 22.

Amnesty Week comes to county libraries April 10

If you’re facing an outstanding overdue fine that’s been keeping you away from the library, take advantage of Amnesty Week at any Sarasota County Library by returning those overdue items without penalty.

Held April 10-15, Amnesty Week is designed to get people back to their local library, and enjoy access to all the services Sarasota County libraries offer.

Items must be returned in person to the circulation desk in order for the transaction to be completed and recorded. Fines will not be waived for items returned in book drops or by mail. There is no limit to the number of overdue or outstanding items that can be returned.

For a full list of Sarasota County’s nine convenient library locations — including the temporary Venice Library located behind the Venice Theatre at 260 N. Nokomis Ave. — call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000, or visit www.scgov.net/library.

Bible Read-A-Thon set

The 8th Annual Bible Read-A-Thon at the Centennial Park Gazebo in Venice will get underway Tuesday, April 4 at 7 p.m. with praise, worship and music, led by Venice Bible Church Pastors Scott Hill and Brett Brooks. All are invited. Bringing lawn chairs is recommended.

Mayor John Holic will be the first reader at 8 p.m. Readings will run around the clock until the entire King James Bible is read, from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21. The reading should be completed sometime after noon Saturday, April 8. Public restrooms will be available 24 hours. Anyone who would like to read from the Bible is invited to participate. Sign up for your preferred time (minimum 15-minute time slot) as soon as possible by calling Sandy Black at 941-882-2208. Volunteers are also needed to monitor readers for 4-hour slots at the Gazebo; if you are interested, contact Sandy as well. For more information, visit www.venicebiblereadathon.com.
VENICE CITY E-NEWS

IN TRAINING

Venice Fire Rescue offered firefighter training Feb. 27 on the setup and use of the Fire Department’s hazardous decontamination equipment at Station 52. Firefighters demonstrated how to medically triage, and decontaminate, victims operating in a hazardous environment. Fire officials also covered the importance of evidence collection when the incident is suspected of being a terrorist event.

Above, Lt. Steve Worobel talks about the features of the de-con tent. At left, Firefighter Tyler Eaton assists Firefighter Colton Schuchert in getting dressed out in his level B suit. At right, the firefighters inside the de-con tent.
Residents’ how-to guide for garbage and bulk pickup

City of Venice residents receive twice-weekly collection of an unlimited amount of properly prepared household garbage for a monthly fee of $9.56. Residents are charged for garbage and recycling collection regardless of usage.

Here is how to prepare garbage for collection:
• Place items curbside by 7 a.m. on the day of collection
• Garbage cans must be 35 gallons or smaller (unless your community is in the city’s pilot program for automated trash collection)
• Each container or bag must weigh less than 40 pounds
• Recyclables and yard waste may not be mixed with garbage
• Hazardous waste should not be placed with garbage

The following items may be included with the garbage collection. A note identifying the item as garbage must be securely attached to it:
• Barbecue grill, after propane tank has been removed
• Two-wheeled bicycles
• Hollow interior doors
• Push lawn mowers with all fluids drained
• VCRs, DVD players and radios
• Televisions, computer monitors weighing less than 40 pounds
• Furniture items 2 feet by 4 feet or smaller and 40 pounds or less

These things can also go in the garbage:
• Empty containers, including aerosol cans
• Dry paint can
• Alkaline batteries

Used motor oil and filters may be also be discarded. Place oil in see-through plastic beverage containers with a screw-on cap and filters in sealed plastic bags. Limit 5 gallons of oil and 5 oil filters per week. Place containers on curb on regular garbage collection day. Do not place oil or filters in the garbage or in the recycling bins.

These things may not be included with the regular garbage collection:
• Large appliances
• Furniture
• Construction materials
• Tires (may be taken to the landfill for a fee)
• Televisions, computers, printers, fax machines, copiers, fluorescent bulbs
• Hypodermic needles and syringes
• Yard waste

The City of Venice is not responsible for lost lids or broken garbage cans. Do not use buckets, boxes or other containers as garbage cans. Any item or unapproved container placed curbside on the day of the collection is at risk of being collected as garbage.

Residents who have difficulty getting containers to the curb due to health-related issues may request handicap collection services by calling 941-486-2422.

The five holidays when the landfill is closed and garbage, recycling and yard waste will not be collected are:
• New Year’s Day, Jan. 1
• Independence Day, July 4
• Labor Day, the first Monday in September
• Thanksgiving Day, the third Thursday in November
• Christmas Day, Dec. 25

All items are collected on the next regularly scheduled pickup day.

Bulk collections

Arrangements to collect household items too large to be part of the regular garbage collection may be made by calling 486-2422 to make an appointment for a special pickup. The charge is $20 per cubic yard for bulk garbage collection. Place items at the curb or approved location for pickup.

Items included in bulk collections for a fee include: basketball poles, bathtubs and sinks, electronics, such as computers and TVs, exercise equipment, garage doors and openers, items not bagged, bundled or placed in cans, large glass windows and tabletops, large mirrors, mailboxes on posts, mattresses, picnic tables, riding lawn mowers, pianos and organs, playground equipment, sliding glass doors, sheds, vehicle seats, fencing, and TVs weighing more than 40 pounds.

Although appliances, such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers and air-conditioners, are collected without charge, an appointment must be made before setting them on the curb. Be sure to remove food and doors from refrigerators and freezers.
Recycling guidelines for residents

Residents in the City of Venice are provided two 14-gallon red recycling bins for once weekly collection. One bin is for paper materials and the other is for commingled materials. Use only containers provided for recycling. The city is not responsible for lost or broken carts or unapproved containers.

The fee for the recycling service is $7.28 per month. Included in the fee is the collection of properly prepared yard waste and two annual collections of bulk yard waste. To request recycling bins, call 941-486-2422.

Products accepted in the paper bin:
- Catalogs, magazines and newspapers
- Phone books, paperback books
- Mail, including envelopes with windows
- Writing and office paper
- Shredded paper in paper grocery or clear plastic bags.

Products accepted in commingled bin:
- Glass bottles and jars, all colors
- Aluminum cans, foil and trays
- Steel tin cans with lids
- Aerosol cans, empty
- Drink boxes, straws removed
- Milk and juice boxes
- Plastic bottles with necks and recycle symbols 1, 2, 3, 4 or 7
- Butter or margarine tubs and plastic deli trays
- Flower pots

Note: Bottle tops should be removed and placed in the garbage.

Corrugated cardboard boxes should be broken down flat and placed next to or underneath the bins. The boxes should be cut or folded so they are 4 feet by 2 feet or smaller.

Other items to include with cardboard are boxes or cartons that contained crackers, cereal, frozen food, dry food, beer, soda and shoes; and paper towel and toilet paper rolls. These items can go in the bin for paper, but must be separate from the other materials in the bin. This information is available on the What- Goes-Where selection of the My-Waste App.

These items are not collected as recycling in the current program and must be discarded in garbage:
- Ceramic items
- Pool and other chemicals containers
- Gift-wrap and tissue paper
- Clothes hangers
- Hard covered books
- Pizza delivery boxes
- Plastic bags
- Plastic toys
- Styrofoam peanuts, cups, plates, egg cartons

SPECIAL ITEMS

Used motor oil and filters
- Place oil in see-through plastic beverage containers with a screw-on cap and filters in sealed plastic bags.
- Limit 5 gallons of oil and 5 oil filters per week.
- Place containers on curb on regular garbage collection day. Do not place oil or filters in the garbage or in the recycling bins.

Needle disposal
Sarasota County offers free collection containers for the disposal of needles and lancets. These should never be put in regular garbage collections or recycling bins. For more information, call the Sarasota County Health Department at 941-861-6133.

Medication
Prescription and non-prescription medications are not accepted in garbage and recycling collections. They may be brought to the Venice Police Station, 1350 Ridgewood Ave. for disposal. Keep them in the original containers.
Venice’s signature bright red trolley now features an audio recording of the city’s historical highlights.

The recording includes information on how Venice was settled, planner John Nolen, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, buildings of note, early government, Kentucky Military Institute and Venice Army Air Base.

The trolley runs 14 weeks through April 16, Tuesday through Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is FREE for riders. There is no trolley on Mondays.

The trolley will stop upon request if you flag it down. It is dog friendly, but please keep in mind that many of the trolley stops are NOT dog friendly; riders are asked to observe posted rules.

The trolley makes an approximate 30-minute loop with stops including Tampa Ave. at the Centennial Park Fountain, Harbor Drive, West Venice Ave. at Park Blvd., Venice Beach, City Hall, Valencia Rd. at West Blalock Park, the Venice Community Center, Nassau St. at Miami Ave. and Nokomis Ave.

Brochures that includes a full listing of stops and the approximate time schedule of each, a map of the route, public parking areas, and points of interest to explore are available on board the trolley, as well as in the lobby of City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave.; Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, 597 S. Tamiami Trail; the Venice MainStreet office, upstairs at 101 W. Venice Ave., Ste. 23; and at Venice MainStreet’s information kiosk in Centennial Park.

Come downtown to ride the trolley, and get a free history lesson on the city!
City partners with Gondolier for Hurricane Expo

For two decades, the City of Venice has held a Hurricane Preparedness Seminar in May at City Hall to inform citizens about best practices before, during and after a storm. Last year, more than 200 people packed Council chambers to educate themselves about hurricanes, listen to a variety of speakers, and ask questions.

This year, the city is partnering with the Venice Gondolier Sun to offer a bigger and better event with a two-day Hurricane Expo on Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13 at the Venice Community Center. The Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave. S., offers seating for 300 to listen to the expo’s speakers, and space for dozens of vendor booths. That Friday morning will feature speakers from the city, with Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey and City Engineer Kathleen Weeden discussing city hurricane response preparation and flood mitigation and stormwater management. ABC-7 Meteorologist Bob Harrigan will speak both days, at 2 p.m. May 12 and 11 a.m. May 13. (A complete schedule can be found on page 48 of this newsletter.)

The expo will also offer guides, handouts and giveaways, with refreshments available. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. both days. Admission is free.

Sarasota metro area ranks #21 on 'Best Place to Live in US' list


To rank the Best Places to Live, U.S. News assesses statistics for the country's 100 largest metro areas, including each location’s job market, cost of living, crime rates, educational quality, availability of top-notch health care and more. Each category is weighted based on a survey of 2,000 people across the country and what they said matters most to them when picking their next place to live.

Of the Sarasota metro area, U.S. News stated: “Sarasota is another metro area with a reputation for being pricey to live compared to the typical annual income, but its recent rapid growth shows that plenty of people are willing to take on the extra costs. The Sarasota metro area grew by 10.7 percent from 2011 to 2015 due to net migration, the second-greatest population growth in that time period after only Fort Myers, Fla.”
It’s dry: Venice Fire Department offers tips

The Venice Fire Department, along with units from Sarasota, North Port, Englewood and Charlotte County, were dispatched to assist the Naples Fire Department with a large brush fire that broke out on March 5. The regional task force was activated by the Collier County Emergency Operations Center and sent in to provide protection for structures in harm’s way of the fast-moving brush fire. Additional task forces were also sent to offer assistance.

Venice Fire Rescue would like to offer a few suggestions during this extremely dry period:

- Do not burn trash, leaves or brush outdoors.
- Create a safety zone at least 30 feet or greater around your home, clear of brush and tall grass.
- Maintain your property and lawn by keeping trees and lawn pruned. Do not store yard debris such as old grass clippings or dead tree limbs near your property.
- Use spark arresters on lawn equipment or any vehicle with a combustion engine operating near brush. Spark arresters can be purchased and installed at local mechanical shops in the area.
- If preparing food outdoors on a grill, maintain at least a 10-foot brush-free zone around the cooking area. Never place your grill next to your home or directly under a tree or awning.
- Do not park vehicles or other motorized equipment on dry grass or near shrubbery. Exhaust systems can far exceed the 500 degrees it takes to start a fire.
- Extinguish, then dispose of, all tobacco products properly. Never throw a lit cigarette on the ground.
- Residents suffering from respiratory problems may find it difficult to breathe with increased smoke in the area. It is recommended they stay indoors and refrain from strenuous activities outside.
- Any resident witnessing suspicious activity or unauthorized burning is encouraged to call 911 immediately.
Authorities warn of IRS scam

The Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office is warning citizens to be cautious about a telephone scam commonly known as the “IRS scam,” popping up on the Suncoast during tax season.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued warnings about this scam for several years, but unfortunately, some citizens are either not aware of it or when they receive these calls, aren’t sure if they are credible.

According to the IRS, con artists claiming to be IRS employees sound convincing and use fake names and phony IRS ID badge numbers when they call. They may know details about the victim or trick them into revealing private information. Some scammers will demand payments via iTunes gift cards, Green Dot Prepaid Cards, MoneyPak Prepaid Cards, Reloadit Prepaid Debit Cards and other prepaid credit cards. The IRS wants to remind citizens that no legitimate Unites States Treasury or IRS official will demand that payments via Western Union, MoneyGram, bank wire transfers or bank deposits be made into another person’s account for any debt to the IRS or Treasury. A true investigation or lawsuit by the IRS will be handled in person or through certified mail.

The IRS also requests that all instances are reported directly to their agency, since these scams often involve the impersonation of an IRS employee. Citizens can visit https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/ for more information or file a complaint using this direct link: https://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml.

Finally, if you know or think you might owe taxes, call the IRS directly at 1-800-829-1040.

PROJECTS AROUND TOWN

The following construction projects are ongoing in the city:

- **Florida Power & Light contractor Pike Electric is hardening the power grid for downtown Venice.** Work started in November. Much of the work will occur at night to avoid disruptions to businesses, but there will be some day work along Tampa Ave. and Barcelona Ave. **Work is also being done by FPL within the rear yard easements of residential properties in Venice** along Alhambra Rd., Valencia Rd., Armada Rd., Maggiore Rd., Verona St., Ravenna St., Harbor Dr. S., Villas Dr., Everglades Dr., and within the Aldea Mar Condominiums. Expect periodic lane closures and temporary traffic delays. As part of the work, there will be a scheduled power outage from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 15 at City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., and Fire Station #1. Fire Rescue officials will advise crews and plan accordingly. The project is important to increasing the integrity of the power grid and needs to be completed in preparation for hurricane season, which begins in June.

- **The U.S. 41 Bypass project** includes widening U.S. 41 from four lanes to a six-lane roadway, improving roadway drainage, installing retention ponds, constructing 7-foot bicycle lanes, adding concrete sidewalks and relocating and/or replacing City of Venice water and sewer lines. Upgrades to lighting, signalization, and bus pads are a part of the project as well. From Gulf Coast Boulevard to Bird Bay Drive, crews are continuing to install utility and storm drain systems and construct 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. Ridgewood Avenue at U.S. 41 closed to thru traffic on March 6 for approximately five weeks. A detour is in place using East Venice Avenue. Motorists should be mindful of the construction signs in place and traffic control officers and use caution while traveling through the project area. The $16.6 million project began in early November 2015. Expected completion is Spring 2018.
The sixth annual Venice Book Fair & Writers Festival was held March 24-25, with speakers and writing classes at the Venice Centre Mall that Friday evening, and over 50 authors representing a wide variety of genres in Centennial Park that Saturday. Authors and others manning their booths on March 25 included, clockwise from top left, Paul Thornton, Bobbie Hinman, Kim Cool, David Abraham, Catherine Cousins (founder/advisor of Open Book Libraries) with her husband James Cousins Jr., and Donn Fleming.
NEW CROQUET COURTS

The Sarasota County Croquet Club (SCCC) held the official opening of its new croquet courts in Venice March 16, with City of Venice and Sarasota County officials taking a turn with the mallet. At bottom left, Council Member Bob Daniels addresses those in attendance. The courts are located at the intersection of Pinebrook Road (off Venice Ave.) and Lucaya Avenue in Wellfield Park. For more information about the club, visit www.sarasotacountycroquet.com.
News from the Utility Department

The Reclaimed Water Distribution System Improvements Project is underway and includes the following:

- A new 8” reclaimed water main extension approximately 1,120 linear feet (LF) from the existing reclaimed water main at the intersection of Ridgewood Ave. and Cherry Parkway to the intersection of Cherry Parkway and Cypress Ave.

- A new 12” reclaimed water main extension approximately 1,310 LF from the existing 8” line at the intersection of Albee Farm Rd. and West Lucaya Ave. south to the relocated reclaimed water main on the east side of U.S. 41 Bypass.

- A new 8” reclaimed water main extension approximately 500 LF from the existing 24” line at the intersection of East Venice Ave. and Capri Isles Blvd. and north to the existing 8” line at the intersection of Ridgewood Ave. and Capri Isles Blvd.

- An evaluation of the abandoned force main that runs along Matanzas St. east to Armada Rd., north to Madrid Ave., east to Park Blvd., south to Alhambra Rd., east and terminating at Harbor Dr., and the abandoned force main that runs along Granada Ave. from Park Blvd. to the lift station at The Esplanade.

- The replacement of five reclaimed water air release valves at the following locations: Intersection of Pinebrook Rd. and S. Lake Ct; intersection of Bird Bay W. and Bird Bay Circle; on Bird Bay Way; in Bird Bay Dr. South northbound lane across from 622 Bird Bay Dr. South; and northbound lane on Bird Bay Dr. South 100' south of Bird Bay Dr. West.

- The replacement of six reclaimed water valves at the following locations: 1221 Pinebrook Way, 1221 Cypress Ave., 113 Homepark Rd., 124 Warfield Ave., 700 Fawn View Lane and 652 Misty Pine Dr.

- Reclaimed service connections for the following addresses: 111 N. Auburn Rd., 211 W. Airport Ave. and 390 S. Nokomis Ave.

Pre-construction activities have begun, and the project is currently scheduled for completion at the end of August 2017. Due to the nature of this work and the depth/location of these existing facilities, there will be temporary lane closures associated with the utility work.

To read the background of these and other utilities projects, and follow their progress, please visit the city’s web page. Go to www.venicegov.com choose Departments, Utilities.
Residential customers and the Backflow Program

Beginning in the summer of 2015, letters were sent by Venice Utilities on a monthly basis over 12 months to all water customers notifying them that changes in requirements by the State of Florida resulted in the city amending the backflow program. The information outlined what determined the requirement for a property to either have an assembly, possibly change the type, or no longer require one.

In many cases, these new rules lessened what was required of residential properties. If you don’t use drinking water or surface water for irrigation you likely are not required to have an above ground backflow prevention assembly. You can meet the new requirements with a below ground assembly if you use well or reclaimed water for irrigation. If you do not use an irrigation system, you probably are not required to have any backflow prevention.

If you have an existing above ground assembly and your property qualifies for an underground, before you call to price and schedule a test, here are some things to think about:

- Above ground assemblies require a test and passing report submittal every other year.
- Replacement parts or repairs may be needed at the time of or between the required testing.
- This type assembly is more vulnerable to damage by lawn equipment, vehicles, and vandals.
- Replacement of an above ground device with a below ground may improve the appearance of your property.

You may want to consider the cost savings of replacing that above ground assembly now with a dual check that only requires replacement or possibly only refurbishment every 10 years.

Before you make any purchase, be sure to verify the type of assembly required for your property with utility staff.

Testing requirements: There are different requirements specific to residential.

Reduced pressure backflow preventers (RP-BFP) currently require an inspection every other year; these assemblies are installed above ground, downstream of the meter box.

Dual check, backflow assemblies (DuC-BFP) do not require testing, but are required to be refurbished or replaced no less than once every 10 years; reminder post cards will be sent.

Thank you to all for helping us protect your community water system by staying in compliance.

Should you have questions about your specific circumstances, please contact Technical Unit Supervisor Michael Catalano at 941-882-7311.

Tips to prevent costly backups: Municipalities, home and business owners are at risk; trash in toilets is a high cost to everyone.

1. If it is not toilet paper, it does not go with the flow and should not be flushed.
2. Place a waste bin in the bathroom, preferably near the toilet, so nobody's tempted to flush other items.
3. Inform your children and house guests.
4. Make it a topic of awareness at a neighborhood association or other community meeting.
5. Grease and "flushable wipes" are the No. 1 problem; however, there are many other items being flushed. So remember, if it is not human waste or toilet paper, it is trash — so do not flush.

See the full article at www.venicegov.com on the Utilities Department page.
Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30 — 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.

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 for CodeRED 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.
Ride sharing available in Venice

Ride sharing through apps such as Uber and Lyft is allowed in the City of Venice. Those interested in providing these services must fill out an Application for Vehicle for Hire Permit through the City Clerk’s Office at Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave. They must include the year, make/model, Vehicle Identification Number and seating capacity of any proposed vehicles for the service.

Additional requirements are as follows:

**Driver Requirements:**
A criminal history check and driver’s license check shall be obtained for each driver. Each driver shall possess a valid chauffeur’s license issued by the State of Florida. Copies of the criminal background check, driver’s license check and Florida driver’s license for each driver shall be submitted with the application, any amendments and at renewal time.

**Insurance Information:**
Proof of insurance shall be submitted with the following limits of coverage, with the City of Venice listed as an additional insured party:
- No less than $100,000 bodily injury liability insurance for any one person injured by reason of the negligent operation of the vehicle.
- No less than $300,000 bodily injury liability insurance for more than one person injured in any one accident.
- No less than $100,000 property damage liability for any one accident.

**Safety Inspection:**
Each vehicle shall be inspected annually by a certified automobile mechanic on forms provided by the city. Completed safety inspection reports shall be submitted with the application, any amendments and at renewal time.

**Schedule of Rates, Fares and Charges:**
A schedule of rates, fares and charges must be prominently posted in every vehicle in full view of passengers.

**Application Fee:**
The application fee is $100, with an annual renewal fee of $50.

For more information, please contact Assistant City Clerk Heather Taylor at 941-882-7391 or htaylor@venicegov.com.
Report city issues on the go with SeeClickFix

Reporting a concern in Venice is just a few clicks away.
The city has partnered with SeeClickFix to create a platform called Venice Connect that allows citizens to report quality-of-life issues — such as potholes, roadside junk and tall grass — and request city services. About 660 issues have been logged since the system was launched Aug. 31 of last year, and some 560 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.

AARP free Tax-Aide sites available through April 14

AARP is offering free Tax-Aide sites for the public through April 14. No appointments are required — just show up!

Venice locations, days and times are as follows:

**Mondays**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Jacaranda Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd.
**Tuesdays**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave. S.
**Wednesdays**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Woodmere Park Community Center, 3951 Woodmere Park Blvd.
**Thursdays**, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Venice Community Center 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Woodmere Park Community Center
**Fridays**, 1-4 p.m., Bay Indies Community Center, 950 Ridgewood Ave.
AROUND TOWN

Demolition of the old Venice Library building at 300 S. Nokomis Ave. got underway March 20. Following demolition, additional geotechnical testing will be conducted. Construction of the new library, in the same location, is scheduled to begin in the fall, with completion anticipated in late 2018. Venice's temporary library is located behind the Venice Theatre at 260 N. Nokomis Ave.

B.W. "Skip" Bailey of Nokomis, a 1963 Kentucky Military Institute graduate, retired U.S. Army captain and a Vietnam veteran, leads a KMI history tour March 16 in the Venice Centre Mall, which served as part of KMI's winter quarters.

Here, Bailey explains that the bottom floor of the building was utilized as classrooms for cadets. Bailey volunteered his time to lead four free tours through April, part of the City of Venice's 90th Anniversary events. All of the scheduled tours are filled, but hopefully more will be planned later this year.
AROUND TOWN

Nina and Pinta replicas arrived in Venice March 9 via the Jetty. The ships docked at Fishermen's Wharf and were available for viewing for several days. For more information on the ships, visit www.ninapinta.org.

The City of Venice's monthly 6-mile bike ride around the island, led by city Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Darlene Culpepper, was held March 8. The next ride is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 12. Just bring your bike and a helmet to City Hall.

The Jacaranda Country Club Villas neighborhood group toured the Venice Museum & Archives on March 21, then hopped on the free trolley and headed downtown for lunch.
AROUND TOWN

At right, Venice hosted the Council of Governments meeting on March 9 in Community Hall at City Hall. Officials from Sarasota County, all of the county’s municipalities, School Board, Airport Authority and Hospital Board attended to discuss common issues and update each other. Below, Tiffany and Ronnie Fernandez of Venice Florida Tours present a check for $55 March 1 to Larry Humes with Venice Heritage on the steps of the Lord Higel House behind City Hall. The funds are a portion of the proceeds from the couple’s Feb. 25 historic walking tour of downtown Venice and will go toward restoration of the Lord-Higel House, the second-oldest house in Sarasota County. The Fernandezes are holding additional fundraising tours this year for local history-based nonprofits as part of the city’s 90th Anniversary events.

Women’s Sertoma members Mary Littel and Barbara O’Neil work at the club’s booth during the March Art Classic on West Venice Ave. Everyone loved the T-shirt quilts and hearing about plans for Sun Fiesta 2017, set for Oct. 20-22.
AROUND TOWN

Training for City of Venice Advisory Boards was held March 24 and March 27 at the Venice Community Center with facilitator Betsy Steiner, far right, a consultant for the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. GCCF helped sponsor the training.

Please don’t feed the Public Works employees: Scott Marra, Robert Florenzie and Chris Bruns (not pictured) help beautify the City Hall atriums on March 22.

Volunteers with Team KVB (Keep Venice Beautiful) collected 16 truckloads of brush behind Venice High School in mid-March. Thank you for a job well done!
Vote for Sarasota County in nationwide parks competition

Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources is taking part in the "Meet Me at the Park" initiative, a national contest that could earn Sarasota County a $20,000 grant to improve local parks.

The initiative, which is sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), provides communities across the country the chance to win the grant, by encouraging the public to vote for their community. The community with the most nominations earns the grant, which can be used to connect youth to nature, increase youth's access to sports, or inspire healthy living.

"Parks are the cornerstone of nearly every community, and the same is true for Sarasota County," said Carolyn Brown, director of Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources. "One of our organizational goals is to be a premier community to live, work and play, and parks are a key component of that goal."

The voting period opens April 1, and runs through the end of the month. The winning community will have a choice of which park or program in their system to improve using the $20,000 grant.

To vote for Sarasota County Parks, visit www.nrpa.org. To learn more about Sarasota County's parks, beaches, natural areas and other amenities, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000, or visit www.scgov.net. Be sure to follow @scgovparks on Facebook and Instagram to find out the results of the competition.

Property tax deadline is March 31

If you have not yet paid your 2016 property taxes, don't let the Friday, March 31 deadline pass or you will face an additional charge.

Sarasota County Tax Collector Barbara Ford-Coates is urging taxpayers to take advantage of the various easy payment options available by March 31. Visit www.SarasotaTaxCollector.com for more information.

The penalty for missing the deadline is no small matter and could even lead to the loss of a person's property. For delinquent real estate property taxes, taxpayers must add 3 percent to their payment after March 31. For example, a typical $1,500 tax bill would jump to $1,545 on April 1.

Accounts unpaid as of May 1 are charged an additional advertising fee and are advertised in a local newspaper. If the taxes remain unpaid, the amount due will increase substantially on June 1.
Public Parking Lots in Venice

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. Graser Park
7. Henniker Park
8. Behind Venice Theater (until 6:00 pm)
9. Under KMI Bridge
10. Under Venice Ave. Bridge
11. Cultural Campus
12. 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
Florida Department of Transportation
US 41 Venice By-Pass Roadway Improvements from Gulf Coast Boulevard to Bird Bay Drive

RIDGEWOOD AVENUE CLOSURE—TRAFFIC DETOUR
The contractor will close Ridgewood Avenue at US 41/Venice By-Pass to traffic beginning Monday, March 6, 2017. A detour for local traffic will be in place during the road closure using East Venice Avenue. The detour is expected to be in place for approximately five (5) weeks. Message boards will be in place to alert motorists to the road closure and detour. Proceed with caution and follow detour signs and barricades directing you around construction work.

For additional information about the project, please contact:
Lauren Hatchell, Public Information Officer 941-708-4418
Robin Stublen, FDOT Communications Office 863-519-2828

Our Stormwater drains into the Gulf
Help keep our waters clean!
Grass clippings and branches plug ditches and contribute to flooding
Do not dump anything into ditches, inlets and roadways

Pollution hurts everyone!
A message from the City of Venice Stormwater Engineering Division
Florida Department of Transportation
Business US 41 Roadway Improvement Project
from Palermo Place to Venice Avenue
Starts April 2017

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) along with its contractor, Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC., are making improvements to Business US 41 from Palermo Place to Venice Avenue beginning early April 2017.

Crews will remove old asphalt and resurface the roadway, construct new sidewalk and bus shelter pads, install signal upgrades and new signage. Most of the work will occur at night so expect intermittent nighttime/overnight lane closures while crews are working.

Expected completion of this $1.4 million project is summer 2017.
Venice Theatre
140 Tampa Ave. W.
941-488-1115
www.venicestage.com
“Blood Brothers”
March 30-April 23
“The Silver Foxes”
March 30-April 2
“Patti Highland in Concert”
April 2
“Inherit the Wind”
April 11-30
“Monday Monday”
April 23-24
“Fences”
May 4-21
“Once on This Island, A Musical”
May 16-21
“Loveland”
June 1-4

Venice Art Center
390 Nokomis Ave. S.
941-485-7136
www.veniceartcenter.com
“Members Show: In the Style of ... Art Inspired by Your Favorite Artist”
March 3-31
“Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society”
April 7-May 5
“South Sarasota County School Show”
May 9-26
“The Good Ole Summertime”
June 9-July 14

Venice Performing Arts Center
1 Indian Ave.
941-480-3191
www.veniceperformingartscenter.com
“Moscow Meets Manhattan”
March 31
“Yakov Smirnoff”
April 1
“Mills-Beethoven-Mozart”
Venice Symphony
April 7-8
“The Importance of Being Earnest”
Venice High School Drama Department
April 21-23
“Strauss, Suppe, Lehar, Millocker and Others”
Venice Symphony
April 28-29
“Hannah Jae: Run With It”
May 20
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

FAMILY FUN FAIR
At Student Leadership Academy!

- Food Trucks ($ a la carte)
- $15 wristband for use of all inflatable activities ( $10 pre-sale)
- Ice Cream truck ($ a la carte)
- $2 Cotton Candy

When: Friday, March 31st
Time: 5:00-7:30pm
Where: 200 Field Ave E., Venice Island
Children MUST be accompanied by an adult!
(Parking at Grace Methodist Church)

singing classics through the decades
Just Pauline back at the Gazebo
Down Town Venice
Friday
31st March
7.00 till 9.00
Come and enjoy the music
Bring your chair

www.justpauline.com
Email: pauline.pds@btconnect.com
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

**Smoothie King 6th Annual 5K Fool's Run**

**Sunday, April 2nd, 2017**

Race starts at 7:30 a.m.,
Registration opens at 6:00 a.m.

Maxine Barrill Park
1900 Harbor Drive South
Road race route from Maxine Barrill Park
to Caspersen Beach and back.

$25 Pre-Registration Price, $30 After February 14th
$15 Youth Price for Ages 14 & Under
$40 Day of Race Price All Ages
Pre-Registration is available online through runsignup.com
key word “Smoothie King 5K Fool’s Run”

Register by March 7th, 2017 to guarantee race shirt and goodie bag.

**Venice at 90: A Retrospective**

February 6 through July 31
Open MTW, 10am—4pm
1st & 3rd Saturdays through April, 11am—3pm

Venice Museum & Archives
351 Nassau St. S.
VeniceMuseum.org
www.facebook.com/veniceflarchives
(941) 486-2487

**Please Join Us For A Finger Lickin’ And Hot Pickin’ Good Time**

6th Annual Suncoast BBQ Bluegrass Bash
Saturday, April 15, 2017
Gates Open at 10am
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

**BLOOD DRIVE**

*City of Venice*
**Wednesday, April 5, 2017**
**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

All donors will receive a OneBlood Umbrella and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening! Plus all donors will receive a special offer from Crayola Experience—purchase one admission ticket and receive a 2nd admission FREE.

**Reverend Barry and Funktastic Soul**

Featuring the Hellicious Horns

April 5, 7pm
(door open at 6:30)
Cash Bar
Venice Art Center
390 Nokomis Ave. S.
Venice, FL 34285

Tickets: $25 VAC Members $30 NonMembers
VIP Tickets: $35 VAC Members $40 NonMembers
Tickets available for purchase at VAC 390 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, FL 34285
Or call 941-485-7136
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)

---

**Benevolent, Patriotic Order of Does**

**Spring Fashion Show & Luncheon**

Resort Fashions by Tiffany
Saturday, April 8, 2016
11:30 AM
ELKS’ Lodge
1021 Discovery Way, Nokomis
$18.00

Call Shirley Yawn at (941)726-9933, Barbara Jones at (941)497-4212 or Audrey Riggs at (941)480-0164 for tickets
Ticket must be present
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Next ride is April 12!

EGGSTRAVAGANZA
EASTER EGG HUNT
Centennial Park
APRIL 15, 9:30AM -11:00AM

Prizes, Candy, and Entertainment!
Bring your own basket & meet the Easter Bunny.
Brought to you by:

Modern Woodmen
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL

the Warehouse
Middle School & High School Activities

Venice MainStreet is proudly supported by:
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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

The City of Venice Presents Relay For Life of Venice's
PAINT YOUR TOWN PURPLE

Sunday April 16th to Saturday April 22nd
Please join us in the celebration of those who have survived cancer, by the display of purple in your windows. By doing so, you will help to support the Relay For Life of Venice.

We will be awarding the Paint The Town Purple Spirit award to the best decorated business. Businesses can submit photos of their store fronts to mboldtuc492@comcast.net for judging. Entries will be promoted on our Facebook page.

2017 Relay For Life of Venice
To be held at the Venice Airport Festival Grounds on Friday April 21st from 7pm to 7am on April 22nd
Everyone is invited to join us in our fight to find a cure. Please come out and help us to all celebrate more birthdays.

If your business would like to donate a gift item or gift certificate to be given away to cancer survivors at a dinner in their honor please contact Survivor chair Sandi Willmink at 941-223-8071. Relay volunteers will be visiting area businesses on 4/13/17 to hand out purple Relay bows for you to display. Thank you in advance for your support!

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Smith at ashley.smith@cancer.org or 602-817-8038 or Maryanne Bolduc at mboldtuc492@comcast.net or 941-915-8484
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Join the Team!
DP Fitness & Wellness
210 Miami Ave • Venice Island
(813) 731-8767 • www.dpfitnessandwellness.com

Introduce your kids to the fastest growing sport today. Venice Youth Triathlon Team Ages 5 - 15

2016-2017
The Betty Intagliata Lecture Series
Venice Area Historical Society
presents
CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS
1865 - 1965
and beyond

All Programs are FREE and Open to the Public.
TUESDAY • APRIL 18, 2017 • 7PM

After Slavery: Sharecropping, Part 1
Presenters: Brad Jenkins, Ph.D. & Dan Hadley
Dr. Jenkins is a retired chair of the History and Political Science Dept. at Guilford College. Mr. Hadley will present the subject of “All God’s Daughters.”

The Betty Intagliata Lecture Series, sponsored by the Venice Area Historical Society, with funding provided by the Bill Jervey, Jr. Charitable Foundation.

Programs are held in the Renaissance Room, Mark Manor Building, Village On The Isle, 920 Tamiami Trail South, Venice. Limited Seating Available.
VeniceAreaHistoricalSociety.org
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

WIN A CRUISE FOR 2 NIGHTS FOR 2
Florida’s Best & Most Flexible Bahamas Cruise

WINNER TO BE DRAWN AT RELAY FOR LIFE APRIL 21-22
RELAY FOR LIFE OF VENICE APRIL 21-22, 2017
TICKETS
$5.00 each
or
3/ $10.00
2 NIGHT BAHAMA CRUISE OUT OF WEST PALM BEACH
(INCLUDES PORT FEES AND TAXES)

This offer entitles you and a special guest to a complimentary two night round-trip Caribbean cruise aboard the Grand Celebration! Your package is valued up to $600.00! You’ll cruise round-trip from Palm Beach, Florida to the Bahamas. On board the ship, you will enjoy an inside state room, all onboard meals and snacks, and a wide range of incredible entertainment and activities. Included is $50 in Match play for the ship’s casino. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life of Venice.

For tickets contact Maryanne Bolduc at mbolduc492@comcast.net
or stop by Total Therapy Solutions
(18765 Tamiami Trail Osprey 34229 in the Blackburn Point Plaza)

SPARCCle on The Links
Golf Tournament benefitting SPARCC
Waterford Golf Club, Venice FL
Saturday, April 22, 2017
www.sparcc.net
Sponsorships are available. Contact Margo Bischof at 941-497-3958 or Sandy Fulkerson at 941-365-1095 for more information.

VENICE
SEAFOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL
CENTENNIAL PARK
MAY 6 & 7, 2017
10-8PM
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursdays Downtown
Sponsored by Venice MainStreet
Since 1987

Until July 20, 2017, enjoy!
Shopping the Avenues until 8 pm

Oct 20, 2016  VETERAN’S APPRECIATION: Discounts to Vets with ID
Nov 17, 2016  FOOD DRIVE: Stores offer discounts to those who enter with food for the Center of Hope
Dec 1, 2016   CHRISTMAS WALK
Jan 19, 2017   PET PARADE: Dress-up your pets and parade them through all the Avenues
Feb 16, 2017  ART OF VENICE: Local artists set-up in shops and restaurants
Mar 16, 2017  JAZZ: Participating businesses feature local Jazz artists
Apr 20, 2017  FIRST RESPONDERS: Meet local first responders and their emergency vehicles. All first responders with ID receive discounts and specials.
May 18, 2017  BICYCLE NIGHT: Celebrating National Bicycle Month
Jun 15, 2017  TEACHER APPRECIATION: Discounts and specials offered to teachers with ID
Jul 20, 2017  WINE WALK

Fox Lea Farm presents the 2017 Schedule for "Sunsets and Show Jumping"
$25,000 GRAND PRIX
Gates open 3:00 pm, Grand Prix at 5:00 pm
Fun for the whole family!

Saturday April 29th
Saturday May 20th
Saturday May 27th

FOOD – BEVERAGE – FUN
Grand Prix Showjumping is an Olympic Sport requiring extraordinary athleticism with jumps approaching 5 feet in height

FREE PARKING – ADMISSION $5.00
800 North Auburn Road, Venice, FL 34292 www.FoxLeaFarm.com
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

17TH ANNUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT
with the Sheriff’s Activities League

May 6, 2017
7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Venice Yacht Club

It’s that time of the year again!

We are looking for Law Enforcement and Fire Department employees who own their own boat to volunteer their time and vessel and give these great kids the opportunity of a lifetime. By taking them fishing, you can give these young adults an experience that will stay with them forever! If you are interested in volunteering, please respond ASAP.

Please call Deputy Mike Watson 915-4169 or email mbwansen@vcpo.net for more information.

A Chance to Win
7 Nights In Tuscany
Enjoy An Authentic, Bellissima Stay in Manciano, Italy

Up to 4 adults will enjoy an enchanting 7 night stay at the one-of-a-kind Tuscany Resorts in Manciano, Italy. Choose from 6 unique villas atop a hill with breath-taking views in all directions. Depending on where you stay, you could experience memorable events such as:
- Mercatino del Centro Storico’s Cheese Tasting in May
- Local Strawberry Festival in May
- Festival delle Cantine Wine Festival in September
- Inconocuicni a tavola con i funghi, Mushroom Harvest, in October
- Seguendo un filo d’ olio, Presentation of New Extra virgin Olive Oil, in December

There are plenty of places to visit in the area, including many local and seaside villages, medieval hill towns, the world class spa, “Terme di Saturnia”, and hot sulfur springs which have been gushing since the Roman period with a constant temperature of 99.5 degrees F.

This prize is for lodging only, is non-transferable and has no cash value. Expires 5/1/17. The winner will be given a package with full instructions on how to claim their prize. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win. Value $4,450.00

TICKETS $25
DRAWS TO BE HELD
MAY 9, 2017

Sponsored by VeniceHeritage
Florida
Proceeds benefit The Lord Higel House Restoration Project

941.237.0478 • VeniceHeritage.org • PO Box 1190, Venice, FL 34284

For more information visit www.VeniceHeritage.org
COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

City of Venice
Venice Gondolier Sun
Hurricane Expo
May 12-13, 2017 at the Venice Community Center

Friday, May 12
9:30 a.m. Doors open for the event at the Community Center; refreshments, vendors available
10:15 a.m. Welcome, Opening Remarks
   City Manager Ed Lavellee, Venice Gondolier Sun Publisher Tim Smolarick
10:30 a.m. City of Venice Hurricane Response Preparation
   Venice Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Venice Fire Chief Shawn Carvey
11 a.m. BREAK
11:30 a.m. City of Venice Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management
   City Engineer Kathleen Warden
12 p.m. LUNCH BREAK
1 p.m. Disaster Preparation and Your Pet
   Suncoast Humane Society Executive Director Phil Snyder
1:30 p.m. American Red Cross Shelter Information
   Sarasota County Red Cross Disaster Program Manager Steve Guetschow
2 p.m. What You Can Do to Prepare for a Hurricane
   Meteorologist Bob Harrigan, ABC Channel 7
3 p.m. BREAK
3:30 p.m. Sarasota County Emergency Planning
   Emergency Management Chief Ed McCane, Sarasota County Government
4 p.m. Developing a Hurricane Plan
   Hurricane Author Don Callouette

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS WILL FOLLOW EACH SPEAKER’S PRESENTATION

Saturday, May 13
9:30 a.m. Doors open for the event at the Community Center; refreshments, vendors available
10:15 a.m. Welcome, Opening Remarks
   Venice Gondolier Sun Publisher Tim Smolarick
10:30 a.m. Sarasota County Hurricane Response Preparation
   Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight
11 a.m. What You Can Do to Prepare for a Hurricane
   Meteorologist Bob Harrigan, ABC Channel 7
12 p.m. LUNCH BREAK
1 p.m. Value of Radio During a Hurricane Event
   Pete Norden, iHeartMedia Senior VP of Sales
1:30 p.m. Disaster Preparation
   John McClain, Venice Regional Bayfront Health CEO
2 p.m. Disaster Preparation and Your Pet
   Suncoast Humane Society Executive Director Phil Snyder
2:30 p.m. American Red Cross Shelter Information
   Sarasota County Red Cross Disaster Program Manager Steve Guetschow
2 p.m. What You Can Do to Prepare for a Hurricane
   Meteorologist Bob Harrigan, ABC Channel 7
3 p.m. Sarasota County Emergency Planning
   Emergency Management Chief Ed McCane, Sarasota County Government
3:30 p.m. Developing a Hurricane Plan
   Hurricane Author Don Callouette

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS WILL FOLLOW EACH SPEAKER’S PRESENTATION

For more information, please visit these websites:
City of Venice: www.venicefl.gov
Sarasota County: www.scgov.net
Florida Department of Community Affairs: www.dca.state.fl.us
National Flood Insurance Program: www.fema.gov
Florida Division of Emergency Management: www.floridadisaster.org
The Weather Channel: www.weather.com
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.

90th ANNIVERSARY

Celebrate 90 Years with the City of Venice
Est. 1927

Roaring '20s Costume Ball

Period dress optional.

Swing Band
Doug Deming
And
The Jewel Tones

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday June 10, 2017

Raftles: Silent Auction

$10.00 Donation
Benefits the Venice Museum & Archives
Lord Higel House

7:00 PM Until 10:00 PM

Advance Tickets Must Be Purchased In Person at the Cashier Counter at City Hall 401 W. Venice Ave.

Open 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

SUMMIT AT VENICE

Assisted Living & Memory Care

200 Nassau St. N • Venice, FL 34285

(941) 485-2404

www.summitatvenice.com

LIKE US on Facebook for upcoming details
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.

Follow 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). For broadcast times, go to www.scgov.net/Calendar/Pages/default.aspx and click on Access Sarasota Television.

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.

RED TIDE INFO: Red tide is a naturally occurring microscopic algae that has been documented along Florida’s Gulf Coast since the 1840s. Blooms, or higher-than-normal concentrations, of the Florida red tide algae, Karenia brevis, frequently occur in the Gulf of Mexico in late summer or early fall and can cause fish kills and respiratory irritation in humans. Red tide begins in the Gulf of Mexico 10 to 40 miles offshore and can be transported inshore by winds and currents. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission posts red tide status reports on Wednesdays and Fridays. To view this report and to track red tide blooms, visit MyFWC.com/RedTide. You can also get a local beach status update at https://ourgulfenvironment.scgov.net/.