



# VENICE CITY E-NEWS

October 2020

A PUBLICATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF VENICE, FL

## State moves into Phase 3 reopenings

By Executive Order 20-244, Gov. Ron DeSantis moved Florida into Phase 3 reopenings on Sept. 25. Restaurants and bars are now allowed to operate at full capacity. ***See Phase 3 guidelines on page 2.***

In addition, in-person quorums for Venice City Council and advisory board meetings will again be required effective Oct. 1. The public will still be able to watch meetings online via the City website, [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com), and participate virtually through Zoom. Agendas are posted approximately one week prior to the meeting at <https://venice.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, and each agenda provides instructions on how to participate in the meetings.

The Executive Order also "suspends the collection of fines and penalties associated with COVID-19 enforced upon individuals." According to the City Attorney, while this does not void the City of Venice's current face covering requirements in place to slow the spread of coronavirus, it does eliminate the enforcement mechanism. While it might still be possible to issue a citation, the language suspends/prohibits the City from collecting any fine. The Executive Order also does not prohibit the City from enforcing its requirement that businesses post notice of the City's face covering requirements. ***See Executive Order 20-244 on page 3.***

The City Council passed Ordinance No. 2020-30 on second reading Sept. 22, which extends the requirement for face coverings in the City through Oct. 31. The mask ordinance passed 4-3, with Mayor Ron Feinsod and Council Members Rich Cautero, Helen Moore and Mitzie Fiedler in agreement. The original 30-day requirement had been in effect since Aug. 25.

There are 14 exceptions to the ordinance, including those observing social distancing, young children, those exercising, and persons whose compliance would be detrimental to their health, safety or welfare are not required to wear a face covering. It is the intent of the ordinance to seek voluntary compliance and to educate and warn of the dangers of non-compliance. The ordinance can be read in its entirety at [venicegov.com](http://venicegov.com), under the local COVID-19 update pages.

*Continued on page 2*

### MAYOR

Ron Feinsod

### VICE MAYOR

Chuck Newsom

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rich Cautero

Mitzie Fiedler

Helen Moore

Joe Neunder

Nick Pachota

[www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)

### CHARTER OFFICERS

City Manager Ed Lavallee

City Clerk Lori Stelzer

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez

To be placed on the newsletter distribution list, email city Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson at [landerson@venicegov.com](mailto:landerson@venicegov.com) or call 941-882-7401.



## The Plan: Phases For Re-Opening PHASE 3

Phase 3 will begin after the successful conclusion of Phase 2, which includes a downward trajectory of the syndromic and epidemiology criteria while maintaining adequate health care capacity. This will occur when there is no evidence of a rebound or resurgence of COVID-19 cases and satisfies the benchmarks outlined in this **Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step** plan.

The **Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step** plan sets forth minimum recommended health protocols. Individuals and businesses should adhere to all public guidance by federal, state and local officials, including state regulatory agencies.

### INDIVIDUALS

#### Vulnerable Populations

Individuals older than 65 years of age and individuals with a serious underlying medical condition (such as chronic lung disease, moderate-to-severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune-compromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) can resume public interactions, but should practice social distancing, minimizing exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical, unless precautionary measures are observed. Vulnerable populations should affirmatively inform their employer that they are a member of the vulnerable population so that their employer can plan accordingly.

#### Social Gatherings

Non-vulnerable populations should consider minimizing time spent in crowded environments.

#### Travel

Non-essential travel may continue.

### EMPLOYERS

#### Telework

Employees should resume unrestricted staffing of worksites and implement the final phasing in of employees returning to work. For vulnerable populations, teleworking can be considered.

#### Employee Screening

Employers should take prudent and practical measures to ensure employees do not enter the premises if they believe they are infected with COVID-19 or show symptoms of influenza like illness.

## The Plan: Phase 3 (continued)

#### Travel

Employees should resume non-essential travel and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding isolation following travel.

#### Local Government Meetings

These meetings should return to in-person quorum and public participation for local government bodies.

### OTHER

#### Bars, Pubs and Nightclubs

Bars, pubs, and nightclubs that derive more than 50 percent of sales from alcohol should operate at full capacity with limited social distancing protocols. Businesses should maintain adequate sanitation practices among employees and patrons during all hours of operation. Menus, if laminated, should be cleaned after each usage. Paper menus should be designed for single use and then disposed of immediately after use.

#### Restaurants

Restaurants and food service establishments may operate at full capacity with limited social distancing protocols. Businesses should maintain adequate sanitation practices among employees and patrons during all hours of operation. Menus, if laminated, should continue to be cleaned after each usage. Paper menus shall be designed for single use and then disposed of immediately after use.

#### Gyms and Fitness Centers

Gyms and fitness centers should open to full capacity but should maintain adequate sanitation practices among employees and patrons during all hours of operation.

#### Recreation

- **State Parks:** State parks should be fully opened, including overnight accommodations.
- **Public Beaches:** Beaches should remain fully opened.
- **Large Venues:** (i.e. movie theaters, concert halls, auditoriums, bowling alleys, arcades, playhouses, casinos) These venues should re-open fully with limited social distancing protocols.

#### Large Sporting Events and Theme Parks

- Large spectator sporting events should consider reducing capacity with limited social distancing protocols.
- Theme parks may return to normal operations with limited social distancing protocols.

### Reopenings, from page 1

Special events in the City are still on hold until further notice. The City is looking intently at how it might amend its special event permitting requirements in ways that, as the grip of COVID-19 lessens, staff might be able to permit certain special events. The City is working to draft a COVID-19 Safety

Plan to amend into all special event permits and possibly utilize in other ways as well. This is meant to minimize the spread and risk of acquiring coronavirus by both event staff and event attendees. Currently, large events that have been canceled in the City include the Sun Fiesta, Make a Difference Day, Children's Halloween Parade, Venice Holiday Parade, Christmas Boat Parade, and all downtown art and craft festivals.

**GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER****STATE OF FLORIDA****OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR****EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 20-244**

(Phase 3; Right to Work; Business Certainty; Suspension of Fines.)

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-52 declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-112 initiating Phase 1 of the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 14, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-123 for Full Phase 1; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 3, 2020, I issued Executive Order 20-139 initiating Phase 2 of the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida's Recovery.

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida has suffered economic harm as a result of COVID-19-related closures, exacerbating the impacts of the State of Emergency, and Floridians should not be prohibited by local governments from working or operating a business.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS**, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order:

Section 1. Phase 3

This order supersedes and eliminates any and all restrictions of Executive Orders 20-112, 20-123 and 20-139, as well as Executive Orders 20-192, 20-214 and 20-223, except as modified herein.

Section 2. Right to Work and Operate a Business

No COVID-19 emergency ordinance may prevent an individual from working or from operating a business. This preemption is consistent with Executive Order 20-92.

Section 3. Restaurants

Pursuant to Chapter 252, including sections 252.36(5)(b), (g) and (h), Florida Statutes, and in order to safeguard the economic vitality of this state, any restaurant may operate as set forth below.

A. Restaurants, including any establishment with a food service license, may not be limited by a COVID-19 emergency order by any local government to less than fifty percent (50%) of their indoor capacity. If a restaurant is limited to less than one hundred percent (100%) of its indoor capacity, such COVID-19 emergency order must on its face satisfy the following:

- i. quantify the economic impact of each limitation or requirement on those restaurants; and
- ii. explain why each limitation or requirement is necessary for public health.

B. Nothing in this order preempts or supersedes a non-COVID-19 municipal or county order.

Section 4. Suspension of COVID-19-related Individual Fines and Penalties

This order, consistent with Executive Order 20-92, suspends the collection of fines and penalties associated with COVID-19 enforced upon individuals.



# Work progresses on Fire Station 1, new Public Works home



The Venice Fire Station 1/City Hall Expansion project has a very busy few weeks ahead. The contractors are currently finishing the under slab sewer and electrical piping, as well as the utility mainlines to serve the new buildings. The site will soon look very different, as they plan to start installing the vertical masonry walls later this week, followed by structural steel the week after. On Harbor Drive, the contractors will be installing the asphalt and striping for the on-street parking improvements, with a goal to get this parking area open to the public within the next couple of weeks. *See aerial photos, page 5.*

Last week, City of Venice Public Works staff started in-house work on the old Police Station located at 1350 Ridgewood Ave. This facility will be repurposed as the new home of Public Works Administration, Parks and Maintenance. Work has included cleaning out all the old and unwanted items from the building, preparing the building for renovation work, removing the onsite fences and the demolition of an old garage building. A private contractor will be brought in for the renovation work, but Public Works staff are performing many items in-house ahead of time to reduce project cost.



Above left, the site of the new Fire Station 1 building near City Hall. Far left, Chris Amato works to take down the old VPD garage building Sept. 28; near left, the demolition site behind the old police station.



## FIRE STATION 1/CITY HALL EXPANSION PROJECT

Here are the latest aerial photos of the Venice Fire Station 1/City Hall Expansion project progress, provided by Willis Smith Construction.





**Special events in the City have been canceled until further notice. Visit [venicegov.com](http://venicegov.com) for updates.**

 <h1>OCTOBER 2020</h1>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>EVENT INFO:</b> Symbol indicates event's location.  Centennial Park  Nokomis Ave.	<b>SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON</b> MAY 1 - OCT 31  <b>LIGHTS OUT AT THE BEACH!</b>	<b>HURRICANE SEASON</b>  <b>JUNE 1 - NOV 30</b>		1 10AM Code Enforcement Board 1:30PM CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP	2	3
4	5	6 1:30PM Planning Commission	7	8 9AM Architectural Review Board	9	10
11	12 COLUMBUS DAY	13 9AM CITY COUNCIL	14	15 <b>CANCELED</b>  SERTOMA WINEFEAST	16 9AM Historic Preservation Board  <b>SUN FIESTA</b> BOSS'S DAY	17 <b>SUN FIESTA CANCELED</b>  <b>SUN FIESTA</b>
18  <b>SUN FIESTA</b>	19 3PM Parks & Recreation Advisory Board	20	21	22 9AM Architectural Review Board	23	24 MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
25	26	27 9AM CITY COUNCIL	28 1PM Environmental Advisory Board	29	30	31 <b>CANCELED</b>  <b>CHILDREN'S PARADE</b> HALLOWEEN



**Special events in the City have been canceled until further notice. Visit [venicegov.com](http://venicegov.com) for updates.**

 <b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS	2	3 1:30PM Planning Commission  ELECTION DAY	4	5 10AM Code Enforcement Board	6	7 <b>CANCELED</b> ● DOWNTOWN VENICE ART FESTIVAL
8 <b>CANCELED</b> ● DOWNTOWN VENICE ART FESTIVAL	9	10	11 CITY HALL CLOSED  VETERANS DAY	12 9AM Architectural Review Board	13	14  DIWALI
15	16	17 8:30AM SWEARING IN 9AM CITY COUNCIL  <b>CANCELED</b> 10AM HISTORIC BIKE TOUR	18	19	20 9AM Historic Preservation Board	21
22	23	24	25	26 CITY HALL CLOSED Garbage, yard waste and recyclables collected on next pickup day THANKSGIVING	27 CITY HALL CLOSED	28 <b>CANCELED</b> ● 7PM HOLIDAY PARADE
29	30				 HURRICANE SEASON JUNE 1 - NOV 30	EVENT INFO: Symbol indicates event's location. ● W. Venice Avenue

# Volunteers sought for City advisory boards

Know someone who wants to get involved in the community, but isn't exactly sure how? Serving on a City of Venice advisory board is an excellent way to get started. Currently, 6 regular seats and 3 student seats on different boards are open. Boards are currently meeting in a hybrid format, both in-person and virtually via Zoom. Vacancies are as follows:

## **Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals, 4 vacancies**

This board meets on call of the chairman in Council Chambers at City Hall. Seven members shall consist of individuals with knowledge and experience in the technical codes, such as design professionals, contractors or building industry representatives. In addition to the regular members, three alternate members to serve as consumer representatives. Consumer representatives shall not be, or ever have been, members or practitioners of a trade or profession regulated by the board or a member of any closely related trade or profession. A board member shall not act in a case in which the member has a personal or financial interest.

## **Historic Preservation Board, 1 regular and 1 student vacancy**

This board shall meet on the third Friday of each month at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. Seven regular members shall be City residents

or owner of real property located within the City. One non-voting member from a Venice area high school student body recommended by the principal or his designee shall be appointed for a one-year term. The members shall be individuals who have demonstrated special interest, experience or knowledge in history, architecture or related disciplines, as well as the heritage of the City.

## **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 1 student vacancy**

This board shall meet quarterly, January, April, July and October, the third Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. One member shall be from a Venice area high school student body, recommended by the principal or his designee. The student member shall be appointed for a one-year term, with a possible reappointment not to exceed three consecutive terms, allowing for three years' maximum.

## **Public Art Advisory Board, 1 student vacancy**

This board shall meet quarterly the second Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. One member shall be from a Venice area high school student body recommended by the principal or his designee. Members shall have appropriate backgrounds in public art, architecture, cultural policy or related fields and should demonstrate an interest and knowledge in public art issues.

## **Architectural Review Board, 1 vacancy**

This board conducts studies and makes recommendations to City Council for the adoption, administration and enforcement of reasonable architectural and aesthetic standards to apply in appropriate areas or districts of the City. Upon the adoption by ordinance of the Council of such architectural and aesthetic standards, it shall be the duty of the board to administer and enforce such standards pursuant to the procedures to be adopted by Council. This board meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. One member shall be an architect registered to practice in the state. One member shall be a member of Venice MainStreet Inc. The other board members shall have backgrounds in building design or similar fields and shall have an appreciation for the significance of the City's architectural heritage. All board members, other than the member who is a registered architect, shall be a City resident or the owner of real property located within the City.

More information on these boards and online applications can be found at <https://www.venicegov.com/government/city-clerk/advisory-boards>. You can also contact Administrative Coordinator Mercedes Barcia in the City Clerk's Office at [mbarcia@venicegov.com](mailto:mbarcia@venicegov.com) or 941-882-7392. All resumes will be considered when vacancies occur.



# Leave some good vibes at Positivity Walls



Positivity Walls installed by Venice Public Works staff at Centennial Park (above) and Venice Beach (right).



The Venice Area Chamber of Commerce announces the launch of five Positivity Walls throughout the Venice area. The Chamber, in partnership with the City of Venice, Sarasota County, J 2 Solutions, Home Depot of Venice, Office Depot of Venice, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Venice Print Center, Venice Art Center and Venice MainStreet constructed these walls to spread positivity throughout our community.

Kathy Lehner, President and CEO of the Chamber, said, "It's something I saw another chamber doing, and with everything going on in 2020, we thought it would be a great idea for people to share positive quotes, thoughts and messages."

The Chamber is asking the community at large to contribute to the community Positivity Walls. Residents and visitors alike are invited to leave a positive message, a wish, or words of encouragement to share with the community. To participate, complimentary supplies can be found attached to each wall. Each wall will have a box of tags, markers and zip ties. People can write their message on a tag, use a zip tie from the box to attach the message to the wall, and return the marker to the box.

Positivity Wall locations are:

- Centennial Park, 200 E. Venice Ave., Venice
- Venice Beach pavilion, 101 The Esplanade, Venice
- Sky Family YMCA, 701 Center Rd., Venice
- Laurel Civic Center, 509 Collins Rd., Nokomis
- Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Public Library, 4141 Woodmere Park Blvd., South Venice

The first phase of the project will be a little less than three months. All five walls were installed Sept. 21 and will stay up until mid-December. The second phase of the project will begin when all the tags are sent to the Venice Art Center. It will culminate with a public art project representing artistic interpretation of the messaging.

For more information, please contact the Venice Chamber at 941-488-2236 or email Mary Charland at [mcharland@venicechamber.com](mailto:mcharland@venicechamber.com).

— Provided by Mary Charland

# Venice firefighter's article published in trade magazine

*Congrats to Venice firefighter/paramedic Sean Duffy (pictured at right), who had an article published in the September issue of Fire Engineering Magazine! Sean, who has been with Venice Fire Rescue since April of this year, is a 15-year veteran of the fire service. Here's a quick Q&A with Sean about the piece.*

## **How did you get to be published in Fire Engineering?**

I was attending a class about decision-making during sizeups on the fireground by retired Capt. Mike Gagliano from Seattle. After the class, we spoke for a bit and I was giving him my perspective on searches and what I felt was best practice. Toward the end of the conversation he told me that I should consider writing an article for Fire Engineering about my views. I was humbled that he felt it would be something that would resonate with others, so I decided to start putting my thoughts together. After several months and a few peer reviews and edits, I finally had what I felt was something that conveyed my beliefs, passion and experiences in as much detail as possible for an article. I sent it off to the magazine and a little while later was informed that they had accepted my article, "Searchable vs. Survivable: Educated Decision Making," and that it would be published sometime within the next few months.

## **Why is this topic important to you?**

We have no time to waste when making decisions. When it comes to victims trapped by fire we are already behind when we receive the call, so we need to show up gather as much information as quickly as we can and choose the actions that will give victims the best chance at survival. Every second counts, seconds add to minutes and those minutes are not ours to waste. The people inside these burning buildings do not have the protection we do against heat and smoke. They have been in there a long time before the fire was noticed and before we even make it to the scene. We need to properly identify the areas they are most likely to be in, understand what the fire is doing and realize that exterior views are often misleading. Its about reducing times. The intent is to prioritize our search efforts. It's not about being reckless but educated with our decision-making. Unless there are flames coming from every window and door upon arrival, we can not assume that there is no chance at surviving the fire. There has been a lot of data recorded to prove this and I personally feel that the information we are being given is something many may not be aware of for a multitude of reasons.

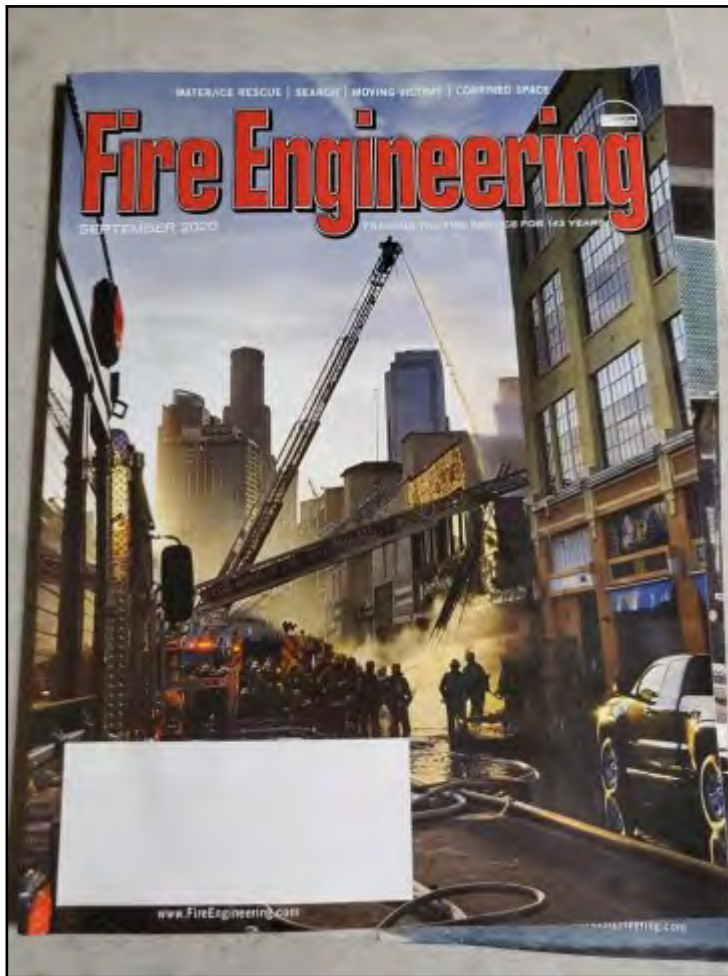
## **Do you enjoy writing? Is it a hobby?**

I very much enjoy writing. I have been writing since I was a kid and write just about every day. I don't just write about firefighting though. I find writing to



*Continued on page 11*





Magazine, from page 10

be a great outlet to deal with just about everything in life and find it to be a good source for studying and retaining information.

### What does it mean to you to see your work published?

It is still surreal! It's one of the biggest magazines in our industry and tied to the Fire Department Instructors Conference, the biggest firefighting conference in the country. It has been one of the most exciting things I have done in



At left, the cover of the September issue of Fire Engineering Magazine, and Venice Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Duffy's article inside. To read the article in its entirety online and view a short instructional video narrated by Sean, go to: [www.fireengineering.com](http://www.fireengineering.com) and search for "searchable vs. survivable."

my career so far and is incredibly humbling. It is always said that when you join the fire service you should leave it better than you found it. For me, this is one of the ways I feel like I can say I tried to leave it a better place. Fifteen years ago I would not have imagined my words being in print or that firefighters from all over would read or learn from them. It's truly an honor to be published in Fire Engineering Magazine and something I will always be proud of.

# Venice makes switch to Alert Sarasota County

Sarasota County has launched a mass-notification system called Alert Sarasota County, hosted by Everbridge, as part of a partnership with the state of Florida and the cities of Venice, Sarasota, North Port and the Town of Longboat Key.

Alert Sarasota County, which replaces the CodeRED notification system, will be used to communicate public health and safety topics affecting the County. Available alerts in the City of Venice include severe weather, police and fire incidents, temporary road closures and construction, hazardous spills, water outages and boil water notices, flooding, power outages and red tide.

**The City of Venice has switched to Alert Sarasota County as of Sept. 14.**

Users can choose the types of alerts and how to receive them when registering their new account. These options can be changed at any time. Alert Sarasota County can send alerts to users via landline phone, cell phone, text message, email, TDD/TTY, or a combination of these methods.

Users can sign up for alerts by registering with their home address. County and municipality alerts can differ. To start receiving alerts, sign up in the following ways:

**Create an account at [www.alertsarasotacounty.com](http://www.alertsarasotacounty.com).** When signing up, users can enter their home address to the jurisdiction map to determine which jurisdiction's alerts to receive.

**Download the free Everbridge mobile app.** In the app, select "find organization or subscription," type your jurisdiction into the search bar, and log in or register a new account.

The use of this mass-notification system is at no cost to Sarasota County or the City of Venice. The state of Florida currently holds a contract with Alert Sarasota County host Everbridge. The entire cost of the 5-year, \$3.5 million contract is borne by the state's Alert Florida program. The state's contract with Everbridge expires July 30, 2024.

"We're looking forward to the Everbridge system providing valuable, timely information for our citizens on a variety of critical issues via phone, text message and email," said Venice Deputy Fire Chief Frank Giddens.

Data entered into the Alert Sarasota County system is only used to send alerts and will not be sold.





# Upcoming time change reminds riders to see, be seen, be safe

The time change is approaching: It's Sunday, Nov. 1. With Daylight Savings Time ending comes early sunsets. Florida law requires bicycles riding at night to have front and rear lights. From the Florida Statutes:

**Lighting** (see Section 316.2065): A bicycle operated between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from 500 feet to the front and both a red reflector and a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from 600 feet to the rear. Additional lighting is permitted and recommended.



**DARLENE CULPEPPER**

One of the most important things to remember is when you are riding your bicycle on the streets, your bike is considered a vehicle and therefore must follow the same rules and regulations as cars, which have front and rear lights. No matter your level of riding skills, bike lights are essential to make sure you ride safe, night or day.

There are lights that help you see, which usually have a high LED output with a focused beam of light in front of you. Then there are lights that help people see you, which use an LED that flashes intermittently. They come in battery or rechargeable options and depending on how you ride and which output you use will have hundreds of hours of run time. When you look to buy a light, they are compared by lumens (brightness). With the creation of LEDs, they get more light output with less power consumption. One simple rule — more lumens equal brighter lights.

In addition to riding with lights, you can equip yourself with reflectivity. When riding at night, use reflective components. These can be found in clothing, stickers, bags, etc. When riding during the daytime, use fluorescent components. Fluorescent stands out from the environment and is more effective with the sun. You can highlight your moving parts. The up and down pedaling can be more visible by highlighting your feet, ankles and legs with the appropriate visible products for the time of day you are riding.

## Top tips

- Don't rely on drivers seeing you, no matter how brightly you are dressed or flashing.
- Be proactive, ride assertively, interact with road users and change road positions correctly.
- Try to make eye contact where possible and gauge whether you've been seen.
- Move out of the way early and create as much space as possible so you can see and be seen.

Biking at night can be intimidating, especially if you are not used to it. If you stay alert and equip yourself with the appropriate lights and gear, you'll be able to safely enjoy your rides any time of day.

*For more information, email City Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Darlene Culpepper at [dculpepper@venicegov.com](mailto:dculpepper@venicegov.com).*

## MARKER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*Marker in the Spotlight is a new feature in this newsletter. Each month we will shine a spotlight on a local historical marker and learn what makes that particular location so important.*

The San Marco Hotel is this month's marker. Would you believe this hotel was built in just 90 days in 1926? In 1932, it reopened as part of the winter campus for the Kentucky Military Institute (KMI). From January through Easter, cadets were quartered in rooms on the two upper floors and attended classes on the ground floor. KMI closed its Venice campus in 1970.

The building, now the Venice Centre Mall, has been renovated into a mixed

use facility with condos on the upper floors and retail units on the ground floor.

Many thanks to the Venice Historical Society and the Ehrhart Family Foundation for sponsoring this historical plaque in 2012. To see it for yourself, visit 238 W. Tampa Ave.

Did you know a fabulous new Kentucky Military Institute exhibit is in the works for the San Marco? More to come as the project develops. For additional information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/veniceflarchives/>.

— Provided by Rhonda Rogers





# YOUR HURRICANE READINESS CHECKLIST

**It's still hurricane season in Florida until Nov. 30. Make sure you're prepared!**

Stock up on bottled water, canned goods, medications or any other items that may be difficult to obtain right before or a week or two after the storm.

Plan to have 1 gallon of bottled water per person, per day, to last about two weeks.

Other items to stock up on include large, heavy-duty garbage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, wipes, first aid supplies, bleach and liquid dish soap, mosquito repellent, nonperishable food, plastic eating utensils, and paper plates and cups.

If you have a barbecue grill, stock up on charcoal and matches.

Go over your hurricane preparation and

evacuation plan with your family. Let out-of-town relatives know where you'll be during the storm.

**Know that going to a hurricane evacuation center (shelter) should be your LAST-RESORT option.**

These centers have one goal: To keep you alive through a storm event. You will have limited space, cots will not be provided, and meals may be delayed. Make a plan to stay with a neighbor, friend or relative NOW.

If staying in a shelter may be an option, drive to the various shelters well beforehand to be familiar with their locations. This is so that hours before an impending storm, when Sarasota County Emergency Management announces which shelters will be open, you can confidently and easily get there. **Get more information on area shelters and Sarasota County's transportation plan at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net).**

Purchase a battery-operated radio, TV, flashlights and other items, and have spare batteries on hand.

Consider investing in a small generator, which can be purchased at home improvement stores, in case you are without electricity for a while.

Have your insurance and other important papers in a safe, waterproof container that you can take with you if you leave home.

Have a tarp and other emergency equipment on hand.

If you are concerned that your home is in a flood-prone area, store sandbags or bags filled with garden mulch to place around your house before the storm. The mulch can later be used in the garden.

**When a hurricane watch is announced for the area:**

Watch local TV news, check online weather sites like NOAA, monitor the Facebook pages of the City of Venice and Sarasota County Emergency Services, download weather apps to your device, and listen to the radio for information.

Begin collecting all loose items from your yard and porch, including lanais and pool cages. Even small items picked up by strong winds can break a window or lodge in a roof or other parts of a structure.

Install shutters or plywood over your windows.

Make sure your vehicle's gas tank is full.

Have cash on hand.

Do laundry.

Fill the bathtub with water.

Fill an ice chest or cooler with ice.

Charge phones and other devices.



*Continued on page 16*

## Sarasota County Disaster Guide

Sarasota County has released electronic versions of its 2020 Sarasota County Disaster Planning Guide and Evacuation Map. They can be found via the below links. They are also available on the City's website, [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com), under the "I Want To" and "Residents" tabs on the home page.

English version of the 2020 Sarasota County Disaster Planning Guide: <http://www.tbrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Sarasota-DPG-2020.pdf>

Spanish version: <http://www.tbrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Sarasota-DPG-2020-Spanish.pdf>

English version of the County Evacuation Map: <http://www.tbrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Sarasota-2020-Evacuation-Map.pdf>

Spanish version: <http://www.tbrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Sarasota-2020-Evacuation-Map-Spanish.pdf>

**Free hard copies of the guide are also available at the City Hall Information Center at 401 W. Venice Ave.**



### **Checklist, from page 15**

Know that at sustained 45 mph winds, emergency services, including ambulances, will NOT respond to calls until conditions subside.

Remember that a hurricane has two parts. Often when the eye passes over, it is very calm and sometimes people think the storm is over.

### **Immediately after the storm, stay inside because:**

There may be contaminated flood waters, as well as potholes or live electrical wires under flood waters that cannot be seen.

Most traffic signals will not be functioning.

Emergency services need the roads as clear as possible to respond to the number of calls they will get.

Snakes, rats, ants and other vermin will be displaced from their usual habitat and try to share yours.

### **Additionally ...**

Do not swim or surf in the Gulf waters because there will likely be dangerous rip tide currents.

Plan for being in heat without air-conditioning for an extended amount of time.

**Get additional information and watch the Hurricane Season 2020 Video at [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com) under the "I Want To" and "Residents" tabs.**





# Why topping is such a harmful pruning practice

Topping a tree may be the most misunderstood and harmful pruning practice there is. Even with 25 years of research and literature condemning the



**JIM YELVERTON**  
CITY ARBORIST

practice, topping is still routinely preformed. Here we will look at a few reasons why topping hurts a tree.

Topping is the removal of most or all of a trees crown. Topping cuts are made indiscriminately to remove branches and leaving only stubs or branches that are not large enough to take on the role of a terminal leader.

The most common reason given for topping is to reduce the size of a tree. Homeowners often think a tree is too large for their property or fear that a tree has become hazardous. Trees are actually made more hazardous in the long term from topping.

Topping removes most or all of a tree's leaves and leaf-bearing crown. Since leaves are the food factories of a tree, this starves a tree of sugars it needs to function. Severe pruning triggers the survival mechanisms of a tree, producing growth hormones that activate dormant buds below the top-

ping cuts. The tree then directs most of its energy to force rapid growth of multiple shoots from below each cut. The tree needs to produce as many leaves as possible to survive. If the tree does not have the necessary stored energy, this could severely weaken the tree and it may die. Stressed trees with large open wounds exposing heartwood are much more vulnerable to attacks from insects and disease. With the tree in a weakened condition, it may lack the necessary energy to defend itself from these attacks. Some insect pest are actually attracted to chemical stress signals a tree releases.

Trees are biologically equipped with a branch collar to effectively close a wound at the branch's point of attachment. Trees have evolved to compartmentalize and isolate any wood decaying organisms in these branch attachment structures. This protects the main stem of a tree from the spread of decay. Cuts made along branches between lateral branches create stubs that are not equipped with the protection so decay can easily spread. Since most of the tree's energy is spent to regrow shoots and leaves, the tree is not able to defend itself.

Another problem is that new shoots that form after topping cuts grow from surface buds and do

not develop in a socket of overlapping wood as normal branches do. These shoots are poorly attached to the remaining branch stub and can break out easily. Furthermore, when the stubs decay, the shoot attachment is even weaker and more vulnerable to breaking. These shoots now can easily become projectiles in high winds. The irony is that in an effort to make a tree safer, in reality topping makes a tree more hazardous.

Research has provided us with guidance for the correct way to prune a tree to make it smaller and safer. If you have a tree that has been topped, an experienced arborist can repair much of the damage with proper pruning over the course of several years.

Arborists certified by the International Society of Arborists (ISA) are trained to use proper technics and to have an understanding of tree biology and their response to pruning. Please ensure your tree care person has the skills and knowledge necessary to keep your trees healthy and safe.

To find an ISA-certified Arborist, visit <https://www.treesaregood.org/>.

*Jim Yelverton is the City of Venice Tree Program Administrator and City Arborist. For more information, contact Jim at [jyelverton@venicegov.com](mailto:jyelverton@venicegov.com) or 941-882-7433.*

# Utilities Water Main Replacement Phase 6 Project update

**Project update:** Work scheduled in October includes property water service relocations to the right of way on Manatee Court. New water main connections at Tampa Avenue E. and Harbor Drive N., Avenida del Circo and Base Avenue E., and a new water main installation on Ocala Street between The Esplanade and Valencia Road via horizontal directional drill. A scheduled water shutdown is necessary to connect the new water mains to the existing distribution system on Pensacola Road between Valencia and Nassau Street S., and the Palmetto Court area.

**Project:** The Utilities Water Main Replacement Phase 6 Project area is roughly bordered by Narvaezi Street to the north, Park Boulevard (North and South) to the west, Armada Road to the south and Nassau Street to the east. Additionally, a section south of the main area runs from Shore Road to Ringling Drive S. between Base and Airport avenues (west and east). Phase 6 includes the installation of approximately 7,500 linear feet (lf) of new water main, 6 fire hydrants, 28 valves, various appurtenances, property service connections, and the abandonment of rear lot water mains. Approximately 189 properties have been identified for relocation of the rear or side water service line to a new or existing water main located in the right of way.

**Boil water notices:** Some water shutdowns will be necessary to perform the work. As a precautionary measure, boil water advisories are required when an interruption in service causes customers to have low or no water pressure. Advisories are provided via a door hanger to affected properties. Notices are posted on the City of Venice web-site, [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com), and entered into the City's emergency notification system, Alert Sarasota County (see more info on page 12).

**History:** The City has many areas where the water mains are aged, very tuberculated, undersized and located in rear easements of commercial and residential properties. Installing new replacement water mains and relocating associated service lines and meters to the front or side rights of way allows City staff proper operation and maintenance of the distribution system.

**Funding:** A substantial portion of this phase is jointly funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) through the EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program that is administered by the FDEP. The EPA's loan programs operate around the country to provide states and communities the resources to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our valuable water resources nationwide.

For information specific to your property, contact Cynthia Fitzpatrick, Utilities Project Coordinator, at 941-882-7290.

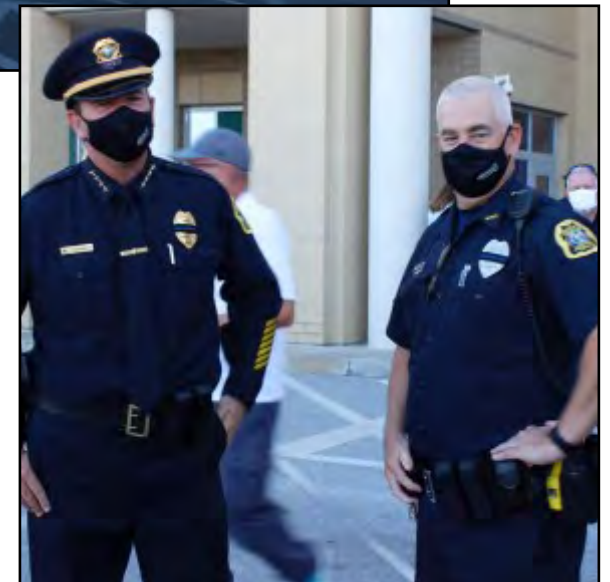


A new 6-inch water main after being connected to an existing 12-inch main on Park Lane Drive.



## 9/11 TRIBUTE AT VENICE HIGH

Former NYPD Officer, current Venice Police Officer and VHS parent Mike Halpin led Venice High School in a moment of silence and 9/11 tribute on Sept. 11, along with VPD Chief Tom Mattmuller and other members of Venice Police and Fire.



*Photos provided by Venice High School*

# City of Venice State Legislative Priorities for 2021

*Editor's note: These State Legislative Priorities were approved by Venice City Council on Sept. 22, 2020. They will be presented to legislators in this format.*

The City of Venice wishes to express its gratitude to the Florida State Legislature for its work to provide the best and highest quality of life for residents of the state and especially, residents of Venice. We are greatly thankful for previous support of road reconstruction, beach renourishment, and other actions for the benefit of our citizens. The following needs have been identified by Venice City Council. The City of Venice requests your help with these important projects:

## **COVID-19 Assistance**

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unforeseen and unanticipated public health and economic emergency worldwide. The City of Venice's priority is the health and welfare of our citizens above all other considerations, along with the health and welfare of the City's first responders (Fire, EMS and Police).

The City needs access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies for our first responders, and urge the State to support all small local municipalities in obtaining the needed supply. COVID-19 has had major economic impacts that will be felt for years to come. The City requests state assistance in helping small local municipalities by providing financial aid for economic recovery, so the City of Venice can continue to provide needed services for our citizens.

## **Water System Infrastructure – Booster Station Acquisition**

Venice owns and operates a municipal water system, providing potable water to customers within the City. A major feature of the water system infrastructure is a booster station located in a low-lying area proximate to a public park.

The population growth in the Venice area is rapid. Within City boundaries, 5,000 new residential properties are planned. The booster station is old and its capacity is challenged. The rapid development of residential and commercial properties, including a new hospital, will further tax the system's ability to deliver a safe level of water to its residential and commercial customers.

The City purchased 39 acres of land in anticipation of expanding demands on municipal services, and has committed 6 to 10 acres of that parcel for the construction of a new booster station. The acreage is located in the northeast section, the fastest-growing area of the City. Its location will perfectly suit the increasing growth and ensure a safe and reliable level of potable water to a new hospital and residential developments.

In addition to the benefits of upgrading the domestic water supply to citizens, the booster station project includes an important environmental feature – adequate land is being provided to install a solar array to power the plant. The alternative energy supply will reduce the carbon footprint and serve as a model for future municipal capital projects. Also, the new facility will incorporate an interconnect with the Sarasota County water system to provide an emergen-

*Continued on page 21*



# City of Venice State Legislative Priorities for 2021 (con't)

cy failsafe source of water in case of a system outage.

Finally, consistent with the City's and County's proactive approach to disaster recovery, the booster station will be constructed to function as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for utility services (water, wastewater, reclaimed water). In this capacity, the facility will complement the City's overall disaster management and recovery plan.

The system is projected to cost \$11,500,000, not counting the land acquired to support the project. The 10 acres of land is valued at \$250,000. The City of Venice requests legislative assistance of \$1,000,000 to support this multi-functional utility asset.

## Public Safety – Emergency Operations Center

The City of Venice bonded the construction of a modern public safety facility to house the Venice Police Department and to function as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the community in the event of natural or manmade disaster. The facility, including land acquisition, site preparation, engineering, design and construction was exclusively supported with local funding. The emergency operations component of the facility has programmed space within the facility, but due to budgetary considerations, was not provided requisite equipment and operating supplies.

As a Gulf Coast community, the City is vulnerable to storms , floods, hurricanes and associated weather risks. To properly equip the new EOC as a critically functioning emergency asset, the City requests state funding in the amount of \$250,000. These funds will support the purchase of tactical, electronic and communications equipment for the EOC and its designated leadership team.

## 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 and economic driver. The City of Venice appreciates the funding that has been received to date, including annual physical 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.

# City of Venice State Legislative Priorities for 2021 (con't)

## Affordable Housing

Area businesses including critical service providers like the local hospital have conveyed to the City that they have difficulty in hiring and retaining employees due to a lack of affordable housing. Additionally, local land and construction costs preclude developers from creating residential units at affordable prices for low- and moderate-income workers. It should be possible for working families and our more vulnerable citizens to afford housing and still have enough money for basic expenses like groceries and gas. Further, it has been reported that more than \$2 billion has been diverted from the Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the last 10 years alone – some on tax breaks, some on balancing the budget, some on pet projects. The City believes this money should be returned to the Trust and spent on affordable workforce housing.

The City of Venice respectfully requests state appropriations for programs that support acquisition of property and construction of housing units that are affordable to low- and middle-income residents (lower strata income workers). The City also requests an increase in funding for CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and HOME partnership programs to assist in these endeavors.

## 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.

1. 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 \$50,000 Homestead Exemption, that affect local government.
2. Provide further **relief from the current requirements in funding 175 and 185 pension plans**, which can only be used for enhancements to existing contracts.
3. **Repeal of the state law that prohibits Home Rule in regard to new short-term rental** ordinances or amending existing ordinances.

## Transportation Funding

The City of Venice supports legislation that recognizes the value of local transportation planning and provides equitable funding opportunities for municipalities and counties to preserve and improve their respective transportation infrastructure. Ownership of roads and transportation corridors and the residual responsibilities for sustaining and improving them is shared among state, county and local governments. The City supports legislation that provides municipal-level transportation funding opportunities for local governments to meet the increasing demands consistent with expanding populations and roadway use.

*Continued on page 23*



# City of Venice State Legislative Priorities for 2021 (con't)

## 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.

---

## Mayors' Feed the Hungry program seeks donations

Local food pantries are reporting an alarming increase in the need for food assistance. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, over \$50,000 in food gift cards has been donated to hungry families by local food pantries. Each food gift card is \$10 – one per individual, with a maximum of 4 per family. Food gift cards allow people to shop with dignity, providing them the chance to purchase food items they might not otherwise have been able to afford.

The Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program is asking for the public's help to raise another \$50,000, which is desperately needed, according to Scott Biehler, the program's Executive Director.

Donations can be made online, by text, by check or in person.

- \* To donate online, go to [www.mayorsfeedthehungry.org](http://www.mayorsfeedthehungry.org)

- \* To donate by text, text the word GIVE to 941-275-2032

- \* To donate by mail, send a check to Mayors' Feed the Hungry, P.O. Box 1992, Sarasota, FL 34230

- \* To donate in person, drop off food at a Mayors' Feed the Hungry food pantry. Please contact the food pantry to arrange a food drop-off. **Please DO NOT bring donations to Venice City Hall.** Venice area pantries are: **Community Assistance Ministry at Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 4365 State Road 776, Todd Miller, 941-492-6384; **Center of Hope**, 2395 Shamrock Dr., Jim McClelland, 941-412-9044; and the **Salvation Army**, 1051 Albee Farm Rd.; 941-240-5108

All nine mayors – including Venice Mayor Ron Feinsod – and both County Commission Chairs in Sarasota and Manatee counties support the Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program, a volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3). It receives no government funding and relies upon generous public donations. Since 1987, this organization has given away over \$3.7 million in food gift cards to those in need in local communities. With so many people out of work due to the COVID-19 virus, the program is asking the public to help raise enough funds to give away another \$50,000 in food gift cards now, when it is so desperately needed.

For more information, contact Scott Biehler at [scott@mayorsfeedthehungry.org](mailto:scott@mayorsfeedthehungry.org) or 941-350-6075.



## GAZEBO MAKEOVER


City Public Works staff have completed replacement of all the rotted wood, stairs and railings on the Centennial Park Gazebo. With the exception of the roof and painting, work on this project has been done in-house by Public Works.

The painting contractor completed their work the week of Sept. 21. The final step of the project will be refreshing the landscape beds around the structure. The City Parks division will be working with local volunteers to get these landscape beds updated.





## A PSA FROM VPD




**Chief Tom Mattmuller**  
Our Citizens,  
Our Community,  
Our Commitment

**SCAM ALERT**  
**BE AWARE!!!**  
**EMAIL & PHONE**


For more information, Contact Us:  
**Venice Police Department**  
1575 E. Venice Ave.  
Venice, FL 34292  
Main: (941) 486 – 2444  
Front Desk: (941) 882 – 7549  
[www.venicegov.com/government/police](http://www.venicegov.com/government/police)  
[www.facebook.com/VenicePD/](https://www.facebook.com/VenicePD/)

VeniceBlue4U Issue #01


**Common SCAMS**




**You have won a prize, lottery, free cruise ...**  
but you must pay fee upfront.




**"There's a problem with your computer" ...**  
They request remote access to your computer OR want to refund money.




**"You have a warrant" ...** They request you pay with **GIFT CARDS** or transfer of money as a payment.



**Claim your grandchild is in trouble or in jail...** They want you to pay bond or send money.



**IRS, Social Security Administration, and other Governments Scams!!!!** They request **GIFT CARDS** as a payment.



**Charity Scam, Fundraiser** from Police, Fire Fighter Departments, or some kind of non-profit organization.

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If it seems too good to be true, it **GENERALLY IS!!!**

**USE CAUTION**  
DO NOT send money or give out your information.

**BE VIGILANT**  
When in doubt, hang up the phone!

**COMMUNICATE**  
Talk about it with others or call Police

**NEVER GIVE OUT YOUR INFORMATION**

**DON'T ENDORSE IT... REPORT IT!!**

**A PSA FROM VPD (CON'T)**

VeniceBlue4U Issue #01

**What to do if you have been scammed or a victim?****1. Call your banks or credit card issuers right away to report the incident.****2. If you are a victim of identity theft, someone is using your information to open new accounts, or make purchases, report it and get help.**

- a. <https://www.identitytheft.gov/Assistant#>
- b. This is free through the Federal Trade Commission.



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

**IdentityTheft.gov****3. Working with Credit Bureaus**

- a. Report to all 3 major credit Bureaus:



- i. Equifax 800-685-1111 <https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/>
- ii. Experian 888-397-3742 <https://www.experian.com/help/>
- iii. TransUnion 888-909-8872 <https://www.transunion.com/credit-help>

**4. File a report  
through your local  
police department.**



# Home for 'Old Betsy' sees matching \$55K grant

On Aug. 25, City Council approved a conceptual plan for a display building to house "Old Betsy," the City's 1926 American LaFrance fire engine. Director of Public Works James Clinch and Earl Midlam, a former City Council Member and firefighter who drives the old fire engine during events and oversees the vehicle's upkeep, gave a presentation to Council on the proposal.

Old Betsy was brought to Venice by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in November 1926, and acquired by the City in 1928. It was an active fire engine for the City until the vehicle was retired in the late 1960s. The first restoration on the engine was performed in 1975, with the most recent in 2011. Old Betsy has been routinely featured in numerous City events and parades, including Public Safety Day, the Children's Halloween Parade, and the Holiday Parade.

The antique fire engine is currently housed in the Sarasota County Warehouse at 440 E. Venice Ave., an aging building that the City does not own. Under the concept plan, Old Betsy would be housed in a climate-controlled building located on the Cultural Campus of East Blalock Park, across from the Venice Museum. The structure would be paid for through a fundraising campaign by Venice Heritage Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. It would be constructed of low-maintenance building materials and be energy-efficient with roof solar panels.

Earl shared an email this week from Mischa Kirby with the Community Foundation of Sarasota County stating, "We are excited for you to share the news of the matching capping grant of \$55,000 for the building to hold Old Betsy" through the Kathleen K. Catlin Foundation fund. Thank you!

---

*Help us build a home for this grand ol' gal*

All Donations Held by Venice Heritage, Inc., a 501(c)(3)  
P.O. Box 1190, Venice, FL 34284

or go to [veniceheritage.org](http://veniceheritage.org) and click on the yellow "DONATE" button to donate through PayPal

*Please indicate "Old Betsy's Home" on memo section of check*





# Report City issues with just a few clicks

The City of Venice uses the SeeClickFix platform, Venice Connect, which allows citizens to quickly report various issues to City officials like potholes, roadside junk, code violations, and traffic signal/sign problems, to name a few. SeeClickFix will assign your issue to the appropriate department. Registered SeeClickFix users will receive an email when there is an update and can also come back to check the status of a submitted ticket at any time. *It's as easy as that!* With the free SeeClickFix mobile app and web tools, citizens are able to provide City staff with a picture of the area and enter specific descriptions about the issue which is valuable in getting the job done efficiently.

In addition, the SeeClickFix platform provides City officials with a centralized issue management system to monitor progress of submitted issues from creation to resolution and also allows staff to engage citizens throughout the process.

The City has been using SeeClickFix since 2016 and has processed over 2,570 issues. During the past few years, issues submitted on SeeClickFix have helped the City handle exposed wires that needed immediate attention, roadside junk needing to be picked up, code violations, awareness of speeders in residential areas, and having street lights fixed and/or replaced. You are our eyes and ears and we value your assistance with maintaining the safety and beauty of Venice.

## Did you know?

**When a ticket is submitted to SeeClickFix, it captures the location you are in at the time of submission.** As a result, please make sure that you are providing the specific location of the issue being reported by either submitting the issue at that exact location OR by entering the location address in the description of issue.

**You can attach a photo when submitting your issue.** Photos are incredibly helpful. They allow staff to quickly identify the problem area being reported and ensure that work crews are safely being sent to the right location.

**The City works closely with the Sarasota County Contact Center, Florida Power & Light (FPL) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).** Many times the City receives issues that fall under the jurisdiction of one of these agencies. Issues submitted to the City can be forwarded to Sarasota County using the SeeClickFix app, or staff will personally reach out to FDOT and/or FPL with matters that fall under their jurisdiction. Having effective communication with these agencies is key in making sure the safety of citizens and guests in the City of Venice continues to be maintained. In addition, staff continues to monitor and do follow-ups with our counterparts to ensure these issues are handled in a timely manner.

## Important side note information

Staff does their best to ensure all tickets are handled promptly; however, there are times that staff may need sufficient time to complete certain requests. In addition, tickets are received that are “recommendations” rather than something that needs to be fixed. Although such recommendations are valued, staff is unable to keep the ticket open but will forward these recommendations to the appropriate department for review. City Hall is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and staff can be reached at 941-486-2626.

**Law enforcement issues** are considered an emergency nature and need to be reported directly to the Venice Police Department by calling 911. The non-emergency number is 941-486-2444. **After-hours Utilities emergencies** can be reported at 941-486-2770. **Animal concerns** such as raccoons or coyotes should NOT be entered into SeeClickFix. For more information on these issues, call the Wildlife Center of Venice at 941-484-9657 or Sarasota County Sheriff's Animal Services at 941-861-9500.

## Sign me up!

SeeClickFix is available as an app for Android or iPhone. Select SeeClickFix from the app store on your device. There is also a link to the program at the top of the homepage on the City website, [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com) (above the search bar), or go directly to SeeClickFix at <http://www.seeclickfix.com/venice>.

## VABI Public Art: Catch it all over Venice

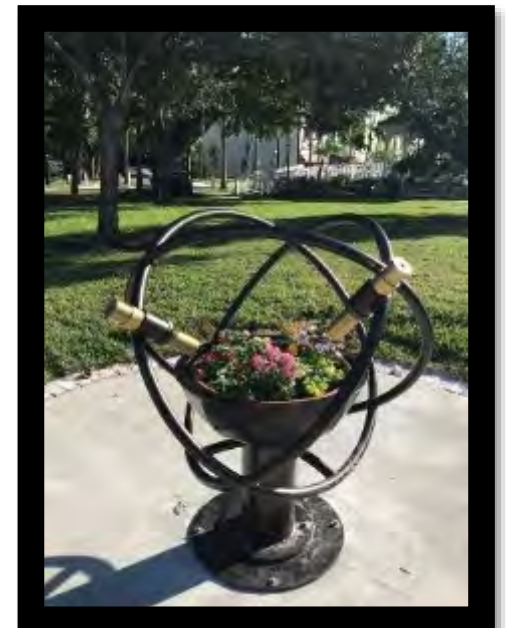
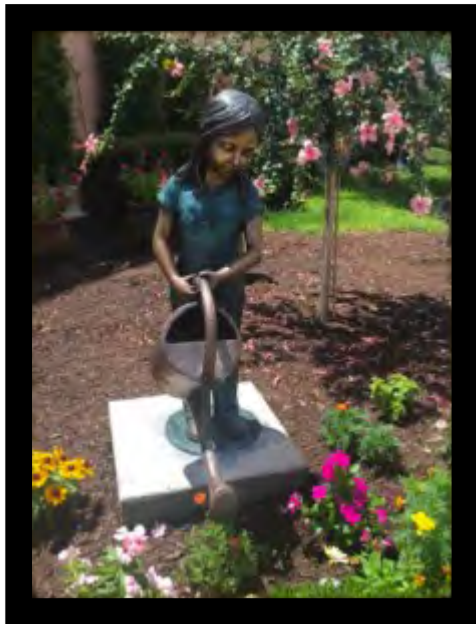
There is something special about public art you stumble upon during a drive or walk. Unlike the art you view in a gallery, there is a fun element of surprise to public art. It may spark an unexpected discussion or prove to be an exciting opportunity for a Kodak moment. It brings a new kind of beauty and originality to the area. It enhances our local culture.

Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI) continues to bring beauty to Venice through sculptures, statues and murals. That is how we nurture our citizens. It connects citizens to their neighbors and their shared history through documentation and celebration and makes cultural heritage a tangible community asset.

Here in Venice we have fun, vivid and meaningful murals that reflect the history of Venice, such as the “Venice Remembered” mural featured on the Gondolier Building. What a wonderful mural for all to see as they cross over the bridge entering Venice! You only have to look around Venice to see it surrounded by beauty and history. Sculptures, statues, fountains and murals all reflect hand-picked art selected by VABI’s Public Art Committee members.

Check out VABI’s website at [www.vabi.org](http://www.vabi.org), select “Public Art Projects” and take a peek at just a few of the amazing, breathtaking murals and sculptures throughout the City.

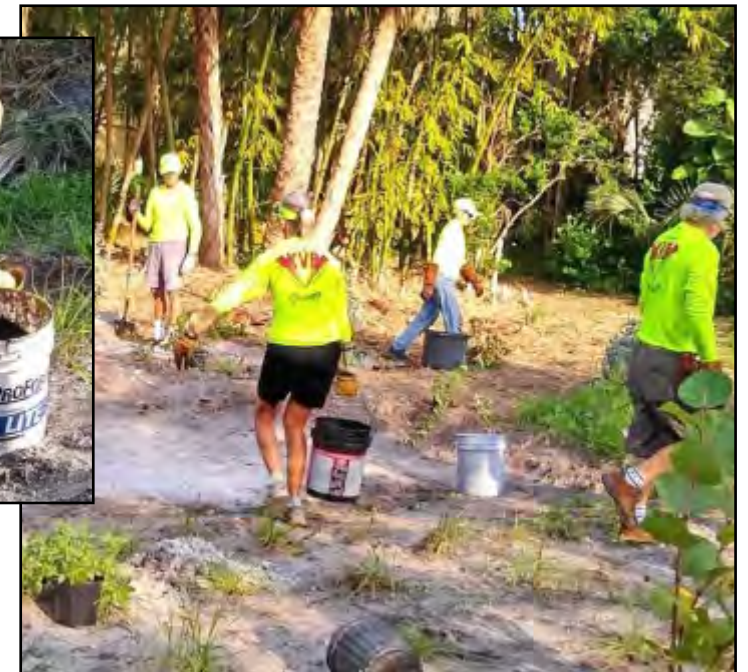
We invite you to join us in creating dynamic art experiences that captivate, surprise, and inspire. Make your fully tax-deductible donation to VABI c/o the VABI Public Art Fund today. Gifts at every level make a difference and are 100% tax-deductible. Thank you for supporting VABI’s Public Art Fund! — *Provided by Mary Schwass*





## KEEPING VENICE BEAUTIFUL

The City of Venice is grateful for the efforts of Team KVB (Keep Venice Beautiful). A couple recent outings: Five truckloads of materials were removed from Michael Biehl Park near Venice Theatre Sept. 3 by 13 KVbers. On Sept. 17, members removed invasives and planted 45 Florida native plants in Granada Green, including silver buttonwoods, sea grapes, fire bushes, beach sunflowers, railroad vines and milkweed. The organization reports that from September 2019 through August 2020, volunteers spent almost 2,500 hours removing 500 truckloads of cuttings and debris from City and County parks, beaches, roads and trails. Thank you for all your hard work!



*Photos provided by  
Team KVB*



## South Jetty underwater cleanup set for Oct. 4

The SunCoast Reef Rovers (Venice Dive Club) is seeking volunteers for its South Jetty Underwater Debris Cleanup on Sunday morning, Oct. 4. Divers will enter the water at 8:30 a.m. (slack tide) and exit between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. All divers entering the water are welcome to attend and assist as long as they are certified Scuba divers and comfortable diving in low-visibility water with debris and sharp objects in the area.

All volunteers under 18 years of age:

- 1) Need to have and provide on the day of the cleanup a signed/written parental consent
- 2) Prior to the cleanup, volunteers under 18 need to provide the name of the on-site individual 18 years or older who will be responsible for them
- 3) Certified divers under 18 also need to provide in advance of the cleanup the name of their designated participating dive buddy (must be a certified diver who is over 18).

A mandatory safety briefing at 8:15 a.m. will cover diver in/out protocol, the designated cleanup area and COVID-19 details (location of hand sanitizer station, face masks, rubber gloves, etc.). Organizers are asking everyone to wear face masks while above the water given the sometimes close working conditions with divers. COVID-19 social distancing will be practiced during the cleanup. The dive club will have paper face masks, rubber gloves and hand sanitizer available.

After the dive, donuts, fruit, water and OJ will be provided for those who assist.

No dive gear, weights, air tanks, kayaks, snorkel gear, work gloves, etc. will be provided. Everyone needs to bring their own gear.

### Divers:

- 1) Add just a little extra weight to help keep you down
- 2) Bring something to cut fishing line and possible crab trap lines
- 3) Bring gloves to protect your hands and protective clothing (wetsuit) to protect the rest of your body from sharp objects in and around the Jetty rocks
- 4) If you have any lift bags, it would be a good idea to bring them
- 5) All divers not officially logged in the dive club diver log book, please bring a copy of your dive certification card so organizers can attach it to the SCRR Dive Club waiver form.

Note: The dive club now provides underwater trash bags (lobster bags with mesh bottoms)

### Topside helpers, snorkelers and kayakers:

- 1) Bring protective gloves (lots of hooks, etc.)
- 2) Wear clothes you do not mind getting dirty
- 3) Kayakers, please remember to bring any items you need and be prepared - your kayak may get dirty from the underwater debris

The Venice Police Department Marine Unit will be onsite to assist with the cleanup. **Humphris Park and the South Jetty Walkway will be closed to the public from 8-11 a.m. during the cleanup.**

If you have any questions or want to sign up to volunteer as a diver, kayaker, snorkeler or topside helper for this cleanup, please contact head organizer Ken Lackmann at [ken.lackmann@usda.gov](mailto:ken.lackmann@usda.gov).



## City recognizes 1-cent sales surtax projects



Citizens may notice large signs denoting surtax projects cropping up around the City, installed by the Public Works Department.

Under Florida state law, counties may impose a discretionary sales surtax to invest in local infrastructure improvements. Such surtaxes must be approved by a majority of voters in a referendum.

In three successive referendums, Sarasota County voters have authorized a 1% sales surtax, on top of the 6% state sales tax, to invest in capital improvement projects for the County, School District and municipalities. The one-cent sales surtax applies to the first \$5,000 of any purchase that is subject to the state sales tax. Proceeds from the surtax may only be used to invest in public infrastructure projects such as parks, roads, sidewalks, libraries and schools; it may not be used to pay for general operating expenses.

Revenue from the infrastructure surtax is shared by the County, the School District and the municipalities, including Venice. One-quarter of the revenue is allocated to the School District. The remaining 75%

is distributed among the County and the municipalities based on population.

Projects in the City of Venice include: Fire Station 1 rebuild, 112 Harbor Dr. S. (next to City Hall); Venice City Hall expansion, 401 W. Venice Ave.; Venice Community Center inside work, 326 Nokomis Ave. S.; Venice Fishing Pier refurbishment, Brohard Paw Park boardwalk, 1600 Harbor Dr. S.; Fire Station 2 roof work, 200 Grove St. N.; Heritage Park multi-use trail, 727 W. Venice Ave.; Downtown Beautification Project; Venice Beach renourishment; and Service Club Park beach boardwalk, 1190 Harbor Dr. S.

To find out more about the surtax and view additional projects around the County, visit [www.sarasotacountysurtax.net](http://www.sarasotacountysurtax.net).

Signs from Sarasota County denote surtax projects at, clockwise from top, Venice Beach, Downtown Historic Venice, and the Venice Community Center.





## AROUND TOWN



Culver's provided a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hashbrowns and toast on Sept. 11 for Venice first responders. Many thanks!



Firefighter/Paramedic Nikolett Szatmari participates in aerial training of over 100 feet in late September at the temporary Fire Station 1.



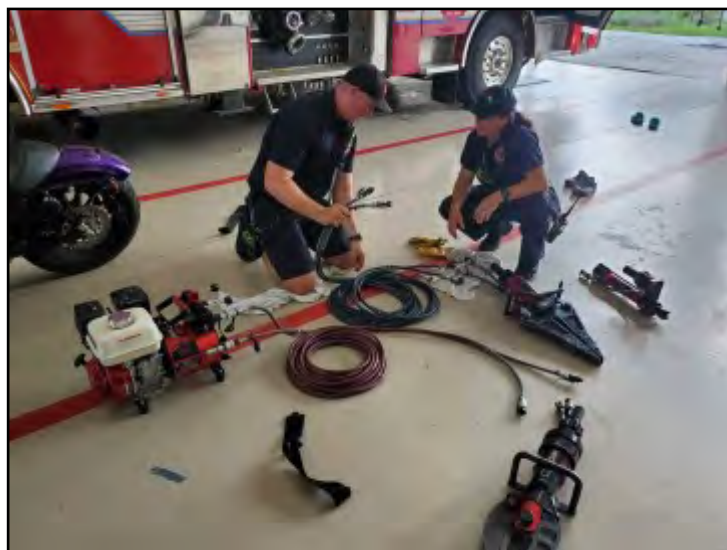
New power receptacles on Venice Avenue, installed by John Parrish and Tony Rosen with Public Works, were being utilized by Farmers Market vendors on Sept. 19.



## AROUND TOWN



At left, it's not every day that you turn 88 years young in the City of Venice! VPD Lt. Andy Leisenring, Master Police Officer Bill Kuchar, and Officers Rob Henderson, Keith Silva and Nick Hertel feted a member of the Senior Assistance and Freedom Enrichment (SAFE) family Sept. 19. At right, Venice firefighters work to extinguish a truck ablaze near Publix at Jacaranda Commons Sept. 28. No injuries were reported.



At left, Firefighter/EMT Hunter Snyder and Firefighter/Paramedic Rebecca Durham during recent extrication tool training. At right, Mayor Ron Feinsod, City Council Members and Charter Officers during a City Council meeting Sept. 22.



## BULLETIN BOARD

## Fertilize Less

## Enjoy Florida More!

Summer June 1 – September 30



**No to N:** Fertilizers containing Nitrogen and Phosphorous are prohibited in the Summer

**Pump Iron:** Use products containing iron and micronutrients to stay green in the summer.

**Keep Clippings:** Only rain down the drain, keep those grass clippings on the lawn.

**Create Compost:** Use your clippings and veggie waste to give your garden a boost.

**Floridify your yard:** Florida plants require little care, fertilizer and water. They were made for paradise!

**Mow high for less stress:** Mowing short stresses grass and makes it vulnerable to disease, pests and drought.

For more information visit:

[www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)


## Fertilize Less

## Enjoy Florida More!

Winter October 1 – May 31



**Watch the Weather:** Don't fertilize before a storm it won't help your plants... it'll go down the drain.

**Grow with Slow:** Use at least 50% slow release Nitrogen. It releases nutrients when the plants need it so you don't waste it.

**Keep the Water Blue:** Keep fertilizer 10 feet away from lakes, ponds and rivers.

**Skip the P:** Phosphorous is already naturally found in our soil, no need to add more.

**Keep on the Grass:** Spread the fertilizer on the grass with a deflector shield or edge guard. You don't want to help the weeds grow on the sidewalk. Do you?

**Test your Turf:** Fertilizer won't help your lawn if it has a disease, pest invasion or pH imbalance

For more information visit:

[www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)




**Please don't hurt us!**

**Help keep our waters clean**



**Plastic bags, bottles and trash wash into the Stormwater system and we can mistake it for food or get stuck.**


**Please, throw your trash away**






## BULLETIN BOARD

## Lyons Bay & Snake Island 2020

Engineer- Hunniston and Moore Engineers  
Contractor- LPS Contracting




### Lyons Bay....

The West Coast Inland Navigation District in partnership with Sarasota County will be dredging the Lyons bay Channel.

- Approximately 7000 cubic yards of material will be removed from main channel and rim channel
- Preconstruction survey and stakeout will occur during the first week of September
- Construction is scheduled to begin on or around Sept 15<sup>th</sup>
- Material will be moved by barge for placement on Snake Island
- Dredge operations may affect vessel traffic please be aware and boat safely
- Construction is anticipated at 75 days



### Snake Island ....

The West Coast Inland Navigation District will be utilizing Snake island as a dredge material placement site for the Lyons Bay project.

- Approximately 7000 cubic yards of material will be deposited on the western face of the island.
- Placement of 600 tons of rock will be added to the ends of the existing rock structures
- Construction is scheduled to begin on or around Sept 15<sup>th</sup>
- Construction is anticipated at 75 days running contiguous to the Lyons Bay dredge operation
- Project staging will be at the Nokomis Beach parking lot. Be cautious of barge traffic on the waterway

For questions or additional information please contact the West Coast Inland Navigation District:

Jeff Devine  
941-485-9402  
[jeff@wcind.net](mailto:jeff@wcind.net)

**\*\*SNAKE ISLAND WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL PERSONS AND ACTIVITIES 24/7 FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE PROJECT\*\***

F.S.S 810.09 Trespass on a construction site is a Third-Degree Felony

## BULLETIN BOARD



# VAC VIRTUAL UNCORKED

VIRTUAL COCKTAIL AND PAINT PARTY!

**Virtual 2020-21 Dates:**

Thursdays, 6:30-9:00pm

VACU-01 Thursday, August 20:  
Julie Buckler (Private Party)

VACU-02 Thursday, September 24:  
Jenni Bateman

VACU-03 Thursday, October 22:  
Susan Wilcox

VACU-04 Thursday, November 19:  
Julie Buckler

VACU-05 Thursday, December 17:  
Heather McCullough

VACU-06 Thursday, January 7:  
Linda Larisch

Invite and gather your friends from anywhere in the world, sip your favorite beverage and delight in step-by-step art online instruction with our talented Venice Art Center instructors.

You will create a unique masterpiece!  
No experience necessary.

Have your own cocktails and snacks alongside your online friends from anywhere in the world.

Reserve private parties - from birthday and bachelorette celebrations to date nights. Parties are booked in advance, on request.

**\$35 Members + \$5 kit**  
**\$40 Nonmembers + \$5 kit**

Supply lists available for out of Venice area participants.

Register at 390 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice  
Or call 941-485-7136



# AHOY!

## LADY SAILORS

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR  
**"SUNFISH" OPEN HOUSE**  
( see rigged boats, meet our sailors, light lunch)

- want to come back to sailing?
- racing makes you a better sailor and we'll teach you how to race!
- join and enjoy a great group of sailor gals.
- find out the possibilities....

**OCTOBER 14, 2020**  
**WEDNESDAY 11-2PM**

"THE BITTER ENDS"  
Venice Women's  
Sailing Squadron

Higel Marine Park,  
1330 Tarpon Drive, Venice



Please RSVP or just want more info, Contact us at email: [vwss.captain@gmail.com](mailto:vwss.captain@gmail.com)



## BULLETIN BOARD



*Saturdays*

# VENICE FARMERS MARKET

*Summer hours: Saturdays, 8am to noon  
from April through September*

*Winter hours: Saturdays, 8am to 1pm  
from October through March*

Located at Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Avenue,  
Venice FL 35285

**THEVENICEFARMERSMARKET.ORG**  
**941-445-9209, INFO@THEVENICEFARMERSMARKET.ORG**

**General Election  
November 3, 2020**

# EARLY VOTING

**Begins Monday, October 19, 2020  
Ends Sunday, November 1, 2020  
8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. daily**

**Vote Early Here (Eight Convenient Locations):**

**Supervisor of Elections Offices:**

Terrace Building, 2001 Adams Lane, Sarasota 34237  
RL Anderson Building, 4000 Tamiami Trail S., Venice 34293  
Biscayne Plaza, 13640 Tamiami Trail, North Port 34287

**Additional Early Voting Locations:**

Sarasota Square Mall, 8201 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota 34238  
North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota 34234  
Fruitville Library, 100 Apex Rd., Sarasota 34240  
Shannon Staub Library, 4675 Career Lane, North Port 34289  
Bee Ridge Park, 4430 S. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota 34231

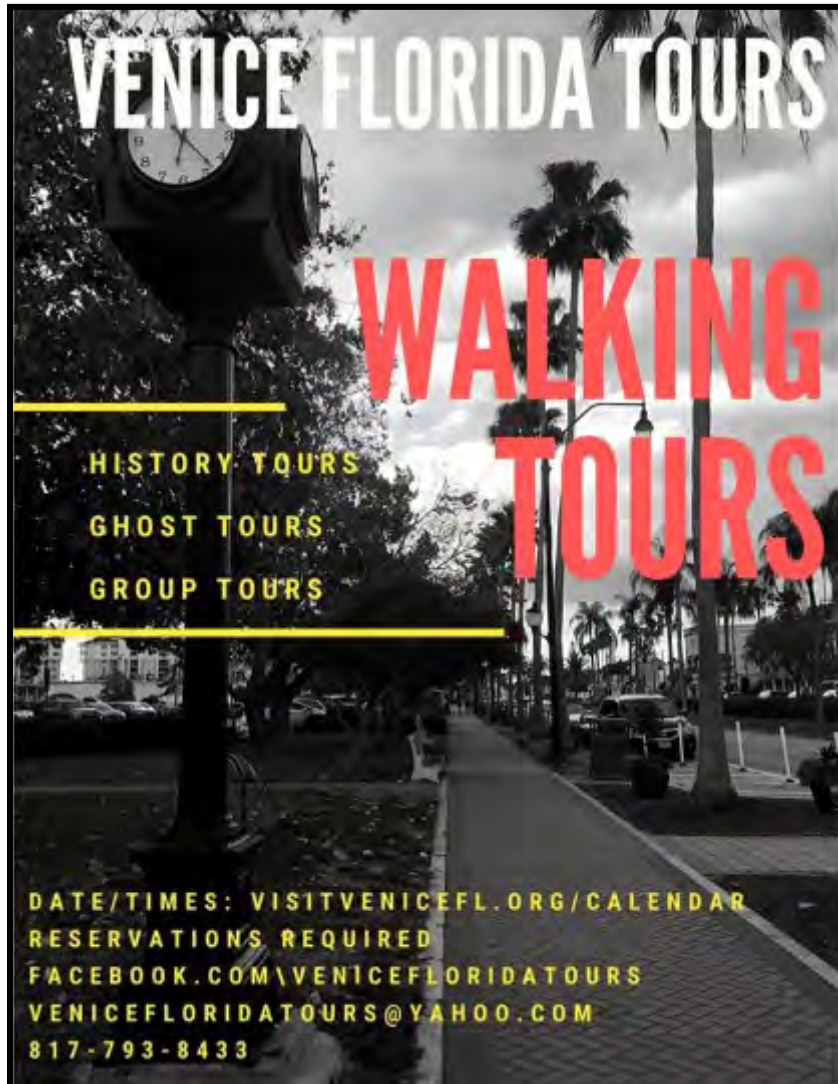
**IMPORTANT: Vote-by-mail ballots may be returned to secure drop boxes located inside all supervisor of elections offices during business hours (M-F, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) and all early voting locations during the dates and times listed above.**

**Questions? 941.861.8619**

Ron Turner, Supervisor of Elections, Sarasota County



## BULLETIN BOARD



**VENICE FLORIDA TOURS**

**WALKING TOURS**

**HISTORY TOURS**  
**GHOST TOURS**  
**GROUP TOURS**

**DATE/TIMES: VISITVENICEFL.ORG/CALENDAR**  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**  
**FACEBOOK.COM/VENICEFLORIDATOURS**  
**VENICEFLORIDATOURS@YAHOO.COM**  
**817-793-8433**



**S.A.F.E.**  
Senior Assistance  
Freedom Enrichment  
Program



**SERVICES AVAILABLE**

- A Call will be placed to your residence between the hours of 8A.M. and 11 A.M.
- If you do not answer our call by 11 A.M., we will send an officer to check on your welfare.



The Venice Police Department recognizes that members of the community may need to connect with someone on a daily basis to confirm they are well and SAFE. The program gives those who register an opportunity to be called by the Police Department daily to briefly check in.

Citizens who want to voluntarily register for the SAFE Program, must complete a registration form and return it to the Venice Police Department. A copy of this form can be picked up from the Venice Police Department or by going to our website:

[www.venicepolice.com](http://www.venicepolice.com)

The participant displays the original in a prominent area of their home.

Eligibility to participate:

1. Resident of the City of Venice
2. Complete a SAFE Registration form
3. Citizens identified with special needs are those who are above the age of 60 years old, suffering with physical and mental infirmities and those over the age of 18 years old who are physically and mentally handicapped

1350 Ridgewood Ave, Venice, FL 34292 Tel 941.496.2444 [HTTPS://WWW.VENICEPOLICE.COM](https://www.venicepolice.com)



## BULLETIN BOARD



**Welcome to the  
Fairy Kingdom of  
Venezia**

*Find hidden fairy doors  
around downtown  
Venice!*

Explore Miami Ave., Venice Ave.,  
Tampa Ave. (and beyond) for  
these magical little doors.  
*Here's a clue: search high and low!*




Find the Fairies on Facebook at Fairies of Venice, FL  
For more information and to see a map of  
15+ fairy door locations, visit:

**VeniceFairies.com**





# Exploring the Beauty of Venice

*A Scavenger Hunt  
For All Ages!*

...made SIMPLE, EASY & FUN...

**EXPLORE  
LEARN  
PLAY**

**Your Quest  
Starts Here**

**Venice  
Quest**

EXPLORE • LEARN • PLAY

SCAN HERE TO GET STARTED  
DOWNLOAD THE APP • REGISTER  
SEARCH VENICE QUEST • PLAY!



**MEGALODON SPONSORS**

**BREW BURGERS** **BRITISH OPEN PUB**

**GREAT WHITE SPONSORS**

**Café Venice** **Venice Regional** **the Y**

**Premier Sotheby's** **Compass**

**THE VICTORIA STULTZ TEAM** **Property Management**

**TIGER SHARK SPONSORS**

Tampa Bay Rays • Premier Sotheby's International Realty  
Venice Print Center • Bates-Bachman & Savitsky Law  
Edward Jones • Smith & Wigganier CPAs, PA • Freedom Boat Club  
Berlin Patten Baling, PLLC - Attorneys at Law  
Horse & Chaise Rental & Property Management, Inc.  
MJ Johnsons Coverage Coverage • Jenner Family Insurance

**Shark's Tooth Monument Provided By:**

**GREGG G. HASSLER, JR., DMD**  
Cosmetic, Restorative, and  
Implant Dentistry

Download our app at: **scavify**



## BULLETIN BOARD

### STEPS TO PREVENT BECOMING THE VICTIM OF AN UNLICENSED ACTIVITY SCAM:



#### KNOW WHAT SERVICES REQUIRE A STATE LICENSE.

A list of the businesses and professions licensed and regulated by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation can be found at [www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/services.html](http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/services.html)

#### VERIFY LICENSES BEFORE YOU HIRE OR SIGN A CONTRACT.

Always verify a professional's license online at [www.myfloridalicense.com](http://www.myfloridalicense.com), by calling 850.487.1395 or by downloading the free **DBPR Mobile** app through iTunes or the Google Play app store.

*"Be wary of individuals who only produce an "occupational license," or corporate filing. An "occupational license" only means that the person has paid a tax receipt to the local municipality.*



#### USE YOUR BEST JUDGMENT WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT & MAKING PAYMENTS.

**NEVER** pay cash in full before the work is completed and be cautious of writing checks made payable to individuals, especially when dealing with a company.

Get everything in writing, including a detailed description of the work to be completed, a completion date and the total cost.

#### REPORT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY.

Report unlicensed activity by calling the Department's Unlicensed Activity Program at 1.866.532.1440, emailing [ULA@myfloridalicense.com](mailto:ULA@myfloridalicense.com) or by downloading the free **DBPR Mobile** app through iTunes or the Google Play app store.



Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect the most vulnerable in Florida.

## Avoid the "Three Cs"!



### Closed spaces

with poor ventilation



### Crowded places

with many people nearby



### Close-contact settings

such as close-range conversation

The risk of COVID-19 clusters is particularly high when the "Three Cs" overlap.



### In addition to the "Three Cs":



**Wear your mask** to protect yourself and those around you.



**Clean items** used by multiple people with disinfectant.



**Wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



**Stay home** if you are sick or have symptoms!

Visit [FloridaHealth.gov](http://FloridaHealth.gov) for additional information.



## WATERING RULES

City of Venice residents are permitted to irrigate lawns **one day per week:**

**Even addresses on Tuesdays**

**Odd addresses on Thursdays**

Before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. for properties under 2 acres. For properties 2 acres or greater, watering is allowed before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m.

Hand watering hot spots and micro-irrigation of other plants is allowed on any day, at any time.

New and replaced lawns get a 60-day exemption. Irrigation can occur any time of day on the day of installation, and during the restricted hours on any day thereafter for up to 60 days.

There are no restrictions on car washing, pressure washing, use of fountains or use of reuse or reclaimed water. A shut-off nozzle on hoses should be used for car washing and hand watering of garden plants. Conservation is encouraged.

## Watch City meetings

To access meeting agendas, visit [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com).

In the middle of the homepage at left, click on the Meetings button, 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" to stream live. Meetings are also available for viewing anytime online generally the day after they are held.

A note that all City meetings are currently virtual, and some are on Zoom. Find instructions to watch or participate at [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com).

## CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund assistance information

Information about applying for individual and business assistance through the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund, as well as a Funding Dashboard, can be found on Sarasota County's website here: [www.scgov.net/CARES](http://www.scgov.net/CARES).

Two videos produced by Access Sarasota about the application process can be found at the below links:

Individual assistance – [https://youtu.be/\\_CrhsmV3eTQ](https://youtu.be/_CrhsmV3eTQ)

Business assistance – <https://youtu.be/GQzTO8aKkT0>

## NICE VIEW



Venice Fire Rescue evening boat training in late September.