



VENICE CITY E-NEWS

December 2020

A PUBLICATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF VENICE, FL

MAYOR

Ron Feinsod

VICE MAYOR

Rich Cautero

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mitzie Fiedler

Brian Kelly

Helen Moore

Joe Neunder

Nick Pachota

www.venicegov.com

CHARTER OFFICERS

City Manager Ed Lavallee

City Clerk Lori Stelzer

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez



City Clerk Lori Stelzer swears in Mitzie Fiedler, above, and Brian Kelly, at right, as Fiedler's husband Bruce and Kelly's mom Theresa look on.



To be placed on the newsletter distribution list, email City Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson at landerson@venicegov.com or call 941-882-7401.

On Nov. 17, newcomer Brian Kelly was sworn in to the Venice City Council while Council Member Mitzie Fiedler began her second term on the board.

In the Nov. 3 election, Kelly received 8,903 votes, or 59.1% for Seat 2, beating opponent Bill Willson, who garnered 6,144 votes. Fiedler was unopposed for Seat 1.

After Kelly and Fiedler were sworn in by City Clerk Lori Stelzer, both made remarks from the dais.

"I want to thank everybody on Council and the City of Venice for welcoming me up here on the dais. I look forward to serving the City," Kelly said.

Continued on page 2

Council, from page 1

Stated Fiedler, in part, "I want to thank the citizens of Venice for their support these last 3 years, and I look forward to my next 3-year term.

"Our accomplishments have been many — we have completed the new police station, a new fire station has been started, along with the addition to City Hall. Our new EMS service began on Oct. 1. We have added one new revenue source in Fiscal Year 21, a new impact fee for general government facilities. This will pay for increased governmental services because of new growth. We have completed our downtown renovation project. We have improved over 70 linear miles of roads. We've added over \$20 million worth of utilities and upgrades. We've improved our parks. We've automated our solid waste collection system. We will be adding airport hangars and taxiways. We are building a new pump station on Knights Trail that will be powered by a solar array, and we're creating a new northeast park, for which a task force will be created to make sure your voice is heard.

"In short, all of our departments are undergoing major improvement, yet your (City tax millage rate) has remained the same. We simply budget wisely, always with an eye towards the future, and we have an excellent staff to help and guide us along the way.

"However, our City does face some major challenges in the next 3 years. We need to reach a new agreement with Sarasota County over the management of our parks. This will be a major change in the way the City handles the maintenance and the upgrades of our parks. I want to reach an equitable settlement that will benefit all of our citizens, especially the children who use the parks to play their sports. We need to maintain a comparable level of service, with a possible loss of revenue due to the coronavirus. ... We need to upgrade our roads for a safer level of service. Our attention is on the Pinebrook-Venice Avenue intersection and the expansion of Laurel Road. We need to find a solution to our waste management needs. Our facility in the Seaboard area is in dire need of improvement and will require significant funding."

In closing, Fiedler said, "I look forward to working with my fellow Council men and women to meet the upcoming challenges, and as always, I appreciate hearing from the citizens with their comments and their suggestions."



Council Members Brian Kelly and Mitzie Fiedler pose with family members in Council chambers after being sworn in Nov. 17.



Special events in the City have been canceled until further notice. Visit venicegov.com for updates.

SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
EVENT INFO: Symbol indicates event's location.  Intracoastal Waterway  Nassau St. S.  Sharky's on the Pier  W. Blalock Park			1 1:30PM Planning Commission	2	3	4	5 CANCELED  6PM CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE
6	7	8 9AM CITY COUNCIL	9 3:30PM Public Art Advisory Board	10 9AM Architectural Review Board HANUKKAH BEGINS	11	12 CANCELED  VABI HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING  5-7PM VENICE MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE	
13	14	15	16	17 9AM Historic Preservation Board HANUKKAH ENDS	18	19	
20	21 WINTER BEGINS	22	23	24 CITY HALL CLOSED	25 CITY HALL CLOSED Garbage, yard waste and recyclables collected on next pickup day CHRISTMAS	26 KWANZAA	
27	28	29	30	31  FIREWORKS NEW YEAR'S EVE			

Special events in the City have been canceled until further notice. Visit venicegov.com for updates.



JANUARY

2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>EVENT INFO: Symbol indicates event's location.</p> <p>❖ Festival Grounds</p>					<p>CITY HALL CLOSED Garbage, yard waste and recyclables collected on next pickup day</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		1:30PM Planning Commission		10AM Code Enforcement Board		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	3PM Parks & Recreation Advisory Board	9AM CITY COUNCIL		9AM Architectural Review Board	9AM Historic Preservation Board	<p>CANCELED</p> <p>❖ ROTARY ART FESTIVAL</p> <p>❖ PUBLIC WORKS ROAD-E-O</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>CANCELED</p> <p>❖ ROTARY ART FESTIVAL</p>	CITY HALL CLOSED	1:30PM Planning Commission				
	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		9AM CITY COUNCIL		9AM Architectural Review Board		
31						

Venice places 6th nationwide in Digital Cities Survey

The Center for Digital Government (CDG) has announced the winners of the 2020 Digital Cities Survey. Now in its 20th year, the annual survey recognizes cities using technology to tackle social challenges, enhance services, strengthen cybersecurity, and more.



The City of Venice placed 6th in the nation in the population category of up to 75,000 residents.

This survey is open to all cities and incorporated towns throughout the United States and is broken up into 12 focus/response areas: 1) Aligned Leadership, 2) Citizen Centric, 3) Cybersecurity, 4) Data Governance/Transparency, 5) Data Driven Government, 6) IT Investment, 7) Sustainability, 8) Resilience, 9) Staff/Supported, 10) Continuous Innovation, 11) Connected Infrastructure and 12) Business Process Alignment. For parity, awards are broken up by five different population sizes (500,000 or more, 250,000-499,999, 125,000-249,999, 75,000-124,999, and up to 75,000). This keeps smaller cities from having to compete against larger cities.

Through interviews with departments and the review of current processes, City IT staff completed a 45-page questionnaire, complete with screenshots as added backup for our submission. This survey was completed for the chance of an award from the National League of Cities and it examined the overall technology direction for the City.

“I always felt that the City of Venice is a municipality that leads in technology,” said IT Director Christophe St. Luce. “Despite being a smaller city, technology initiatives are many here, and staff are eager to innovate their business processes. While completing the survey was an arduous task, IT Manager Jeff Kasson was diligent in scribing and documenting the submission process. The City of Venice has been on the map for its beautiful beaches, its welcoming residents, and now, as a featured technology city in the state of Florida.”

Usually, the award is picked up in person during the November National League of Cities conference. However, due to COVID-19, this year’s ceremony was held virtually on Nov. 10. The link to the webpage with details on Venice’s category can be found here: <https://www.govtech.com/dc/articles/Digital-Cities-2020.html?page=2>.

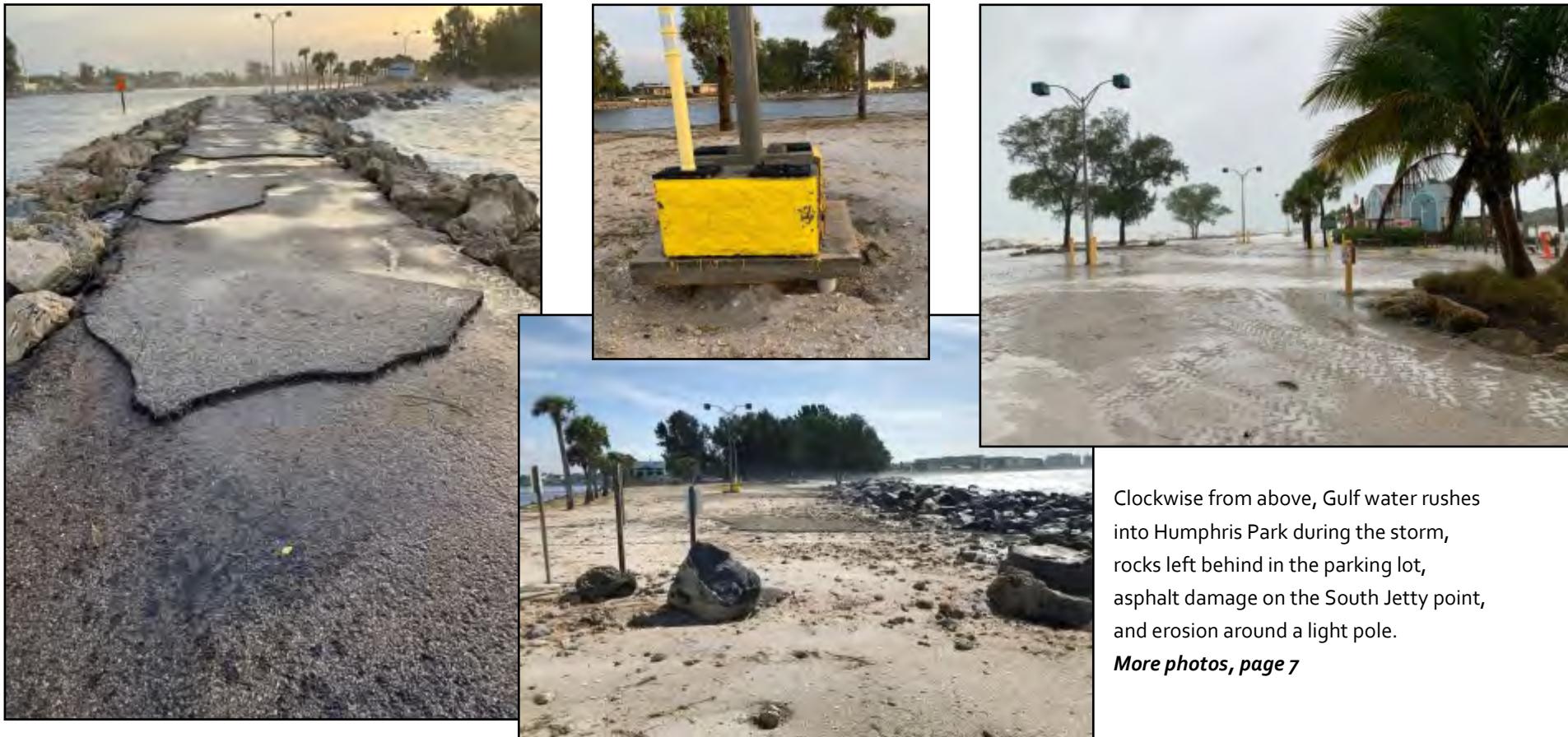
The judges’ comments state in part: “Among its many initiatives surrounding technology, the City of Venice’s quick response to the novel coronavirus pandemic warrants mentioning. In a short amount of time, IT staff were able to deploy virtual meeting capabilities, mobility infrastructure and digital processes for residents.”

“Innovative cities are utilizing technology and analyzing data to better serve their citizens, respond quickly to citizen needs around COVID-19, and support digital experience initiatives,” said Phil Bertolini, co-director of the CDG, a national research and advisory institute focused on technology policy and best practices in state and local government. “The Center for Digital Government congratulates this year’s winners for their hard work and efforts to use technology to enhance citizen interactions with government.”

Tropical Storm Eta closes South Jetty

The Humphris Park parking lot area and the South Jetty walkway both sustained significant erosion damage from Tropical Storm Eta on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Immediately after the storm, the area was deemed not safe for public use or access, and the City closed the park and Jetty walkway for citizens' safety. Tarpon Center Drive to the South Jetty was closed except for local traffic.

Fill material was brought in and spread out over the following week in the parking lot area. Humphris Park reopened to the public Nov. 21, including access to Jetty Jacks concessions. However, the South Jetty walkway, which requires significant asphalt repairs, will be closed until early December, according to the Public Works Department. Your patience is appreciated as this project is completed!



Clockwise from above, Gulf water rushes into Humphris Park during the storm, rocks left behind in the parking lot, asphalt damage on the South Jetty point, and erosion around a light pole.

More photos, page 7

SOUTH JETTY CLEANUP

Clockwise from below, the City Public Works Department secured benches and trash cans ahead of the storm; the Humphris Park parking lot and Jetty Jacks; the road closure to the Jetty. [More photos, page 8](#)



SOUTH JETTY CLEANUP



According to City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, the erosion at the South Jetty was in the parking lot and the pavement along the jetty structure, not the beach. The beach just south of the Jetty actually gained sand due to the direction of the storm, currents and winds. The remainder of the beach was evaluated using a drone. Weeden reports the beach is performing as designed to transfer sand from the upland beach into the near shore and then restore that sand back to the upland beach over time. Having a designed renourished beach protects upland structures and infrastructure such as roads, utilities, etc., from the erosion impacts of a storm. ***Photos courtesy of Jetty Jacks***



ETA AFTERMATH



During TS Eta, the roof came off a manufactured home in the Municipal Mobile Home Park. Public Works Solid Waste staff placed a rolloff dumpster on the loose debris to secure it through the night and prevent further damage. The tree pictured at far right fell and blocked the road at Live Oak St. and Groveland Ave. Public Works staff cleared the roadway to allow for emergency access.



City receives GFOA Financial Reporting Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Venice for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2019.

This is the 33rd consecutive year Venice has received this honor.

"This award demonstrates the exemplary performance by the entire Finance Team," said Finance Director Linda Senne.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

Donations sought for Toys for Tots program

Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., and Venice Municipal Airport, 150 Airport Ave. E., are once again collection points for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Members of the community are asked to drop new, unwrapped toys in these collection boxes. Coordinators pick up the toys and store them in central warehouses where the toys are sorted by age and gender. At Christmas, coordinators, with the assistance of local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local community agencies, distribute the toys to needy children in the community.

Citizens are asked to drop off toys by the 2nd week of December.

For more information on the program, or to make a financial donation online, visit <https://toysfortots.org/>.



COUNCIL ACTION

The following is some of the action taken by Venice City Council at their Nov. 17 meeting:

*** These items were approved by Council on consent agenda:**

Authorize the Mayor to Sign Acceptance by Grantee for Utility Easement from Capri Isles Golf Course, Inc.

Authorize the Mayor to Sign Acceptance by Grantee for Utility Easement from Heartis Venice, LLC

Authorize the Mayor to Sign Acceptance by Grantee for Utility Easement from Park Ave Development Company of Venice, LLC

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Grant Agreement 433144-1-8404 for High Visibility Enforcement Campaign for Bicycle Safety Awareness

Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant for \$107,847; 2020-CESF-SARA-1-C9-093 Grant Agreement

Accept Donation of a Sea Turtle Sculpture from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation to be Placed at Venice Beach

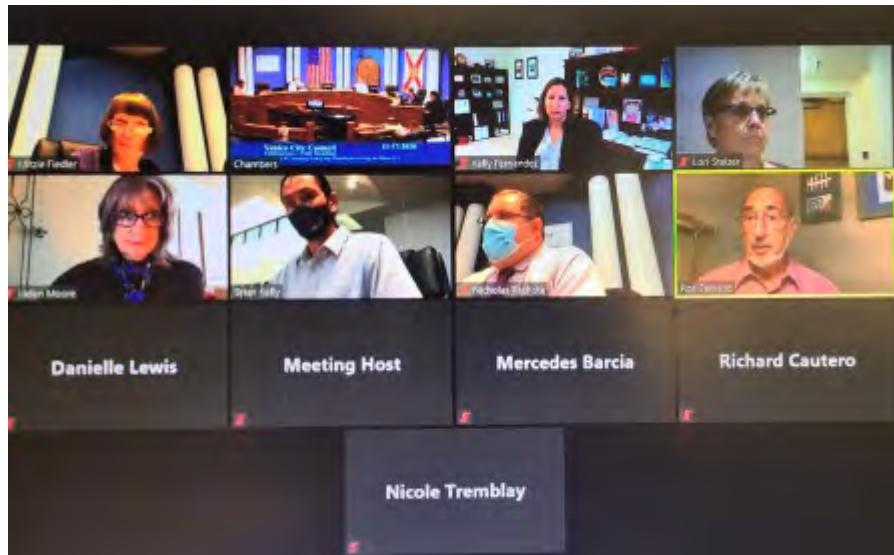
Accept Donation of a Plaque to be Placed in Centennial Park to Recognize Bob Vedder

Approve Venice Area Beautification Inc.'s Proposal for a Mural at the Venice Post Office

*** Approved on 1st reading 4-3, with Council Members Fiedler, Moore, Pachota and Neunder in agreement:** Ordinance 2020-37 Amending the 2017-2027 City of Venice Comprehensive Plan Pursuant to Petition No. 19-08CP to Create the Transitional (MUT) Future Land Use Designation in Strategy LU 1.2.9.e, to Create Strategy LU-KT 1.1.7 - Mixed Use Transitional In The Knights Trail Neighborhood, and to Change the Future

Land Use Map Designation on a Portion of Real Property Located East of I-75 and South of Rustic Road (214± Acres) from Sarasota County Rural to City of Venice Mixed Use Transitional (MUT) Along with Revisions to Related Maps and Tables. Approved with revisions provided by the applicant and city attorney and transmit to the Department of Economic Opportunity for review.

*** Approved unanimously on 1st reading:** Ordinance 2020-38 Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 19-07RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation for Property Generally Located East of I-75 and South of Rustic Road (214±



Continued on page 12

Mayor Ron Feinsod, Council Members and Charter Officers participate in the Nov. 17 City Council meeting.

COUNCIL ACTION (CON'T)

Acres), from Sarasota County Open Use Estate (OUE) to City of Venice Commercial, General (CG) and Residential, Multi-Family 3 (RMF-3) Districts. Approved with stipulations that the residential density is limited to nine units per acre and zoning is changed from Residential Multi-Family 3 (RMF-3) to RMF2.

*** Approved unanimously on first reading:** Ordinance 2020-39 Amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Venice, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 20-18RZ, to Change the Zoning Designation for the Property Generally Located North of Laurel Road and West of Honore Avenue, Commonly Known as 2001 Laurel Road (60± Acres), from Sarasota County Open Use Estate (OUE) to City of Venice Commercial, General (CG).

*** Approved unanimously on first reading:** Ordinance 2020-40, Pursuant to Zoning Map Amendment Petition No. 19-41RZ, Amending the Existing Milano Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning Designation to Allow for Townhomes and, in Fiore, the Northwest Corner of the Milano PUD, to Allow an Additional Access Point and Signage on Laurel Road, an Amenity Area, and Supplemental Development Standards.

*** Approved unanimously Preliminary Plat Petition No. 20-04PP for Fiore a/k/a Cielo Phase 2** for the Creation of a 126-Unit Townhouse Subdivision and Amenity Area for Property Located on Laurel Road and Owned by Border and Jacaranda Holdings, LLC.

***Approved unanimously Development Order No. 20-20PP for Vicenza Phase 2 a/k/a SJMR Planned Unit Development (PUD)** for the Creation of 228 Residential Units, Comprised of Single-Family Detached Homes and Paired Villas for Property Located Between Border Road

and Laurel Road and Owned by Pamlico Point Management, LLC.

*** Approved unanimously on second reading:** Ordinance 2020-35, Providing for the Designation of the Structure Located at 613 W. Venice Avenue, as a Structure of Historical Significance Pursuant to Chapter 86, Land Development Code, Article II, Administration and Review Authorities, Section 86-28, Historic Preservation, of the City of Venice Code of Ordinances.

*** Approved unanimously on second reading:** Ordinance 2020-36, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 90, Buildings and Building Regulations; Article I, In General; by Adding Section 90-8, Temporary Coverings of Non-Residential Windows.

*** Unanimously approved a resolution Approving Amendment No. 5 to the Amended and Restated Joint Planning and Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement (JPA/ILSBA)** Between the City of Venice and Sarasota County dated Oct. 26, 2010, Relating to JPA Area 5 - Laurel Road Mixed Use Neighborhood.

*** Unanimously approved a resolution accepting Utilities and Improvements** Installed by Heartis Venice, LLC, and Accepting a One Year Developers Maintenance Bond and Bill of Sale.

*** Unanimously approved the election of Council Member Rich Cautero as Vice Mayor.**

*** Unanimously approved a resolution opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA)'s Preliminary Approval of Waste Discharge for a Finfish Marine Aquaculture in the Gulf.**

— Compiled by Mercedes Barcia

FIRE STATION 1/CITY HALL EXPANSION PROJECT

The Venice Fire Station 1/City Hall Expansion project is making good progress. Thankfully, Tropical Storm Eta did not impact the site and the project was able to get back up and running the next day. The primary building structure is continuing to take shape. The contractor is installing tie beams and columns and preparing for joists and decking. The masonry work is continuing above the 1st story and workers will be pouring the structural concrete slab for the new generator and chiller system. The angled parking on Harbor Dr. is completed and awaiting final inspection prior to opening to the public.



Volunteers sought for 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. A number of regular and student seats on different boards are open, and some will see vacancies soon. Boards are currently meeting in a hybrid format, both in-person and virtually via Zoom.

NOTE: For any boards showing *upcoming vacancies, the current sitting member is interested in being reappointed to this board; therefore, all applications will be considered, including the sitting member.

Vacancies are as follows:

Historic Preservation Board, 1 student vacancy

This board shall meet on the third Friday of each month at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers. 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.

Public Art Advisory Board, 1 student vacancy

This board meets quarterly the second Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. Five members shall be City residents or the owners of real property located within the City. One member shall be from a Venice area high school student body recommended by the principal or his designee, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council. 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. The board meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in

Council Chambers, seven members are appointed pursuant to City Charter from among residents of the City.

MPO Citizen Advisory Network, 1 regular vacancy (County board)

This multi-jurisdictional board serves as a review and advisory body to the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in the comprehensive cooperative and continuing transportation planning process. The MPOCAN Policy requires a total of 28 members, 9 of whom are nominated by Sarasota County for ratification by the MPO Board, each serving 3-year terms. Three citizens shall reside in unincorporated Sarasota County. There shall be a minimum of 1 citizen representing the disabled, a minimum of 1 citizen representing minorities, and 4 at-large members. The board meets 8 times per year, the second Monday of months in which the MPO meets, at 5 p.m. at the MPO office, 8100 15th St. E., Sarasota, FL 34243.

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 or 941-882-7392. All applications meeting the requirements will be considered when vacancies occur. The window for application submittals is 10 days and may be extended if needed.

If you are selected to serve on a City board, you will be required to comply with the state public records and sunshine laws. After the appointment, all appointees will receive a board member orientation packet outlining the rules and procedures and will be assigned a City email account, which must be used for City business.

Applications for regular vacancies will remain on file for one year. You must resubmit after one year if you are still interested in being considered for a board position.

AT YOUR SERVICE

The following individuals have been appointed or reappointed to City of Venice advisory boards and committees:

Deborah Kelly, reappointed to the Citizen Tax Oversight Committee to serve a term from Dec. 1, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2024.

Patrick Reilly, reappointed to the Code Enforcement Board to serve a term from Dec. 1, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2023.

Tim Ziegler, Mark Lutsky and Ryan Dalton, appointed to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals to serve a term from Nov. 17, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2023.

Nancy "Joy" Bush, reappointed to the Environmental Advisory Board to serve a term from Dec. 1, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2023.

Benjamin Abramson, reappointed to the Historic Preservation Board to serve a term from Dec. 1, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2023.

Heather Munro, appointed to the Historic Preservation Board to serve a term from Nov. 17, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2023.

Jean Trammell, reappointed to the Public Art Advisory Board to serve a term from Nov. 1, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2023.

Kit McKeon, reappointed to the Planning Commission to serve a term from Dec. 12, 2020, until Dec. 31, 2023.

Ernest Skinner, reappointed to the Police Pension Board of Trustees to serve a term from Nov. 1, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2024.

Lorna Hunter and Aundria Castleberry, reappointed to the Venice Housing Authority to serve a term from Nov. 1, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2024.

John Holic, appointed to the Venice Housing Authority to complete the unexpired term of Terri Britton from Nov. 17, 2020, until Oct. 31, 2022.

Richard Clapp, appointed to the Citizen Tax Oversight Committee to serve a term from Nov. 17, 2020, until Nov. 30, 2024.

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Venice, Florida Municipal Government



'Fun'raising for Old Betsy firetruck

Old Betsy is the City of Venice's oldest firetruck and a dear ambassador at events and parades. Venice Heritage and Earl Midlam are raising funds for a permanent new home for her. Along with that, she still needs regular maintenance and care — after all, she is over 90 years old!

What better way to raise funds for both than with a LEGO® version of the iconic firetruck. Kids and adults alike are fans of the building blocks, so Venice Historical Resources and Venice Heritage Inc. went about finding a way to develop this idea. It was a fun and interesting learning experience.

The first thing to know is that LEGO® does not design or produce custom sets; nor do they sell individual parts that would be needed to build custom sets. In order to create Old Betsy, it was necessary to design her out of parts and then find those parts on the secondary market.

Fortunately, you don't need tons and tons of parts to experiment with designing a custom set. Several software programs out there allow you to design digitally, providing access to the entire database of LEGO® parts. One of the more popular programs is Stud.io. It has a complete database of parts and the colors they come in. It would also help with part acquisition and instructions later on.

After completing a first draft model, it was time to go out in the market to get stickers to help illustrate some of her details. For Old Betsy, it was important to have her hood designs and tank designs in sticker form to add on for authenticity. When the sticker company heard what the project was for, they offered to redesign the first draft of Old Betsy. In no time we had sticker decals and a new design for our firetruck. She now looked much more realistic.

With this new design, we were ready to next hit the market for the parts needed. There are stores out there that sell LEGO® sets and parts, but the "go-to" location is a website called Bricklink.com. This is an international market of stores that sell new, used and retired sets as well as individual parts for those looking to design their own creation. The big advantage of using Stud.io now comes into play. Sets created in this software can be uploaded to Bricklink. It breaks down the set into all the parts needed so you can start shopping.



Continued on page 17



Members of Venice Heritage work to assemble the Old Betsy LEGO® sets during a recent Saturday at the Venice Museum. *See more photos, page 18*



Firetruck, from page 16

Initially the plan was to create 300 sets to sell, but finding all the parts necessary was proving impossible. In the end, we had to cut back to a limited number of 100 sets. It took scouring store sites finding the best prices, volume of parts needed, and factoring in shipping to make it all cost-effective. Even cutting back to 100 sets required shopping from 74 different stores from throughout the United States and Canada as well as China, Lithuania, Hungary, Singapore, France and others. In total, over 22,000 parts were delivered to the Venice Museum.

Having the parts isn't enough though. People who buy the sets will need to know how to build Old Betsy. Here again, Stud.io proved a useful software program. It allows for designing step-by-step instructions on how to put your creation together. To simplify things, all the parts were sorted into small bags so that builders could easily find the parts they needed in step order. Finally, everything had to go into something so we could sell the sets. We had a designer create labels and we purchased boxes to place everything in.

On a recent Saturday, several volunteers from Venice Heritage came over to the Museum to start assembling the sets. Over several hours and multiple days, we assembled our Old Betsy kits for sale. They are now available for purchase at \$50 each through Venice Heritage, and orders can be picked up at the Museum, 351 Nassau St. S..

Would we do it again? You'll know the answer if you find a LEGO® Lord-Higel House for sale in the future!

— *Provided by City Historical Resources Manager Harry Klinkhamer*

OLD BETSY 'FUN'RAISER



Earlier this year, City Council approved a conceptual plan for a display building to house "Old Betsy," the City's 1926 American LaFrance fire engine (driven by Earl Midlam at left, a former City Council Member and firefighter.) Old Betsy has been 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 (artist's rendering below). At bottom left, the Stud.io design of the LEGO® Old Betsy, one of the fundraising efforts for the new building.



Stay informed: Sign up for 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 September. 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. 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.

"The Everbridge system provides 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.



Couple's walking tour offers Venice history lesson

Tiffany and Ronnie Fernandez have found the perfect way to be involved in their city: immersive historic walking tours of downtown Venice.

Their company, Venice Florida Tours, has been going strong since 2016. These days, it also offers an opportunity for some exercise, fresh air and social distancing while getting a history lesson on Venice, the couple's home of 6.5 years.

Originally from fort Worth, Texas, the two are in the banking business during the weekdays. Tiffany works from home for a banking software company, Jack Henry & Associates, and Ronnie is the Assistant Branch Manager at CenterState Bank in Venice.

Starting at Michael Biehl Park near the Venice Theatre building, the tour takes participants down streets including West Venice Avenue, Nassau Street and Tampa Avenue. Those on the tour learn about Venice's early beginnings dating back to the 1870s; personalities involved in its development including Bertha Honore Palmer, Dr. Fred H. Albee and planner John Nolen; and how the BLE Realty Corporation, Great Depression and Kentucky Military Institute all played a part in shaping the city. The Fernandeses also delve into the history of downtown's buildings – for example, that the Venice Theatre structure was originally an automobile service station – and architecture, pointing out examples of the Northern Italian Renaissance style and symmetry.

"The tours are ever-changing," Tiffany said. "We're always learning more and more about our amazing City of Venice, and we incorporate new tidbits that we learn into the tour. Also, in October 2018, we began offering haunted history tours. Those have proven to be another fun way to meet people and share Venice history in a different way."



Tiffany Fernandez talks about the history of the Historic El Patio Hotel behind her, also known as the Ennes Arcade, while Ronnie holds up an old photo of the structure during a recent Saturday historic tour. Stanton and Elizabeth Ennes built the building in 1926. Mr. Ennes was the general manager of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE) real estate company. Hotel rooms were on the second floor, while the hotel lobby, Venice post office, a pharmacy, barbershop and other shops were on the first floor.

Continued on page 21



Above, Ronnie kicks off the tour in Michael Biehl Park with information on businesswoman and socialite Bertha Honore Palmer and orthopedic surgeon Dr. Fred Albee. At right, standing in front of Venice Theatre, Tiffany holds up a photo of when it was known as Venice Little Theatre.



At left, Tiffany talks about the history of the Kentucky Military Institute in Venice, including its winter quarters in the San Marco building on Tampa Ave. and the adjacent Hotel Venice.

Tour, from page 20

"This has been a great way for us both to become involved in our city. Doing the tours not only allows us to meet new people, but it has also given us an avenue to give back to the city in various ways," Tiffany said. "We are both now very active in the local community. In addition to sharing history in our tours, we also inform tour participants how they can become involved if they choose to do so."

Ronnie is the Board President of both Venice Heritage and Venice MainStreet. Tiffany chairs the Marketing Committee for Venice Heritage and is a docent at the Venice Museum & Archives as needed.

The couple love to travel, and over the past 15 years they've been married, have been to five countries and 15 U.S. states.

"Whether you have lived here for many years or are just vacationing, we are sure you will learn new facts on our tour that will help you appreciate this beautiful city even more than you already do," the couple's Venice Florida Tours brochure states.

Learn about how Venice came to be, the stories and details behind the City's buildings, streets and architecture, and the people who made it great!

Check them out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VeniceFloridaTours/ and on Instagram at [venicefloridatours/](https://www.instagram.com/venicefloridatours/).

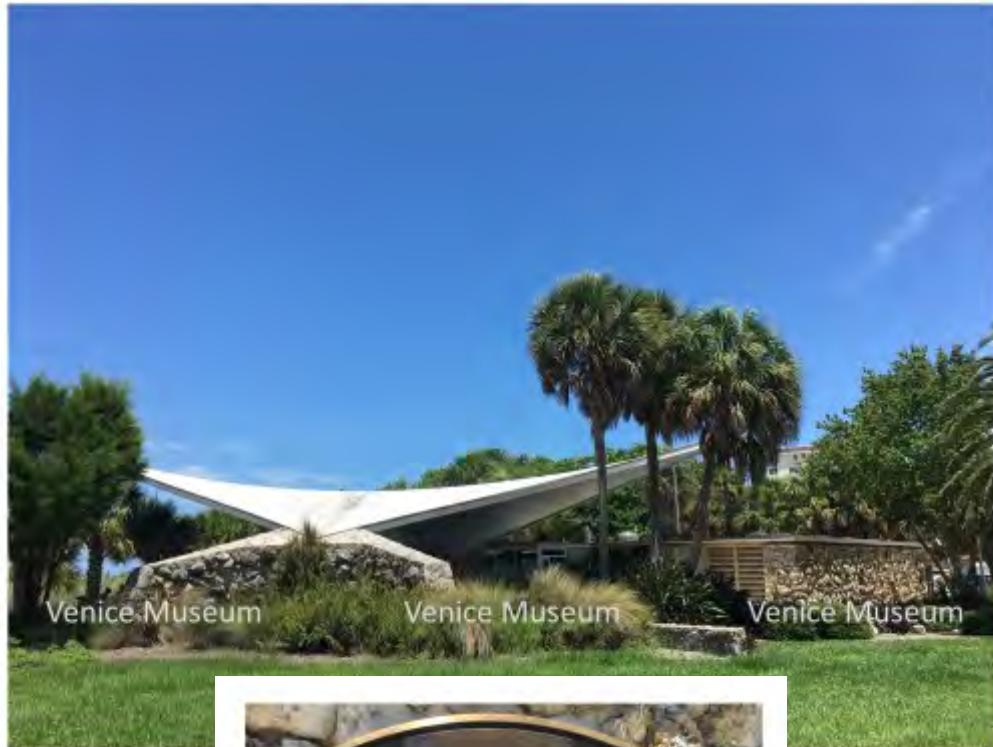
To make a required reservation for an upcoming hour-and-a-half-long tour, call 817-793-8433 for costs; you can also email VeniceFloridaTours@yahoo.com or send a message on Facebook.

Tours are limited to 15 people maximum to keep groups socially distanced.

MARKER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Editor's note: Each month, we shine a spotlight on a local historical marker and learn what makes that particular location so important.

This month's Marker in the Spotlight takes us to the Venice Beach Pavilion and its marvelous hyperbolic paraboloid roof. Constructed in 1964, this winged roof continues to amaze and look very cool 56 years later. The historical marker can be found at the northeast corner of the building (circled in white in the bottom right photo), at the intersection of West Venice Ave. and The Esplanade. — *Provided by Rhonda Rogers*



VMA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Michelle Adams

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

How long have you lived in the area?

I moved from Alexandria, Va., to Venice in August 2017, just in time for Hurricane Irma!

Where are you from originally?

I grew up in Boise, Idaho. I joined the United States Air Force and served 22+ years, retiring in 2008. After retirement, I moved back to the Virginia/Washington, D.C. area, working at the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense. I was stationed stateside in California, Illinois, Texas, Colorado and Virginia/Washington, D.C., and overseas in Japan and Germany. My husband David is also retired from the USAF, serving 30 years. I worked as a Registered Nurse, and have a Master's in Health Services Management.

What drew you to Venice?

Family (my parents and my husband's sisters and brother; I'm truly blessed to have us all together). However, I have been visiting Venice since 1993. My husband's father actually came here first, in the late 1980s from update New York. It really is beautiful here, and there's so much to do outside — walking, riding bikes, boating, fishing.

How long have you volunteered at the Venice Museum?

Since February 2020. I have enjoyed being involved in places where I have lived. Currently, I'm a member of our community Disaster Response Team (medical). In Alexandria I was involved with the Medical Reserve Corps supporting the local Alexandria and Virginia



WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

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

Prospective docents must:

- * Be a people person

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

Continued on page 24

Reporting City issues is just a few clicks away

The city's SeeClickFix platform, Venice Connect, allows citizens to report quality-of-life issues — such as potholes, roadside junk and tall grass — and request city services.



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 Venice Connect from your app store on your device. There is also a link to the program at the top of the homepage on the City's website, www.venicegov.com (above the Search bar), 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**. Those with general questions concerning the City and its policies should call 941-486-2626.

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.

For more information on using SeeClickFix, call 941-882-7439.

VMA Volunteer, from page 23

Commonwealth Health Department. I'm trained as Medical Reserve Corps response at the federal level and at the local level as a member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

How did you start volunteering at the Museum? What do you like about it? I knew I wanted to get involved in the community in some way, solidified after receiving a tour of the VMA as part of the Citizens University (inaugural class 2020). It's just a great opportunity to meet people and be engaged in the community. VMA staff are awesome, as are the volunteers that I have worked with.

When do you come in/what's your shift?

Currently the museum is open Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m.-1

p.m. Since September I have volunteered on Wednesdays from 10-1 and as needed. Before COVID-19, shift coverage was split morning and afternoon.

What are some of your duties?

Meet and greet visitors, talk about the Museum and the history of the Triangle Inn, answer questions and continue to learn about Venice and Sarasota County history.

What do you like most about the Museum?

Meeting people that come to the VMA, not only the local folks but those from all over. Being at the Museum has given me the opportunity to gain knowledge about Venice in the early years and the impact that Bertha Palmer, Dr. Fred Albee, John Nolen, the BLE and others had in establishing this great place we call home.

Venetian Parkway Water and Sanitary Sewer Relocation update

Project update: Work scheduled in December for Lillian and Hope streets include the installation of new private property water service lines, up to the right-of-way, even number addresses only on Lillian, installation of new sewer laterals on private property up to the right-of-way for all properties, restoration on private properties and within the road right-of-way, including the first lift of pavement on Lillian and Hope streets, and Karen Drive. During the work, large equipment and machinery will be in the road rights-of-way. Please drive slowly and use caution; watch out for pedestrians and workers. Motorists are to follow posted traffic control signs.

Project schedule: Installation of water and sewer mains are scheduled to begin in early January, or possibly at the end of December. A weekly update on the Venetian Parkway Water and Sanitary Sewer Relocation is available on the homepage of the City's website, www.venicegov.com; scroll down to the News section and click on "More News."

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's website and entered into the Alert Sarasota County emergency system; additional information about this notification system can be found on page 19 of this newsletter.

Project history: The majority of residents within the Venetian Parkway project limits have water and sanitary sewer mains that are located in the rear easements of properties, away from the road right-of-way. Maintaining the mains, appurtenances and meters located in the rear properties requires City staff to enter and potentially disturb residents' side- and backyards. These water and sewer mains have or are close to exceeding their useful life. Approximately 113 properties will have water or sewer services replaced, with many requiring both. This project also includes new roadways where the new sewer gravity mains are being installed. At right is a photo showing the project area.



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

VABI volunteers hard at work on Phase 2 of Urban Forest

What is the image that pops up for you when you think “tree?” Is it a mountainside forest? A rain forest? Palm trees on the beach? For Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI), it is a different kind of forest – the Venice Urban Forest.

VABI volunteers are diligently working on Phase 2 of the Venice Urban Forest. Irrigation pipes have been laid and a drip line system has been established to eliminate hand watering. During the month of November, 84 tall oaks are in the ground and 80 palms have been planted in the forest. After Thanksgiving we will be planting 16 large oaks, 64 strangle figs, 20 cedars and about 8 large bald cypress. By early December, we will be well on our way to planting 100 oaks! We will be sourcing smaller trees to incorporate in Phase 2 and looking to establishing the scrub jay habitat and the pine forest near the end of Phase 2.

Several lovely butterfly gardens have been planted in Phases 1 and 2. These colorful sanctuaries will provide food and shelter for butterflies. They need a place to rest their wings and bask in the sun, a place to keep them safe from high winds and falling rain, while pollinating other plants and flowers, and sucking up the nectar. About one third of the food people eat depends on the work of pollinators such as butterflies.

The purpose of the Urban Forest project is to provide food and shelter to birds and animals, oxygen generation, stormwater management and an oasis for humans to find peace and quiet nature. For more information and photographs of the Venice Urban Forest, check out www.veniceurbanforest.com.

The Urban Forest is located on about 33.34 acres of land between the eastern leg of the Waterway Trail and the Seaboard industrial area, extending between the Venice Avenue Bridge south down to Center Road.

Venice Area Beautification is a 501(c)(3) organization. VABI appreciates the donations that have been made to the Urban Forest allowing us to continue to build this magical forest! For more information about donations and volunteering at the forest, please contact the VABI office at 941-207-8224.

— Provided by Mary Schwass



Clockwise from above, a queen butterfly in a butterfly garden at the Urban Forest (a rare sighting); delivery of palms; planting an oak tree; and delivery of oaks.

City of Venice 2021 Calendars are here!



The City of Venice 2021 Calendar is out now! The new calendar features beautiful photos of some of Venice's best-known landmarks by local photographers, an overview of the City budget, photos of City Council and charter officers, a directory of frequently used phone numbers, month-by-month listings of Council and advisory board meetings, a map of Venice City limits, and other useful information for both residents and visitors.

Get your FREE copy at the Venice City Hall information center, 401 W. Venice Ave. on the island of Venice, **between 8 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.** (A note that City Hall will be closed to the public Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays.) Visitors to City Hall are asked to wear face coverings inside the building. Calendars are also available at the Venice MainStreet kiosk in Centennial Park, Venice Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Venice Museum.

These annual calendars are printed in a limited run by Venice Print Center, so **one copy per person please**, while supplies last. The City does not mail out the calendar. To get copies of the calendar for your community or organization, please make arrangements with City Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson by calling 941-882-7401. Thank you!

Leadership Venice applications available

Leadership Venice is an 8-month program of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce designed to learn about the community, build relationships and get the opportunity to better serve as a community leader. The program actively solicits applications from all sectors and is highly competitive with every effort made to select participants who will represent a cross-section of the community. Applicants are also invited to interview with a Leadership alumni selection committee.

A Welcome Orientation is scheduled for February 2021, and an Opening Retreat is held in March.

The months following have targeted topics including Arts & Culture, Health & Human Services, Government, Economic Development, Venice History and Community Awareness. The class also works on a class project which has a lasting impact on the community.

Visit the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce website at <https://venicechamber.com/> to download an application, or email Barbara Hines at bhines@venicechamber.com to obtain a copy. **The absolute deadline to apply is Monday, Dec. 14.**



SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING GUIDELINES



THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:

 Cans 	 Cartons 	 Glass 	 Paper 	 Plastic 
Aluminum and steel cans Empty and rinse	Food and beverage cartons Empty, rinse and replace caps	Bottles and jars Empty, rinse and replace caps	Mixed paper, newspaper, magazines Flattened cardboard and boxes	Plastic bottles and containers Empty, rinse and replace caps

WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT!

 Do not bag recyclables (no garbage)	 No plastic bags (return to retail)	 No food or liquid (empty all containers)	 No pizza boxes	 No styrofoam	 No tanglers (no hoses, wires, chains or electronics)
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------


venicegov.com/services/public-works/recycling
941-486-2422

Please make sure the blue cart is placed at the curb at least 3 feet away from everything else — the black trash cart, mailbox, etc.

3 foot clear zone



MORE TIPS

Plastic wrapping used to package water bottles, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, etc., is NOT being collected by the City at this time, and should be brought instead to local retailers such as Publix for recycling.

Publix also accepts: over-wrap from shipping cases; Ziploc and other resealable bags (without the zipper); bread, produce and cereal bags; dry cleaning bags; newspaper sleeves; ice, salt and wood pellet bags; single-use plastic bags; clean and dry cling wrap; #4 and #5 plastics; and Styrofoam egg cartons.

Clean, dry Styrofoam packing peanuts may be bagged and brought to shipping outlets such as UPS for recycling.

Check with your local retailer for more information concerning accepted recyclables.

Shredded paper is recyclable. It should be placed in a paper bag with the top rolled down to prevent spillage, then placed inside the recycling cart.

KEEPING VENICE BEAUTIFUL

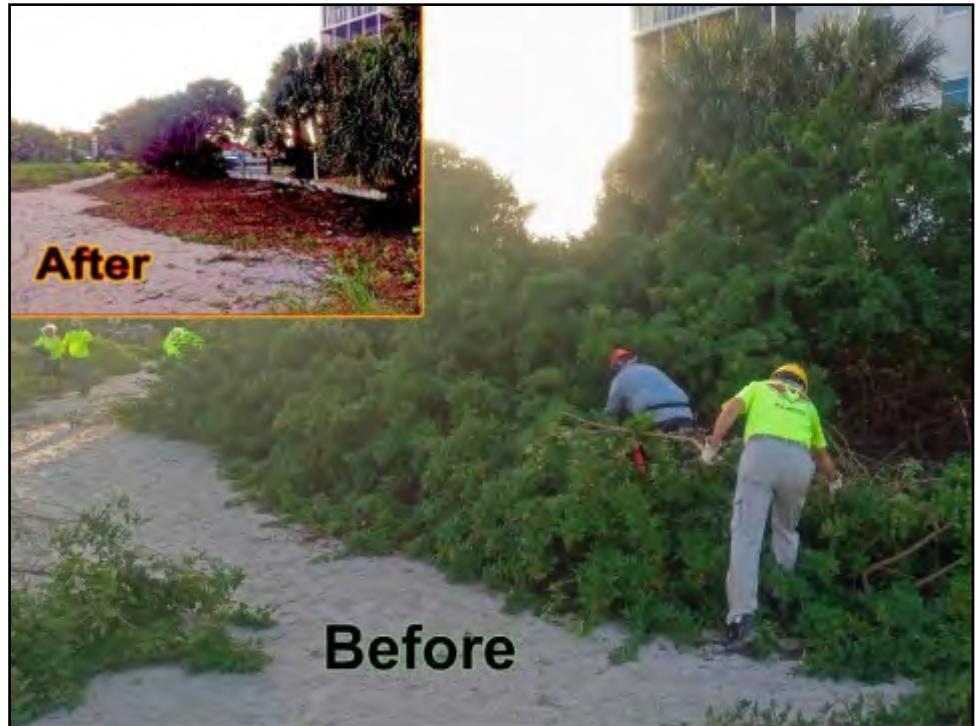
The City of Venice is grateful for Team KVB (Keep Venice Beautiful)! Recent efforts of these wonderful volunteers include:

- * Removing invasive Brazilian Pepper and Beach Naupaka at the end of Alahambra Road (pictured on this page), assisted by County and City workers: 12 KVB members removing 8 truckloads of materials
- * Mulching the playground at VABI headquarters, trimming the picnic table area behind the building, and removing invasives along the waterway: 16 members removing 11 truckloads
- * Cleanup in Heritage and Hecksher parks after Tropical Storm Eta: 18 members removing 8 truckloads of debris

Thank you for all your hard work! *See more photos, page 30*



Photos
provided by
Team KVB



KEEPING VENICE BEAUTIFUL (CON'T)



*Photos provided by
Team KVB*

**Chief Tom Mattmuller**

**Our Citizens,
Our Community,
Our Commitment**

VeniceBlue4U Issue #02

BIKE THEFT PREVENTION

Venice Police Department

1575 E. Venice Ave.

Venice, FL 34292

Main: (941) 486 – 2444

Front Desk: (941) 882 – 7549

www.venicepolice.comwww.facebook.com/VenicePD/**NEVER** leave your bike unlocked!

✓ If possible, bring your bike inside the house at night



✓ Leave bike in a well-lit area and/or under camera surveillance

✓ **LOCK** your bike with a suitable lock:
D/U Lock or heavy-duty chain lock**DON'T** leave your bike in one place for too long✓ **SECURE** a bike to a fixed or immovable object and **DON'T** lock it to itself

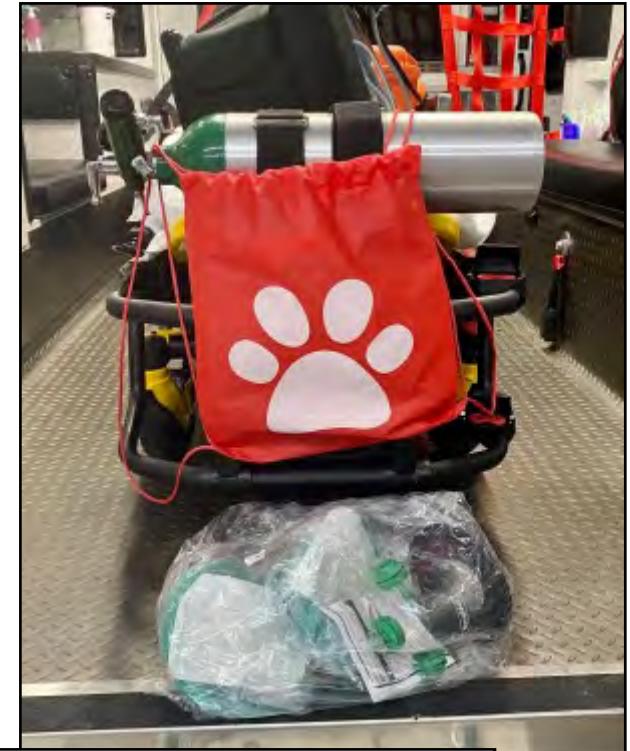
✓ Engrave your own ID number into two places on the frame for identification purposes

✓ Take a picture of your bike, to include:
Serial Number, Make & Model, and Color✓ Register your bike with Venice Police Department – It's **FREE!**✓ File a **theft report** at the nearest police station if your bike gets stolen

AROUND TOWN



Grace Preschool students welcomed McGruff the Crime Dog and Venice Police officers Nov. 18, along with K9 Palmer. They explored several VPD vehicles and the Marine Patrol boat.



Venice Fire Rescue reported in early November that all VFR ambulances are now equipped with recovery oxygen masks that can be used to provide oxygen to animals in respiratory distress.

AROUND TOWN



At left, Bite Squad and Angelo's Italian Market partnered Nov. 4 to deliver cookies to the Police Department in support and appreciation of Venice Police serving the community. From left, Don Puggini, Marketing Coordinator for Bite Squad; Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Lt. Andy Leisenring, and Detective Sean Hammett. At right, the 2021 City of Venice Calendar is delivered to City Hall by Venice Print Center Nov. 17.



At left, Snake Island renourishment project progress, captured by Venice Aerial Photography Nov. 15. The project is being done by the West Coast Inland Navigation District in partnership with Sarasota County. At right, Humphris Park reopened to the public after TS Eta on Nov. 21, although the South Jetty walkway remains closed.



AROUND TOWN



Venice Fire Rescue had a special visit Nov. 22 from Landon, who just turned 3. Landon is pictured with his family at Fire Station 2 along with Firefighter/EMT Daniel Kimberlin, Lt. Brett Wasserman and Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Staye, at right with firehose.



A truck with heavy construction equipment struck the underside of the Venice Avenue Bridge on the mainland side at 1:40 p.m. Nov. 21. Venice Fire Rescue and Venice Police responded to the location at E. Venice Ave. and Seaboard Ave. No injuries were reported. The bridge was reopened after an inspector from Sarasota County deemed it was structurally sound.



The downtown Sophia statue was recovered after being taken from its downtown location the weekend of Nov. 20. Venice Police are investigating the individuals involved.

AROUND TOWN



Thank you to the ladies of the Venice Area Garden Club for trimming the City Hall Christmas tree so beautifully on Nov. 24, with assistance from Darryl McKee with Public Works.



At left, Chad Armstrong and Vadim Bugayev with Utilities work to make a repair recently after a contractor struck a hydrant. Below, Master Police Officer David Creasy visited Grace Preschool on Nov. 6.



BULLETIN BOARD

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN VENICE



Christmas Walk

DECEMBER
3RD
5:00 PM UNTIL 8:00 PM

SHOPS OPEN LATE. ENJOY HOLIDAY SHOPPING, TREATS, AND LIVE MUSIC ON THE AVENUES. AND...
AWARD Winning Christmas Windows
VisitVeniceFl.org
 @venicemainstreet

JOLLY HOLIDAY MUSIC CONCERT



with
J3 Vocal Showband

Enjoy '50s – '70s jukebox classics as well as sounds of the Christmas season with this **7-piece showband!**

We Care About Your Safety

- ENHANCED CLEANING AND SANITIZING
- SOCIALLY DISTANCE SEATING

See our website for full details

Friday, December 4, 2020
Venice Community Center
326 Nokomis Avenue South
Venice, FL 34285

6:00pm doors open • 7:00pm showtime

www.SunEvents.com
or call (863) 494-9362

SUN EVENTS.COM

All sales are final. Additional taxes & fees may apply.
Please notify us at time of ticket purchase for any special needs seating requirements.

BULLETIN BOARD

NOW AVAILABLE

219 PIECES



**LEGO®
OLD
BETSY**

\$50
Incl. tax

A gift sure to be enjoyed by all ages.
Old Betsy is a 1926 American LaFrance Fire Engine. She is the first fire truck in the City of Venice! Proceeds from each sale will support the ongoing maintenance of this original piece of history.

Available for purchase at:
Venice Museum & Archives
351 Nassau Street South
Mon-Wed 10am - 1pm

Limited Availability. Only while supplies last.

Questions?
Call 941-486-2487

Venice Symphony Virtual Benefit Concert
Cool Today Park

The Atlanta Braves are so excited to bring a new wonderful element to our Annual Holiday Festival - Jingle Jam! A holiday benefit concert for The Venice Symphony, featuring a live performance of holiday classics by The Venice Symphony Brass Quintet and the virtual premiere of "Safe at Home for the Holidays," led by Music Director Troy Quinn, on the Jumbotron. This virtual concert features beloved holiday music and a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" narrated by Jamal Sarikoki. Guests will be greeted by The Venice Symphony Youth Orchestra, who will be playing outside the gate. Click the image below or visit <https://ani.ticketmaster.com/bravespringtraining/venicesymphony> to buy tickets.



Saturday, December 5th

7 pm - Gates \$10 Adult General Admission
7:30pm Show Begins \$5 Children 12U General Admission



A portion of all ticket sales will support The Venice Symphony's music and education programs. The Venice Symphony is a 501(c)(3) organization

For a complete listing of all events at Jingle Jam. Visit: [2020jinglejam.eventpage.com](https://www.2020jinglejam.eventpage.com)

BULLETIN BOARD



BE THANKFUL. BE GENEROUS.
GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE.

#Donate4Life

DONATE BLOOD

Wednesday, December 9, 2020
 Thursday, December 10, 2020
 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 City of Venice
 At City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave.



All donors will receive a Free OneBlood Tervis Tumbler & a \$10 eGift Card! Plus, a wellness checkup including COVID-19 antibody test, blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

To make an appointment, please visit
www.oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code #9354

Do not present to donate if you have a fever. You must wait at least 14 days before donating if you have been exposed to someone who has or may have COVID-19, have recently been tested and are pending test results for COVID-19 or if you have a confirmed active case of COVID-19.

ID required. Donors must be at least 18 years old. Those who are 16 years old need parental permission. See website for more details. One offer per donor per donation. No cash value. Not redeemable. If you have recently donated, thank you. Please wait or when you are eligible to donate again. Donors must have consented to release results. If donor does not have consent marked to release donor's results to donor's physician, donor's physician will receive your post donation test information. The donor will provide all registration in order to receive cash/points/rewards.

oneblood.org 1-888-9-DONATE **ID REQUIRED** **oneblood** 

You don't have to be in the high risk area to experience a flood!



Flooding can happen anywhere!
 Flood Insurance can help protect you.

Visit floodsmart.gov for more information

Maintaining proper drainage can reduce your flood risk

Always check with the City's Building Dept. before changing your property.
 Tel# (941)486-2626





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



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



BULLETIN BOARD

DECEMBER WALKING TOURS
by Venice Florida Tours

HAUNTED HISTORY TOUR
TUESDAY 12/15 7:00 P.M.

→→→ ←← ←

HISTORY TOUR
SATURDAY 12/12 9:30 A.M.
SUNDAY 12/13 9:30 A.M.
SATURDAY 12/19 9:30 A.M.
SUNDAY 12/20 9:30 A.M.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
VENICEFLORIDATOURS@YAHOO.COM
817-793-8433
FACEBOOK.COM/VENICEFLORIDATOURS



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

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 941.486.2444 HTTPS://WWW.VENICEPOLICE.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES



7:00 pm
Centennial Park Gazebo
NOVEMBER 13TH
NOVEMBER 27TH
DECEMBER 11TH

- PLEASE WEAR A MASK
- PRE-REGISTER FOR LIMITED SEATING INSIDE THE GAZEBO LAWN AREA ON OUR WEBSITE VISITVENICEFL.ORG
- MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND REMAIN AT THE DESIGNATED MARKERS

SPONSORED BY



Daiquiri Deck
DaiquiriDeck.com



Ciao Gelato
CiaoGelato.com



Boutique



VENICE MAIN STREET

VISITVENICEFL.ORG • 941.484.6722

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

VAC-06 Thursday, January 7:
Linda Larisch

\$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

VENICE ART CENTER

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.



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



BULLETIN BOARD

PRESENTS
SAFE AT HOME FOR THE
HOLIDAYS

On December 18, join Troy Quinn and The Venice Symphony for the premiere of our virtual holiday concert featuring music from *The Nutcracker*, traditional songs and *The Night Before Christmas* with guest narrator Jamal Sarikoki. Free and available on demand. Learn more at thevenicesymphony.org



thevenicesymphony.org



Volunteer Opportunity
Friends of the Venice Public Library are looking for volunteers at the **William H. Jersey Library Bookstore**, 300 Nokomis Avenue. We have two openings: Friday afternoons from 2:30 to 5:00 or Saturday afternoons from 2:30 to 5:00.

Or you may prefer to act as a substitute, filling in from time to time when a regular volunteer can't make a shift.

This is a nice opportunity to volunteer your time in a beautiful bookstore working alongside a knowledgeable partner.

Interested? Stop by the Jersey Library Bookstore, 300 Nokomis Ave., Venice, Monday through Saturday, 10:00 to 4:30, to complete an application. Or email Karen Murphy at robhow31@verizon.net for more information. We look forward to working with you!

Please wear a mask. We follow all EOC and CDC guidelines to protect the health and safety of our volunteers and customers.

BULLETIN BOARD

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT VENICE

Learn first hand from the leaders that shape our community!



"Focus on Venice" is a community immersion program designed for new residents, seniors, Chamber members, and non-chamber members who desire to have an in-depth knowledge of the Venice community. Community leaders are invited to speak on various topics over lunch every other week for seven weeks starting Wednesday, January 13th, 2021.

All sessions are held at the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce. Cost is \$195 and includes lunch.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, January 5, 2021. Register soon to guarantee your spot!

For additional information, please contact
Barbara Hines, bhines@venicechamber.com or 941.800.1482

EDUCATE | ENRICH | EXPERIENCE | ENGAGE

BULLETIN BOARD

**Betty Intagliata
2021 Lecture Series**
Sponsored by:



**CELEBRATING 100th Anniversary
of Sarasota County**

by bringing
LOCAL HISTORY TO YOU!



NOTE: Because of COVID-19, we cannot meet in person. Hence, our entire 2021 lecture series will be videotaped for viewing at the appropriate dates cited below. Simply go to the Venice Area Historical Society website. veniceareahistoricalsociety.org Once there, click the "Education" tab.

PROGRAMS: JANUARY – MAY 2021 7pm

JANUARY 19, 2021
Presenter: DR. FRANK CASSELL
“CREATING SARASOTA COUNTY”
Dr. Cassell discusses the reasons for the 1921 split from Manatee County and the personalities involved.

FEBRUARY 16, 2021
Presenter: JIM MIDDLETON
“EAGLE POINT”
VAHS member Jim Middleton shares the history and personalities behind the development and evolution of Venice's "Eagle Point."



MARCH 16, 2021
Presenter: HARRY KLINKHAMER
Historical Resources Manager, City of Venice, Florida
“WOODMERE LUMBER COMPANY”
Mr. Klinkhamer presents the history of Englewood's "Woodmere Lumber Company," including photos.



APRIL 20, 2021
Presenter: KATHRYN CHESLEY, Re-Enactor
ROSE PHILLIPS WILSON
Ms. Chesley re-enacts the woman who ran the only newspaper in Sarasota in 1900. Her editorials spearheaded many changes in the area, including the period when Sarasota became a county and women were encouraged to vote.



MAY 18, 2021
Presenter: KATE HOLMES, Re-Enactor
Ms. Holmes portrays BERTHA PALMER who, until her death in 1918, actively fought for the creation of Sarasota County.



For information call:
**Venice Area
Historical Society
(941) 412-0151**

veniceareahistoricalsociety.org OR
information@veniceareahistoricalsociety.org

Permanent funding for the Betty Intagliata Lecture Series is provided by the Bill Jersey, Jr. Charitable Foundation.



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



VENICE ART CENTER

Exploring the Beauty of Venice

*A Scavenger Hunt
For All Ages!*

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

**EXPLORE
LEARN
PLAY**



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DOWNLOAD THE APP • REGISTER
SEARCH VENICE QUEST • PLAY!

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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

VERIFY LICENSES BEFORE YOU HIRE OR SIGN A CONTRACT.

Always verify a professional's license online at 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 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 for additional information.



Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step.
FloridaHealth.gov

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.

Blue Santa Toy Drive underway

It's time once again for the Venice Police Department's annual Blue Santa Toy Drive. For over 30 years, our wonderful community has supported this program that helps to ensure that children in need have a special Christmas.

VPD's goal this year is to help 75 families with toys and food. For anyone wishing to donate an unwrapped toy, drop boxes have been established at the following locations:

- * Venice Police Department, 1575 E. Venice Ave.
- * Suncoast Air Center, 400 Airport Ave.
- * Made in Italy Restaurant, 117 W. Venice Ave.

In lieu of a toy, financial donations may be made at the Venice Police Department, to the attention of Master Police Officer Paul Freeman or MPO Paul Joyce (below with a donation box). Make checks payable to FOP Lodge 57, in care of Blue Santa.

Watch City meetings

To access meeting agendas, visit 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.

