



# VENICE CITY E-NEWS

November 2020

A PUBLICATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF VENICE, FL

## Venice blooms with 2 AIB awards

### 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

Top honors for the prestigious 2020 America in Bloom (AIB) National Awards Program were announced during the virtual Symposium in the Sky educational conference and awards celebration Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Venice was the winner of both the Coolest Downtown Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award for Landscaped Areas. Awards were presented that reflect excellence in the areas of community vitality, floral displays, landscaped areas, urban forestry, environmental efforts, celebration of heritage, overall impression, and community involvement.

America in Bloom executive director, Laura Kunkle, said, "America in Bloom is helping communities of all sizes achieve their potential. Every year our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's group is remarkable. These are, without a doubt, some of the best places to live and visit. Congratulations to Venice for the excellent work making your community more beautiful and vibrant."



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*Continued on page 2*



### ***Blooms, from page 1***

The City of Venice is grateful to the tireless volunteers who make up Venice Area Beautification Inc. (VABI), Team KVB (Keep Venice Beautiful), and Venice in Bloom, who, along with the Public Works Department, were instrumental in helping the City achieve these honors.

The Coolest Downtown Award considers the buildings, trees, landscaping, plantings, furnishings, signage, banners, containers, fountains, color and vitality of the downtown. It showcases a community where residents of all ages are actively going downtown when they're looking for fun.

The Outstanding Achievement Award for Landscaped Areas demonstrates well-kept, beautiful and manicured landscaping for the leadership, design, installation and maintenance of landscape (shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, evergreen topiaries), turf and groundcovers.

"I am so proud of all the work of the VABI volunteers and others like the Garden Club that made this possible," said Bob Vedder, Venice in Bloom team leader.

To date, nearly 275 communities from 43 states have participated in the AIB program.

Top left, VABI volunteers wind jasmine through the decorative median fence along West Venice Avenue. At left, "Maria's Garden" statue at W. Venice Ave. and Nokomis Ave.



At left, Corky Dalton, Team KVB leader, Nancy Woodley, VABI president, and Bob Vedder, Venice in Bloom team leader, show off the 2 AIB Awards, including "Coolest Downtown," above.

*Photos provided by Mary Schwass*



**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



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

 <h1>DECEMBER 2020</h1>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>EVENT INFO: Symbol indicates event's location.</b>  Intracoastal Waterway  Nassau St. S.  Sharky's on the Pier  W. Blalock Park		1 1:30PM Planning Commission	2	3 10AM Code Enforcement Board	4	5 <b>CANCELED</b>  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 <b>CANCELED</b>  VABI HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING   5-7PM VENICE MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE
13	14	15 1:30PM Planning Commission	16	17	18 9AM Historic Preservation Board  HANUKKAH ENDS	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		

# Venice Fire Rescue celebrates EMS transition

Venice Fire Rescue held an in-house ceremony at Fire Station 3 on Sept. 30 to mark the transition of Advanced Life Support (ALS) from Sarasota County to the City of Venice. Ambulatory services, with 4 new City units, went into effect Oct. 1.

City Council has pursued taking over EMS from the County since 2011, with Fire Chief Shawn Carvey noting that since he's been with the City, "it's been tried 4 times by 4 different fire chiefs."

Based on consultant analysis and staff research, the City determined that it can provide a high level of critical response service and maintain local control with no increase in cost to residents. The total revenue from rescue calls will now go to the City, thereby helping to subsidize the engine company response to rescue calls. Under the Venice plan, both the rescue vehicles and the supporting engine companies will be staffed with paramedics, providing a higher level of service. Response times are also expected to improve by several minutes.

The new City ambulances offer innovative telehealth features: LifeNet, a cloud-based platform that manages and delivers patient information and device data between EMS and hospital teams — for example, an EKG on a patient in the ambulance can be transmitted live to a hospital while in transit — and TigerConnect, a program that allows paramedics in the field or ambulance to video chat with hospitals.

On Sept. 30, Chief Carvey and Mayor Ron Feinsod led a swearing-in and badge pinning for VFR's new paramedics: Jason Esquijarosa, Luis Penarenas, Bithja LaFaille, Brandle Tillman, Brittany Gonzalez, Rebecca Durham, Niki Guraly, Dave Cassella, Sarah Drake, Sean Duffy, Chris LaLanne, Nick Miller and Jeff Lunsford.

"You've chosen to show the citizens and visitors to the City of Venice, that when they are having their worst day, that when they have no other place to turn, you will be there to fix their problem, ease their pain and provide them a path to safety," Carvey told the group.

After the Fire Chief declared to City Manager Ed Lavalley that Venice Fire Rescue's EMS operations were fully staffed, operational and ready to go, Fire Station 3's bay doors were raised and the 4 new units, red lights flashing, were driven in to applause and cheers. Pastor Tom Hodge then blessed the fleet, reading from Psalm 91:1. **More photos, page 6**

At right, Venice Paramedics Luis Penarenas and Chris LaLanne have their badges pinned on by family members. Below, Pastor Tom Hodge blesses the fleet.





## FIRE STATION 1/CITY HALL EXPANSION PROJECT



New paramedics with Venice Fire Rescue sworn in Sept. 30: Jason Esquijarosa, Luis Penarenas, Bithja LaFaille, Brandle Tillman, Brittany Gonzalez, Rebecca Durham, Niki Guraly, Dave Cassella, Sarah Drake, Sean Duffy and Chris LaLanne (not pictured: Nick Miller and Jeff Lunsford).



At left, Paramedics Rebecca Durham and Bithja LaFaille get their badges pinned; at right, Clockwise from right, the new ambulances roll in to Fire Station 3.





# Arboretum named a Certified Butterfly Garden

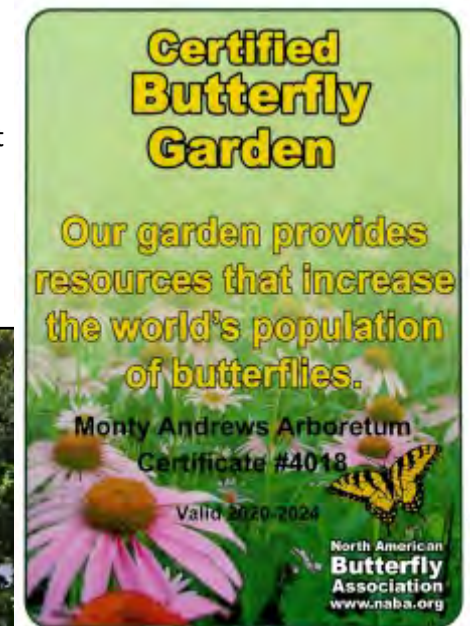
The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) recently named the Monty Andrews Arboretum in West Blalock Park a Certified Butterfly Garden. Volunteer Monty Andrews, for whom the Arboretum is named, received the certification Oct. 12.

"Since that time, we have doubled the size of the garden and planted an additional 20 Florida attracting native plants to the site," Monty said. "It is important to add this certification to the Arboretum, as the whole idea of the project is to help educate and instruct interested visitors on its importance and environmental impact. Volunteers and the City Public Works Department staff work hard to maintain the park and make it a valuable asset to the community." Monty especially noted the efforts of volunteers Tracy and Larry Ivey.

"Both the ArbNet Level II and the NABA certifications add credibility to the Arboretum," Monty added.

The North American Butterfly Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to promote the public enjoyment and conservation of butterflies. Find out more at: <https://www.naba.org/aboutNABA.html>.

The Monty Andrews Arboretum was awarded Level I accreditation in May 2019 by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and the Morton Arboretum for achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens. In August 2020, the Arboretum was awarded the advanced Level II accreditation. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity and professionalism. The Monty Andrews Arboretum is recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants.



Above, the designation provided to the Arboretum by NABA. Far left, Monty Andrews, and left, Tracy Ivey with citizens; both pictured during the January 2020 Arbor Day celebration in West Blalock Park.

## COUNCIL ACTION

*The following is some of the action taken by Venice City Council at their Oct. 13 meeting:*

\* A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, **to authorize the City to enter into a Public Private Partnership with Neal Communities to do the preliminary engineering to determine actual costs of widening Laurel Road** for Conceptual Plans A, B, and C, and permission to apply for funding to the Florida Legislature. The motion carried 6-1, Vice Mayor Newsom dissenting.

\* A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Council Member Cautionero, **to continue with twice-per week collection for residential solid waste**, following a presentation by Public Works. The motion carried unanimously.

\* A motion was made by Dr. Neunder, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Ordinance No. 2020-33 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. The **ordinance amends the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 78, Vehicles for Hire; Article II, Vehicles for Hire; Section 78-21, Definitions and 78-22, Vehicle for Hire Permit Required; and Section 78-26, Insurance Required; Providing for the Deregulation of Taxi Cabs and Non-Regulation of Transportation Network Companies, i.e. Uber, Lyft.** The motion carried unanimously.

\* Asked to consider and act on an appeal of the Architectural Review Board's approval of PLAR20-00235 for the property located at 233 Pensacola Road, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Newsom, seconded by Dr. Neunder, that based on review of the applicant's materials, the staff report and testimony provided during the public hearing, **to approve Application No. PLAR20-00235 for demolition of a single-family residence at 233 Pensacola Rd.** The motion carried unanimously.

\* There was consensus by the Council that on an annual basis, with information developed and coordinated with staff, **the City Manager will present to Council a roadway report that includes proposed capital projects work for the next fiscal year.** The report will consider previously adopted projects and studies, traffic volume analysis, funding sources, and other relevant data in determining the proposed order of priority for future capital projects. Subject to Council approval, the project list will be integrated into the city's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Further, on a periodic basis, the City Manager or designee will provide updates on projects referenced in the capital projects list, including information on funding, timelines of various project work, and relevant data that may affect project work or suggest changes to the adopted projects plan. — *Compiled by Mercedes Barcia*



Mayor Ron Feinsod, Council Members and Charter Officers participate in the Oct. 13 City Council meeting.



## COUNCIL ACTION

*The following is some of the action taken by Venice City Council at their Oct. 27 meeting:*

\* A motion was made by Vice Mayor Newsom, seconded by Dr. Fiedler, that Ordinance No. 2020-33 be approved and adopted. **The ordinance amends the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 78, Vehicles for Hire; Article II, Vehicles for Hire; Section 78-21, Definitions and 78-22, Vehicle for Hire Permit Required; and Section 78-26, Insurance Required; Providing for the Deregulation of Taxi Cabs and Non-Regulation of Transportation Network Companies, i.e. Uber, Lyft.** The motion carried unanimously.

\* A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Vice Mayor Newsom, that Ordinance No. 2020-35 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. **The ordinance provides 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. The motion carried unanimously.

\* A motion was made by Vice Mayor Newsom, seconded by Council Member Moore, that Ordinance No. 2020-36 be approved on first reading and scheduled for final reading. **The ordinance amends 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.** The motion carried unanimously.

\* A motion was made by Vice Mayor Newsom, seconded by Council Member Cautero, that Resolution No. 2020-38, **creating a City Policy for Board Appointments**, be approved and adopted. The motion carried 6-1, Mayor Feinsod dissenting.



\* A motion was made by Dr. Fiedler, seconded by Dr. Neunder, that Resolution No. 2020-39, **creating a Northeast Venice Park Stakeholders Work Group** be approved and adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

\* A motion was made by Council Member Cautero, seconded by Council Member Moore, that Resolution No. 2020-40 be approved and adopted. The resolution would **extend the Oct. 31 Expiration Date for Ordinance No. 2020-30 Regarding the Use of Face Coverings in the City. The motion failed 3-4**, with Mayor Feinsod, Mr. Cautero and Ms. Moore in agreement. **A note that a July 21 resolution approved by Council Urging the Use of Face Coverings When Indoors and Outdoors Where Social Distancing Cannot Be Met to Minimize the Spread of COVID-19 is still in effect.**

— Compiled by Mercedes Barcia

Mayor Ron Feinsod, Council Members and Charter Officers participate in the Oct. 27 City Council meeting.

## FIRE STATION 1/CITY HALL EXPANSION PROJECT

The new building walls are rapidly going up on the Venice Fire Station 1/City Hall Expansion project. Over the coming weeks, the contractor will continue to install the concrete masonry walls, underground utilities and door frames. They will also begin installing structural steel for the building. Parking improvements on Harbor Drive are almost completed, and this parking will be opened to the public once the final striping and sod are installed.





# 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. 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:

## **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.

## **Citizen Tax Oversight Committee, 1 vacancy; \*1 upcoming vacancy**

Board members conduct an annual review of the expenditures made by the City from the sales tax proceeds to ensure that expenditures have been made in accordance with infrastructure project lists and any changes thereto. The board shall meet as needed to review any changes made by the City to the

infrastructure projects or to the allocation of sales tax proceeds for the sole purpose of ensuring that all procedural requirements have been followed. This board meets at least annually and otherwise as needed in Council Chambers.

## **Code Enforcement Board, \*1 upcoming vacancy**

This board meets the first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers. Members shall be City residents and whenever possible, include an architect, a businessperson, an engineer, a general contractor, a Realtor and a subcontractor. The board conducts hearings related to the enforcement of the Code of Ordinances.

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

This board meets on call of the chairman in Council Chambers. 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.

## **Environmental Advisory Board, \*1 upcoming vacancy**

This board meets bi-monthly, the fourth Wednesday at 1 p.m. in Council Chambers. The board is composed of seven City residents or the owners of real property located within the City and one member from a Venice area high school student body recommended by the principal or his designee. Five of the members must be City residents. Members shall have appropriate backgrounds in environmental policy or related fields and should demonstrate an interest and knowledge in environmental issues.

*Continued on page 12*

***Volunteers, from page 11***

**Historic Preservation Board, 1 regular and 1 student vacancy; \*1 upcoming 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.

**Planning Commission, \*1 upcoming vacancy**

Board members acquire and maintain in current form information as is necessary to an understanding of past trends, present conditions, and forces at work to cause change in these conditions. They prepare and keep current a comprehensive general plan for meeting present requirements and such future needs as may be foreseen, and propose principles and policies for guiding action affecting development in the city and its environs. They recommend to the City Council ordinances, regulations and other proposals promoting orderly development along lines indicated as desirable by the comprehensive plan, and determine whether specific proposed developments conform to the principles and requirements of the comp plan.

**Public Art Advisory Board, 1 student vacancy; \*1 upcoming 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.

**Police Pension Board of Trustees, \*1 upcoming vacancy**

This board meets at least quarterly each year. Two members shall be legal residents of the City, appointed by City Council. Two members shall be members of the police retirement system. One member shall be chosen by a majority of the previous four members, submitted to City Council to appoint, as a ministerial duty, as its fifth trustee.

**Venice Housing Authority, 1 vacancy, \*2 upcoming vacancies**

This board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at 201 Grove St., Venice. The board's mission is to find sanitary dwelling accommodations available to families of low income at rental they can afford. At least one member shall be a resident who is current in rent in a housing project or a person of low or very low income who resides within the Housing Authority's jurisdiction and is receiving rent subsidy through a program administered by the Authority or public housing agency that has jurisdiction for the same locality served by the Housing Authority.

**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 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. Planning Commission and Architectural Review Board members use city iPads to conduct business; therefore, you must have knowledge of these devices or be willing to learn how to use such devices if you are interested in being on one of those two boards.

Applications 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.



# 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](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.

"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.



## MARKER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

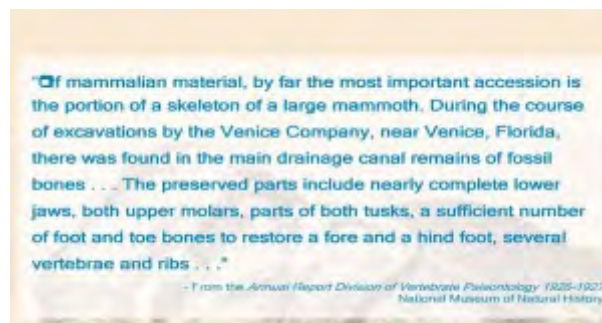
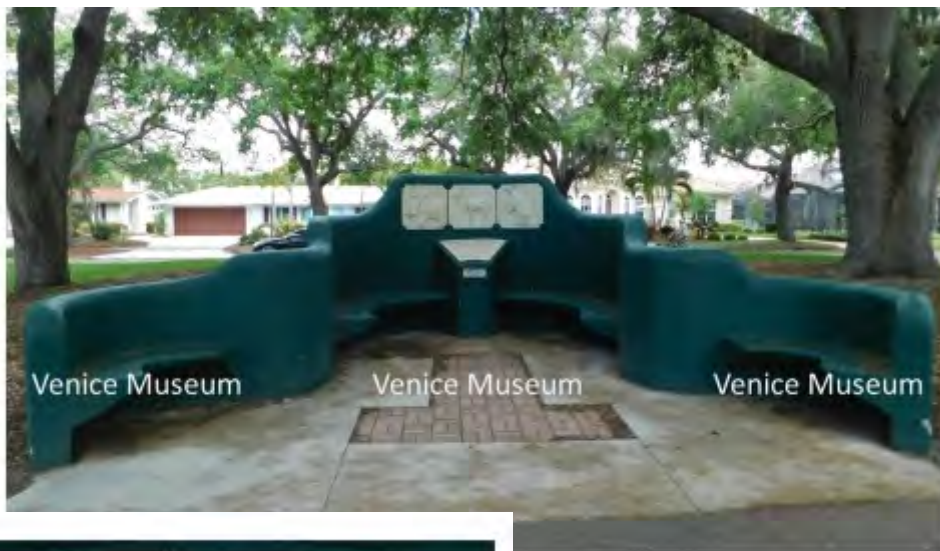
*Editor's note: Each month, we shine a spotlight on a local historical marker and learn what makes that particular location so important.*

Why does Venice, Florida have a historical marker named Prehistory Court? Well, it just so happens that back in 1926 when the Venice Company was doing some excavating on the outskirts of town, they unearthed a mammoth skeleton, that's why!

Today, the fossilized jaws, molars, tusks, feet, and vertebrae are housed in the United States National Museum (Smithsonian) in Washington, D.C.

Check out the fossil exhibit at the Venice Museum to see other locally found specimens. It's very popular with kids of all ages. Prehistory Court, in Heritage Park, is located in the 600 block of the West Venice Ave. median between City Hall and the Gulf of Mexico.

— Provided by Rhonda Rogers



## VENICE'S MAMMOTH DISCOVERY

In 1926, when the city of Venice was being developed by the Brotherhood of Locomotive engineers, the discovery of a unique specimen by the Venice Company captured the attention of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. J.W. Gidley, a paleontologist for the Smithsonian, came to Venice to study the remains of this prehistoric animal found while digging a drainage canal. The fossils had been found in Venice Farms by John Parker, a Venice farmer.



After 15 minutes at the site and spotting the fossil tusks and jaw bone of the animal, Dr. Gidley exclaimed, "It's a mammoth!" The size of the tusks indicated that it stood approximately 14 feet high and 20 feet long. "A fair estimate of the date when this mammoth perished would be about half a million years ago," Dr. Gidley told a 1926 Venice News reporter. At the same time, fossils of horses, bison, and mastodon were also found at the site.

According to Gidley, the Venice mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*) was one of the most important of the Institute's findings for that year. Gidley secured it for the National Museum of Natural History, where it is still a part of the Smithsonian's collection today.



Venice mammoth jawbone. Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Natural History, 2012





# Am I allowed to ride on the sidewalk?

Florida law states: “When riding on sidewalks or in crosswalks, a bicyclist has the same rights and duties as a pedestrian. A bicyclist riding on sidewalks or in crosswalks must yield the right-of-way



**DARLENE CULPEPPER**

to pedestrians and must give an audible signal before passing.”  
So yes — it is perfectly legal to ride a bicycle on the sidewalk, but you must act as a pedestrian, yield to pedestrians and give audible warnings BEFORE passing. Cyclists may feel safe on sidewalks but pedestrians feel endangered. Imagine riding on the street in a bike lane. You have 3 to 5 feet of clearance between you and passing vehicles. Say one of those cars, traveling around 30 mph, comes within inches of you — how would you react? You may only be traveling between 8-10 mph, but when you pass a walking pedestrian around those speeds or higher, it can feel very scary.

Riding on the sidewalk does not remove the threat of crashing into a car. You are more invisible to motorists when riding on the sidewalk and cars are not expecting to see you at crosswalks or driveways. They also cannot judge the speed you are traveling. Here are some standards you should be following if you decide to ride on the sidewalk:

1. Go slow.
2. Yield to pedestrians.

3. Check every cross street and driveway.
4. Only cross the street at crosswalks.
5. Be willing to walk your bike.

We are lucky to have some dedicated multi-use paths in our town, The Legacy Trail, Venetian Waterway Park and recently installed Edmondson Multi-Use Trail. These trails are slightly different than sidewalks. A sidewalk is a pedestrian facility. The multi-use paths are designed for recreation, therefore used by cyclists, skaters, walkers, runners and even wheelchairs. There are no specific rules, but common courtesy should be applied:

1. Respect the trail and other trail users, obey the speed limit.
2. Yield to slower users and announce before passing.
3. Keep right and pass on the left.
4. Be predictable and travel in a straight line.
5. Do not block the trail.
6. Yield at road crossings and intersections.
7. Use lights at night.
8. Do not litter.

Even though Florida law states we can ride a bike on the sidewalk, you should always check with your local municipal government on their ordinances. **In November 2018, the Venice City Council adopted an ordinance making it unlawful to ride a bicycle on sidewalks along the below downtown street segments. Bikes must be walked on these sidewalks:**

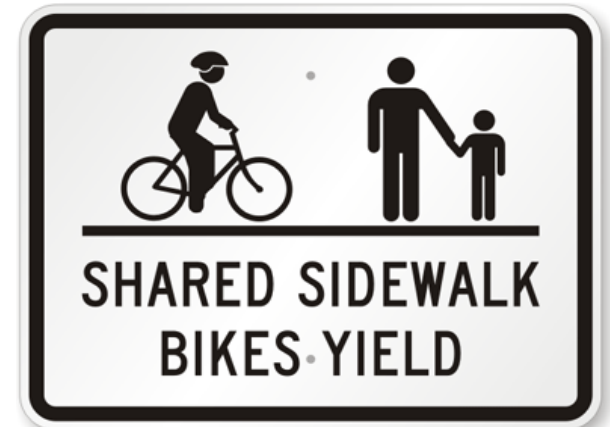
- Venice Avenue from S. Tamiami Trail (Business 41) to Harbor Drive

- Tampa Avenue from S. Tamiami Trail (Business 41) to Harbor Drive
- Miami Avenue from S. Tamiami Trail (Business 41) to Harbor Drive
- Nokomis Avenue from Tampa Avenue to Miami Avenue
- Nassau Street from Tampa Avenue to Miami Avenue.

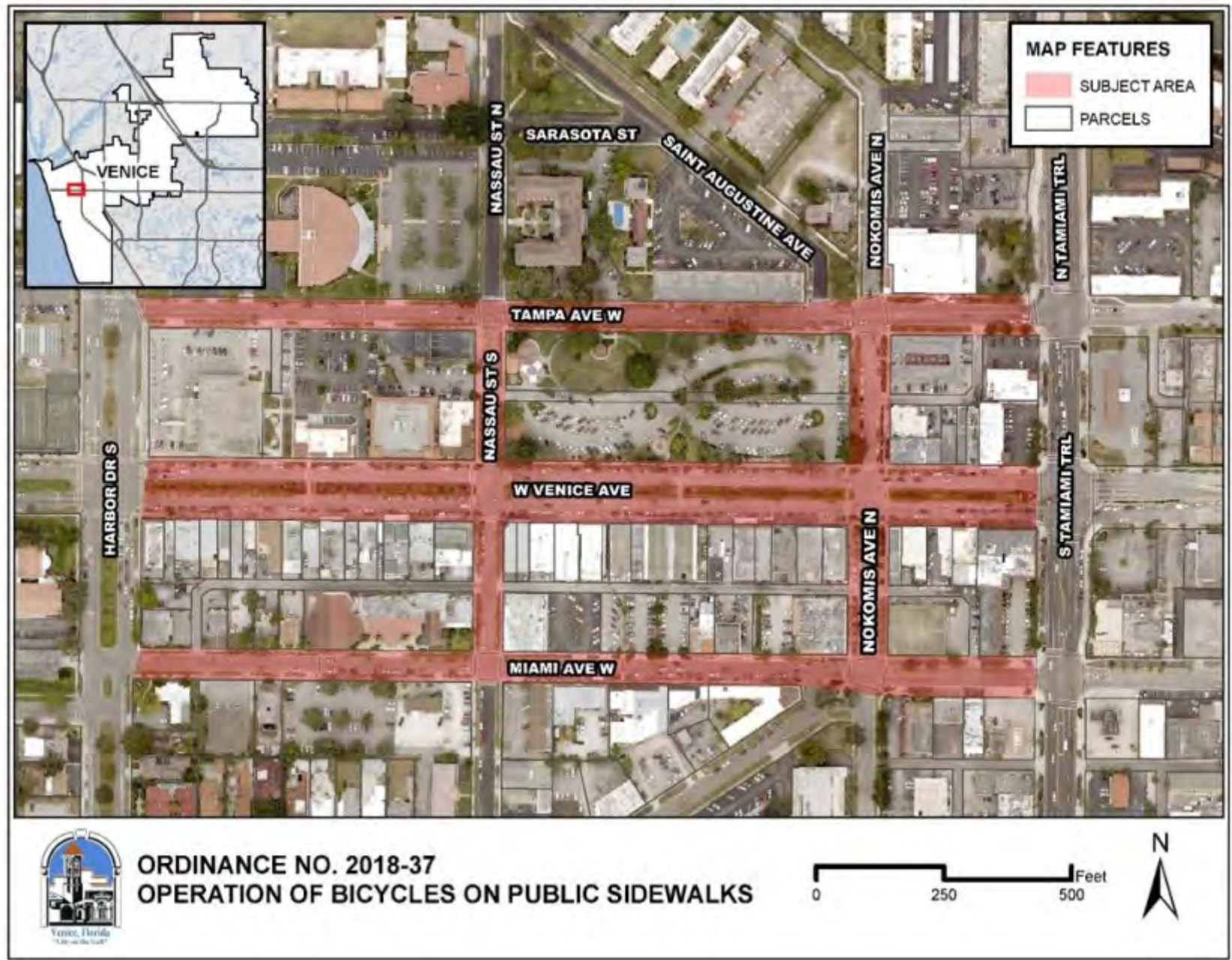
## ***See map on page 16.***

I understand everyone may not feel safe when riding on the streets, so if you choose to ride on the sidewalk, just remember you do not have the right of way — pedestrians do. Yield to pedestrians and be courteous and give plenty of warning before passing them and provide plenty of room when passing them.

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



The Venice City Council adopted an ordinance in 2018 making it unlawful to ride a bicycle on sidewalks along the downtown street segments shown at right in red. Bicycles must be walked on these sidewalks, along with skateboards and scooters. Rollerskating is also prohibited.





# 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 18*

## 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 17**

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.**





# 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>.

# How-to Guide for Residential Solid Waste, Recycling

City of Venice residents receive twice-weekly collection of garbage. New residents must purchase an automated garbage cart from the City if there isn't one on the premises. Please call the Public Works Department at 941-486-2422 to request a cart, request a cart size change, or for your collection days.

City residents receive once-per-week collection of recyclables. Please call 941-486-2422 to request a recyclables cart or to find out your collection day.

City residents also receive once-per-week collection of properly prepared yard waste. Residents receive twice-yearly collection of bulk yard waste, with a maximum of 20 yards for each collection. The collection period runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30.

## Rules for garbage collection

- Your cart must be curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. It should be placed within 3 feet of the curb and 3 feet away from any other objects.
- The arrows on the top of the cart should point toward the road.
- Recyclables and yard waste cannot be mixed with garbage.
- Please bag your garbage when putting in your cart to help prevent debris from falling out when your cart is emptied.
- All your garbage must fit inside the cart. Please call 941-486-2422 to schedule an appointment for items that don't fit inside the cart (fees may apply).
- Each cart has a unique serial number that corresponds to your address. Please don't trade carts or take them with you if you move. Carts remain the property of the City of Venice.



## Rules for single-stream recycling collection

- Your cart must be curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. It should be placed within 3 feet of the curb and 3 feet away from any other objects.
- Garbage and yard waste cannot be mixed with recycling.
- Do not bag your recycling. **No plastic bags are allowed in the recycling carts.**

*Continued on page 21*



**Guide, from page 20**

- **All your recycling goes in the cart together:** plastics, bottles, newspaper, cereal boxes, aluminum cans, cardboard boxes, etc. ***See page 22 for guidelines.***
- All of your recycling must fit inside the cart. Large cardboard boxes will have to be broken down or cut so they fit inside.
- Each cart has a unique serial number that corresponds to your address. Please don't take them with you if you move. Carts remain the property of the City of Venice.

**Rules for weekly yard waste collection**

- Yard waste can be in paper bags, garbage cans (other than the City-issued carts), or securely tied bundles not exceeding 4 feet in length and 40 pounds. Palm fronds should be facing the same way.
- Recyclables and garbage cannot be mixed with yard waste.

**Rules for bulk yard waste collection**

- You must make an appointment for pickup before you place a pile of yard waste at the curb.
- The debris cannot be under any trees or power lines, or too close

to mailboxes or sprinkler heads.

- No stumps or logs larger than 8 inches in diameter. This collection is for brush removal and tree or bush trimmings only, not for tree removal.
- Residents who have larger items that won't fit in their garbage cart can make an appointment for a pickup. At this time, the City will collect appliances at no additional fee. Furniture or larger items are collected for a fee. Please call 941-486-2422 to receive a quote and schedule an appointment.

**Rules for bulk garbage and appliance collection**

- Your debris must be curbside by 7 a.m. on the day of your bulk collection. It should be placed within 3 feet of the curb and 3 feet away from any other objects.
- Items for collection cannot be under trees or power lines or too close to mailboxes or sprinkler heads.
- Refrigerators or freezers must be emptied of food and have the doors removed.
- City employees will not go onto your property to collect bulk items; these items must be curbside.
- Charges, if any, are applied to the resident's water/sewer bill.
- Residents who don't have a City account in their name will need to pre-pay for this collection service.

## SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING GUIDELINES

 **THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:**

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

**WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT!**

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

 [venicegov.com/services/public-works/recycling](http://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.



## 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.



# Utilities Water Main Replacement Phase 6 Project update

**Project update:** Work scheduled in November for the Water Main Replacement Project, Phase 6 includes water main and service line installation on Nassau St. S. between Miami Ave. W. and Pedro St.; service line installations from the water main to the right-of-way on Cooper St., Ponce de Leon Ave., Harbor Dr. S. and Palmetto Ct.; and installation of water main valves in the right-of-way on Airport Ave. E. near Ringling Dr. and one on Cooper St. south of Base Ave. E. A scheduled water shutdown is necessary to connect the new water mains to the existing distribution system at the intersections of Barcelona Ave. and Avenue des Parques N., the east side of Harbor Dr. N. at Tampa Ave. W. and Manatee Ct., and on Valencia Rd. at Ocala St.

**Project:** The Phase 6 area is roughly bounded 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, there is a section south of the main area 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 website, [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com), and entered into the City's emergency notification system, Alert Sarasota County (get more information on how to sign up for notifications 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 allow 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 more information specific to your property, please contact Cynthia Fitzpatrick, Utilities Project Coordinator, at 941-882-7290.



A water main being installed across Tampa Ave. W. via open cut method.

# Electric vehicle charging stations free to the public

The City of Venice partnered with Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) to install four electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in City locations – giving local EV drivers convenient and free places to charge up while jumpstarting Florida’s sustainable transportation future.

The Venice-FPL partnership is part of FPL EVolution, an innovative pilot program designed to boost Florida’s EV infrastructure and support EV adoption by partnering with leading organizations, businesses and municipalities to install 1,000 plus charging ports at more than 100 locations across Florida.

FPL recently installed four EV charging ports in Venice. Two of the four ports were installed in Centennial Park at 200 W. Venice Ave., just steps away from the Venice Downtown District. The remaining two charging ports were installed at 1575 E. Venice Ave. at the City’s new Public Safety Facility, home of the Venice Police Department.

The stations are Level 2 chargers and will provide EV drivers with approximately 25 miles of range per one-hour charge. FPL EVolution provides the new charging station and installation at no cost to the City. The City will be allowing EV drivers to charge up for free.

Learn more about FPL EVolution at [www.FPL.com/EV](http://www.FPL.com/EV).

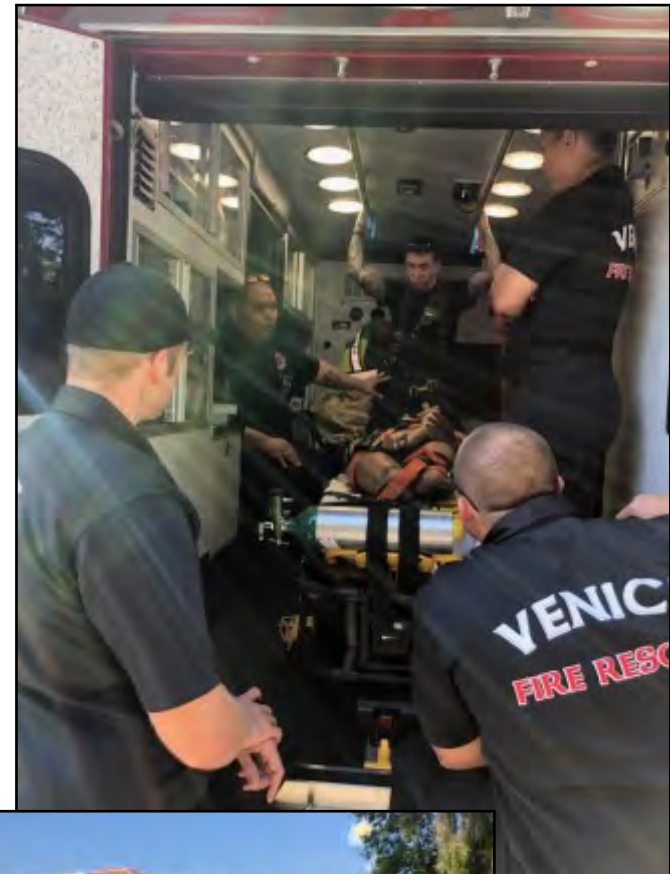


From far left, electric vehicle charging stations at Centennial Park; at the Public Safety Facility at 1575 E. Venice Ave.; and detail of an EV charging port at Centennial Park.



## IN TRAINING

Fire Rescue personnel participated in extrication training Oct. 14 at Fire Station 2.





## KEEPING VENICE BEAUTIFUL

The City of Venice is grateful for the efforts of Team KVB (Keep Venice Beautiful) volunteers. A couple recent outings: 8 members removed 10 truckloads of debris from the Maxine Barritt Park back trails on Sept. 24. On Oct. 1, KVBers prepped the Venice Beach flower beds for Sarasota County, weeding and taking out 3 truckloads of materials, as well as removing invasive Brazilian pepper in the area. Oct. 15 saw 14 Team KVB volunteers working along Harbor Drive at North Brohard, removing hairy Indian malo, rattlebox, grapevines and Brazilian pepper, hauling out 3 truckloads of debris. Thank you for all your hard work!

*See more photos, page 27*



*Photos  
provided by  
Team KVB*



## KEEPING VENICE BEAUTIFUL (CON'T)



*Photos provided by  
Team KVB*



# Seagrape can be a great addition to your tropical garden

Seagrapes (*Coccoloba uvifera*) are small trees that can take on a variety of shapes. Multi-stemmed trees can be round, full to the ground, and shrub-like while single stem trees can make a small tree to 30 feet tall. The leaves of seagrapes are thick, leathery and round with prominent red veins. The leaves may turn completely red in fall and winter before falling to the ground. The new foliage emerges with a distinct red to bronze color that is quite pronounced set against the bright green foliage. Trees usually bloom in the spring with

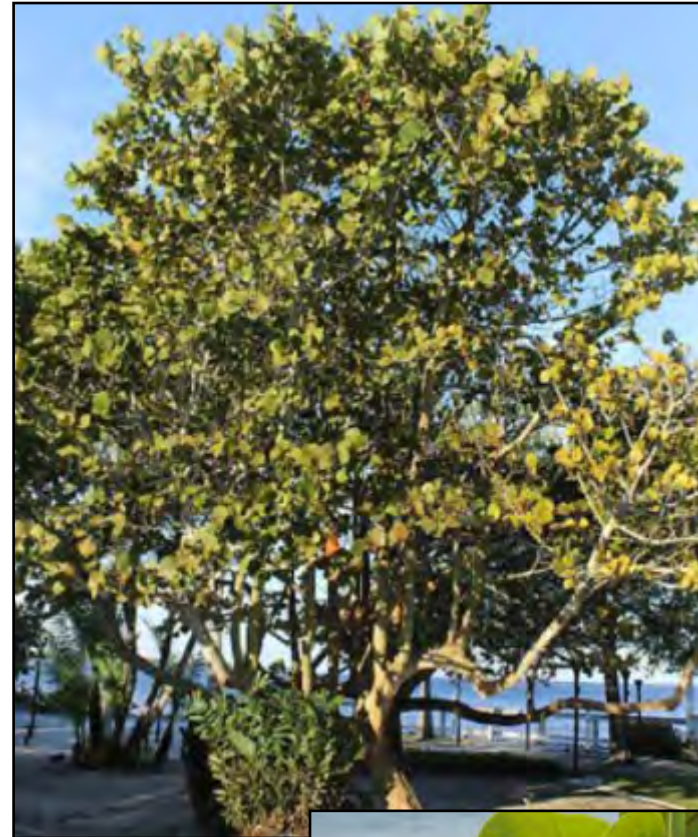


**JIM YELVERTON**  
CITY ARBORIST

inconspicuous white flowers. On female plants, the flowers develop into thick clusters of grapes. Male trees do not have grapes. The grape clusters slowly ripen over the summer to a dark purple color. The grapes are edible and can be used to make a tasty jelly. The grapes are also a favorite of birds and squirrels.

When grown as a single stem tree, the twisting, contorted trunk makes the seagrape an interesting specimen or small shade tree. Grown as a multi-stem large shrub, they can be trimmed into a dense hedge, screen planting or windbreak. Because of the large leaves, trimming to a hedge is best done by hand pruning rather than shearing. The large leaves do not lend themselves well to

shearing. Some may consider the large, thick leaves a nuisance when they fall since they are slow to decompose and tend to blow all around the landscape. Pruning is required two to three times a year to maintain a hedge and only occasionally for clearance if grown as a tree. Tolerating most well-drained soil types and being highly salt tolerant, seagrape can be grown in almost any full sun location in our area. They are sensitive to frost and freezing, so some protection may be needed for extended freezing temperatures. Proper pruning during its early years is required to develop a tree form, but the end result can be a very interesting and unique tree. Branches with embedded bark should be removed to develop good structure but otherwise the wood is strong and trees are quite durable. It is important to note that Florida law protects seagrapes growing along coastal beaches and in the sand dunes. Only certain pruning practices are permitted for coastal trees.



At left, when grown as a single stem tree, the twisting, contorted trunk makes the seagrape an interesting small shade tree. Below, detail of the seagrape leaves and fruit. Photos provided by UF/IFAS



*Continued on page 29*



# 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](mailto:bhines@venicechamber.com) to obtain a copy. **The absolute deadline to apply is Monday, Dec. 14.**



## AT YOUR SERVICE

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

**Samantha Gentrup**, appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to complete the unexpired term of Joan Piper from Aug. 25, 2020, until Aug. 31, 2021.

**Andrew DeVries**, reappointed as the 5th Trustee to the Police Pension Board of Trustees to serve a term from Oct. 1, 2020, until Sept. 30, 2024.

**Lauren McMahon**, appointed as a student member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to serve a term from Oct. 13, 2020, until Oct. 31, 2021.

### *Seagrape, from page 28*

New plants should be well watered until established. Once established, seagrapes are highly drought-tolerant and except for pruning, need little care. Remember that they want to grow large, so this plant is not suited for a small, clipped hedge or for small spaces unless trained to be a small tree.

They can make an attractive, tropical foundation planting on larger buildings or as a large hedge in open areas. Grown as a tree, they will need 20 feet or so overhead space to develop a full crown.

Seagrape can be a lovely addition to your tropical garden.

*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.*

## AROUND TOWN



Police Chief Tom Mattmuller recently presented Sgt. Sean Hammett with the VFW National Law Enforcement Award for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency services persons, law enforcement officers and firefighters to receive VFW National Awards. Sgt. Hammett is truly an exceptional example of all who serve the community!



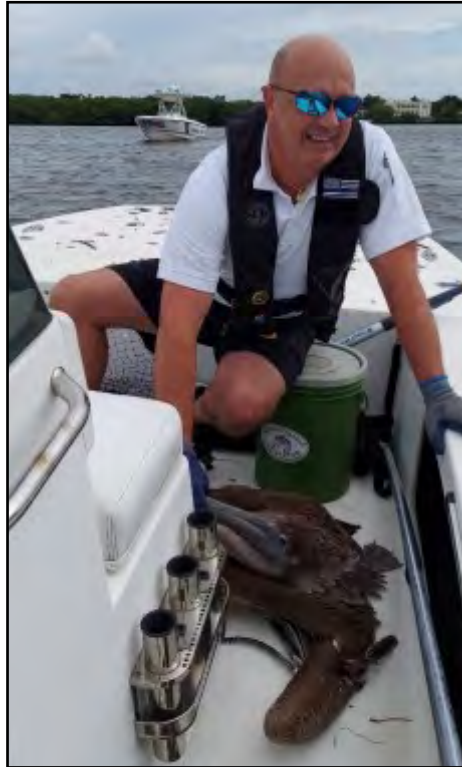
Above, the collection crew at the Water Reclamation Facility off Laurel Road in their daily morning meeting Oct. 22: Rocky Reid, Jimmy Bennett, Hans Ferjuste, Angelo Papini, James Floyd, Noill Leiva and David Dahl. At right, Public Works Administrative Coordinator Anne Anderson, foreground, was one of 79 people who donated blood during a two-day drive at City Hall Oct. 7-8. Thank you for giving the "Gift of Life!"



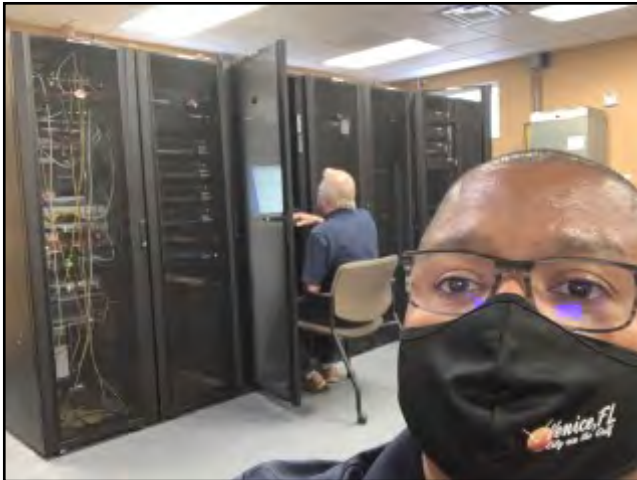


## AROUND TOWN

On Oct. 21, the VPD Marine Unit was dispatched to a pelican in distress on a mangrove island. Upon arrival, Marine Officer Paul Joyce found the pelican hanging upside-down, tangled up in fishing line and hooks. With the help of a couple local fishermen, they were able to get MPO Joyce to the island, which was in very shallow waters. Once the bird was freed from the mangroves, MPO Joyce transported the pelican to Save Our Sea-birds on City Island, where he will be nursed back to good health. Thank you to the angler who found the pelican and notified us!



Planning & Zoning staff Kelsey Mahoney, Lisa Olson, Nicole Tremblay, Planning Manager Roger Clark, Kristin Ward and Amy Nelson.



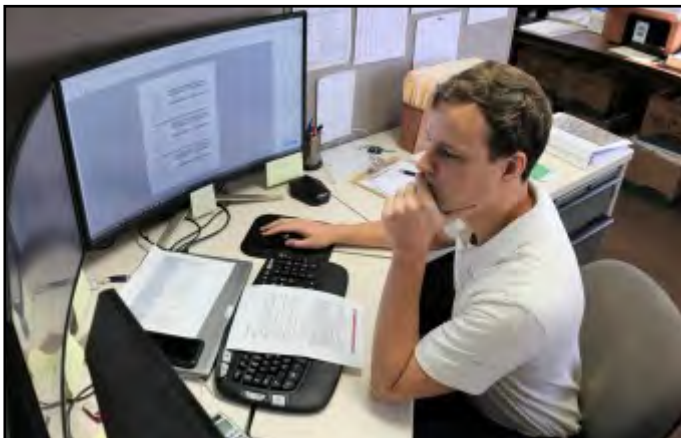
At left, City IT Director Christophe St. Luce works with a technician in the data room at Fire Station 3 on Laurel Road. At right, Jess Korte, John Kammerer, Ricky Simpson and Tim George with Public Works remove window coverings on the side of City Hall as a part of the ongoing Fire Station 1/City Hall Expansion project.



## AROUND TOWN



Wayne Ball and Ron Peyton with Utilities set a brand-new emergency back-up 60 KW stationary generator at lift station #89 inside the Windwood subdivision.



Stormwater Engineer Steven Berens reviews plans at City Hall Oct. 23.

At right and below, Venice Firefighter/EMTs Hunter Snyder, Ryan Behring and Matt Toner, and Firefighter/Paramedic Niki Guraly assist the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Oct. 5 with adding a new halyard to the Chamber's flagpole.

*Photos provided by the Venice Chamber*





## AROUND TOWN

At right, Jim Eppley, Venice Airport Operations and Maintenance Supervisor, dons the appropriate work outfit Oct. 23 to clear an outfall on Airport property overgrown with grass and weeds, shown in before and after photos below.



Vadim Bugayev, Austin Fargo and James Floyd with Utilities repair a 12" water main recently.

**AROUND TOWN**

Clockwise from left, Mercedes Barcia, Administrative Coordinator in the Clerk's Office, takes minutes during an Architectural Review Board meeting Oct. 22; Steve Roberts and Nick Miller with Venice Fire Rescue review gear Oct. 21 at Fire Station 2; D.J. Dahl in Utilities flushes a fire hydrant at Village of Milano recently; VPD Kg Palmer celebrates his 2nd birthday Oct. 19.





## AROUND TOWN



Lyons Bay dredging/Snake Island renourishment project progress, captured by Venice Aerial Photography on Oct. 24. The project is being done by the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) in partnership with Sarasota County.

Utilities staff Tim Merritt, Wayne Ball, Ron Peyton, John Short, Cody Nelson, Brian Bettenhausen and Danny Self attend a mechanics daily morning meeting at the Water Reclamation Facility off Laurel Road.



Technical Systems Coordinator Mike Deneweth with the IT Department, hard at work Oct. 22 at the new Public Safety Facility.



## AROUND TOWN



Earl Midlam and Gary Youngberg took "Old Betsy," the City's 1926 LaFrance firetruck, out for a short drive Oct. 24 to locations including the Venetian Waterway Trail, Venice Train Depot and William H. Jervey Jr. Venice Public Library. Earl, a former City Council Member and firefighter who drives Old Betsy during events and oversees the vehicle's upkeep, is working with Venice Heritage to raise funds for a display building to house the antique firetruck, which would be located across from the Venice Museum on the Cultural Campus of East Blalock Park. To donate to the cause, visit <https://www.veniceheritage.org/> and click on the yellow "Donate" button.



Citizens dropped off over 140 pounds of old and unwanted pharmaceuticals at the Public Safety Facility during the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Oct. 24. Thank you to everyone who made this collection a success! From left, Patti Kaighn with the Florida Department of Health, VPD Capt. Charlie Thorpe, and Criminalistics Specialist Tawnie Murdock.



## BULLETIN BOARD

## November 3 General Election

# EARLY VOTING

## & Vote-by-Mail Drop-Off Sites

**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 now 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.

**SarasotaVotes.com**  
Ron Turner, Supervisor of Elections, Sarasota County

**Do you know your Flood Zone?**  
**Don't be the turkey!**

It's never flooded here!

Call the Engineering Department at  
(941) 882-7412  
or look it up at [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)

**Venice, FL**  
City on the Gulf

**Don't Drip and Drive!**  
Leaking cars can pollute our Stormwater

Please keep your car free of spills and in  
good working condition

**Venice, FL**  
City on the Gulf



## BULLETIN BOARD



### 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 safety
- Construction is anticipated at 75 days

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 ....

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

**\*\*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

VAC-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



*Saturdays*

**VENICE FARMERS MARKET**

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

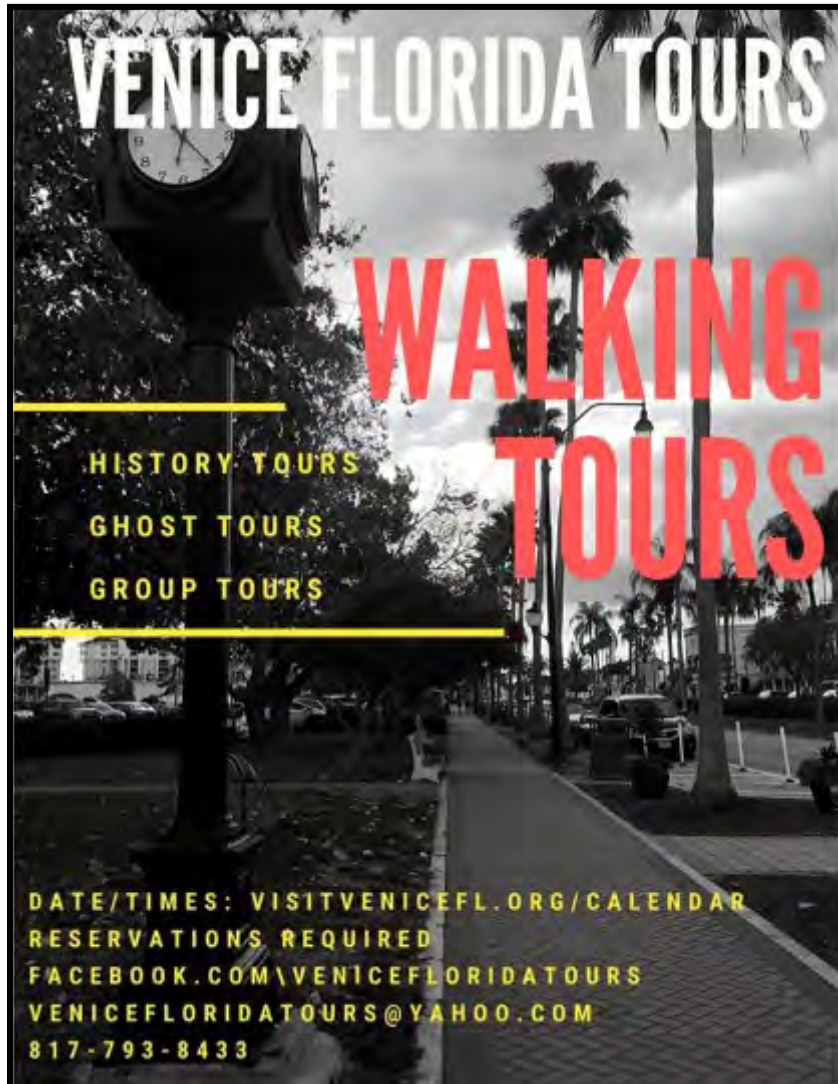
*Winter hours: Saturdays, 8am to 1pm  
from October through March*

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

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



## BULLETIN BOARD



**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

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)


## 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**



EXPLORE • LEARN • PLAY

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



## MEGALODON SPONSORS





## GREAT WHITE SPONSORS





## TIGER SHARK SPONSORS

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

**Premier | Sotheby's  
THE VICTORIA STULTZ TEAM**



**Sharls Tooth Monument Provided By:**



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

Download our app at: 



## 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>

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## Mayors' Feed the Hungry Food Drive is virtual

The annual Mayors' Feed the Hungry Food Drive, from Nov. 9-20, is virtual this year! With so many people unemployed due to COVID-19, the need is great. Your online donations will provide food gift cards to needy area families in time for Thanksgiving. Get more information by going to: <https://mayorsfeedthehungry.org/>. Thank you in advance!

### Mayors' Feed the Hungry Food Fund Drive



Nov.  
9<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>

