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Mayor

John Holic

Vice Mayor

Kit McKeon

Council Members

Jim Bennett

Emilio Carlesimo

Bob Daniels

Jeanette Gates

Dave Sherman

Charter Officers

Acting City Manager

Nancy Woodley, Ph.D.

City Clerk Lori Stelzer

City Attorney Bob Anderson

For questions, or to be placed on the distribution list, call Marketing and Communications Officer Pam Johnson: (941) 486-2626, ext. 24005 or e-mail:

Council sets goals for the coming year



Venice City Council members set goals for the city for 2012.

City Council determined its short-term goals for 2012 at its strategic planning workshop Jan. 27. At the top of the list was to find a cause and solution to the pollution causing sporadic health advisory warnings at Venice Beach.

Last year, beachgoers were advised not to swim or participate in recreational activities in the Gulf of Mexico in an isolated area just to the northwest of Venice Beach Pavilion. The event has taken place again recently this year.

Sarasota County Health Department tests regularly for enterococcus, an indicator of the presence of harmful bacteria, which may or may not be fecal coliform.

In fact, last year the city and health department worked together to do further studies that concluded that the source of the contamination was not human.

All city sewage infrastructure in the area was checked and

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proved not to be leaking.

That led to further studies of the area's stormwater management system. There is a stormwater retention pipe that never fully drains, allowing bacteria to fester until a significant rain. The last few months have been dry. However, when it is dry, property owners irrigate their lawns. Some runoff from irrigation could be causing the stormwater retention to drain, along with its accumulated bacteria.

During the January episode, the first high reading of enterococcus was 388. It was followed two days later by readings of 88, 201 and 56. While the readings were much improved, once an advisory goes up the readings must have a mean average of 35 or less in order to remove the warnings.

The city recently added a stormwater engineer to its staff as part of its endeavor to work toward a resolution of the problem.

The final strategic plan document will be further discussed and voted for approval at an upcoming city council meeting. The staff work program for the year will be determined by the final plan and analysis of budgetary constraints.

Brohard Paw Park, 1600 Harbor Drive S., will be closed on Thursday, Feb. 9, for necessary repairs to the boardwalk and routine maintenance. The park will reopen for business as usual on Feb. 10.

Long-term goals for the city are:

- Sustainable city
- Keep Venice beautiful and eco-friendly
- Financially sound city with high performance organization
 - Maintain/upgrade city infrastructure and facilities
 - Maintain a growing diverse economy

Short-term goals:

- *Sustainable city:* Develop a concept of sustainable city that is independent of the comprehensive plan implementation
- *Comprehensive Plan:* Develop a comprehensive plan implementation with associated costs, support Development Services to finish the plan and review the need for additional staffing
- *Tourism and Economic Development:* Fund and create a branding and marketing plan to enhance the identity of the city as a destination, including the creation of medical tourism, signage plan, and standard logo.
- *Boards:* Better utilization of advisory boards through strategic planning sessions and boards' adoption of city council short-term goals
- *Economic Development:* Develop awareness of proper locations and uses of city assets, assign a point person for economic development, make changes in the Building Department to enhance economic development, create an incentive program to bring new business to Venice, partner with private enterprise for solutions, consider a new location for festival grounds, implement plans

for vacant properties, and coordinate new commercial area organizations to represent East Venice Avenue businesses and other area.

• *Seaboard:* create a partnership with county to develop plan for its future, evaluate relocation of public works, utilities and fire facilities away from the area.

• *Improve relationships* with other entities; appoint a city liaison to work with the county

• *Airport:* Recognize the airport as a gateway to the city and contributor to the city's economic development, support airport improvements, continue to make the airport a good neighbor

• *Maintenance:* Encourage the use of local service clubs and volunteer groups to assist with park and community maintenance; partner with citizens to maintain pocket parks; Public Works to recommend specific goals and actions to address ongoing maintenance issues of parks and roads.

• *Improve stormwater quality*

• *Parks:* Identify and implement tree planting and landscaping throughout the city utilizing the

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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; develop *Legacy Park* and its management plan; have Public Works prepare a plan for ongoing maintenance of public grounds and facilities.

- Participate in *Ribbons of Venice*, which is a plan to connect hiking and biking trails throughout the area
- Implement a *master energy plan* for city facilities
- Identify *conservation* opportunities
- Initiate a *trolley service*

- Establish *electric charge stations* for vehicles
- Install PVC pipe to *upgrade infrastructure*
- *Budget*: Develop a balanced budget without using reserves, identify projects ready for implementation and funding opportunities; resolve the pension issue.
- Create a *training* program so that every employee is an ambassador of the city
- Complete implementation of *Partnering 4 Success*
- Consolidate *police shooting range and dispatch*
- Improve *finance projection*

sheets to identify budgets for capital improvement projects

- Create a stakeholders group to review the potential for *once-a-week garbage collection*
- Improve the intersection at *Indian Avenue* and U.S. 41 Business by 2014
- Implement city-wide *recycling* collection program to include downtown streets and other public places
- Review *city leases* for viability
- Develop a 10-year plan to economize *utility expenses* and lower rates

High school student joins the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Caroline Deaterly was appointed to serve as the STAR (Students Taking an Active Role) member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, until May 31, 2012.

Board members are appointed by the mayor with consent of city council.

To access an application online, go to:

www.venicegov.com, click on Advisory Boards (on left side of page), then click on Board Application.

For more information, contact Judy Gamel at (941) 486-2626, ext. 23003.

Volunteer for seagrass survey program

Sarasota County is looking for volunteers to participate in its winter seagrass survey, which will run through February 2012. The program provides valuable information to local scientists regarding the current status of seagrass within Sarasota's bays.

Seagrass is vital to maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems, improving water quality, stabilizing shorelines and providing food

and cover for a variety of wildlife.

All program volunteers for the winter seagrass survey must attend a training class, which consists of a brief program overview and hands-on training in the water. The class takes place Saturday, Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., at the Turtle Beach Community Center, 8919 Midnight Pass Road, Sarasota. The rain date is Sunday, Feb. 5, at the same time

and location.

Boaters attending the training should bring swimwear and water shoes. Participants should have their own global positioning systems and watercraft; however, those who do not will be paired with those who do.

For information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at (941) 861-5000 and ask about the seagrass survey program.

Free Tax Service - The United Way will provide free income tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program to families who earned \$50,000 or less in 2011. The VITA site is located at the South County Family YMCA, 701 Center Road, Venice, FL 34285. Hours are Wednesdays, 4 - 8 p.m. and Saturdays, 10a.m. - 2 p.m. through April 14, 2012. For information, call (941) 308-4357.

Utility rates scheduled to change in April

Venice City Council approved recommendations presented by Burton & Associates for a new water and sewer rate structure for Venice residents.

The recommendations were the result of a months-long study by a stakeholder work group, city staff and Burton & Associates staff.

Several members of the community made up the stakeholder work group. They included Lee Lichtle and Deb Reynolds representing the master-metered multi-family class of customers; Bill Meiter, Fred Francis and Mike Rafferty, representing single-family homeowners; and Jeff Seacat and Mike Pachota representing interests of commercial property owners. Utilities Director Len Bramble and Finance Director Jeff Snyder worked with the group.

The goals of the study were to determine the best way to satisfy the annual operating and capital cost requirements, to ensure compliance with terms of existing indebtedness, to establish and maintain adequate operating reserves, and create incentives for water conservation.

Most importantly, the group wanted to establish a rate that would fairly and equitably distribute the cost of providing the service.

The economy has changed some of the dynamics of providing water and sewage services. Due to foreclosures, increasing water conservation, and a reduced rate of residential growth, less water is used and less wastewater generated in the city. Consequently, less

revenue is generated for the services.

At the same time, costs of electricity, chemicals, fuel, petroleum and health insurance continue to escalate. Another key issue is the need to fund more than \$50 million of capital improvement projects over the next five years. Finally, the need to maintain operating reserves and debt service coverage is imperative.

When the city council approved the stakeholder's recommendation of the 3 percent increase it eliminated a previous plan to increase the rates two times by 4.5 percent as adopted two years ago.

This decision will be announced on all city utility bills over the next month. The required two readings of the new ordinance should come before city council in March.

How will the new rates affect city utilities customers?

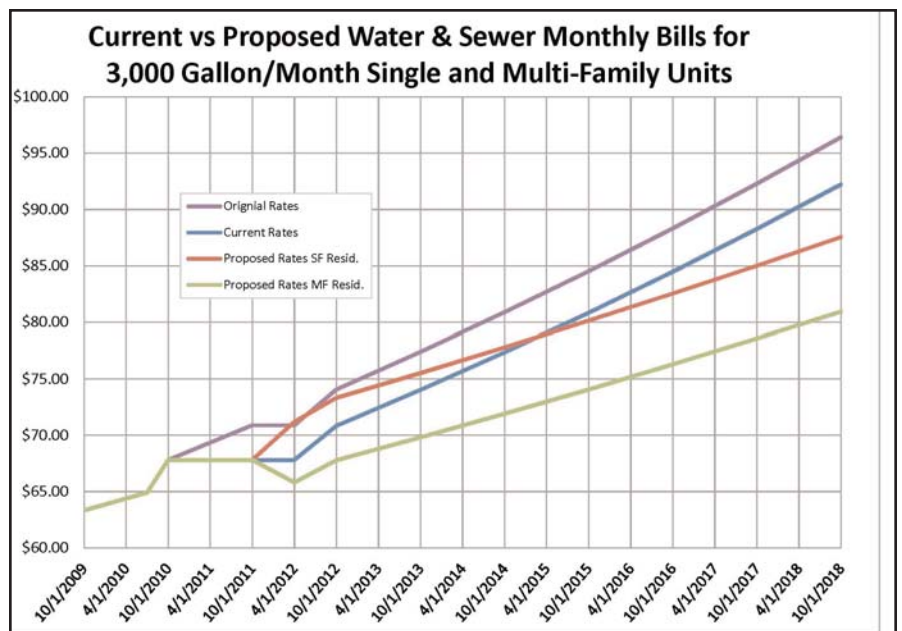
One important consequence is

everyone will avoid two 4.5 percent increases that were adopted two years ago. The new rate scale will involve a 3 percent increase in April, and then again every October for the next five years. The city will reevaluate rates at that time.

The new rates recognize that condominium and apartment dwellers typically use less water than those who live in single-family homes.

Multi-family residents will pay 15 percent less in the base or fixed fee than single-family home residents will pay. Everyone will pay the same usage rate. For residential customers who consume less than 3,000 gallons of water per month this increase will be about 2.3 percent. Those who consume more than 3,000 gallons a month will see an increase of about 5 percent.

For more information, contact Utility Director Len Bramble, (941) 486-2641.



- **Special Government Meetings**
- **Holidays**
- **Special Events**

COMING UP



All meeting and event dates and times are subject to change. Government meetings take place at Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., unless otherwise stated.

Thursday, Feb. 2, Municipal Code Enforcement Board, 9 a.m.
Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 7, Planning Commission, canceled.

Wednesday, Feb. 8, City Council special Meeting to discuss police and fire pension funds, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 9, Architectural Review Board, 9 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 10, Friday Night Live free concert in Centennial Park, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11, Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival, has been postponed until April 7.

Sunday, Feb. 12, Cruisin' at the Gazebo, Centennial Park, 1 - 3:30 p.m., Venice Regional Antique Auto Club.

Monday, Feb. 13, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14, City Council, 9 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 17, Historic Preservation Board, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 18, 85th Anniversary Beach Bash, Venice Beach, 11 a.m. - sunset. See flyer on Page 15.

Sunday, Feb. 19, Joy of Jazz, Centennial Park, 2 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 20, Presidents Day City Hall is closed. Garbage, recycling and yard waste collected as usual.

Tuesday, Feb. 21, Planning Commission, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, Charter Review Committee, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23, Architectural Review Board, 9 a.m.

Italian Feast and Carnival, Airport Festival Grounds, 4 p.m..

Friday, Feb. 24, Arts District Walk, downtown, 6 p.m.

Friday Night Live free concert in Centennial Park, 7 p.m.

Italian Feast and Carnival, Airport Festival Grounds, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25, Italian Feast and Carnival, Airport Festival Grounds, noon.

Sunday, Feb. 26, Italian Feast and

Carnival, Airport Festival Grounds, noon

Tuesday, Feb. 28, City Council, 9 a.m.

For agendas and more special events, see the calendars at: www.venicegov.com. Audio of the past two city council regular meetings are posted on the meetings calendar page under the corresponding meeting.

City Council on TV

The city council meetings are aired on television.

Comcast Channel 189 airs the first four hours of the meeting on the Saturday following the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and about two weeks later on the Wednesday that follows the next meeting.

Sarasota County Access TV airs the meeting during the following week on Comcast Channel 19 and Verizon Channel 32. This airing is the entire meeting regardless of its length and the time of the airing is determined the Friday before. Check: www.scgov.net.

In the grey box on the left, click on Access Sarasota Television, then click on the dates of the week to view the schedule.

Venice Views will feature a day in the life of your garbage collector.

Venice Views airs Wednesdays at 3 and 6:30 p.m. on Channel 189.

- **Special Government Meetings**
- **Holidays**
- **Special Events**

COMING UP

All meeting and event dates and times are subject to change. Government meetings take place at Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., unless otherwise stated.



Thursday, March 1, Municipal Code Enforcement Board, 9 a.m.

Saturday and Sunday, March 3-4, Venice MainStreet Downtown Art Classic, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6, Planning Commission, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 8, Architectural Review Board, 9 a.m.

Friday, March 9, Friday Night Live free concert in Centennial Park, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 11, Daylight Saving Time begins. Turn clocks one hour ahead and change the batteries in smoke alarms.

Venice Joy of Jazz, Centennial Park, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, March 13, City Council, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 14, Public

Art Advisory Board, 3:30 p.m.

Friday, March 16, Historic Preservation Board, 9 a.m.

Saturday, March 17, 85th Anniversary free pops concert by the Venice Symphony at Maxine Barritt Park, 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 18, Annual Corvettes in Venice, sponsored by the Venice Corvette Club, Centennial Park, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Monday, March 19, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20, Planning Commission, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 21, Economic Development Advisory Board, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 22, Architectural Review Board, 9 a.m.

Friday, March 23, Friday Night Live free concert in Centennial Park, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 24, 85th Anniversary at Historic Venice Train Depot, 303 East Venice Ave., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, March 25, 85th Anniversary Tour de Parks bicycle ride, Historic Venice Train Depot, 7 a.m.

85th Anniversary history celebration continues at the Train Depot, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fire Ant Follies Car Show, Centennial Park, 8 a.m. - 3:30

p.m.

Tuesday, March 27, City Council, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 28, Charter Review Committee, 9 a.m.

Friday, March 30, Arts District Walk, downtown, 6 p.m.

Music in the Park

Free concerts in Centennial Park, 3 - 5 p.m. Bring a lawn chair.

Tuesdays - Bill Anderson's Happy Time Band (Dixieland)

Wednesdays - Tony Onorato and the Gentlemen of Jazz

Thursdays - Slim & Friends (Traditional country music)

AWARD WINNING VENICE FARMERS MARKET



Venice Farmers Market takes place every Saturday in the 200 block of Tampa Avenue, downtown, from 8 a.m. - noon.

Looking forward to a new year of continued improvements

Message from the Mayor



John W. Holic

I would like to thank the 90 citizens of Venice for participating in our survey this year. The results of the survey are printed here and will be shared with the Charter Review Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your mayor. It is truly a blessing. Thanks also to the many hundreds of you that do so much for our city. Without you volunteering, we would not be the beautiful, historic and fun loving city we are today.

May God bless you all.

Get It Done 2012 Survey Results

The survey closed Jan. 15 with participation of 90 people. Some respondents did not answer every question. Some answered some questions with more than one answer. The following is the tabulation. Due to space restraints, comments are not included.

1. The salary for a council member is \$10,200 per year and \$12,000 per year for the mayor. Effective Dec. 1, 2011, City Council eliminated subsidized premiums for health insurance to council members as a cost cutting measure. Any further reduction in cost to the city for City Council would have to be through reduction in the number of council representatives. How many people should serve on City Council?

__47__ (A) 7 (current number)

__41__ (B) 5

__2__ (C) Other _____

2. How should council members be elected?

__46__ (A) All members should be elected at large. (current method)

__27__ (B) The city should be

divided into districts (one less district than the number of council members) and council members must reside in the district from which they are running but are elected at large. The mayor would be elected at large and could reside in any district.

__10__ (C) The city should be divided into districts (one less district than the number of council members) and council members must reside in the district from which they are running and elected by only the electors from that district. The mayor would be elected at large.

__5__ (D) Other _____

3. How should the mayor be elected?

__55__ (A) The mayor should be elected by the electors of the city "at large." (current method)

__31__ (B) The mayor should be elected by a majority vote of City Council and should serve in the capacity of mayor for only one year. Each year council should either re-elect the same person mayor or elect a different council member for that position.

__2__ (C) Other _____

4. How long should the term of a city council member be?

__47__ (A) A council member and the mayor should be elected for 3 years with staggered terms so a portion of the council is elected each year. There should be a term limit of 3 terms. (current method)

__1__ (B) A council member and the mayor should be elected for 3 years with staggered terms so a portion of the council is elected each year. There should be no term limits.

__30__ (C) A council member and the mayor should be elected for 4 years with a portion elected each even year to coincide with the national elections. There should be a term limit of 2 terms.

__7__ (E) Other _____

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5. City Council recently cut almost \$3.2 million from the city's General Fund operating budget. Potentially, real estate tax revenue will decline again this year and there could be an additional \$1 million shortfall in the budget. If that shortfall exists, City Council can either cut services to stay within revenue or increase taxes to maintain services. With regard to the level of services provided by the city:

___21___ (A) I am satisfied with the current level of service and am willing to have a moderate tax increase if it is the only way to maintain that current level.

___52___ (B) I am satisfied with the current level of service; however, I am unwilling to pay higher taxes and would rather have less service than pay more money.

___5___ (C) I would like to see the current level of service expand and am willing to pay more in taxes for more service.

___6___ (D) Other _____

6. Currently council members and the mayor are eligible to participate in the health insurance group benefit plan offered by the City of Venice. Council members are required to pay the full premium rate with no subsidy from the city. This change came about due to a referendum vote in November 2011. Some citizens thought the language on the ballot was confusing and all the alternatives were not given to the voters. Council should:

___57___ (A) Continue to partici-

pate in the city's health insurance program and continue to pay a non-subsidized premium. (current method)

___20___ (B) Not be able to participate in the health insurance program even though they are paying a non-subsidized premium. (no additional cost or savings to the city)

___12___ (C) Continue to participate in the city's health insurance program but at the same subsidized premium as any other city employee. (This would cause an increase in cost to the city.)

___2___ (D) Other _____

7. The city has three charter officers, all of whom are held accountable to and hired by City Council. They are the city manager, city clerk and city attorney. The charter officers, with the exception of the city attorney, have unique benefits including an employment contract and deferred compensation. The finance director currently is not a charter officer and as such is held accountable to the city manager instead of being held accountable to City Council.

Should the city:

___26___ (A) Change the finance director from department head to a charter officer?

___60___ (B) Not add any additional charter officers?

___6___ (C) Other _____

8. Currently solid waste (garbage) is picked up twice a week by city employees using city owned and operated vehicles. Should the city:

___19___ (A) Maintain twice-a-week garbage pickup?

___37___ (B) Reduce garbage pickup to once a week if there is a cost savings?

___38___ (C) Competitively bid garbage pickup and use the low cost provider?

9. The following departments receive all or most of their funding from the General Fund. The General Fund is where all the real estate tax revenues, sales tax revenues, and other tax revenues go and is the one area of most concern to our citizens. If services had to be cut to avoid a tax increase, which department(s) should be reduced to save money:

___30___ Fire

___23___ Police

___34___ Public Works Parks and Maintenance

___35___ Engineering

___38___ Planning and Zoning

___28___ City Clerk

___31___ Finance

___39___ Administrative Services (Human Resources)

___37___ Information Services

___34___ City Manager

___37___ City Council

___28___ Code Enforcement

___21___ Other _____

10. Please evaluate the performance of City Council for the 2011 calendar year:

___12___ Excellent

___37___ Good

___25___ Fair

___11___ Poor

___3___ Other _____

Get help upgrading your neighborhood

Sarasota County Neighborhood Grant Program

holds free grant orientation workshops January-March at several county locations. The program supports the county's initiative to preserve and enhance the quality of life in county neighborhoods by providing matching grants to neighborhoods to help fund improvement projects.

Grant applicants must attend one two-hour workshop to learn how to apply. The applications are due April 23.

The following workshop will be held in the Venice area:

March 27, 2 - 4 p.m. at Venice Library, 300 S. Nokomis Ave.

The 50/50 matching program allows neighborhood groups to match county grant funds with cash, volunteer hours, other grant

sources, or by donations of materials and services.

Grants are awarded for projects that provide a public benefit.

Categories are: improving safety, preserving character and value, building neighborhood leadership, and enhancing physical or environmental health.

To make the required reservation for a workshop, send an email to vfrench@scgov.net or call (941) 650-1292. Space is limited. The reservation should include the applicant's name, phone number and the location, date and time of the workshop. Dates, times and locations of workshops are subject to change. Applicants must provide notification of their intent to submit an application by Monday, April 2.

For information, visit the coun-

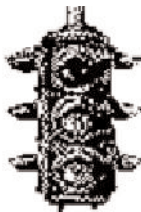
ty website, www.scgov.net, keywords Neighborhood Grants, or contact the Sarasota County Call Center at (941) 861-5000.

Another county sponsored program is **Energy Upgrade Neighborhood Challenge**. Homeowners in participating neighborhoods will take energy efficiency actions on the Neighborhood Challenge checklist and submit them to their association designee. The neighborhood with the highest level of participation and highest number of actions taken will be recognized by the county and receive a prize. For information contact info@energyupgradetoday.com or (941) 312-7383.

Project Report

Installation of the **Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS)** Phase 2,

started Jan. 23. Over the next few months, Sarasota County will install new signal controller cabinets at 35 intersections, along with conduit and fiber to create a countywide network of intersections that will link to the Manatee County Traffic Control Center. The conduit and fiber installations will be done during the day. The signal cabinet upgrades and CCTV installation activities will be performed at night, with signal outages of sever-



al hours at each intersection being worked on that night. There will be delays and disruption in the coordination of signals during installation. The improvements will not be in place until the project is completed in fall 2012.

Caspersen Beach Improvements. Directional boring is under way for installation of water and sewer lines to Caspersen Beach Park.

During construction, portions of the Harbor Drive South roadway will be temporarily excavated to create pipeline connection pits. Drivers may experience some lane closures and short traffic delays during this period on Harbor Drive

South. Traffic will be directed by the contractor and the park will remain open.

The Sarasota County project is scheduled for completion in March 2012.

FDOT widening of Interstate 75, between State Road 681 and River Road. Construction of an additional lane in each direction began in June 2010 and is expected to be complete in 2013.

Work will be done around the clock with lane closures taking place at night only, between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.



This 'n' That: Things you might like to know

Trash to Treasure. The annual firefighters' barbecue takes place Feb. 26 (please see Page 17 for details.) If you would like to donate household items in good condition for the yard sale, please call (941) 480-3030 or (941) 416-9066.

Construction at Venice Municipal Airport is under way. This project includes updating pavement markings, installing new LED airfield signs, installing wildlife deterrent fencing and removing trees that are too close to Runway 13-31.

Make sure they can find you.

Sarasota County is improving its Geographic Information System (GIS) address database to ensure emergency vehicles, first responders and public safety officials can be dispatched to correct addresses.

Geographic Technologies

Group was contracted by Sarasota County government to verify building addresses throughout the county.

Field work will include address verification for every public and private building in the county -single-family and multi-family homes, condominiums and apartments, stand-alone and multi-unit commercial structures, office parks, warehouses and government-use buildings.

You can help. GTG's address specialists will wear safety vests and photo ID. They will operate laptop and handheld computers, may take digital photographs, and will only work during daylight hours. GTG vehicles will have identifying signs and warning lights.

To verify GTG's employees or communicate concerns about fieldwork in your neighborhood, please contact the Sarasota County Call Center, (941) 861-

5000. For specific questions about the project, please contact GTG's field crew supervisor, Jim Pugh, at (919) 440-0871.

Bicycling has become so popular in Venice people are coming from other parts of the country to enjoy the view atop two wheels. The Stark County Bicycle Club of Canton, Ohio, is visiting Venice for the sixth year. About 50 members have escaped the Ohio winter. They say they especially enjoy the Legacy Trail and use it daily while visiting.

Sweet Deal. The Tootsie Roll Drive, an annual fundraiser for the local Knights of Columbus, takes place **Feb. 3 - 4** at many of the larger stores in the Venice area. This fundraiser benefits people with physical and mental disabilities. Local recipients are Loveland Center, Special Olympics, Dreams are Free, Beacon House, and Autism Speaks.

85th Anniversary News

Please help the city's 85th Anniversary Beach Bash. If you would like to donate toward tents and sound system for the Feb. 18 85th Anniversary Beach Bash, please send a check made out to the Triangle Inn Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, with the note at the bottom stating: "85th Anniversary Beach Bash" and mail to Pam Johnson, Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285. **Any company that donates \$500 or more may display its banner on the tents.** For more information, please call Johnson at (941) 486-2626, ext. 24005 or e-mail: pjohnso@ci.venice.fl.us.

History at the airport. As part of the City of Venice 85th Anniversary of incorporation celebration, Venice Municipal Airport will be observing the role of the former Venice Air Base during World War II. The event takes place on Armed Forces Day, May 19, at

the airport. There will be vintage vehicles and a static air show, as well as a Forties Dance at the Venice Municipal Mobile Home Park Recreation Center, which once served as the Student Officers Club. The Bill Millner Trio will provide the music of that great decade.

The organizing committee is looking for memorabilia, artifacts and great local stories associated with the air base in the 1940s. People who were associated with the air base and who have items of interest from the air base are asked to contact Venice Municipal Airport Administrator Chris Rozansky at (941) 486-2711 or crozansky@ci.venice.fl.us.



Help restore the city's oldest existing house, the Lord-Higel House

The Friends of Lord-Higel House invite the public to attend its annual meeting and open house, Sunday Feb. 26, 1 p.m. in Community Hall at Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave.



Ron Higel, grandson of pioneer, George Higel, presents "Venice Before the B.L.E." Judie Bauer will speak about pioneers, George Higel and Joseph Lord, and the historic house. Reservations are not required.

Here are some ways you can support the restoration of the Lord-Higel House, Venice's oldest existing house and former pioneer family home:

- The following items may be purchased at the Triangle Inn, 351 S. Nassau Street; the Historic Venice Depot, 304 E. Venice Ave.; Fraser's Island Gift Nook, 227 W. Venice Ave.; Althea's Restaurant, 220 W. Miami Ave. or by calling Judie and Jack Bauer, (941) 488-1937.

- **Collectible wooden house miniatures** with the image of soon-to-be restored Lord-Higel House may

be purchased for \$20.

- **T shirts with local artist Tem Taylor's rendering of the Lord-Higel House** printed on the front of quality, preshrunk 100 percent cotton for \$15.

- **Join the Friends of the Lord-Higel House:**

Individual - \$25

Non-profit organization - \$25

Family - \$40

Business - \$50

Bronze Sponsor - \$75

Silver Sponsor - \$100

Gold Sponsor - \$200

Life Membership - \$1,000

Submit name, address, phone number, e-mail address and check payable to Friends of Lord-Higel House Inc. to: P.O. Box 1190, Venice, FL 34284.

- **Need a speaker?** A 30-minute PowerPoint program about the history of the Lord-Higel House and pioneers Joseph Lord and George Higel will be presented to your organization. Call Judie or Jack Bauer, (941) 488-1937 or e-mail jbauerx2@verizon.net.

Help restore Heritage Park signage

Heritage Park, located in the West Venice Avenue median, has six courts depicting the history of the area and honoring the people and events that shaped it. Signage in three courts has fallen into disrepair. To bring back their beauty by repairing or replacing the signs prior to Venice's 85th Anniversary celebration in 2012, donations are needed.

To contribute to the project, go to www.gulfcoastgives.org/projects/447, click on Arts, and look for Pioneer Court Memorial in Venice's Heritage Park.

"The Needle: A Stitch in Time" an exhibit of the history of needlework, some created by Venice pioneer women, continues at the Triangle Inn through May 2.

The Triangle Inn, 351 S. Nassau Street, is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For information, call (941) 486-2487.

For more information about the history of Venice, visit the web site:

<http://venicefl.pastperfect-online.com>.

At the Triangle Inn



PHOTO ALBUM



The Historic Preservation Board placed dedicated a boulder to display the plaque received from the National Trust of Historic Resources recognizing the John Nolen Plan for Venice. Tim Savage of Living Waters and Pond Landscaping Company donated the boulder, which stands outside of City Hall. Present for the Jan. 10 dedication are, from left, board members Margee Katterheimridh, Judie Bauer, Historical Resources Director James Hagler, Jean Trammell and Alicia Scarpellini.

Jean Trammell says a few words at the boulder dedication in front of City Hall.



Pioneer Days at the Lord-Higel House
Above, Pinky Stewart demonstrates quilting.



Left, the crowd turns out for the play.



Right, Doug Landin portrays pioneer George Higel in Ron Myroup's play, "Two Gentlemen of Venice."

PHOTO ALBUM



Mayor John Holic designated Feb. 13 - 18 STEMsmart Week. From left are Chris Pfahler, Gulf Coast Community Foundation director of community investment; Karin Schmidt, Venice Middle School principal; Debbie Cohen, Laurel Nokomis Middle School assistant principal; Jack Turgeon, Venice High School principal; and Mike Jennings, Venice High School assistant principal. The program focuses on creating and retaining a skilled, competitive workforce with the understanding that the highest paying jobs require significant training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics - hence STEM. The Gulf Coast Community Foundation and Sarasota County schools have a week-long series of events planned to share the innovative work being done by students and teachers to take place Feb. 18 at State College of Florida.



Mayor John Holic proclaimed Jan. 29 - Feb. 3 the 17th annual Children's Week and Hands Across Sarasota County Week. From left are Liza Leonard, Partnership for Children project director; Sue Bogus, Community Youth Development executive director; Dawn Page, Boys and Girls Club area director; and Benny Weaver, Community Alliance of Sarasota County vice chairman. Sarasota County was recently recognized as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People. Nonprofits in the area provide many strong programs that enrich the lives of area children.



The city's 130-foot tall, 300,000 gallon water tank at the water production plant gets a new paint job.



Mayor John Holic proclaims Jan. 22 - 28 Hazardous Materials Awareness Week and recognizes the importance of community awareness of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. Fire Chief John Reed explains the importance of citizens knowing the dangers of hazardous materials and being prepared in the event of accidental release of these materials. For more information about hazardous materials safety, contact the Venice Fire Department at (941) 480-3030.

BULLETIN BOARD

Get On Board and Tour Historic Venice

Learn about Venice history and its historic structures, built in the 1920s.

Trolley tours with a trained docent are \$15. Reserve your seat by purchasing a ticket at the Triangle Inn, 351 S. Nassau St. with cash or by writing a check to the Triangle Inn Association. The Triangle Inn is open Mondays - Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information, call (941) 486-2487. (Note: Reservations cannot be accepted over the phone)



Tour Schedule

9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Saturdays, Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 10 and March 24

"Deal Me In" for Literacy Card and Game Party

Tuesday, March 6, 1:00 - 4:00 PM



Jacaranda Trace
3600 William Penn Way, Venice
Corner of US 41 and Jacaranda Blvd.



Ask friends to join you for a table of 4 or more, and call Sandy 941-412-0107 for reservations.

\$10 per person in advance

Mail checks to: Literacy Volunteers,
300 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, FL 34285

GREAT PRIZES AND REFRESHMENTS!

BRING: Your Own Cards or Game
Cash for "Teacup Auction" and 50/50 Drawing

Have Fun and Support a Worthwhile Cause!



We help adults **READ**
and **LEARN ENGLISH.**



Literacy Volunteers of South Sarasota County

941-488-8994 www.literacychangeslives.org

The Piano Man

Henry Haid

From
Broadway's
Tony Award
Winning
Musical
"Movin' Out"



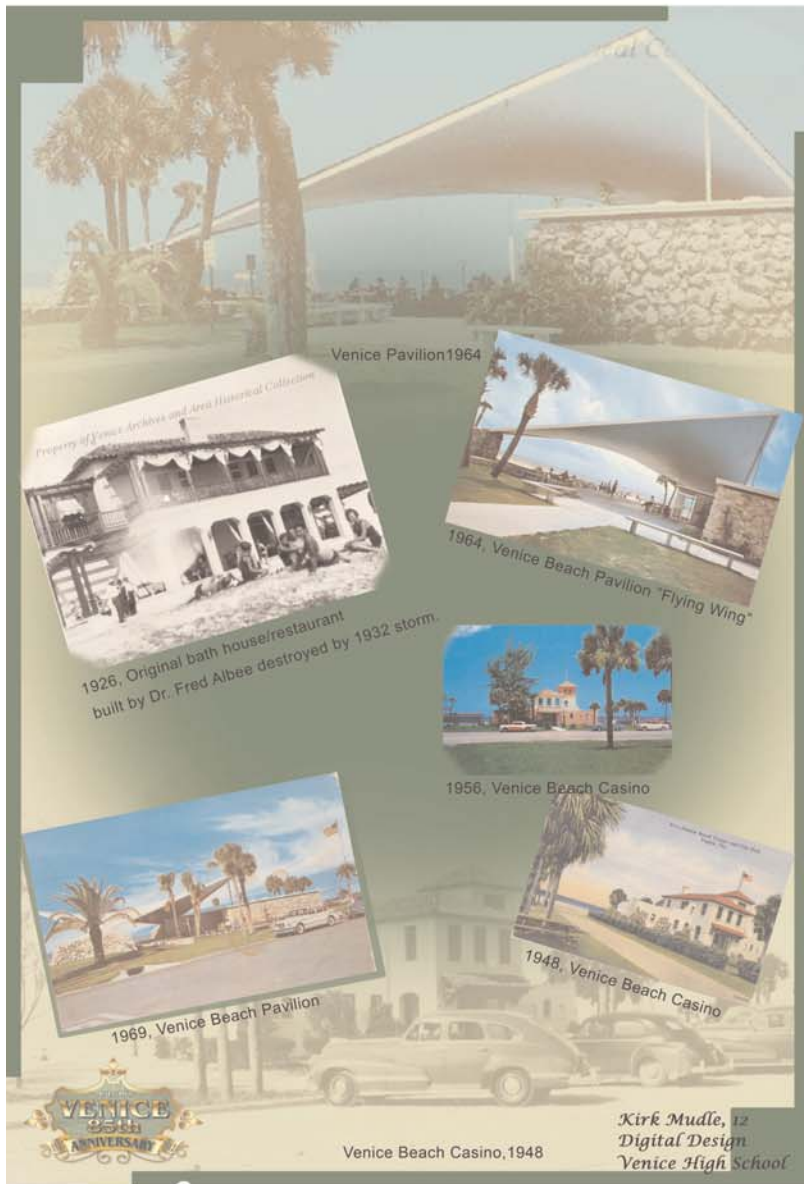
Henry Haid rose to prominence portraying piano man Billy Joel in Twyla Tharp's Tony Award winning hit Broadway musical "Movin' Out."

New York Theater proclaimed, "Pianist/lead vocalist Henry Haid's electric voice rang out passionately and impressively."

Prior to his stint on Broadway, Henry Haid performed throughout the USA, Europe, and the Caribbean. Get ready to re-live the Billy Joel hits that you know and love!

Venice Community Center
Saturday, February 11, 2012 - 7 pm
Tickets - \$25 Section A - \$20 Section B
For More Info Call 941-861-1380



CITY OF VENICE 85TH ANNIVERSARY BEACH BASH

**FEBRUARY 18, 2012
11 A.M. - SUNSET
VENICE BEACH
101 THE ESPLANADE**

**FREE
Admission**

Demonstrations

- 11 a.m. - **Yoga** with Elin
- Noon - **Paddleboarding** with Elin
- 1 p.m. - **Sailing** with Venice Youth Boating
- 2 p.m. **Kayaking** with Nancy Simonetti

Exhibits

- Sharks' teeth** and **fossils**
- Old Betsy**
- Historic **Photos** of Venice
- Bounce House for Kids**
- \$2 all day

MUSIC

- The Cry'n Shames**
- Jimmy Mazz**
- Drum Circle at Sunset**

Food and beverages available for purchase.



SERTOMA CLUB



VENICE



Venice Airport Open House

FREE Admission & Parking!

Airplanes · Food · Fun! Sat. Feb 26 10-4pm



Brought to you by:

Free Parking · Free Admission · Helicopter Rides · Airplane Rides · Multiple Aircraft Static Displays · Bring the Kids for Bouncy House and other Fun Activities for Youngsters
Sponsored and Organized by the Suncoast Air Center and the Venice Aviation Society
For more information, visit www.veniceaviationsociety.com Or call 941-716-5704

VENICE AREA ORCHID SOCIETY

Presents

Enchantment

VENICE ORCHID SHOW & SALE

Excite and delight your senses. Experience the passion – thousands of exotic blooming orchids in 20 artistically inventive displays. Purchase unique, vigorous growing orchids bred for the Gulf Coast, supplies, and orchid art from 15 premier vendors. Learn how to grow these enchanting treasures and how to keep them blooming again and again.

February 4 & 5

Saturday	Sunday
Sales: 10 to 5	Sales: 10 to 4
Show: 11 to 5	Show: 10 to 4

THOUSANDS OF BLOOMS WILL ENCHANT YOU

Venice Community Center
326 S. Nokomis Avenue, Venice, FL
Admission \$4

SALADS...MELONZANA-EGGPLANT...FRIES...GYROS...RIBS...HOT DOGS...FISH...ICE TEA...T-SHIRTS...FOUR DAYS OF CONTINUOUS ENTERTAINMENT!!!

SAUSAGE & PEPPERS!...MEATBALLS...PIZZA FRITTA...CANNOLI...ICE CREAM...FUNNEL CAKE

24th Annual Venice Italian Feast & Carnival

Thursday, FEB. 23, 2012
5-6 pm - Don Petra • Italian/American Music
6:30-9 pm - Copperhead

Friday, FEB. 24, 2012
4-6 pm - Jimmy Mazz • Las Vegas Revue
7-10 pm - Bandana • Oldies

Saturday, FEB. 25, 2012
12-3 pm - Sophisticated Swing
4-5 pm - Pat Cupuzzi • Comedian
6-9 pm - Up-Town Express • Doo Wop, Oldies

Sunday, FEB. 26, 2012
12 - 3 pm - Tarantella Dancers • Folk Dancing
4 - 7 pm - Bandana • Oldies

Sponsored By: Italian American Club of Venice

FREE ADMISSION

FEBRUARY 23, 24, 25, 26, 2012
STARTS AT 4PM...THURSDAY & FRIDAY
STARTS AT NOON...SATURDAY & SUNDAY
WWW.ITALIANAMERICANCLUBOFVENICE.COM

\$1.00 Per Ride/Any Ride
Thursday only 4 pm - closing
Pay One Price Special Rides all Rides
Saturday 12-5 pm; Sunday 12 pm - closing
\$15.00 Per Person

VENICE AIRPORT
PAVED PARKING
PAVED MIDWAY

Parking \$4.00



A ribbon cutting to celebrate the restoration of Old Betsy takes place at the 85th Anniversary Beach Bash at Venice Beach, 101 The Esplanade, Saturday, Feb. 18 at 10:45 a.m. Old Betsy, a 1926 American LaFrance fire engine, is the city's first fire apparatus.

The Venice Firefighters Benevolent Fund
CHICKEN BBQ & FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday, Feb. 26th, 2012



11am to 6pm

Moose Lodge

111 N. Auburn Rd

(Corner of Venice Ave & Auburn Rd)



1/4 Chicken..\$6

1/2 Chicken..\$9

Hot Dog.....\$4

• Live Music • Yard Sale •

• Baked Items • Auctions •

• Family Fun Activities •

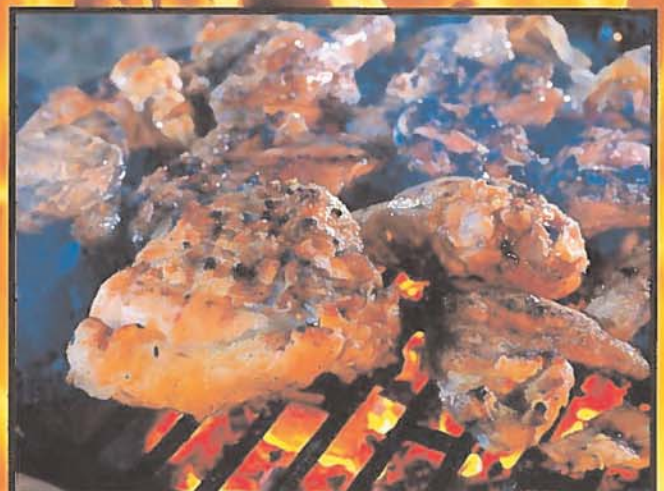
Bring This Flyer and Receive

Firefighters
Chicken BBQ

\$1 OFF

Feb. 26th, 2012
@ Moose Lodge

2012 Calendar or BBQ Chicken



The Wings of Freedom Tour



NORTH AMERICAN
P-51 MUSTANG

BOEING
B-17 FLYING FORTRESS

CONSOLIDATED
B-24 LIBERATOR

Three of the most famous WWII bomber and fighter aircraft are visiting your community as part of the Wings of Freedom Tour. A "living history" event where the museum comes to you! Tour the beautifully restored aircraft and even TAKE TO THE SKIES YOURSELF in an ultimate 30-minute flight experience aboard the bombers or get some "stick time" in the world's only Dual Control P-51C Mustang.

VENICE

Venice Municipal Airport
at Sun Coast Air Center

- Feb 10 - 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM
- Feb 11 - 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- Feb 12 - 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- Feb 13 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tour - Explore - Fly
The Ultimate Living History Experience.
Walk-through tours: \$12 for adults and
\$6 for children 12 years and younger.

Help us Keep 'Em Flying

FLY A MISSION!

Once in a lifetime opportunity to fly aboard the B-17 or B-24. 30-minute Flight Experiences are \$425 per person. Half hour and full hour flights in the P-51 Mustang fighter also available. Flight experiences are a tax-deductible donation. No reservations needed for walk-through tours.
CALL 800.568.8924
FOR FLIGHT RESERVATIONS OR QUESTIONS
WWW.COLLINGSFOUNDATION.ORG