



VENICE CITY SCENE

June 2011

A Publication for the Employees of the City of Venice, Florida

Venice City Scene is published by e-mail. Please address questions, concerns and news items to Marketing and Communications Officer Pam Johnson at pjohnso@ci.venice.fl.us.

Those on the city's computer system may access newsletters on the S drive or on the city's Web site: www.venice.gov.com, click on Employees, then Employee Corner, then Employee Newsletter.



Venice City Council Members served a healthy lunch to city employees April 28. The food, prepared by Johnnie Poole, was part of the Administrative Services' Wellness Program. From left, Vice Mayor Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Mayor John Holic, Council Members Bob Daniels, Jim Bennett and Emilio Carlesimo made sure all employees had a healthy lunch.

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COMING UP

Farmer's Market, every Saturday in Centennial Park, 8 a.m. - noon.

Check the city's Web site: www.venicegov.com for the next special event.



Saturday, June 4, Chalk Festival presented by Venice Art Center and Venice MainStreet, 200 block of Miami Avenue, downtown.

Friday, June 10, Friday Night Live Concert, featuring the Arch Band, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 16, Island Nights, downtown, music, food and shopping 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Friday, June 24 Friday Night Live Concert, Gator Creek Band, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.



Monday, July 4, Independence Day Fireworks, sponsored by the City of Venice and Sertoma Club of Venice, shot from the South Jetty, sunset.

City Hall closed. No garbage collected.

Friday, July 8, Friday Night Live Concert, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.



Friday, Aug. 12, Friday Night Live Concert, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 26, Friday Night Live Concert, Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.

Take a Bow

Police Department

Organizers of the annual Sharks Tooth Festival thanked the department for its support of the event, especially the Police Explorers, Detective **J Chappa** and Sgt. **Joe Whitehead** for their security detail.

"The annual Sharks Tooth Fishing Tournament is always a hit and Marine Officers **Phil Phillips** and **Paul Joyce** do an outstanding job," Maggie Riggall, executive director of Special Athlete Boosters Inc., added.

Accreditation Manager **Lee Lyons** was praised for her participation in the Sarasota Police Department's mock accreditation.

"Your observations and guidance will help our agency prepare for the accreditation process," Sarasota Police Chief Mikel Hollaway wrote.

Public Works Department

Skip Pettit, Susan Carpenter, Betty Napoli and **Dan VanAcker** were appreciated for their fast response to a citizen request.

"Thanks for your speed and efficiency in placing the bench on Venice Avenue in memory of my husband. As I prepare to head back home in New York, I am thrilled to have it in its special spot and actually being enjoyed by those wishing a quick respite in the shade," wrote Linda Fitzgerald, who donated a park bench downtown.

Building Department

"I wanted to send this email to you to acknowledge the excellent customer service, responsiveness and courtesy I experienced in my dealings with Code Enforcement Inspector **John Patek** in the last few days regarding my air conditioning unit recently installed without a permit. It was a pleasure talking with him and being able to receive sound advice and guidance," a resident wrote.

Retirements



Solid Waste and Recycling Superintendent Debbie Gardow, ninth from left standing, was honored upon her retirement from the city after 33 years of service. She asked that her "babies" - those employees who worked for her - stand with her to be in the photo.

Solid Waste and Recycling Superintendent Debbie Gardow is retiring after 33 years of dedicated service to the City of Venice.

Gardow began her career in 1978 working in the parks department as a laborer. She was the first woman to work in the previously all-men field.

During her time in the parks department, Gardow was instrumental in the beautification efforts at City Hall and along West Venice Avenue. Her motivation and tenacity resulted in flowers and flowering shrubs planted in these areas.

In 1981, Gardow was promoted to garbage foreman. To prepare herself for the job, she took management courses at the local community college. She familiarized herself with all things related to garbage collection. She supervised about 12 garbage col-

lectors from her small powder-blue Cushman truck.

In 1986, Gardow was promoted to Solid Waste and Recycling Supervisor.

In 1991, she earned the title of certified recycling coordinator from Santa Fe Community College, and in 1997, she completed the certified public manager program at Florida State University.

Gardow, who was always current with developing technology in her field, developed and implemented many cost-saving measures. Among innovations credited to her are:

- Converted the residential and commercial collection system from using two people per vehicle to using one person per vehicle.
- Developed and implemented residential and commercial recycling programs.

- Developed and implemented a successful roll-off container for profit service.
- Converted retired garbage trucks to useable models through utilization of grant funds.
- Established an in-house maintenance shop, enabling the department to perform fabricating, repairs and maintenance on equipment and containers.
- Developed environmental education programs and conducted training on recycling, reuse and reduction for residential and commercial customers.
- Hired a debris management consulting company and put together a debris management contract document for catastrophic emergencies.

Gardow has been noted as a dynamic manager with outstanding team-building and customer service skills.

Retirements



Sanders "Junior" Roberts receives accolades for more than 40 years of service to the city from Mayor John Holic as his proud daughters look on.

Two Public Works Department employees, Junior Roberts and Aaron Turner, retired April 28, both having served the city for many years.

Solid Waste Equipment Operator Sanders "Junior" Roberts is retiring after more than 40 years. Roberts moved to the area in 1963 and began working for the city in 1968.

Roberts was assigned to the same residential route for 25 years. When he was reassigned to another route, the Public Works Department was flooded with phone calls from the customers he left asking for his return.

In 2003, Junior was nominated by his supervisor and co-workers for the Environmental Industry Association Driver of the Year Award for his excellent driving safety record and outstanding

employment history. He won the nomination and traveled to New Orleans to receive his award at the Waste Expo Conference.

There are many stories that distinguish Roberts as a gentleman with outstanding character. One story involves a special customer of his. Roberts collected garbage at the door of an elderly blind resident for many years. Most days he collected she would come to the door and talk to him. If she didn't, Junior would call the office and ask someone to check on her. It was this extraordinary special attention that started the neighborhood watch program for the solid waste division.

Once, he convinced an entire neighborhood to place their garbage on one side of the street to make it faster and safer to collect.

For his fellow workers, he

was an inspiration and a role model.

He raised three cherished daughters and has 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Airport Maintenance Technician Aaron Turner retired after 30 years of service to the city. He began his career with the city as a collector in the Public Works Solid Waste Division and later worked in the Utilities Water Production Division and Public Works Parks Division before moving to the airport position in 1987.

Turner's retirement plans revolve around enjoying life with his family; his wife of 13 years, Julie, and daughters Erin, 13, and twins Joanne and Helen, 10.

Turner is an avid coin and stamp collector, and is in charge of landscaping around the house.

Service Anniversaries

The following employees celebrate a 5-year milestone of their employment with the city:

20 years, Officer **Paul Joyce**, Police Department, on June 3.

10 years, Administrative Assistant/Program Administrator **Kathy Millspaugh**, Finance Department, on June 13.

10 years, Records Manager **Pat Goree**, Records Manager, City Clerk's Office, on June 18.

10 years, Sgt. **Ron Perisho**, Police Department, on June 18.

5 years, Code Enforcement Inspector **Pat Stuehler**, Building and Code Enforcement Department, on June 19.



Mayor John Holic looks on when Utilities Department Plant Operator B Jimmy Campbell says a few words after receiving his 20-year pin.

Get on Board: BUS Tokens

The following employees received BUS tokens in April and May:



- Betty Napoli (Public Works)
- Jeff Krause (Public Works)
- John Parrish (Public Works)
- Al King (Engineering)

Five bus tokens equals \$25. Turn them in to Administrative Services Department to receive the award.



Sommer Lynn Senne learns some computer skills from her mother, Chief Accountant Linda Senne (Finance Department) on Bring Your Child to Work Day, April 28. Summer was one of about 10 children who came to work with their city employed parents that day.

Utilities Department helps kids learn to conserve



Every year the Utilities Department holds a poster contest that helps children in area elementary schools learn about conserving water. This year, fourth- and fifth-grade students from Venice Elementary, Epiphany Cathedral School and Laurel-Nokomis Elementary School participated. Dorothy Tary organizes the event in which the winning posters are placed on t-shirts given to the winners. They are also displayed at the Venice Library and used in the Venice City E-news, a publication for citizens of Venice. The children learn a lot about the importance of conserving resources and especially about keeping clean water abundant.

From left, Jim Anderson, Council Members Emilio Carlesimo and Jeanette Gates, Mayor John Holic and Dorothy Tary. In front are two winners from Epiphany Cathedral School, Hannah Stesney and Megan Bettley.

Mayor John Holic presents a certificate of appreciation to Johnnie Poole for cooking and the use of his equipment for the Wellness Committee to prepare the wellness lunch in April. He helped the committee make about 150 shish-ka-bobs.



Happy Birthday!

The following employees celebrate birthdays during the month of **June**:

- 2, Lt. **Shawn Carvey**, Fire Department
- 3, Field Operations Technician II **Phil Carnell**, Utilities Department, Field Operations Division
- 3, Solid Waste Equipment Operator **Tom Davis** Public Works Department, Solid Waste Division
- 3, Officer **Ruth Terry**, Venice Police Department
- 6, Meter Reader **Jeff Balog**, Utilities Department, Field Operations Division
- 6, Firemedic **Chad Meyers**, Fire Department
- 7, Plant Operator B **Drew Fogo**, Utilities Department, Water Production Division
- 7, Administrative Support Clerk **Lisa Fogarty**, Fire Department
- 8, Municipal Service Worker II **Dave Krupa**, Public Works Department, Parks Division
- 12, Officer **Josh Rizzo**, Police Department
- 12, Battalion Chief **Joe Silva**, Fire Department
- 15, Firemedic **Craig Runck**, Fire Department
- 16, Field Operations Specialist I **Marc Richard**, Utilities Department, Field Operations Division
- 17, Heavy Equipment Operator **Fred Rhines**, Engineering Department, Stormwater Division
- 19, Firemedic **Rich Lanigan**, Fire Department
- 20, Information Systems Director **Jeff Bolen**
- 20, Plant Operator **John Clark**, Utilities Department, Water Reclamation Division
- 22, Officer **Oscar Guinart**, Police Department
- 23, Officer **Jake Barlow**, Police Department
- 23, Sgt. **Ron Perisho**, Police Department