



VENICE CITY SCENE

March 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.

Ruscelletto Park open for use

The city completed work on Ruscelletto Park, adding walkways for biking and walking, eight parking places, shaded shelter and a stormwater pond for drainage of a major road in Venice.

After the contractor installed the plants and sod, city Public Works crews, led by Skip Pettitt extended the irrigation system. They also created park benches, picnic tables and trash bins.

The park, located between U.S. 41 Bypass and N. Grove Street, was completed last month.

In the next few years it will serve to connect the future Legacy Park and U.S. 41 Bypass overpass, as well as other sidewalks and paths.

The stormwater pond will help to prevent flooding at the intersection of North Grove Street and East Venice Avenue as an addition to the Warfield drainage system. It also helps to improve the quality of water that runs into Hatchett Creek.

Ruscelletto is the Italian name for small stream. The park sits on the south bank of Hatchett Creek.

Engineering Stormwater Technician Bill Ward was the project manager.



INSIDE the SCENE	Coming Up Fun things to do Page 2	Service Anniversaries Page 3	BUS Tokens Page 3	Take a Bow Page 4	Birthdays Page 5
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COMING UP



Friday, March 11, Friday Night Live free concert, Centennial Park, sponsored by Venice MainStreet, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 12, Venice Area Garden Club 22nd Annual Home Tour; tickets are \$15 in advance from various downtown merchants, and \$20 at the door. For more information see www.vagc-florida.org; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 13, Daylight Saving Time begins. Turn clocks forward one hour and replace batteries in smoke detectors.

Venice Joy of Jazz, Centennial Park, 1 p.m.

Thursday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day Music and Dance in the Centennial Park Gazebo, 2 - 4 p.m.
Island Nights, downtown, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, March 20 Annual Corvettes in Venice, downtown Centennial Park, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday, March 25, Friday Night Live free concert, Centennial Park, sponsored by Venice MainStreet, 7 p.m.

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.



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

Sharks Tooth Festival, Venice Municipal Airport Festival Grounds, 5 -9 p.m.

Saturday, April 9, Sharks Tooth Festival, Venice Municipal Airport Festival Grounds, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Venice Area Garden Club presents **Earth's Garden Fest,** Kimal Event Center, 11184 Hughey-Kimal Drive, between Jackson and Center roads, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free; parking is \$3.

Sunday, April 10, Sharks Tooth Festival, Venice Municipal Airport Festival Grounds, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Venice Joy of Jazz, Centennial Park, 1 p.m.

Friday, April 15 Venice Main-Street free **Friday Night Live Concert,** featuring Centennial Park Gazebo, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 16, Suncoast BBQ Bash, Centennial Park, downtown, 1 - 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 21, Island Nights, downtown, music, food and shopping 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 23, Eggstravaganza, Centennial Park Gazebo, sponsored by the Lions Club and Venice MainStreet, 9 a.m.

Sunday, April 24, Venice Rising Egg Hunt, Blalock Park, 8 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service, South Jetty.

Service Anniversaries

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

5 years, Field Operations Supervisor Mickey Healy, Utilities Department, Field Operations Division, on March 6.

5 years, Solid Waste Equipment Operator **Dave Morrell**, Public Works Department, Solid Waste on March 21.



Public Works Heavy Equipment Operator I Kevin Barrett receives a 20-year pin and certificate from Mayor John Holic for his years of service to the city.



Fire Chief John Reed receives a pin and certificate recognizing 20 years of service to the city.

Get on Board: BUS Tokens

The following employees received BUS tokens in January:

- Bill Ward
- Roger Clark
- Cathy Schnitzer (2)
- Joseph Gaudio
- Joan Moudy
- Karen Butterworth
- Kathie Smith



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

Welcome to the City Team

Vince LaPorta joined the city team as building and code enforcement director on Feb. 28.

Editor's Note:

When providing letters of commendation or other documents for the newsletter, please send a **copy** to Public Information Officer Pam Johnson, and keep the original for your department's files. Copies will not be returned.

Take a Bow

Fire Department



Firemedic Chris Ripo receives Firefighter of the Year Award from Mayor John Holic.



Firemedic Mark Devine receives Emergency Technician of the Year Award from Mayor Holic.

Public Works Department

“Just want to compliment your department for the great job you do in trimming the trees on Capri Isles Blvd.,” a citizen wrote to the **Public Works Department**. “It looks like you were finishing the job yesterday and it looks super. I use Capri Isles Blvd. on a daily basis and it’s always a pleasure to drive up or down it.”

Skip Petitt and his **crew** were praised for their work on Ruscelletto Park, including the irrigation system and park furnishings.

“Your personnel have been creative, resourceful and caring in their efforts at this new park. Your efforts show true pride...and gives this city a special character that sets it apart,” Project Manager Bill Ward (Engineering Department) wrote.

Finance Department, Cashier’s Office

A city utilities customer wrote to Customer Service Specialist **Kelly Treat**: “Thank you Kelly! You have given me hope that there are still helpful, nice, caring individuals out there. You have been very helpful! “

Police Department

Officer **Brett Woodworth** was praised for helping to stop a crime spree.

“Due to your diligence in collecting a latent print from a liquor bottle left by the suspect, we have been able to close three liquor store thefts with felony charges. The suspect has an extensive criminal history including felony petit theft due to two or more prior convictions,” Detective J. Kolodgy wrote. “Thank you for your dedication to evidence collection and information gathering.”

City Clerk’s Department

The Newcomers of Venice Alumni expressed gratitude to Recording Secretary **Susan Schult** for scheduling the meeting room for the club’s monthly meetings.

“Your cooperation and willingness to adapt to our occasional changes are greatly appreciated,” the club secretary wrote.

Happy Birthday!

The following employees celebrate birthdays in **March**:

- 3, Maintenance Supervisor **Tim Merritt**, Utilities Department, Water Reclamation Division
- 5, Officer **Steve Scurek**, Police Department
- 5, Chief Accountant **Linda Senne**, Finance Department
- 7, Officer **Brandon Burnside**, Police Department
- 8, Records Clerk **Sharon Middleton**, Police Department
- 11, Mechanic's Helper **Ron Carter**, Utilities Department, Water Production Division
- 13, Utility Mechanic II **Brian Bettenhausen**, Utilities Department, Water Reclamation Division
- 16, Meter Reader **Bill Linn**, Utilities Department, Field Operations Division
- 16, Council Member **Kit McKeon**, City Council
- 16, Lt. **Ron Solanes**, Police Department
- 17, Field Operations Specialist II **Vadim Bugayev**, Utilities Department, Field Operations Division
- 18, Officer **Rob Henderson**, Police Department
- 19, General Manager of Development Services/Planning Director **Tom Slaughter**
- 21, Officer **Paul Joyce**, Police Department
- 23, Permit Technician **Joan Moudy**, Building and Code Enforcement Department
- 27, Technical Systems Coordinator **Mike Deneweth**, Information Systems Department
- 29, Solid Waste Equipment Operator **Frank Antonides**, Public Works Department, Solid Waste Division