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January 2024



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**VENETIAN PARK ESTATES**

8885 S Tamiami Trail

Sarasota FL 34238

Office: (941) 966-4622

website: www.VPEonline.com

email address: venetianparkestates@comcast.net



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**GONDOLIER STAFF:**

**Submissions** ..... Cassie Dionne.....603-361-4313 .... cassiedionne@yahoo.com

**Anniversaries/Birthdays** .... Gina Miller

**Sunshine Reporter** ..... Cassie Dionne

**Activities**..... Deb Cinco

**Getting To Know You**..... Amy Newman

**Recipes**..... Cheryl Smith

**Couriers**.....Pat Olsen McGee  
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Gina Miller  
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Debby Steele,  
Sally Ruebesam,  
Pat Morales,  
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**Please note** – call Community Media –  
941-375-3699 for **ALL ADS**, or e-mail  
darin@communitymedia.com



**Weekly Activities**

See monthly calendars, our website VPEonline.com and watch the bulletin board and our facebook page for changes. (Facebook page is Neighbors Helping Neighbors).

**NOTARY PUBLIC:**  
Denise Achin is offering FL notary services to anyone in the park. These are free of charge to park residents. Contact her at 321-369-8635..

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR FEB 2024 GONDOLIER IS JAN 16, 2024.**

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE IN A WORD DOCUMENT SENT AS AN ATTACHMENT TO THE EMAIL: cassiedionne@yahoo.com NO SPACES IN THE EMAIL ADDRESS.

ANY PHOTOS MUST BE GOOD QUALITY SENT AS A Jpeg ATTACHMENT TO THE EMAIL.

DUE TO SECURITY FEATURES, MY COMPUTER DOESN'T ALLOW ME TO DOWNLOAD HTML FILES, AND I USUALLY CANNOT COPY AND PASTE THOSE EITHER, SO I MUST RETYPE YOUR ARTICLES INTO THE DRAFT, VERY TIME CONSUMING.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS.



# A VPE WELCOME BACK PARTY!

Featuring

*Lisa  
Ridings*



THIS POPULAR BAND FROM SARASOTA WILL HAVE YOU DANCING ALL NIGHT, PLAYING FAVORITE POP, SOUL, ROCK AND R&B MUSIC!

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH      FREE ADMISSION      BYOB**  
**DINNER SERVED AT 4:00PM      MUSIC FROM 6-9PM**

JOIN US FOR A **FREE** NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC AND FUN!

**WELCOME BACK EVENT WILL BE ON JANUARY 7, 2024.**

**Pizza will be provided.**

**We will be putting out signup sheets for appetizers, salads and desserts.**

**Dinner will be at 4pm followed by live music from 6pm - 9pm.**

**Board Meeting: 1/17/24 9:30 AM  
2/20/24 9:30 AM**

**Advertising Policy:** Advertising in this Newsletter is offered at the sole discretion of Community Media. Community Media reserves the right to refuse, limit, and/or reject advertising for any reason. Community Media, at its sole discretion, may restrict the number of advertisers in certain categories or offer exclusive/semi exclusive agreements as it sees fit.

**FALLS PREVENTION WORKSHOP**

Call Bonnie Ryan if anyone needs a ride to the clubhouse for the "Fall Prevention Workshop". Please leave a voicemail if Bonnie doesn't pick up. 860-798-8887



WHEN: Saturday, January 13th at 9:30AM

WHAT: Workshop on "Fall Prevention" given by Florida Department of Health Sarasota County

WHERE: VPE Clubhouse Coffee Hour

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- Checks will be mailed within 120 days of drawing date •

**Questions?: info@4communitymedia.com or 941-375-3699**



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Looking for volunteers to join committees... VPE has vacancies on the Welcome Committee (x2), Activities Committee (x3) starting in the Spring. Feel free to contact Tony in the office or the Activities Committee if you have questions or interest. There is also a sign up sheet in the clubhouse.



## **ANNUAL FLEA MARKET FEBRUARY 2ND & 3RD, 2024**

FLEA MARKET FEB 2-3, 2024. THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR.

SUPPORT YOUR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP ON 2/1, WORK AT THE BOOTHS & DIRECT TRAFFIC ON 2/2 & 2/3, AND TO CLEAN UP ON 2/4.

CALLING ALL ABLE BODIED, STRONG MEN FOR MOVING LARGE ITEMS FROM THE SHED TO THE CLUBHOUSE. WILL TAKE STRONG LADIES TOO. LET PAT KNOW WHEN YOU ARE AVAILABLE. PS- SUPERBOWL LVIII IS SUNDAY FEB. 11, 2024.

PLEASE CALL ME AS WE ONLY HAVE ONE MONTH TO GET ORGANIZED.

ALSO PREVIOUS CAPT. PLEASE CALL ME SO I WILL KNOW THE POSITIONS ARE FILLED AND GIVE ME A LIST OF YOUR HELPERS.

ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP PLEASE CALL ME.

THANK YOU, PAT MORALES 941-451-8680

## **FROM THE OFFICE:**

Many of our "snowbirds" are returning to VPE. Also, with the Holidays coming, many of you will have guests and family that might not know that we maintain our own sewer system. Please make your guests aware that they should not flush baby, facial or any other so called "flushable" items down your toilet. They have fibers that are not biodegradable that can destroy our pumps. Repairs to our sewer system can be very expensive!



The only thing that should go in the toilet is what comes out of your body and toilet paper! Yes, some say "flushable", but so are wedding rings, hot wheels, and other small objects, etc. Also, please don't use Charmin Toilet Paper. Our septic system is not designed to handle the coarser, stronger fibers. Please do your part!"

Thank you

At some point you may have a sink or toilet blockage. If possible, please call the office before you engage a plumber. In the past, VPE has been charged \$350 for video inspections. VPE has purchased a drainage camera to inspect such problems and avoid such costs. Unless it is an emergency, you may be liable for those charges.

We need your help. We can expect to see more guests and relatives coming to the Park during Jan and Feb. Please remember to register them in the Clubhouse. Forms are available in the Clubhouse and can also be downloaded on our website, VPEOnline.com (password: srqyve (all lower case).

Please do not tape or tack notices to our Clubhouse walls. Our Clubhouse was recently painted and now there are spots where the walls need to be repainted or touched up.

The Beautification Committee will be gathering up any extra garbage cans. If you have empty garbage cans, please return them to the maintenance shed.

Maintenance Man: Venetian Park Estates needs a Maintenance Man. If you know of anyone who is qualified and interested, please direct them to the Office.

Please be reminded that all residents should update their emergency information yearly and place that in their red envelope. This envelope should be kept inside your home by the door. New residents should receive a sheet for emergency information. Please complete it. This is part of our safety plan in the event of an illness or injury, when next of kin need to be informed. It assists the Paramedics in an emergency. Thanks!

Thank you,

Tony Turlenko

Office Manager 941-966-4622

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Our top priority is the health and safety of our employees and our customers. Our employees are closely following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and recommendations, like frequent hand washing, social distancing, and staying home if they are feeling ill.

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## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

by Amy Newman



Jeff & Betsy Fisher purchased their home at 2155 Piazza in 2021 fortuitously. While sitting at the pool waiting for a realtor to show them another home in the park, they struck up a conversation with Carolyn Wood there at the pool who said her neighbor's home was going to be up for sale. Indeed it was, and the Fishers put in an offer. Now fully retired, they have become year-round residents here at VPE since this past June.

Both were born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jeff's great-grandfather sold his land to the University of Michigan for the football stadium, his grandfather worked on its construction, and Jeff grew up in the shadow of the stadium where he and his brothers would park cars for the game-day crowd on additional family property. So to say University of Michigan is in his blood is truth not brag!



**Jeff & Betsy Fisher, Michigan Stadium and Jeff's childhood home**

The Fishers were high school sweethearts yet went their separate ways with Jeff heading to college further north. He studied industrial tech and had a career in materials management, production control, and supply chain management. As often happens, the couple found each other again and were married in 1983 and have two children and now three grandchildren. They were divorced for 10 years and got married again to each other in 2007. They have spent half their lives in Michigan and moved to North Carolina the latter 30 years. After sending the two kids off to school, Betsy worked as an optometric assistant for many years.

For fun, they enjoy watching sports, U of M football, of course, but also enjoy watching hockey. For the past 40 years they have owned a timeshare on Siesta Key. The Fishers were previous boaters but are now down to a jet ski. Betsy enjoys reading

and water aerobics here at the pool.

Now retired and settled, the couple looks forward to getting more involved in life here at VPE.

## **RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

by Cheryl Smith



This is one of my favorite cold pasta salads. It is on the sweeter side and has some crunch to it. It is quick to make with ingredients you probably have on hand. I make it ahead of time, chill it and it is ready whenever you are.

### **Amish Pasta Salad**

- 1 (16 oz) package medium shell pasta
- 3 T. sweet pickle relish, drained
- ½ t. garlic powder
- ½ t. celery seed
- 1 ½ C. mayonnaise
- ½ C. sour cream
- ¼ C. sugar
- 3 T. yellow mustard
- 2 t. apple cider vinegar
- 5 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- ½ small sweet onion, chopped
- 1 (2oz) jar pimentos, drained
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook pasta according to package directions. Drain well. In a large bowl, whisk together the relish, garlic powder, celery seed, mayonnaise, sour cream, sugar, mustard and vinegar.

Add the cooled pasta, eggs, celery, onion, pimentos and green pepper and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper and chill until ready to serve.

Cheryl would love to hear from any of you who have tried her recipes or have suggestions for the future; email: [ollie0602@icloud.com](mailto:ollie0602@icloud.com)



## MY MOTHER

by Carolyn Brooks Wood

My Mother, Thelma Dishman Brooks, was born in the small mountain community of Rawl, West Virginia that overlooks the Tug River which separated West Virginia and Kentucky. From those mountains in West Virginia one can look down and see the "big white McCoy house" in Kentucky. She mostly grew up in a Coal Mining camp in West Virginia and Hollars of Stringtown, Kentucky, near her Great, Great Grandparent's "McCoy Home Place" that dates back to the early 1800's.

My Grandmother took her out of school in the 4th grade to help with chores and a new baby. She sadly would watch the other children walk past her house on their way to school.

Soon after WWII she traveled across the country with her parents and three younger siblings to San Pedro, California where her two older brothers were stationed in the Army.

One evening she got dressed with no plan of where she was going. A knock came on the door from a man whom she had met prior. His name, Eddie Brooks. He asked her to dinner on a double date. She accepted. The restaurant was "Bob Brooks of the Seven Seas" in Hollywood, California. They were married in January and Bob Brooks, my big brother was born in December!

Mother and I sang in our church choir and traveled together from the time I was 12 years old until I got married at 23. My friends all loved her being our room mother when we traveled. Some said she was a "walking talking bible". By the time Mother passed away in September of 1997 she had read the Bible through 13 times. She was a self taught educated woman.

Since she has passed away I have found her face, voice and exuberance in her cousins when visiting our McCoy Homeplace in the community of Stringtown, Kentucky and where she grew up in West Virginia.



*Thelma Dishman Brooks*

## JANUARY ACTIVITIES

by Deb Cinco



We go into the New Year with a successful Thanksgiving dinner behind us. We had 32 residents in attendance, 3 additional family members. As usual we had a fantastic dinner with delicious sides and desserts. We will have a Falls Prevention Workshop at the coffee 1/13/24 at 9:30AM. If anyone needs a ride to this, call Bonnie Ryan. Leave a message if she doesn't answer. ph 860-798-8887.

A memorial was held on November 29 for Tracy Clay. Bobbie was in attendance along with 50 residents and a couple from their church. Tracy and Bobbi will be missed dearly.

We thank Gina Miller for chairing the annual Christmas dinner.

January 7th will be the Welcome back Party with Lisa Ridings as our entertainment. Dinner will be at 4:00pm and music from 6-9pm. Put your dancing shoes on and BYOB.

Shuffleboard returns 1/8/24. Days are Mon-Wed-Fri 9:30 AM.

Activities Meeting 1/10/24 11AM.

Attention snowbirds. Please contact me at [debcinco@gmail.com](mailto:debcinco@gmail.com) when you no longer need the paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you because you are here.

## CORNHOLE

The Cornhole equipment is available to all residents and their guests to use anytime they wish.



The boards and bags are stored in an all weather container located behind the clubhouse on the back patio area.

The Cornhole "court" area is located just outside the pool fence on the east side of the pool by the sidewalk. There are new concrete pads for tossing the bags. The boards are available to all. We just ask that the equipment be used in the designated area and not be taken to to anyone's home.





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# SUB-FLOOR & FLOORING EXPERTS!

### COVID-19 NOTICE:

We are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We are checking employee temperatures daily, limiting contact between crews, and offering no customer contact if you choose. We are an "Essential Business" and here for you when you need us.



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## SUNSHINE NEWS

by Cassie Dionne



Jan Coble is recovering from surgery 11/24/23. Cards can be sent to her at 2237 Piazza Dr. Sarasota 34238. Email: janieceac@gmail.com

Paul Miller has a broken bone in his foot. Sunshine to him; 2152

Palazza Dr.

Josie Largent is recovering from surgery on 12/6/23; 185 Academy Lane Cape May Ct.

Hse, NJ 08210. Email: jbgL410@yahoo.com

We wish Constance Mileski a speedy recovery from knee surgery this month. Cards may be sent to 2273 Gondola Dr. Email: clmileski@gmail.com

Linda & Gary Reymond will be living up north beginning this season due to poor health.

She called me and asked me to tell you how much they will miss all of you. After 22 winters coming to Florida, it will be a big adjustment for them. Please write or call at 1525 Cambridge Ave SW North Canton, OH 44709 ph: 234-360-6120.

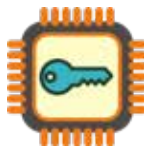
Ed Hoffman is recovering at home from recent surgery. Get well wishes may be sent to 2160 Palazza Dr. Sarasota 34238. email: stang6870@gmail.com ph 302-510-3766.

## VPEONLINE.COM

VPEonline.com is Venetian Park's website. It has a wealth of information... a list and schedule of our weekly activities, our financial reports, our governing documents, the minutes of our Board of Director meetings, real estate requirements for buying or selling in VPE and the website committee has now added a Safety page with tornado and hurricane safety guidelines. In the near future, we will be adding Standing Committee Charters Page.

To improve our website and for added security, we switched our host. With this change, **the new password for the protected pages is "srqvpe" (lowercase).**

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call the office. 941-966-4622



## THANK YOU CORNER

Always love the monthly Gondolier, kudos to all. Looking forward to our winter getaway, renewing friendships and meeting new residents! Alan Nelson

I would like to thank Jim Woods, Kenny Deer, Roy Walker, Jeff Eddleman for their great job of finishing up the city water leak and filling in the hole. Again proving volunteers proof of excellence in Venetian park. Jay Andrews

Our residents working to help in a much needed situation. Thank you Jeff and Jim! Pat Olsen-McGee

Great folks at VPE! Always helping others! I will miss you all! Bobbi Jean Clay

I extend my more-than-appreciated gratefulness to Cecile and Pedro for replacing my water heater (ancient I might add) which died while I'm away. A long distance crisis was rectified.

Phyllis Parsons-Correia



## DO YOU PLAY POKER? WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN?

You're invited to play Texas Hold'em (no limit) every Monday and Friday from 1:00PM to 3:30PM in the Clubhouse.

If you'd like to learn to play, please come the Clubhouse at 12:30PM for a short introduction. (We assume that you know how to play basic poker).



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dawn Stern
- 2 Jan Coble
- 5 Jennifer Walker
- 12 Barbara Stanley
- 13 Pat McGee
- 15 Anne Heller
- 23 Bonnie Ryan
- 24 Barbara Irvine
- 25 Jake Jacobson
- 27 Pedro Morales  
John Stern  
Pat Waites
- 28 Fran Patterson



We're looking for someone to write about your mom or dad for the Gondolier.

If you'd like to but are worried you don't know how to submit it, email it to me or hand write it and bring it to me and I'll transcribe it for you.

Anyone live here that inherited your home from your parent?

I'd like to hear about what VPE was like when they were here! (Just a suggestion.)

Gina Miller email: [ginam245@gmail.com](mailto:ginam245@gmail.com)  
ph.260-246-3551



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Reggie and Yvonne Eastman January 2, 1956

**Happy Anniversary!**

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Let Gina Miller know so she can add you to the list! email:[ginam245@gmail.com](mailto:ginam245@gmail.com)



## FOOD DONATIONS

After learning the need to "transport" food items to Resurrection House, Jeff and I will GLADLY take this on!! Thank you Bobbi for your donation!! After driving around the block a few times, we now know exactly where to go 😊 Keep those donations coming...I'm sure Tony will let us know when we have "enough" to make the next Delivery!! 😊



Jeff & Betsy Fisher

## CARE OF POOL FURNITURE:

To maintain and extend the life of our new pool furniture, it's important to not allow the sunblock and other lotions to stay in contact with the sling and strap material. Those sun blockers and lotions will deteriorate that material. Please cover the chair or lounge with your towel when using.

# VPE GOLF

**GOLF STARTS**

Tues. January 2, 2024

VPE Golf every Tues. until March 26.

Sign up at the clubhouse if you are interested in golfing. That will help me know how many tee times I need. Or if you forget to sign-up, just show up on Tuesday. We'll work it out! 😊

Come to the clubhouse on January 2 and every following Tuesday at 8:45 am to register for golf - 9 holes \$20. You can even play 18 if you want to for \$27. Not only that, you don't have to commit to golfing every week. Come and meet people from the park, have fun, work on your short game, ...

Have questions email me!  
[tomesj48@gmail.com](mailto:tomesj48@gmail.com)



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# JANUARY 2024

DECEMBER  
S M T W T F S  
1 2  
3 4 5 6 7 8 9  
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
31

FEBRUARY  
S M T W T F S  
1 2 3  
4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28 29

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texs Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs &amp; Jokers 7 PM Euchre</p> <p><i>New Year's Day</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 PM Bingo</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5 PM Texas Holdem</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Holdem</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Epiphany</i></p>
<p>7</p> <p>Welcome Back Party</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texs Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs &amp; Jokers 7 PM Euchre</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30 AM Exercise Sis's driveway, 2077 Ca D Oro 7 PM Bingo</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 11AM Activities Meeting 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 AM Exercise Sis's driveway 5 PM Texas Holdem</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Holdem</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Coffee Falls Prevention Workshop</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texs Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs &amp; Jokers 7 PM Euchre</p> <p><i>Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 AM Exercise Sis's driveway, 2077 Ca D Oro 7 PM Bingo</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Board Meeting 9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 AM Exercise Sis's driveway 5 PM Texas Holdem</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Holdem</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texs Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs &amp; Jokers 7 PM Euchre</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30 AM Exercise Sis's driveway, 2077 Ca D Oro 7 PM Bingo</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 AM Exercise Sis's driveway 5 PM Texas Holdem</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texas Holdem</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 1 PM Texs Holdem 6:30 PM Aggravation, Pegs &amp; Jokers 7 PM Euchre</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30 AM Exercise Sis's driveway, 2077 Ca D Oro 7 PM Bingo</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 AM Shuffle 10 AM Water Aerobics 6:30 PM Mexican Dominoes</p>			



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