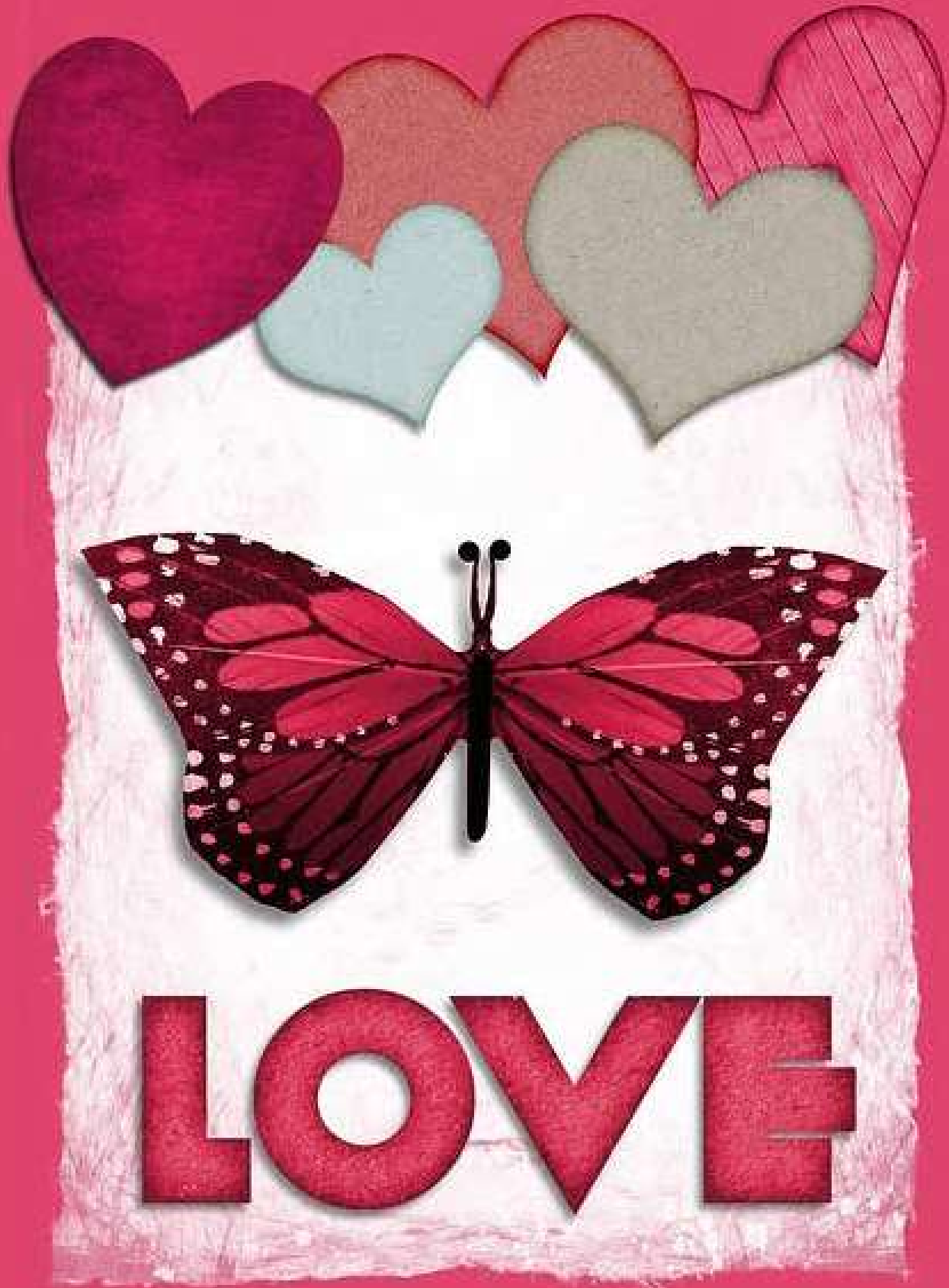


VENETIAN PARK ESTATES GONDOLIER

February 2025



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Sarasota FL 34238

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website: www.VPEonline.com

email address: venetianparkestates@comcast.net



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Brenda Park..... Trustee

GONDOLIER STAFF:

Submissions Tony Turlenko
email: venetianparkestates@comcast.net
Anniversaries/Birthdays Gina Miller
Sunshine Reporter Cassie Dionne
Activities..... Amy DeBruin
Getting To Know You..... Amy Newman
Recipes..... Cheryl Smith



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..

Please note – call Community Media – 941-375-3699 for **ALL ADS**, or e-mail darin@communitymedia.com

MEETINGS

Next Board Meeting – Feb. 13
Next Activities Meeting – Feb. 10

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Deadline for March newsletter submissions is February 17. Please submit as a word document to Tony at the office. Email: venetianparkestates@comcast.net. For those not able to create a word document, put the article in the body of the email to allow for copy and paste to the draft. Send good quality photos as an attachment to the email.



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- Anyone who has fallen in the past
- Anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns



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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

by Amy Newman

The scoop on Leonardo Pagano written by a friend

Born in New Britain, Connecticut in 1931
Son of Italian immigrants Len's story's begun

His father was a factory worker but also grew grapes and made wine
Len helped him with farming and for a young boy did just fine

He especially enjoyed cleaning the barrels because it came with a special treat
He would come out a little drunk when the cleaning was complete

When Len finished high school he joined the Air Force right away
He hoped to get to Europe to visit the family town in Italy one day

But Len was a trained machinist, a talent they could not ignore
He was sent to Japan to put rocket pylons on planes sent to Korea for war

His contribution not forgotten, he was honored in a pinning ceremony at Town Square
He received a letter from Congressman Steube thanking Len for his service there

When Len returned home, he went to college on the GI bill
He studied industrial arts and trained to be a teacher, developing quite a few skills

He earned his masters degree and taught grades seven, eight and nine
He taught school for 40 years retiring at age 65 by design

Married in '56 to a girl he met on a blind date named Joan
They had two children, Bonnie & John, and she was with them till they'd grown

Joan then entered the workforce in a position that women rarely held
She was one of the first female bank branch managers, her performance excelled

Sadly, in December 2014, his wife Joan passed away

She was laid to rest at Sarasota National Cemetery where Len still visits today

You will hear Len discuss her headstone and how his name will be one day
He is told not to rush that reunion, that it is very far away

Len and Joan had spent time at the Senior Friendship Center over the years
With Joan gone Len continued, maintaining a social life it appears

In 2016, at the age of 85, he met Rita at a dance
She was 87 but Len thought he'd take the chance

Well he and Rita have been together since then and he likes her very much
She recently moved back to her family but they are still in touch

About three years ago at 90, Len began exhibiting a tremor in his left hand
It was then that a visit to the neurologist was recommended and planned

Dr. Gonzalez quickly diagnosed Parkinsons, and Len's life has changed in some ways
He's constantly aware of his condition and says it hampers his social life many days

But looking at Len's activities it doesn't seem to be the case
In addition to a girlfriend he has weekly activities at Town Square, Senior Friendship Center and Parkinson Place

These days his daughter Bonnie is his companion and caregiver too
Seeing them together their love for each other is true

Bonnie looks at her father as a man who has lived the "American Dream"
His family came with nothing, so when reading his story that's certainly how it would seem



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RESURRECTION HOUSE

You've probably seen the accumulation of donations of food and other items near the doorway to the Clubhouse. Jeff and Besty Fisher are the volunteers who load it all into their car and deliver it to the Resurrection House.

The Resurrection House serves as a day resource center to the homeless of Sarasota County.

The popular notion of a homeless person as a vagrant, someone who chooses to live on the street, is not a current reality. Many homeless are identified as the "new poor." These individuals who have suffered crisis in their lives find themselves on the street, helpless and unable to regain their place in society.

Resurrection House's range of services includes showers, restrooms, laundry, counseling, medical treatment, food, clothing, veteran's assistance, post office and many more. Since the founding of Resurrection House in 1989, we have seen over 32,000 individual clients.

When our snowbird season ends, and you're ready to leave, please remember that the Resurrection House gladly accepts clothing, toiletries, canned goods, blankets and backpacks. They are always in need of men's sneakers, men's jeans (waist sizes 30, 32 and 34) and small hotel-size bottles of shampoo and toothpaste.



THE "OWL"

VPE made an investment to improve our community communications by purchasing an "Owl". The Owl will make our Board meetings smoother and will help to make sure that everyone is seen and heard clearly. Here are some key improvements:

- 1. 360-Degree Camera:** The Meeting Owl's 360-degree camera ensures that everyone in the meeting can see each other, creating a more inclusive environment.
- 2. Advanced Audio:** The Owl provides smooth and accurate motion tracking, ensuring the focus stays on the speaker.
- 3. Video Quality:** The latest updates have improved video quality with richer colors, sharper images, and reduced latency, making virtual participants feel more present.



thank you!

GAZEBO

The damage caused to our Gazebo roof by Hurricane Milton was repaired by our volunteers. Thank you to our professional roofing volunteers, Roy and Brian Walker, and to Louise and David Novak and John Wuerzburger for their help.



VENETIAN PARK ESTATES, Inc. - "STANDING" ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Presently, the Board of Directors at Venetian Park Estates, Inc. (VPE) is supported in their decision-making process by twelve (12) "Standing" Advisory Committees. An advisory committee is a collection of Cooperative Members who voluntarily contribute their knowledge/skills in areas which augment the knowledge and skills of the VPE BOD. Committee members offer insights and recommendations for action to the board when called upon. The advisory committee does not have formal authority to govern the organization, that is, the advisory committee cannot issue directives which must be followed. Rather, the advisory committee serves to make recommendations and/or provide key information and materials to the BODs. The advisory committee plays an important public relations role as well as fresh perspective on programmatic issues. A properly composed and structured advisory committee can be a tremendous complement to the effectiveness of the BODs as it works to carry out a specific initiative. The Chairperson of each is asked to provide a committee report at each of the regular Board meetings. Advisory committees need a sufficient range of expertise to accomplish the Board's mission.

Note: Of the 12 committees advising the Board, only three (3) have been given authority by the Board since 2014 to make decisions prior to a Board Meeting because of the nature of the work being considered. The Board then renders an "official" vote "retroactively" at the next regularly scheduled meeting to modify or confirm and approve the decisions made by these committees "for the record".

1. Architectural Review Committee (ARC): While the Board reserves the right to officially 'approve' an Owner's request to 'remove an existing home and install a new one', it gives authority to this committee to 'oversee' the "Application Process" for the removal and installation of new manufactured homes and structures on a Unit. This process often involves making decisions about the 'process' guiding both Builder and Unit Owner to comply with HUD, State, County and VPE Association's building codes. All actions taken by this committee are then presented to the Board at their next regular meeting.

2. Building & Grounds Committee: While the Board reserves the right to make all decisions regarding maintenance of VPE's buildings and grounds, it has given authority to this committee to make decisions between Board meetings in cases where emergencies arise involving broken water pipes, air conditioning, damage to our Treatment Plant, the Pool area or a Member's Home, which may put the well being of the Members or the Park at risk. All actions taken by this committee are then presented to the Board at their next regular meeting.

3. New Resident Committee: While the Board reserves the right to officially 'approve' any person or persons requesting an "Assignment of Lease" or a "Membership Certificate" prior to purchasing or residing in a home on VPE property, it extends this same authority to this committee between Board meetings. The Committee may approve a request for a Lease and Membership within the Cooperative between Board meetings ONLY when all criteria have been strictly met, including a successful interview and background check. This is done to allow for the legal Closings to take place. If Membership criteria is NOT MET in a satisfactory manner, the committee will immediately advise the Board to take action according to Article 10.6 of our Rules and Regulations.

OFFICE TRIAGE - MANAGER		Tony Turlenko 941-966-4622	CONTACT INFORMATION	
As of: 10/3/2024		MEMBERS	POSITION	PHONE
Activities		Amy DeBruin	Chair - Resident	920-540-8408
	Board Liaison	Glenn Orebaugh	Director	937-214-8005
		Paula Neumeier	Vice Chair - Resident	810-599-8655
		Mary Jo Zajeski	Secretary - Resident	317-997-2264
		JoEllen Wuerzburger	Treasurer - Resident	309-235-5398
Architectural	Board Liaison	Jim Wood	Chair - Director	586-484-1408
		John Wuerzburger	Secretary	309-373-2040
		Pedro Morales	Resident	864-616-9266
Beautification		VACANT	Chair - Resident	
	Board Liaison	Jim Tomes	Chair - Director	204-292-7631
Buildings & Grounds <i>(includes Pool / Clubhouse)</i>	Board Liaison	John Wuerzburger	Chair - Secretary	309-373-2040
		Jim Wood	Director	586-484-1408
		Pedro Morales	Resident	864-616-9266
Enforcement (Rules & Regs)	Board Liaison	Paul Censki	Chair - Director	860-508-9282
		VACANT	Chair - Resident	
Financial		Tony Turlenko	Office Manager	941-966-4622
	Board Liaison	Mike Anderson	Chair - Treasurer	812-617-0335
		Chuck Baxa	Resident	815-954-2380
		Dennis Callan	Director	325-207-6196
		JoEllen Wuerzburger	Resident	309-235-5398
Fine Review (No Board Members)		Irv Rubin	Vice President	941-350-5493
		Phyllis Buechner	Chair - Resident	941-966-1149
		Pat Moralaes	Resident	941-451-8680
Health & Safety	Alternate	Jerry Ralston	Resident	941-780-7419
		Bonnie Ryan	Chair - Resident	860-798-8887
New Residents	Board Liaison	Paul Censki	Director	860-508-9282
		Greg Ryan	Chair - Resident	860-712-8321
Sewer / Waste Water Tx Plant	Board Liaison	Irv Rubin	Vice President	941-350-5493
		Jerry & Ruby Ralston	Residents	941-780-7419
		Dennis Callan	Chair - Director	325-207-6196
Welcome (New Residents)**	Board Liaison	John Wuerzburger	Secretary	309-373-2040
		Gina Miller	Chair - Resident	260-246-3551
		Amy Newman	Resident	419-346-8710
		Irv Rubin	Vice President	941-350-5493
Web Site	Board Liaison	Tony Turlenko	Office Manager	941-966-4622
		John Wuerzburger	Secretary	309-373-2040
		JoEllen Wuerzburger	Chair - Resident	309-235-5398
		Jim Tilton	Resident	317-777-1234

**** Office Manager will contact the Chair when new resident(s) registers at the Clubhouse**

Each Advisory Committee has a descriptive CHARTER registered at the Clubhouse and on the VPE Website

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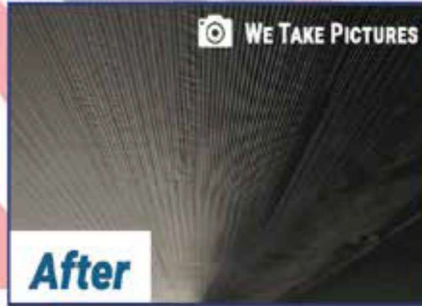
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SUNSHINE NEWS

by Cassie Dionne

Cal Fladzinski opened his eyes in heaven on Sat Jan 18 because he knew his Lord. He had a smile and a kind word for everyone he met on his daily bicycle rides around the park. He socialized with us, often leading the Pledge and giving the blessing at our coffees.

He shuffled, played Hold'em, and joined us at the clubhouse for countless events over the years. Cal and his wife Joan were residents here for decades.

She passed away in 2018, Cal at her side. He leaves 2 sons, 3 daughters, many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Some of the over 50 FB posts say it best:

- Cal, we know you're in heaven with Joan and you had an amazing 97 years, a wonderful family and unlimited friends, but you left us too soon. We will miss you every day. We loved you! There wasn't a better man than Cal Fladzinski!

- I will miss his smile and that twinkle in his eyes. He was the epitome of a good man.

- Our sympathies to family & friends, Cal was an icon here at VPE and will be missed.

- We are saddened to hear of the Passing of Cal, who was loved and respected by all, a ray of sunshine that will be missed.

- Cards and condolences may be sent to Jim Wood, Cal's son-in-law, who will share these with the Fladzinski family, at 2128 Palazza Dr., Sarasota, FL 34238

There will be a Memorial Service in the Clubhouse for Cal, on Sat., Feb. 8, from 11am to 1pm. There will be sandwiches, a cheese & cracker plate and deserts for those that attend. PLEASE, there will be a signup sheet in the Clubhouse.

IN LOVING ♥
Memory





RECIPE OF THE MONTH

By Cheryl Smith

If you like chili and if you like cornbread, then you should give this casserole a try. It is easy, fast, and the ultimate comfort food.

Chili Cornbread Casserole

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 T. cornstarch
- 1 T. dried minced onion
- 1 t. chili powder
- ½ t. garlic powder
- 1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce
- ¾ C. flour
- ¾ C. yellow cornmeal
- 3 T. sugar
- 2 t. baking powder
- 2 eggs
- ½ C. milk
- 3 T. canola oil
- 1 can (8 oz.) cream-style corn
- 4 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- Sour cream



In a large skillet, cook beef until no longer pink, breaking it into crumbles. Drain. Stir in the cornstarch, onion, chili powder and garlic powder. Stir in the tomato sauce. Cook for 2 minutes or until thickened. Next, in a bowl, whisk the flour, cornmeal, sugar and baking powder. In another bowl, whisk the eggs, milk and oil until blended. Stir in corn. Add to flour mixture and stir until just moistened. Stir in the cheese. Now spread half of the batter into a greased 2-quart baking dish. Top with the beef mixture. Spread the remaining batter over the beef mixture. Bake uncovered in a preheated 375-degree oven for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the cornbread section comes out clean. Let rest for 5 minutes. Serve with sour cream.



BAD DAD JOKES

Submitted by Gina Miller

Q. What did the three legged dog say when he walked into the saloon?

A. I'm looking for the man who shot my paw.

Q. How do you tell the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?

A. You will see one later and one in a while.

Q. What did the shy pebble wish for?

A. To be a little boulder.

Q. Why does Waldo wear a striped shirt?

A. Because he doesn't want to be spotted.

My boss asked me why I only get sick on weekdays.

I said, "It must be my weekend immune system."

My dad submitted ten jokes to a contest sponsored by a local newspaper. He hoped at least one would make the final round. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 1 | Bill Kalchick |
| 4 | Debra Winans |
| 8 | Patty Boston
Dawn Gasak |
| 10 | Alma Zabel |
| 11 | Neta Conrad |
| 17 | Len Pagano |
| 18 | Debbie Phillips |
| 20 | Linda Longto |
| 24 | Bernie Koenig |
| 29 | Greg Ryan |



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 6 | Brad & Debra Winans |
| 27 | Alan & Linda Nelson |



If you would like to be included in the Birthdays/Anniversaries, contact Gina Miller at 260-246-3551.



VPE CABLE TV INTERNET NEWS

In regards to Comcast, VPE’s contract is expiring and the **"Ship is Sailing"** in about a year from now. Comcast started negotiations with VPE as it is typical to begin 18 months in advance of the expiration date.

With this, Comcast is increasing their rates **about 22%** from what we are paying today for the same coax cable services with no infrastructure upgrades.

Bulk contract negotiations are occurring with Comcast and with three fiber competitors in our area for about the last 6 months; Fibernow, BlueStream & Fision for both TV and Internet Services.

The VPE board of directors will attempt to decide by **March-26** to allow the 9-12 months required by vendors.

VPE board of directors / shareholders have three options:

1. Eliminate Contract for services – each shareholder on their own
2. Contract with Comcast
3. Contract with a new fiber optic vendor

'Only thing constant in life is change'



DON'T PAY A LATE FEE!

To All Venetian Park Estates Residents,

Do you ever forget to pay your monthly maintenance fees? Do you dislike having to write checks and mail or take to the Office for these payments? Have you ever had to pay late fees because you forgot to make your payment on time? Did you know that there is a much easier way of handling this process? It is called Auto Debit through Centennial Bank. The form is available on our website or from the Office. In 3 short steps, this will not be on your to-do list again.

1. Print form and fill out.
2. Take a blank check for your checking account and write void across the check.
3. Take the form and your check to the Office.

The Office will then set this up with Centennial Bank to automatically make your payment once each month from your checking account .This is a time saver for you and will help with your busy schedule. Late fees do not need to happen. And, the Park will benefit by having timely payments to meet its obligations.

If you need any help in getting this started, please call the Office.



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60 DAY NOTICE OF ELECTION

The election of Board of Directors for Venetian Park Estates, Inc. will take place on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM** at the **Annual Membership meeting** in the clubhouse. Three current directors' terms expire this year; Irv Rubin, Dennis Callan and Mike Anderson. The following procedures shall be followed according to the by-laws, article 4.2.

1. Advising each unit owner desiring to be a candidate for one of the three (3) vacancies on the Board of Directors shall give written notice of intent to become a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, at 8885 South Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. 34238 on or before Friday, February 7, 2025.
2. At the meeting of the Board of Directors on Thursday, February 13, 2025, the Board will accept any additional nominations from the floor.
3. On an 8 ½ x 11 inch sheet of paper, the prospective candidate may provide their qualifications for the position of Director of the Corporation to the Secretary of the Board on or before February 13, 2025.
4. The Corporation will mail on or before February 17, 2025 to each member a list of Candidates, prior to the Annual Membership meeting with a ballot and copy of their qualifications.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Friday, February 14 6pm

Calvary's Hill will be back to VPE for a concert of gospel music. This is their 4th appearance at VPE. If you've heard them before, you know you don't want to miss it!!



There is no charge to attend - but we do take up a Free-Will offering to help with their travel expenses.

Plan to join us! And bring your friends!!!



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ANCHOR AND BARRIER
COMPANY



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PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE HURRICANES

Venetian Park Estates: Project Management Tracking		
Name	Scope / Work	Volunteers
Shuffleboard Courts Resurfacing	Resurfaced per engineering study	No
Gazebo Shingles Replacement	Tear off & replaced shingles as needed	Yes
Maintenance Bldg - Air hose/fittings	Replaced hose & straight fitting w/ 90 degree fitting	Yes
Maintenance Bldg - Repaired conduit	Exposed wires / replaced & repaired	Yes
Golf Cart (Red) - Replaced Tires	Dry rotted tires replaced	Yes
Golf Cart (Red) - Brakes	Replaced drum assembly	Yes
Spa Jets - Replaced Breaker	Breaker replaced	Yes
Maintenance Bldg - Switch/Outlet	Replaced and pulled new wires	Yes
Maintenance Bldg - Light	Repaired and added dusk to dawn sensor	Yes
Island Lights	Repaired and rewired	Yes
Trees	Removed 30 damaged shrubs and trees	Yes
Trees	Removed trees by tree company	No
Stump Removal	Removed stumps	No
Mulch	Mulched common areas	Yes
Fences	Repaired fence (main bldg). Gates (sewer plant & CH)	Yes
Spa Rail	Replaced due to hurricane damage	No
Awning Repair at Clubhouse	Replaced damaged areas due to hurricane	No
Pool Pump - Install Current Relay	Ensure Chlorinator & Acid Pump shuts off appropriately	Yes
Spa Pump & Motor Replacement	Replaced	No

FEBRUARY

2			7		5			
5		7				1	2	
7	5							9
	2							
		1		7				
		2						1
			9				5	
9								8



8	4	6	1	2	3	5	7	9
2	5	7	4	9	6	8	3	1
1	3	6	7	8	5	2	9	4
4	9	3	2	7	5	1	6	8
7	5	4	2	1	6	3	8	9
5	8	9	1	3	2	4	7	6
3	2	6	4	9	8	5	1	7
9	8	3	6	2	1	4	5	7
6	9	8	1	9	6	4	7	5

FEBRUARY 2025

January
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

March
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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Flea Market Flea Market Clean-up
2 Groundhog Day	3 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Shuffleboard: 9:30 AM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	4 Fall Prevention (10-noon) Main Line Food Truck (4pm) Bingo 6:45 PM	5 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	6 Clubhouse Closed for floor cleaning Shuffleboard: 9:30 AM	7 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	8 Celebration of Life, Cal Fladzinski, 11am-1pm, signup
9 The Big Game Party	10 Activity Meeting (9:30am) Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Shuffleboard: 9:30 AM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	11 Fall Prevention (10-noon) Bingo 6:45 PM	12 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	13 Hold'em 4:45 PM Shuffleboard: 9:30 AM Board of Directors Mtg., 9:30am	14 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM Calvary Music Event Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Shuffleboard: 9:30 AM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM President's Day	18 Fall Prevention (10-noon) Bingo 6:45 PM	19 Lincoln's Birthday Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	20 Hold'em 4:45 PM Shuffleboard: 9:30 AM	21 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	22 Coffee Hour Washington's Birthday
23 Tom Cahalan 2-4pm Ice Cream Truck	24 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Texas Hold'em 1:00 PM Shuffleboard: 9:30 AM Aggravation, Pegs & Jokers 6:30 PM Euchre 6:30 PM	25 Fall Prevention (10-noon) Bingo 6:45 PM	26 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Mexican Dominoes 6:30 PM	27 Shuffleboard: 9:30 AM Tea Party Set Up	28 Water Aerobics 10:00 AM Tea Party (noon-2pm) Texas Hold'em TBD Hand & Foot 6:30 PM	



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