We have a confusing array of organizations here in The Venetian Golf and River Club. This article will provide a brief overview of several of the major entities and their various roles and responsibilities here in The Venetian.

**Venetian Community Development District (VCDD)** – (the "District"), is a local unit of special purpose government created under Florida law. The District has constructed and is responsible for the maintenance of certain improvements, infrastructure and facilities within the District. The District financed this construction through the sale of tax-exempt bonds, a form of public financing. These facilities and infrastructure includes approximately 16 miles of roads, curbs, common areas including community ponds, the River Club, community pools and tennis courts. In addition, the VCDD is responsible for the guard gate and staffing of privacy officers and the privacy patrol.

The District is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors elected by the residents of the Venetian Golf and River Club who are both Florida residents and registered voters in Sarasota County. Each Supervisor is elected for a four-year term. Terms are staggered with two supervisors elected every two years and three supervisors elected every two years.

As a public entity created by Florida Statute, the VCDD Board of Supervisors, as well as all Board created and appointed advisory committees making recommendations to the Board, are subject to the Florida Sunshine Laws which require all communications among Board and advisory committee members be conducted in open public meetings.

The River Club is managed by Vision Golf & Association Management of Ft. Myers, FL. All employees of the River Club are employees of Vision Golf, NOT the VCDD. The VCDD pays Vision Golf $72,000 per year for their management services which include the hiring, training and supervision of all River Club staff; operation, repairs and maintenance of club facilities; and payroll and accounting. All expenses of operating the River Club are borne by the VCDD who supervises and approves an annual operating budget, administered by Vision Golf. The District Enterprise Fund, overseen by the Board funds the operations of the River Club.

District professional, amenity and field services are managed by Rizzetta & Company and Rizzetta Amenity Services of Tampa, FL. Rizzetta provides two on-site employees- Field Manager Karen Richard, whose office is located in the Welcome Center at 102 Pesaro Dr., North Venice, FL 34275 and a Field Technician.

The District General Fund provides for the operations of the District professional, amenity and field services. This includes the salaries for the Field Manager and Field Technician as well as the cost of the District attorney, engineer, privacy services including the guard gate personnel and patrols, insurance, aquatic maintenance of fountains, ponds and wetlands, landscaping, irrigation maintenance and repairs, road and street facilities, office administration as well as additional items too numeros to list in this newsletter.
**Venetian Golf & River Club Property Owner’s Association** – (the “POA”), is the master homeowner’s association of The Venetian Golf and River Club and is governed by a five member Board of Directors elected by the property owners of The Venetian. It is NOT a public entity and is not bound by the same Florida Sunshine Laws as the VCDD Board.

The POA owns and is responsible for the perimeter road and owns and maintains the River Walk behind the River Club and negotiates and manages the association’s contract with Comcast for bulk cable and Internet services in The Venetian. It is also the entity that enforces the rules and regulations in the Architectural Control Standards and Master Declaration of The Venetian Golf and River Club.

A few of the things enforced by the POA include home maintenance, architectural changes, hurricane shutters, landscaping, residential mowing, irrigation use, lake and pond access, exterior lighting, residential parking, and home rentals.

**Architectural Control Committee** – (the “ACC”) is the committee of the POA charged with enforcing the rules and regulations in the Architectural Control Standards. Residents who wish to make architectural changes such as home painting, home improvements, removing or planting trees or shrubs and altering landscaping must apply and receive approval from the ACC prior to undertaking such projects.

**Rules Committee** – the rules committee of the POA is charged with establishing, maintaining and enforcing the rules and regulations. Venetian residents must abide by as members of the community.

**Venetian Golf & River Community Association** – (the “VGRCCA”) The Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association (VGRCCA) is a voluntary organization formed in 2008 by residents. A volunteer Board consisting of 10 members governs the VGRCCA. Membership is open to all residents of The Venetian at a cost of $30 per household per year. Like the POA, the VGRCCA is NOT a public entity and is not bound by Florida Sunshine Laws.

Its original purpose was to address a land development issue at the corner of Laurel and Knight’s Trail Roads. Today, the Community Association still remains vigilant on issues “outside the gates” such as land development and local government affairs. In addition, the Community Association sponsors activities and events, “within the gates” that impact the general welfare of residents. Examples include one-hour seminars on a myriad of topics, Bike-O-Rama, an Annual Town Hall Meeting and the placing of American flags at the front entrance of the Venetian on three national holidays to honor those who have served. Since 2010, the Association has published a monthly electronic newsletter *Parcels From Paradise* on topics of general interest to residents.

For more information on the VGRCCA please visit their website at: [http://www.vgrCCA.us/](http://www.vgrCCA.us/)

### Walking or Running on Venetian Roads is Illegal

Pedestrian accidents are included in the most fatal type of accidents along with head-on collisions, roll-over crashes and bicycle accidents. Pedestrian accidents can also result in serious injuries. While drivers have a responsibility to pay attention to prevent accidents on the road, pedestrians have equal responsibility to stay alert while walking on sidewalks or crossing the road.

Many pedestrians regularly walk or jog on the roadways in The Venetian. This practice is not only dangerous but is illegal under [Florida Statute §316.130](https://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/text/ Boca/316-350/2018/Section316130.htm), which states: *“Where sidewalks are provided, a pedestrian must not walk on the road, but should walk on the sidewalk.”*

**Where a sidewalk is not provided**, a pedestrian can walk on the road. (Warning, always be cautious and remember that sharing roadways with cars always places one in greater danger.) When a sidewalk is not provided, a pedestrian should walk only on the shoulder on the left side of the roadway as related to the pedestrian’s direction of walking, facing the oncoming traffic. (A driver and a pedestrian who face each other are more aware of each other’s presence, and this reduces the likelihood of any kind of accident.)

**Pedestrians have the right of way ONLY on a marked crosswalk:** a pedestrian crossing a road at any point other than within a marked crosswalk must yield the right-of-way to all vehicles. (When crossing, a pedestrian should look left, right and left again to ensure that he or she has a safe way to cross.)
**Even when a pedestrian has right-of-way,** not all cars will stop. A driver may be distracted and not notice a pedestrian or a traffic light, so a pedestrian should make eye contact with the drivers before crossing a road to ensure they see him/her. After checking that the light is green and oncoming traffic has stopped and that it is safe to cross, pedestrians should move upon **the right half of crosswalks** (Florida Statute §316.130(13)).

Florida law **prohibits a person to stand** on the road paved for vehicular traffic to solicit a ride, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle. In addition, a person cannot stand on or near a street or a highway to solicit the watching or guarding of any parked vehicle or a vehicle about to be parked on a street or highway.

**A violation of the above mentioned laws** is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a pedestrian violation. Per §318.18, the amount of penalty for a pedestrian violation is $15.

**Safety always comes first.** Stay visible and wear clothes with reflective material at night. Stay out of blind spots. Always be alert – wearing headphones may decrease your ability to hear horns or noise from the oncoming traffic. Following the law, paying attention, and being aware of one’s surroundings will help one avoid dangerous situations and injuries, or even fatal, accidents.

### Meeting Dates

VCDD Board of Supervisors has regular meetings the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} Monday of every month. Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Venetian River Club, 502 Veneto Blvd., North Venice, FL 34275, at 9:30 am. The following fiscal year 2017-2018 meeting dates have been established.

- **April 9, 2018**
- **July 23, 2018**
- **April 23, 2018**
- **August 13, 2018**
- **May 14, 2018**
- **August 27, 2018**
- **June 11, 2018**
- **September 10, 2018**
- **June 25, 2018**
- **September 24, 2018**
- **July 9, 2018**

**Facilities Advisory Committee,** at 9:00 a.m. at The River Club:

- **May 7, 2018**
- **August 6, 2018**
- **June 4, 2018**
- **September 10, 2018**
- **July 2, 2018**

**Tennis Advisory Committee,** at 4:00 p.m. at The River Club:

- **May 7, 2018**

**Pool and Fitness Advisory Committee,** at 2:00 p.m. at The River Club:

- **April 16, 2018**
- **July 16, 2018**
- **May 21, 2018**
- **August 20, 2018**
- **June 18, 2018**
- **September 17, 2018**

**Social and Dining Advisory Committee,** at 10:00 a.m. at The River Club:

- **April 11, 2018**
- **July 11, 2018**
- **May 9, 2018**
- **August 8, 2018**
- **June 13, 2018**
- **September 12, 2018**

**River Club Renovation Advisory Committee,** at 3:00 p.m. at The River Club:

- **April 4, 2018**
- **April 10, 2018**
Rollout of the new RFID Entry System Continues

As most Venetians are now aware, we are transitioning from a “clicker” gate entry system to a radio frequency identification (RFID) gate entry system. The new system will replace the old gate clickers with a RFID microchip sticker to be placed under the right sideview mirror on all resident vehicles. This system will allow better control in limiting only authorized vehicles to enter the Venetian through the automatic guard gate.

Each household in The Venetian who has registered will receive up to two RFID stickers at no cost. Additional stickers may be purchased for $12.50 each plus tax. All households must complete and return a vehicle registration form listing the make, model, year, color and license plate number for each vehicle they wish to receive a sticker. Vehicle registration forms may be downloaded at: RFID Registration, or picked up at the VCDD field office in the Welcome Center. Completed registration forms should be returned to Kareen Richard at the Welcome Center.

Installation of the RFID stickers is being done by neighborhood and the first phase began on March 12, 2018 and was completed by April 3, 2018. Once your RFID sticker is attached please stop using your clicker so we can identify and replace any defective RFID stickers. Remember you must slow down as you approach the gate to ensure the electronic reader can operate effectively.

River Club Renovation Update

The River Club Renovation Advisory Committee held two community meetings on February 22 to showcase the proposed River Club renovation designs. After extensive feedback from the community the committee has been working very hard to finalize a renovation design and contract with the selected vendor, The Noller Group, to present to the VCDD Board of Supervisors at their April 9 meeting.

Should the VCDD Board authorize the proposed contract, it is anticipated the River Club will undergo the renovation during a six to eight week period between July and September of this year. During this time every effort will be made to minimize the inconvenience of the renovation to our members. It is anticipated the recreation and lap pools and tennis courts will remain open during this time and that the fitness center and locker rooms will be closed on a very limited basis for painting. It is also anticipated food and beverage service will be available on a limited basis for outdoor dining during the renovation.

The VCDD Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the Renovation Advisory Committee for the countless hours they have dedicated to this project. We are excited about the renovation and look forward to enjoying our newly updated facilities in the near future!