

VENETIAN ISLES NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Venetian Isles Homeowners Association

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

September 2011 2011

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From the Editor...

By: Julie Scanlon, Editor

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. We've had lots of activity in Venetian Isles lately, from home sales, to remodeling to new construction. It is exciting to see our neighborhood continue to flourish. The Hospitality Committee has been busy putting together welcome baskets for our new neighbors, which are distributed by volunteers to welcome residents into our beautiful community. Thanks to Linda Testa and Terri Boyle for their efforts.

While there is no formal "Oktoberfest" celebration planned for this October, we urge you to create block parties or progressive dinners on your streets. Once the weather cools off, a block party is a great way to meet on your cul-de-sac and share some good food and fun with your neighbors.

We've had several inquiries about advertising in the newsletter. We hope to have a plan in place for advertising in the new year. Many local vendors, churches, volunteer organizations and businesses are interested in advertising which will benefit our association and community.

Please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns you would like to see addressed. ■

Julie Scanlon, Editor
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Crackdown on Community Speeding

The VIHA Board is concerned about community speeding incidents and is working with Pinellas County on the problem.

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Deed Restrictions

Violation Reportspstewart@cmcfcla.com

Greetings Fellow VI Neighbors...

By: Brian Dickerson, Vice President

Greetings fellow VI neighbors! While summer is officially over for many parts of the country; it's still hot and humid in St. Pete and the constant humming of my A/C is a reminder that we have many weeks left until the cool autumn weather arrives, along with the Saturday Morning market downtown! Schools are back in session, football season has kicked off and the "boys of summer" have begun their push for the playoffs. Go Rays!

I want to take a moment to thank Steve Cropper for recently volunteering to chair our Deed Restrictions (DR) committee. This is a critical position within our community and with the introduction of CMC to assist in our deed enforcement earlier this year; he will be instrumental in bringing the leadership necessary to see that this project is a success.

For the first 40+ years of our existence as a community, we had always depended upon resident volunteers to provide this oversight, but it has become clear over the past few years that with fewer and fewer residents willing to volunteer their time, a change had to be made. After nearly a year of studying alternatives, your Board of Directors made the decision to bring in a professional property management company to assist us in our deed restriction enforcement. As with most new processes, there is a learning curve involved, both on our part and the part of CMC. Feedback has been positive thus far and for those with any questions or concerns, please reach out to any of your board members.

[Election time for the V.I. Board of Directors is coming up in January 2012 with nominations due by November 30th. Look for more information on the election process on our web site at \[www.ourvi.org\]\(http://www.ourvi.org\) along with a timeline and how you can volunteer to serve your community this next year!](#)

I hope that you are enjoying the second edition of the new Venetian Isles newsletter and I want to thank Drew Rosen and the Communications Committee for their time, energy, and persistence in putting this worthwhile project together! We look forward to your feedback as the newsletter grows and evolves to meet the needs of Venetian Isles residents! ■

VIHA Updates from the Board

New VIHA Board Member Elected

The Venetian Isles Homeowners Association would like to introduce its newest board member, Rich Scanlon. Rich was voted onto the board at the July meeting following a motion to replace Matt DiGennaro who is no longer a resident of Venetian Isles. Rich and his family are long time Venetian Isles residents and live on Carolina North. Welcome to the Board Rich!

Venetian Isles Monument Light Back In Service

Many thanks to Jim Pelletier, Steve Cropper, and John Bodimer for diagnosing and repairing the Venetian Isles monument light at Overlook. Replacing the light took a month of effort working with Progress Energy and the replacement of the electrical timer the operates the light. The timer was donated by a Venetian Isles resident and hence the project cost was \$0. The lighted monument looks excellent!

Venetian Isles Needs Volunteers

The Venetian Isles Homeowners Association is looking for volunteers to support Venetian Isles beautification. We are in need of a few volunteers to adopt responsibility for a canal causeway where we have brick pavers and plantings. There are 6 areas where we are asking VI residents to "Adopt a Causeway." We need help with weed control between the brick pavers and around the palm trees and hedges.

Horst Brands has volunteered to do the Illinois / Hawaii causeway. Thank You!

Steve Cropper has volunteered to keep the sprinklers up and running. A few volunteers to do "Round Up" patrol would really help with the beautification of these areas. The VIHA will provide the Round-Up® and a sprayer. All we ask is a little of your time once per month.

Call Steve Cropper at 727-521-2258 if you can help. ■

VI Resident Invents Aqua-Volvo®

A Venetian Isles resident recently decided to test his latest invention, the aqueous Aqua-Volvo. The car designed to make commuting to Tampa easier met some difficulties and had to be pulled out of the canal between Hawaii South and Carolina South. No further word on the next launching of the Aqua-Volvo.



Important Numbers

VIHA Officers

Regine Behoff, President727-521-4615
Brian Dickerson, Vice President727-482-0954
Walt Posner, Treasurer727-521-1095
Jim Pelletier, Secretary727-526-0218

Board of Directors

Rita Cotsakis727-526-5704
Steve Cropper727-521-2258
Glenn Gomer727-526-1209
Drew Rosen727-525-4440
Lisa Schwartz727-528-1360
Bob Silk727-522-7736
Linda Testa727-525-6120
Robin Wannemacher727-526-8808

Report Illegal Fishing727-893-7780

Animal Control727-582-2600
Police, Non-Emergency727-893-7780
Progress Energy, Outage Line800-228-8485
Sanitation, Residential Collection727-893-7334
Sanitation, Curbside Recycling (WSI).....727-572-6800
Water Resources727-893-7341
Water Resources, Reclaimed Water727-893-7261

Community Policing Officer

Gabe Lopez, District 3.....727-893-4055

Service Provider's Corner

By: Susan Sutterlin, Coordinator 727-527-6333

Thanks to those of you who have called with their good and bad experiences with various workers.

"Susie's List" is growing and staying up-to-date!

We recently had great recommendations on painters, pavers, tankless water heaters and more.

Please let me hear from you! :)

Neither the VIHA or Board endorses any providers.

Watch Your Speed: It Can Save Lives and Save You Money

By: Drew Rosen

The officially posted speed limit in Venetian Isles is 25 mph. Unfortunately some residents and their visitors are not obeying these speed limits. Venetian Isles is a very family friendly community and very frequently kids of all ages play in front of their houses and in the streets. We all need to be on the look out for residents. Easing vehicle speed to posted limits can go a long way.

A pedestrian hit by a car traveling 40 mph has an 85% chance of being killed. At 30 mph, those odds decrease to 55%. By contrast, the chance of a pedestrian being killed if hit by a car moving at 20 mph is only 15%. A vehicle traveling 40 mph will still be going 36 mph when it hits a person who suddenly appears in the street 100 feet ahead of it; however, the average driver going 25 mph would be able to come to a full stop within 100 feet. (Killing Speed and Saving Lives, UKDOT, 1987)

To raise awareness for the Venetian Isles speed limit, the VIHA has teamed up with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office on a two-part campaign. The first part of the campaign involves the posting of "Your Speed" traffic signs on Overlook then on Grand Canal to let drivers know how fast they are driving. The second part of the campaign involves stepped up patrolling and enforcement by the Sheriff's office in the coming weeks. The fine for a speeding infraction of 6 mph over the posted limit is \$80.50. That fine jumps to \$155.50 for speed infractions between 10 and 14 mph over the posted limit. It is a common occurrence for VI residents to cruise down grand canal at 35 mph.

Please hold your speed to the posted limits. You might save a life and you might also save yourself some money and hassle. ■

Neighborhood Crime Watch Report – Summer 2011

By: Susan Sutterlin, Coordinator 727-527-6333

- A residential burglary occurred in early June on Carolina S. Thieves found the side garage door to be unlocked and they stole a valuable Trek LeMans bike. It was removed from it's stand. The thieves moved items away from the door in the garage in order to get out that side door. This incident happened late at night, and when the homeowner came out the next morning he could see his belongings had been moved around and that the door and yard gate had been left open, and the bike was gone. The owner believes this bike was targeted...an attempt to steal it out of his car previously was unsuccessful. The owners have changed out their side door to a much more secure entryway. Another security enhancement was installing a security bar on their main garage door.
- There was another residential burglary on Kansas N. in mid-August...the SPPD was notified, but no other details are available.
- One auto burglary was reported on Montana N. in early June. A theft of unknown description also happened on Mass. N. in early September.
- Other reports included a check on welfare on Iowa S., a community hazard on Carolina N., and a DUI with property damage on Hawaii S.
- There were 15 burglar alarm incidences throughout Venetian Isles since June.
- There was one hit and run accident on Montana N. in late August.
- We had one grand theft report on Michigan N.
- There were 15 illegal fishing calls June through August on various streets along Grand Canal.
- We had one illegal parking problem on Mass. N. in late July.
- There were two open door and three "other alarm" calls on Hawaii S., Kansas S., and Carolina S.
- There was one simple domestic battery in early September on Carolina S., and two suspicious circumstances, one on Point Overlook and the other on Montana N. A suspicious person was seen and reported on Carolina N. in mid-June.
- Lastly, there was a report regarding trouble with an individual on Illinois S. in June.

Our Community Policing Officer is Gabe Lopez, and he can be reached at 893-4055 if you need to speak with him. ■

Venetian Isles Pet Connection

By: Susan Sutterlin

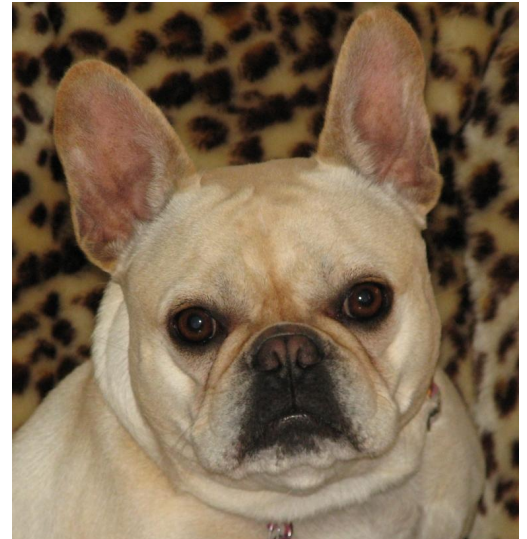
Over the summer, one of our older favorite neighborhood family dogs fell into the canal. Thanks to the effort of a passerby who lifted her into the yard, the actions of a number of kind SPPD officers, and help from Animal Services, the dog was taken to the Emergency Animal Clinic and she pulled through! Hooray for Jackie and Michael!

In early September, a coyote was again spotted on Grand Canal and Hawaii Avenue N. Please remember to keep your cats and small dogs in with you at night.

The very fastest way to be united with a lost pet is for it to have a name, address, and phone number on it's collar tag. Microchips are excellent, but they do require a trip to a vet where they can be scanned.

If you find or lose a pet, contact Susan Sutterlin at 527-6333 or 439-0871 (cell), or email: susan.sutterlin@gmail.com. She will do her best to help you.

If you would like to feature your pet in a future edition of Pet Connection please email Julie Scanlon at jscanlon001@tampabay.rr.com. ■



Tallulah Rosen
Carolina Avenue North

Tallulah is a 2 year old French Bulldog who loves to play. She is rambunctious yet affectionate. She is a very smart but stubborn girl. "Frenchies" are not known for their swimming abilities.

Reminder: The VIHA Board is Revising Venetian Isles Deed Restrictions

By: Jim Pelletier

This year we will make another attempt to propose some revisions to our Protective Covenants. There is a lot of work that goes into choosing, revising, and then the legal work to make sure that any changes are solid and enforceable. Work has been underway for many months now and we hope to bring three proposed revisions to a community vote later this year. It is hard to bring more than three to vote on because by their very nature, there are many explanations that accompany each proposed revision. This language can get confusing. Some key revisions currently under consideration are:

- ☑ Deed restriction #8 which would allow very specific types of metal roofs besides the current tile allowed today.
- ☑ Deed restriction #11 which would provide for more flexibility with placement of air conditioning equipment.
- ☑ Deed Restriction #22 which addresses fences and hedges, would increase the hedge height to 6 feet from 4 feet as residents want more privacy. Regarding fences, certain types of wrought iron and aluminum fences could be allowed along with the standard chain link fences allowed today. ■

Update: Support No Wake Zones in Venetian Isles

By: Drew Rosen

In our first Newsletter, of the year, we highlighted an issue raised by VI residents regarding the Grand Canal and Overlook bridges. The VIHA received a number of complaints about boaters causing large wakes as they flew through canals in the community.

This is definitely an unsafe situation that we are planning to address with "No Wake" signs and maritime enforcement.

In the previous article we asked you, the residents of Venetian Isles to let us know if you are in support of these measures. We are still seeking your input on the matter and want you to keep your responses coming.

If you have not yet voiced your opinion, please do by sending an email to info@ourvi.org. We will need enough support for our petition to solve this problem. ■

Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Reminder

The Venetian Isles Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is comprised of six VI resident volunteers. The ARC is charged with reviewing plans for construction projects throughout Venetian Isles which includes any project outside the existing walls and roof of your house. Plans for any such project should be submitted to the ARC for approval BEFORE any construction is started. Please allow up to two weeks to review and comment on your plans. To avoid unnecessary delays and costs, not to mention potential Deed Restriction violations, no covered construction project should be started without written ARC approval. Some helpful tips often overlooked when submitting plans include providing a site drawing of the planned improvements which clearly lays out setbacks off of all property lines, remembering that all roofs must be concrete tile, 85% of first floor exterior walls must be of masonry construction and all air conditioning units must be positioned to the rear of the dwelling at grade level or on the roof (unless replacing a unit originally positioned on the side of the dwelling). ■

| PROJECTS REQUIRING ARC APPROVAL | | PROJECTS NOT REQUIRING ARC APPROVAL |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Any construction outside your home | New Construction or additions | Changing out doors, garage doors, or windows |
| New Driveway or driveway extensions | New dock, dock additions, boat lifts, davits | Replacing deck boards on existing dock |
| New pool or spa | Fencing | Painting your home |
| Solar Panel Installations | AC (New or location change) | Replacing your roof (must be Tile) |
| Generator Installations | Seawalls | Landscaping (must not block lateral vistas) |



Photo credit: Steve Schadt (www.schadt.com)

Venetian Isles News

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For article submissions or to report errors, please email us at: info@ourvi.org

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