Welcome New CDD Board Members

Effective November 20, 2018 Steve Kleinglass and Rick McCafferty have joined the Board of Supervisors of the Venetian Community Development District. They will both serve a four-year term from November 2018 through November 2022.

In his previous professional life Steve was a hospital administrator. He and his wife Nessa reside at 114 Lerida Court.

Rick’s professional background was in education where he was a school principal. He and his wife Pam reside at 210 Montelluna Drive.

Steve and Rick’s VCDD email addresses are:

Steve Kleinglass – skleinglass@vcdd.org
Rick McCafferty – rmcafferty@vcdd.org

Thank You for Your Service!

Retiring VCDD Board Members are Jerry Jasper and Harry Orenstein.

Jerry served on the Board for eight years from April 2010 to November 2018, serving as Vice Chairman from April 2010 to November 2014 and as Chairman from November 2014 to November 2018.

Harry served on the Board for four years from November 2014 to November 2018, serving as Vice Chair from November 2016 to November 2018.

Both Jerry and Harry put in countless hours in their service to the Venetian Community Development District. On behalf of a grateful community we would like to extend our sincere thanks for your time, talent and leadership!

New Autopay Requirement for River Club Charges

Venetian residents are reminded The River Club does not accept cash. To provide more efficient member services the Board recently updated the payment policy for residents to have a credit card/debit card on file, or your checking account on file, for automatic monthly payments for River Club charges. You will receive a monthly statement each month before your credit card/debit card or checking account is charged.

The credit card/checking account ACH authorization form may be found on the VCDD web site under FORMS or by clicking this link and scrolling to “Credit Card Authorization Form” at the bottom left and clicking VIEW: Credit Card/ACH Authorization Form

Or you may see Member Services Coordinator Melissa Winter in The River Club to choose your option.
2018 was a year of progress for the Venetian Community Development District. A few of the changes this year included:

1. A renovation of The River Club. The River Club had not been updated since it was opened in August of 2004. The project included a major interior facelift with new flooring, carpets, dining room tables and chairs, new paint, window treatments and most importantly sound attenuation panels throughout the building which have significantly lowered the noise levels. The project, which was budgeted for approximately $651,375, is anticipated to come in about $32,000 UNDER budget, even after adding several additional items to the original scope of work.

   Special thanks to Renovation Advisory Committee members: Chair Steve Kleinglass, Al Churilla, Israel Gopstein, Rebecca O’Donnell and Annette Dwyer.

2. The exterior landscaping at The River Club has been replaced with a much cleaner and aesthetically pleasing presentation. This included removal of the Washingtonian Palm trees and the installation of new plants and trees around the recreation pool.

3. The landscaping at the front entrance to The Venetian was updated and replaced.

4. The old clicker gate entry system was replaced with a new Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system. (Thanks to retiring board member Harry Orenstein for spearheading this monumental project!)

5. An increase of 19.27% in River Club food and beverage sales for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2018. This comes on top of a 21.02% increase in the prior fiscal year. This reflects the outstanding food and beverage service and value provided by Chef Stephen King and the entire River Club staff.

6. Denise Payton joined The River Club as Club Manager.

7. The final build out of the community by Lennar was completed in 2018. It is anticipated all roads and infrastructure will be turned over to the CDD for upkeep, repairs and maintenance in the first half of 2019.

8. A new landscaping contract was awarded to BrightView effective February 6, 2018 for the maintenance of all CDD owned common areas in The Venetian.

9. Revamping the CDD advisory committees with the consolidation of the Pool and Fitness Advisory Committee and the Tennis Advisory Committee into the Recreation Advisory Committee effective January 2019.

10. The appointment of an ad hoc Pickleball Advisory Committee which will make recommendations to the Board about the potential addition of pickleball as an additional amenity for Venetian residents.

11. The CDD field office moved from The Welcome Center to The River Club.

Looking forward to the upcoming year:

1. The implementation of the recommendations of the Traffic Enforcement Committee will take place with the POA partnering with the CDD to enforce our speed limits and traffic signs.

2. Public forums will be held to gain community input and feedback on the proposed pickleball courts and off leash dog park.

3. A review of The River Club facilities to insure compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
Meeting Dates

VCDD Board of Supervisors has regular meetings the 2nd and 4th 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 2018-2019 meeting dates have been established.

December 10, 2018
January 14, 2019
January 28, 2019
February 11, 2019
February 25, 2019
March 11, 2019
March 25, 2019
April 8, 2019
April 22, 2019
May 13, 2019
June 10, 2019
June 24, 2019
July 8, 2019
July 22, 2019
August 12, 2019
August 26, 2019
September 9, 2019
September 23, 2019

Role of Privacy Officers at Entrance Gate

Residents are reminded the guard gate staff are “Privacy Officers,” and as such they do not have policing power or authority. They check and record the identity of visitors to the Venetian as well as patrolling our streets. However, they are not a security service. Residents should call 911 to report trespassers, suspicious activity, or for any emergency which would require the assistance of the Venice Police Department or the Venice Fire Department.

It should also be noted the roads in The Venetian are public and as such the Privacy Officers may not legally deny entry to anyone, even those who refuse to provide identification and/or state their purpose. However, we do record via both audio and video the entry of all guests into The Venetian. This includes a date and time stamped video of all vehicles, the driver of the vehicle and the vehicle license plate. Privacy Officers are trained to call the Venice Police Department for any suspicious activity or individuals.

Golf Cart Safety

With the holiday season upon us we want to remind residents about golf cart safety. Many residents will have friends and family in for the holidays, including youngsters who invariably will want to drive a golf cart. Under Florida law the operator of a golf cart does not have to be a licensed driver, however the driver must be over 14 years of age. As disappointing as it may be to tell a grandchild they may not drive your golf cart, in the name of safety we must ask this law be strictly followed.

Per Florida law golf carts are a motor vehicle and are subject to ALL the laws, rules and requirements of cars while being operated on public roads in The Venetian. This includes coming to a COMPLETE and FULL stop at all stop signs and stopping for pedestrians in marked cross walks.
Reminder on Revised River Club Dress Code

At the July 9, 2018, meeting of the VCDD Board of Supervisors the board voted to amend the River Club dress code to prohibit denim in the dining room all day on Sundays, and require shirts with collars for gentlemen in the dining room all day on Sundays. As was the case previously, denim and shirts without collars are permitted in the dining room on weekdays before 5 pm. In addition, torn or ripped jeans will no longer be permitted in the dining room at any time.

Social Media Review

Many of our residents utilize social media sites like Nextdoor.com to learn about the community, ask for recommendations and referrals and share information. While sites like Nextdoor.com are useful and informative they also have the potential for misuse.

Please be aware when you post to a social media site you are creating a permanent public record. Negative comments or complaints may be shared not only among your neighbors here in The Venetian but also throughout the Venice community and beyond. This may have an overall negative impact on the perception of our community, which in turn may eventually go so far as to affect our property values.

If you have a complaint or suggestion regarding the food or operation of The River Club, the landscaping in The Venetian, or a policy or rule of the CDD or the POA it is best to direct them to the CDD Board of Supervisors or the POA Board of Directors. All meetings of both the CDD and POA are open to the public and we encourage you to air concerns or complaints, along with suggestions for improvement, with the appropriate board.

Email contact information for the CDD Board of Supervisors is:

Rich Bracco, Chair – Phone: 631-807-1956, Email: rdbracco@vcdd.org
Susie Lentile, Vice Chair – Phone: 703-509-733, Email: slentile@vcdd.org
Steve Kleinglass – Phone: 941-451-4022, Email: skleinglass@vcdd.org
David Lusty – Phone: 740-707-0753, Email: dlusty@vcdd.org
Rick McCafferty – Phone: 941-244-0898, Email: rmccafferty@vcdd.org
CDD District Manager Belinda Blandon – bblandon@rizzetta.com

Michael Rodriguez will continue to “substitute” for Kareen Richard during her absence.

Venetian CDD
502 Veneto Blvd.
North Venice, FL 34275
Michael Rodriguez – Interim Field Manager
Hours: Monday through Friday
9 am – 5 pm
Phone: 941-485-8500
E-mail: krichard@vcdd.org
Belinda Blandon – District Manager
Hours M-F 9 am - 4 pm
Phone: 239-936-0913
E-mail: bblandon@rizzetta.com

Office Hours

CDD office hours are: Monday through Friday, 9 am – 5 pm
POA office hours are:
Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 am – 1 pm
Thursdays from 1 pm – 4:30 pm
CDD Information can be found at www.venetiancdd.org