

## What's Happening?

### 05/28 - No Mow Zone Webinar, 4pm

Zoom link through Club website (pg 6)

### 06/01 - New Transponder

Procedures (pg 3)

### 06/15 - Board Meeting, 1pm

Location or Zoom TBD

### Now thru 6/15 - South County Food Pantry Boxed Food Drive (pg 5)

## Board of Directors

### Officers

**Ellen Wilcox**, President

**Tim Madigan**, Vice President

‣ Grounds

**John Yahres**, Treasurer

‣ Finance

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‣ Architectural Review

#### **David Beldotti**

‣ Ad Hoc Roads

#### **Art Borduas**

#### **Bill Nelson**

‣ Community Access/Safety

‣ Environmental

#### **Linda Reimer**

‣ Legal & Bylaws

## Lighthouse Property Management

**Kristie Gundzik**, Association Manager

**Christine Goerz**, Onsite Manager

**Liz Verrochio**, Onsite Admin Assistant

**Norman Lagasse**, Maintenance

140 Rich Street, Venice FL 34292

Phone: 941.496.8482

Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm

[masterassociation@vgccmaster.com](mailto:masterassociation@vgccmaster.com)

Website: [www.vgccmaster.com](http://www.vgccmaster.com)

## Road Project Update

By David Beldotti, Ad Hoc Roads Committee Chair



At a Special Meeting on Monday, May 11, the Master Association Board of Directors approved entering into a contract with Superior Asphalt for the resurfacing of all streets within the Venice Golf and Country Club.

By way of background, the paving of VGCC roads was done 25 to 30 years ago. Crack-sealing and surface treatment helped to extend the life of the pavement beyond the typical 15 to 20 years. The pavement of some of the roads is close to breaking up and the plan is to remove a layer of the pavement and add new asphalt. Our engineering consultant expects this approach will result in a useful life close to 20 years.

Starting the project now, with the current low price of oil and asphalt liquid along with a competitive business climate, will result in cost savings. The Master Association has budgeted for this project for many years thereby avoiding the need for a special assessment.

The plan is to do the project in two phases:

- Phase one will be done this summer during the month of July. This will include all side roads plus the portion of Fieldstone Drive between Venice Golf Club Drive and Wayforest Drive.
- Phase two will be scheduled for next summer and will include Venice Golf Club Drive and the remaining portion of Fieldstone Drive.

Prior to beginning any work, you will be informed about the process, impacts, schedules and travel restrictions. We will also keep you apprised as the project progresses and of any changes that may impact you.

We understand there will be some inconvenience and hope you will bear with us and look forward to the improvement that will result.

## Management Message

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By Christine Goerz (CMCA)  
Onsite Community Association Manager



As noted, the Master Association has awarded the road resurfacing contract to Superior Asphalt. The project is set to begin on Tuesday, July 7th and the duration of this project will take approximately one month. Their work hours will be from 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday and possibly on some Saturdays, if needed.

There are two phases to a road resurfacing project. The first phase is the milling process, which is the removal of the existing asphalt. The second phase is the actual paving process. Both phases will be discussed in further detail below.

**The Milling Process:** During the milling process, one side of the street will remain open at all times. You will be able to come and go, as necessary.

The milling process is quite dusty! Therefore, we do highly recommend that all vehicles are parked in the garage during this time. If your vehicle cannot be placed in the garage, that is okay, but your car may get a little dirty from the dust. Good news...a little Florida rain will wash it away.

**The Paving Process:** During the paving process, one side of the street will remain open at all times. You will be able to come and go, as necessary, except for the ingress and egress into driveways during the tack coat process (details below). The paving process consists of two parts:

1. First, an application of tack coat will be applied as it provides a good bond between the base and the finished surface. The tack coat will need to set for approximately 15 minutes, and during this time you will not be allowed to drive on the tack coat surface.
2. After the tack coat has set, the paving will begin right away. As soon as the rolling is complete, the surface will be drivable again.

Here are some important reminders for the road resurfacing project:

- If you need to leave your home the day of the paving, plan to leave an additional half hour earlier in case there is a delay due to the tack coating.
  - No irrigation should run the night prior to the paving of the road. If the road surface is wet, Superior Asphalt will not be able to pave the road and it will only delay the completion of the project. If you do not live in a maintained Neighborhood, it will be your responsibility to coordinate someone to turn off your irrigation, if necessary.
  - Trash / Recycle pickup may be delayed a week. If your road is scheduled to be paved on trash/ recycle day, Waste Management will not stop on your street for pickup.
  - Please avoid scheduling any work during the duration of this project. For example, roof replacement, painting, etc. should all be postponed.
  - Vehicles will not be able to park on the street during this time, especially if only one side of the road is open for thru traffic.
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- You may drive on the new asphalt once the rolling has been completed, however we request that you do not turn your steering wheel when stopped on the newly paved road as this may damage the new surface.
- If you have any vendors coming out for routine services (pool, lawn, etc.), please notify them of when your street will be done as they may want to reschedule their services for another day.

A detailed schedule will be provided closer to the start date of the project, however, this schedule will be continuously changing depending on whether the project is moving faster than expected, or possibly the project is delayed based on unforeseen obstacles (i.e.: weather). Once the project begins, Superior Asphalt will be providing a daily work schedule to the Master Association and that schedule will be broadcasted via email to all residents within VGCC.

The start of this project will come up quicker than expected, so please begin planning your time for the month of July and part of August. Your cooperation during this project will be greatly appreciated as we hope to have minimal to no delays during the full duration. If you have tenants or guests staying in your home, please share this information with them as well.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [christinegoerz@vgccmaster.com](mailto:christinegoerz@vgccmaster.com) or by calling (941) 496-8482. I will be the main point of contact for communication to the community.

### REMINDER EFFECTIVE JUNE 1

The gatehouse will no longer be permitted to install any vehicle transponders unless authorization is provided by the Master Association office. For new transponders, residents will be required to follow the instructions as listed below:

1. The resident will submit the completed transponder request form along with payment of \$25 and proof of registration to the Master Association office located at 140 Rich Street prior to the installation of the transponder. **The Master Association office hours are 8AM to 4:30PM, Monday to Friday.** While the Master Association office will typically expedite all transponder requests, there may be times where it cannot be done right away. Please allow the office four (4) business hours to complete the transponder setup. Any requests submitted after 1PM may not be entered until the following business day.

2. Once the Master Association office verified all information and added everything into the database, both the resident and gatehouse will be notified that the transponder(s) can be installed. At that time, the resident can proceed to the gatehouse for install. **Transponder installation hours are as follows: Monday to Friday 7AM to 1:30PM / Monday to Friday (except Wednesdays) 4PM to 8PM / Saturday & Sunday 10AM to 3PM.**

We understand this may add additional delays to a resident who is purchasing a new transponder, but it is in the best interest to have the Master Association monitor the transponders being issued along with handling the administrative tasks associated with this process. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view the new transponder request form. The form is also available on the Master Association website [www.vgccmaster.com](http://www.vgccmaster.com) and hard copies are available at the office.



## Board Briefs

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### Finance — John Yahres

**2020/21 Committee Members include: John Yahres (Chair), Art Borduas, Duncan MacKeen, Tim Madigan, Mike Pustilnik and Ellen Wilcox**

- The Association's financial condition is healthy. Net operating income (revenues less expenses) through April was positive \$14,559. Revenues and expenses were both favorable to budget.
- We had \$1.125 million of cash at month end in the Replacement Fund (reserves), with another \$208K to be added in June. Based on current information, the Finance Committee believes that funding will be sufficient for our road paving project and other reserve needs through 2024 (see Long Range Plan).
- The Operating Fund had a cash balance \$592.6K as of April 30. The Fund Balance (member equity) was \$308.8K, up from \$287.3K at the end of 2019. Our Rich Street bank loan had a balance of \$62.0K as of April 30. That loan will be paid in full in August 2023.

### Architectural Review — Jan Bantz

**2020/21 Committee Members include: Jan Bantz (Chair), Patt Everett, Jan Meagher, Wendy Yeager and Chris Zimpher; Mike Morton serves as ad hoc member for new construction and Gerry Blatner as ad hoc member for color palette development.**

- This past month the committee processed 24 requests, as follows:
  - 3 tree removals; 1 tree planting; 1 roof; 3 landscaping; 3 paint; 2 window replacement; 4 front door paint; 2 paver driveways; 2 pool cage; 1 equipment fencing; and 2 lighting.

### Community Access & Safety — Bill Nelson

**2020/21 Committee Members include: Bill Nelson (Chair), Pat Marcello, Marcia Matthews and Annette Whelan**

- Procedures for obtaining transponders will be modified as of June 1st to require all approvals be controlled by the Master Association office (pg 3).

### Community Relations — Sherry Borgsdorf

**2020/21 Committee Members include: Sherry Borgsdorf (Chair), Linda Davis and Pat Whelan**

- Edited and formatted Board orientation presentation
  - Created communications plan for roads project
  - Submitted *Legend* article
  - Published *Community Views*
  - Coordinated various email blasts
  - Posted updates to current website
  - Collaborated with VGCC Foundation to organize a boxed food drive for the benefit of South County Food Pantry (pg 5)
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**VGCC Community Cares:**  
*We're Thinking "Inside the Box"*

By Sherry Borgsdorf, Community Relations Committee Chair



We received inquiries from several residents about ways they could help with the food shortage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To address those community needs, the Master Association and the VGCC Foundation are teaming up to assist Venice's South County Food Pantry with their fight against hunger, especially during these extraordinary times.

They expressed a significant need for boxed nonperishable food items, such as cereals, crackers and mac & cheese.

We will have a container at the front door of the Master Association office on Rich Street for donation drop offs. Boxed food items will be accepted during regular office hours, Monday thru Friday, between 8am and 4:30pm until June 15.

For your convenience, you may also call Terre Sylvester at 936.521.9453 to schedule a pickup at your home.

If you have ventured back to your summer home but would still like to contribute, you can send a check payable to "VGCC Foundation" and mail to 250 Venice Golf Club Drive, Venice FL 34292. *Please mark "Food Pantry" in the memo field.*

The Foundation will present one check to South County Food Pantry on behalf of the VGCC Community Cares initiative when the boxed goods are delivered.

We have been so blessed to have our Club providing us with delicious meals and pantry supplies throughout the coronavirus lock-down, this is one way we can give back to those not so fortunate.

WE'RE THINKING "INSIDE" THE BOX...

Join us in supporting  
**SOUTH COUNTY FOOD PANTRY**  
 by donating nonperishable **BOXED** food  
 such as cereal, crackers, mac & cheese, etc.



Please drop off your boxed items at the Master Association office on Rich St. during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm thru Monday, June 15 or call Terre Sylvester at 936.521.9453 and we will pickup your donated items.



Checks may be payable and mailed to "VGCC Foundation" at 250 Venice Golf Club Drive, Venice FL 34292. Please indicate "Food Pantry" in the memo field.



*Thank you!*

**Board Briefs (continued)****Environmental — Bill Nelson**

2020/21 Committee Members include: Bill Nelson (Chair), Kate Borduas, Mark Jadin, Doug Johnson and Karen Stamatakos

- A copy of the new Six Foot No-mow Zone rule has been mailed to every homeowner whose property abuts a pond. Included with the rule are an educational letter and a copy of “Stormwater Systems in Your Neighborhood.”
- We are offering a webinar through the VGCC “U” on May 28 at 4PM entitled “VGCC No Mow Zones” and hosted by Kate Borduas and Bill Nelson. You may participate through the link provided on the Club’s website, [www.venicegcc.com](http://www.venicegcc.com).

**VGCC NO MOW ZONES WEBINAR**

with Kate Borduas and Bill Nelson

**THURSDAY, MAY 28 4:00**

**Florida gets a lot of rain that must move through the environment. Historically, rainwater filtered through permeable soils and drained into streams and rivers, eventually flowing into the Gulf of Mexico and seeping into the Floridan Aquifer.**

**Paving to accommodate Florida’s dramatically increasing population has disrupted the natural flow. As with all communities, VGCC’s 26 detention ponds are designed to functionally mimic the natural flow of water through the environment in three ways: 1) holding water for timely release thereby allowing sediment to settle, 2) filtering nutrients and 3) preventing pollutants from entering the water system. Stable pond banks are critical to the success of this effort.**



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**Board Briefs (continued)**

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**Grounds — Tim Madigan****2020/21 Committee Members include: Tim Madigan (Chair), Art Borduas, Tina Davis and David Lines**

- The Ad Hoc Electrical Infrastructure Committee has been hard at work: Located all electrical meters throughout the community; evaluated needed repairs to some electrical panels and boxes, photocells, etc.; started analysis on electrical bills; and have met with account representative from FPL to evaluate lighting throughout the community. Awaiting proposal from FPL to replace some lights and possible maintenance of streetlights going forward.
- New maintenance person has been hired.
- Fountain on the 17th hole is currently not working because our vendor, Superior, is waiting for parts to fix the fountain. Their manufacturer has been running behind since the current pandemic, but as soon as parts come in vendor will be out to get the fountain repaired.
- ArtisTree took care of small cleanup on Huntridge Drive property boundary after complaint from owner in neighboring community.

**Legal & Bylaws — Linda Reimer****2020/21 Committee Members include: Linda Reimer (Chair), Rich Bartholomew, Tim Madigan and Gary Richardson**

- Road Paving Project: Conducted legal review and coordinated outside counsel input on documentation, including the spec sheet, the letter of intent and the contracts.
- Board Orientation Presentation: Reviewed and provided comments on Board Orientation.
- ARC Fine: Analyzed regulations and reviewed correspondence samples to develop a recommendation on an appropriate fine. Drafted correspondence informing owner that Board is levying a fine.
- Demand Letter Against EBI: Conference call will be held with Mark Hanson, our outside counsel, Tim Madigan, Mark Jadin, Bill Nelson and former Master Association President Charles McGill in preparation for a conference with EBI's attorney.

**VGCC's "Florida Friendly" Pollinator Garden:*****What we can ALL do to support Florida's pollinators***

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**By Kate Borduas, Florida Master Naturalist  
Environmental Committee Member**

This spring our beautiful Pollinator Garden on Lansbrook Drive was certified by Sarasota County as a Florida Friendly Habitat. The garden was installed five years ago as part of the Club's 25th Anniversary celebration and also in response to the Pollinator Partnership's 'One Million Pollinator Garden Challenge.'

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This certification acknowledges that we have complied with the nine core principles of Florida Friendly – all of which are designed to save and protect water, reduce fertilizer, eliminate pesticides and support wildlife. We should all be proud of our achievement. Our goal has always been to support native pollinators, primarily bees, butterflies and moths, through the installation of native and Florida-Friendly plants. By providing habitat and nourishment for insects we are also supporting nesting and migrating birds.

For this article I will focus my attention on bees (Hymenoptera) and will follow with another article next time on butterflies and moths (Lepidoptera) which is where we will take a closer look at the role caterpillars play in a strong, diverse ecosystem.

Most of us, when we think of bees, think of *Apis mellifera*, the European honeybee, a non-native. Everything we do at the Pollinator Garden does indeed support these highly adapted generalist bees and we happily welcome ‘sisters’ from the several feral hives in the preserves. It is common knowledge that commercial honeybee colonies are in decline from a variety of factors – many to do with toxic agricultural practices and the slave labor conditions for commercial bees - so we are happy to support the robust, free-flying populations that visit with us.

How do we know these honeybees are sisters? Well, the male drones lounge around the hive, get waited on hand and foot, watch a lot of games on tv and only go outside once in their lifetime when there is a chance of a hot date.

By contrast to the social honeybee, Florida’s 315 native bee species (29 are endemic to Florida) tend to be solitary and many are specialist foragers or are at least limited in their choice of nectar and pollen partners. Over millennia bees and flowers co-evolved so that insect mouth parts matched the size and shape of pollen and nectar producing flower glands. And this is where size really matters.

Native bees in Florida have an astonishing size range from 2mm Sweat Bees to 25 mm Carpenter Bees. When I first saw the tiny bright yellow sweat bees (3mm) I was sure I had discovered Tinkerbell.

**Bumble Bee****Carpenter Bee****Leafcutter Bee****Sweat Bee**

At a glance the Pollinator Garden may not seem to have a ton of blossoms. Not the case. Many of our plants have individual blossoms that so small as to be invisible from the street. They may be tiny, but they are mighty! Wild Coffee, Simpson's Stopper and Beauty Berry are the backbone of the garden.

As a rule of thumb, 1 in 4 native bees is imperiled due to disruptive land use practices, pesticides, pathogens, climate change and, for the suburban landscape, invasive plants. I use the term 'invasive' pretty loosely in this article. 'Invasive' can mean actual exotic invasive plants that outcompete native species (Brazilian Pepper, e.g.) and it can also apply to any non-native cultivar, no matter how pretty, that does not support native insect life (the list is very long).

Not everyone has the time, space, energy or interest to convert their entire yard into 100% fully functioning pollinator garden. But we can all do something. Even a small corner of your yard or that long blind-side wall we all seem to have can be converted for use by our pollinator friends. And there is a lot of guidance to be had in how to get started. (See Resources, below)

Ideally you would plant in clumps of three or more to save bees from wasting energy, have a variety of plants that bloom throughout the year with a variety of pollen tubes. Bees like white, yellow, blue and purple best. Many of these same plants will attract hummingbirds and hummingbird moths – each a delight to see.

Excellent woody plants for micro-garden include all native Holly species, native Oaks, Simpson's Stopper, Wild Coffee, Cabbage Palm and Saw Palmetto (but only if you leave the flowers to bloom). Herbaceous plants include Seaside Goldenrod, Sunflowers, Coreopsis, Climbing Aster, Verbena, Spotted Beebalm, Rosinweed, Mimosa, Black-eyed Susan. All these and more are thriving in the Pollinator Garden.

The Pollinator Garden team and I have spent hundreds of hours in the garden, literally surrounded by bees, and not one of us has been stung — not even a close call. Could it be that we are just lucky? Well, we are lucky but that's not why we haven't been stung. Native bees, with the exception of Bumble Bees do not even have stingers. Moreover, it is our practice to move slowly; should a honeybee bump into us we stand still to let her pass.

Honeybees have a number of jobs in their short lives, mostly in the hives, and those that we see out foraging are winding down. The bee you see may have flown miles to our garden and must preserve all her energy to return to her sisters with a full honey tummy and the pollen baskets on her legs full to the brim. She does not have time to mess with fools like us! (Naturally, those with allergies to bees need to take precautions.)



The Pollinator Garden team would like to express our gratitude to Brian O'Carroll who designed and built our spectacular arbor and put together our beautiful new bench. Next time you are in the neighborhood come on and sit a while. You will be amazed. If you are quiet for a while you will possibly see birds coming to the fountains or rooting around in the leaf litter, and maybe even a rabbit or two looking around for a treat. You will see scores of butterflies and more bees than you thought possible.



I'd like to shout out to the hardworking and committed team – June Hullinger, Linda Reimer, Trish Dumbell and Deb Hoffman with another big round of applause to the Friends of the Pollinator Garden: Arthur Borduas, Tim Madigan, Goldie Hullinger, Bob Brisotti and Tom Dumbell. You guys are the best!

*Resources:*

[Florida Native Plant Society](#) will have you answer a few questions about conditions, soil and sun and you will be given a list of trees, shrubs, flowers, vines, ferns and grasses that are suitable for your site.

[Native Plant Finder for Woody and Herbaceous Plants](#) lists host plants for Lepidoptera based on the findings of Dr. Doug Tallamy. The caterpillars from the many moth species are key to the success of migratory and nesting birds.

Next time we are going to talk about Lepidoptera including adult butterflies, moths and their larval form – the caterpillars. We tend to think of charismatic species like the Luna Moth or the Monarch Butterfly but the story is far richer than those flashy species would suggest.