Hippity Hoppity everyone!

Bring the kids and grandkids for

**Breakfast with the Bunny**

**Prizes, Egg Hunt, Photos with the Bunny**

**APRIL 13** 8:00 to 10:00am
Adults $7  Under 12 $4
Toddlers free

**MARCH GENERAL MEETING**
Monday APRIL 15 at 7:00pm
Sheriff Tom Knight will address the recent closing of the South County Sub-station and will take your questions

**COFFEE AND DESERTS**

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**Monthly Meetings**

**SVCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Monday, APRIL 8 at 4:00pm

**SVBET TRUSTEES MEETING**
Wednesday, APRIL 17 at 7:00pm

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**Committees and Clubs**

**SOUTH VENICE BOOK CLUB**
Tuesday, APRIL 9 at 4:00pm

**CAMERA CLUB**
Every Monday 10:00am to noon

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**WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Another great breakfast, another job done with a smile!

Stepping up again to organize, shop, cook and serve at our March Pancake Breakfast were Duke Doogue, Cherry Giovinazzo, Nancy Doogue, Suellyn Norton, Carol MaAnulty and Dianna Brannan. We had a terrific turnout in March so it was a big job keeping up. More photos on page 5.

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**FROM WALT ERNST**

**President’s Message**

We all know someone who has suffered the debilitating physical effects of a stroke, even death. For those that survive a stroke there is a long and arduous rehab period, but usually the patient never completely recovers.

But there is good news, if the signs of a stroke are immediately recognized and the patient gets to a hospital for diagnosis and treatment within three hours, the effects of the stroke can usually be reversed.

To refresh your memories there used to be three physical signs to look for if you suspect someone has had a stroke.

(Continued)
Every Sunday at the SVCA building

Fellowship Bible Church

Services at 10:00
Bible Study at 11:15

South Venice Beach WAVE
Editor: Maureen Holland
maureenholland@comcast.net

Now a fourth has been added (in bold below). The signs are:

**S** Ask the individual to SMILE

**T** Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (coherently)

**R** Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS

**T** Ask the person to STICK OUT HIS/HER TONGUE - If the tongue is 'crooked'--if it goes to one side or the other--that is also an indication of a stroke.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks call 911 and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. Ignore the victim if he or she protests. Remember the key to stroke reversal is getting the patient to an ER for diagnosis and treatment.

THIS ALL NEEDS TO BE DONE WITHIN THREE HOURS.

Thanks for reading,

CORRECTION

In last month’s WAVE story about the Beach Trust withdrawing from consolidation talks with SVCA, it was incorrectly stated that at the Trust meeting in March of 2018 Trustee Carol McAnulty made a motion to combine with the SVCA. That was incorrect.

At that meeting the Trust voted to approach the SVCA about working together. This is what initiated the joint discussions.

**SVCA Wish List . . . . . . .**

We’re looking for another fridge
If you have one to donate, contact the office or any board member. We’ll arrange the pick up.

We’d like help with purchasing a defibrillator
The Board would be very grateful for donations toward our purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the building. They’re quite expensive and we welcome donations toward the purchase. No amount is too small. We’ll have a jar at SVCA meetings and events. Once we’ve purchased it, we’ll offer classes in its use.

Welcome to our newest members!
Randy and Noel Bryan
V.T. Giroux

**Snowbirds!**
Remember to contact Linda in the office if you need to change your address back. Don’t want you missing any issues of the WAVE!

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Got something to say? We’d love to hear from you!
SEND LETTERS TO:
maureenholland@comcast.net
Names may be withheld upon request but all letters are subject to review.

FREE WI-FI AT SVCA

NETWORK NAME: SVCA
ACCESS KEY: civic1955

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Aro und South Venice

For 64 years, the SVCA has been here for South Venice, for YOU!
With your support, we are a strong voice in Sarasota County
MEMBERSHIP MAKES US STRONG!

When we’re strong, we are heard at the County on civic and service issues that affect South Venice—like tree trimming, ditch mowing, code enforcement, mosquito spraying, drain maintenance, zoning, permitting, water and sewer.

Together, we work to keep South Venice Beach a community to be proud of!

Beautiful Neighborhoods Initiative • Water Quality Task Force • Siesta Waterway Clean-up • Shamrock Park Clean-up • Community Emergency Response Team • International Coastal Cleanup • Government Affairs Committee to track issues and liaise with Sarasota County

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MARCH GENERAL MEETING

South Venice, Red Tide and nutrients

Steve Suau, a stormwater engineer and South Venice resident, addressed us at the March 28 meeting. Besides his expertise, Steve is a long-time SVCA member, former SVCA Board member and currently serves as a Trustee on the Beach Endowment Trust.

His talk focused on water quality, on what contributes to red tides and what can we do about it. With the recent outbreaks of red tide, as well as the harmful blue-green algae, there is and will continue to be much interest in reducing the nutrients that can fuel them. He urged that...
South Venice residents become members of the SVCA to stay informed and updated on this important community issue (he also pointed out that the County is very likely to pursue bringing county water and sewer systems to South Venice to replace our current system of wells and septic tanks, which is all the more reason to stay informed).

There was an extended Q&A session after his talk and we thank Steve for a great presentation and taking so many questions. If you missed the meeting, see Steve’s article about all this on page 7.

FROM MARTHA NEILSEN, Chair

**Beach Trust News**

A couple of The Friends of Trust committees have been busy this month. The landscaping committee has now combined with the Brazilian Pepper Tree group. They have removed more pepper trees and cleared out the South Venice Beach Ferry sign by the road.

The Buy a Brick committee were busy selling bricks at the ferry house the weekend of March 23 and 24. Hopefully you’ve bought your Commemorative Brick, but if you haven’t there’s still time. Order forms are at the ferry house.

The Environmental Science Associates (ESA) will be surveying our beach the week of March 25 to determine the extent of the hard bottom. This is needed to assist with planning next steps for the beach restoration project.

They also sent two examples of groins that we can go and see. One is at Caspersen beach and the other is at the south end of Lido beach and can be accessed and viewed from the public parking lot. Additionally, for more information on artificial reefs, go to reefballs.org. This is a non-profit group that is local. One of their projects is at O'Leary's living seawall at Bay Front Park downtown Sarasota. Hopefully, the ESA will be presenting at the April Trust meeting.

The Trust would like to welcome Sandy McHenry to the Trust. Sandy has previously been on the Trust and brings many skills. She has been a resident for many years and is very involved in the community. Please join us in welcoming Sandy.
March Pancake Breakfast

Peak season, pancakes and St. Patty’s Day came together to bring a big crowd to our March breakfast. It was especially nice to see so many young families with children. Thanks to Dianna Brannan for all the great snapshots!
SOUTH VENICE BOOK CLUB

What we’re reading
FROM GAIL PARKER
The club met in March and discussed A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers. Our next meeting is on April 8 at 4:00pm at the Community Center, when we’ll discuss the book we’re currently reading, A Land Remembered by Patrick Smith. It’s historical fiction about the early settlement of Florida. We look forward to another good discussion at the meeting and invite you to join in!

WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE
Swales help save our bay
FROM LYNN FOX
Drive around Sarasota County and you will see some neighborhoods with bioswales as barriers between homes and roadways. These swales carry stormwater from lawns and roadways to streams, rivers and eventually bays and estuaries. Scientists say when properly vegetated, these swales partially treat water quality, attenuate flooding and are preferable to curbs and gutters.
Yet developers in most new developments and gated communities have preferred the gutters and curbs. People coming to Florida from other states often think swales are ugly ditches that collect trash and serve as breeding grounds for mosquitos and possibly snakes and alligators.
So sad that many say “Swales? Oh, Not In My Neighborhood”.
Swales can be essential to the health of bays and estuaries and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. What is needed is better understanding of the care and nurture of these valuable tools of nature. When planted with appropriate plants they can be both attractive and functional. Sarasota county government offers ideas on what shrubs, wildflowers, groundcovers

Learn Water Coloring with Carol Merenda every Wednesday at SVCA

Monthly sessions. Course starts the first Wednesday of every month. The full course is $90 (plus supplies)
New students may register at the class or contact instructor Carol at 941-366-2866 to get started.
Classes are 1:00-4:00pm

The SCVA Trash Buddies met at the Civic Association Saturday, March 9 to clean up Alligator Drive, picking up roadside trash all the way up to US41. The SCVA ‘adopted’ Alligator Drive a few years ago and the Trash Buddies keep it clean. (Look for the ‘Adopted Road’ sign on the north side of Alligator near US41.)
Marla Wilcox reports that the area was much cleaner than when they last did it in December.
Pictured above are Gary Bennett, Bill Brennan, Bruce Walker, and Laurie Hartman.
and grasses to use such as: Ferns, Spider lily, Tropical sage, Sunshine mimosa, Muhly grass, and Blue Flag Iris.

There are more miles of swales in the South Venice Beach neighborhood than any other area in all of Sarasota County. In a recent study of water quality in creeks, rivers, and bays in Sarasota, Lemon Bay and Alligator Creek were lower in rates of harmful chemicals such as nitrates that feed Red Tide than Sarasota Bay. The South Venice Water Quality Task Force has planted and labeled some of these plants at the Grove (Corner of Seminole and Quincy) such as the Ferns, Spider lily, Tropical sage, Sunshine mimosa and Florida native grasses.

Residents of the South Venice Beach area should consider doing more than mowing and plant some native or Florida friendly plants in their swales to enhance the work of the swales and add to the attractiveness of the area. Indeed, when planted with Florida native plants they are considered to be a Rain Garden. Teaching our youth not to toss litter such as soda cans, cigarette butts, and paper food wrappers into the roadways and swales would also be a great idea.

Our South Venice Beach area neighborhood can be a real leader in the Keep Sarasota Beautiful efforts while improving the health of Alligator Creek and Lemon Bay.

For information on maintaining swales and Rain Gardens see FloridayYards.org, tappwater.org/raingardens.aspx and fnps.org.

South Venice, Red Tide, and Nutrients

Stephen Suau was the guest speaker at the March 18 General Meeting. As part of the presentation, Information was shared on the harmful algae blooms such as red tide and the role of nutrients that fuel them. Water quality information for the South Venice area as well as nutrient reduction strategies that may have potential applicability in the South Venice area were also presented.

Based upon information provided by Sarasota County at a recent Argus luncheon in South Sarasota County:

- Although red tide is naturally occurring, it is capable of using man-made nutrients for their growth once if reaches the shoreline.
- The excess fueling nutrients of concern are phosphorus and nitrogen which are commonly used in fertilizer and present in waste. The southwest portion of Florida, including Sarasota is located bone valley geologic formation which is naturally and uniquely rich in phosphorus which is why it mined. Its natural presence also means that the environment has adapted to the excess levels of phosphorus. Therefore, the environment is sensitive to increases in the nutrient, nitrogen.
- Nitrogen levels have been increasing in Sarasota Bay, Little Sarasota Bay, and Lemon Bay for the past 20 years.
- Unlike phosphorus which mined from the ground, nitrogen is mined from the air where at 78% is the most common element in the atmosphere. Nitrogen, like water can exist in 3 forms: gas, solid, and liquid.
- County-wide, nitrogen contributed by stormwater, wastewater, and on-site wastewater treatment and disposal (OSWTD) are estimated 1,200,000 pounds per year, 800,000 pounds per year, and 500,000 to 1,000,000 pounds per year, respectively. (Continued)
You haven’t renewed your membership yet?

Family membership still only $60.00

Joining is easy:
JOIN ONLINE at southvenicebeach.org
JOIN BY PHONE—call the office at 941-493-0006 and renew with a credit card.
STOP BY—drop in during office hours, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday between 9am and 1pm.
BY MAIL—return your renewal invoice to the office.

You should know that: membership fees are the engine that keeps the SVCA going. Supplemental revenue from rentals, donations and fund raisers is very important, but it’s your membership that keeps the lights on. And just as importantly, your membership is your commitment to community.

Ferry and Ramp Fees

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The contribution of nitrogen from OSWTD is the least studied and understood. According to the Health Department, if constructed according to long-standing County standards, OSWTD are very good at removing pathogens and protecting public health. However, the resulting effluent typically contains soluble nitrogen in the form of nitrate which can move in the groundwater to downstream waterways, including the Gulf of Mexico, bays and estuaries. This can particularly be the case the closer the OSWTD is to a waterbody and the shorter the travel time. But in flat areas indicative of much of Sarasota County, the travel time can be extended in an anaerobic environment (without oxygen) allowing the opportunity for the denitrification where the soluble nitrate is converted to nitrogen gas and released back to the atmosphere. Denitrification is also the mechanism used by Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant processes such as the City of Sarasota to reduce nitrate. It is possible that denitrification is a significant mitigating factor in reducing nitrogen contributions from OSWTD in areas of Sarasota County and South Venice.

Nitrogen water quality data from Sarasota County’s Water Atlas also was shared that nitrogen levels are somewhat elevated in upper Lemon Bay and Alligator Creek but that highest nitrogen concentrations appear to be from the Briarwood Ditch tributary which receives discharges from Venice Gardens lakes which are also have elevated nitrogen levels possibly due to legacy wastewater contributions from a previously adjacent wastewater treatment plant.

Finally, research performed and design standards established by the Florida Health Department to incorporate a denitrification component into a new or retrofit OSWTD as well as denitrification barriers using a natural carbon source as simple as wood chips, sawdust, or biochar being used in Florida for denitrification were presented as potential cost-effective approaches to reduce potential nitrate concentrations from OSWTD.

With the recent red tide outbreak as well as the harmful blue-green algae, there is and will continue to be much interest in reducing the nutrients that can fuel them. As one of the man-made sources, it is important that legislation...
and public investments relative to OSWTD be based upon the best science (i.e. water quality data) and be cost-effective. South Venice residents are encouraged to become members of the South Venice Civic Association to stay informed and updated on this important community issue.

COMING THIS SUMMER

Another Arts & Crafts Fair

Our December Arts & Crafts Fair was so popular with both the buyers and sellers, we’ve decided to do it again this summer—at the end of June or in early July. Watch here for the date once it’s finalized. And meanwhile, if you were an exhibitor, be sure to contact Linda in the office to reserve your space.

South Venice Civic Association

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These Noisy Kids

“Knock-it-off, are the only words I’ve heard from him this past week,” said Donna.

Donna and Fred’s grandkids are down for the summer. She called asking for help, since Fred was complaining that the kids are too loud. His irritation was causing tension and putting a damper on the summer vacation.

To make certain we got this one right, we asked him to bring in one of the grandkids.

When sounds are not commonly heard, the brain will pay extra attention to ensure you are aware of this new noise. It is a primitive mental response to keep us safe. This same effect is when you stay in a hotel and new sounds keep you from sleeping well. Your brain is not sure what to do with the new noise and wants you to decide if the sound is important.

When kids are out of the house, our brains adapt to the quieter environment. Then grandkids visit, bringing noise into what was a quiet home. These unfamiliar sounds get attention from our brain, and this constant attention is a bit exhausting, which can result in grumpy people.

Depending on the length of their visit, you may just need to accept the sound and focus on relaxing. For others however, the best fix is a program adjusted for the kids.

If you wear hearing aids and notice you are getting tired and irritable with kids in the house, you can have one program to reduce these sounds. Even though they may be here temporarily, a program set to allow you comfort and confidence around them can ease everyone’s experience.

Donna and Fred brought in their granddaughter to ensure we got a program that would soften the sounds. We set up the program then they went to lunch with the whole family and called after lunch to let us know it went well, Fred was relaxed and engaged.

If you struggled when around younger people, it is time to have a checkup for your hearing. Call my office, 941-244-9300, with any questions about program settings.
State of the Market  
KELLEY ANN AYERS, EXIT Realty

The Market does seem to be leveling off; above the 275K price point South Venice is competing directly with New Homes outside of South Venice. Even so, many buyers are attracted to South Venice because there are no mandatory fees or mandatory HOAs. Still, it’s more competition than there now. This period sales were 35, normal for this time of year.

The highest was $415K for a stilt home on Lemon Bay Drive near the ferry. Only eleven homes closed for under $200K and again nothing went for under $100K. Average price per square foot was $164 and the average sale price was $212,50. Right now there are 143 active listings, 25 more than the previous month. Fifty homes are currently under contract and that’s a HUGE number for the neighborhood. In spite of that, the large number of pending sales means it’s still a good time to sell! If you are thinking of selling Please call for a free market analysis!

Disclaimer: The sales information was gathered from the Multiple Listing Service and sales were by various participants of MLS. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.
FROM TERESA GOOD, Shamrock Park

Demonstration Gardener Tour
First Thursday every month at 9:00
FREE – 18 years and up
The Demonstration Garden offers a nice, shady place to gather and learn about Florida-friendly plants. Come on out and meet our Master Gardeners and get answers to your landscape and gardening questions! Meet in front of the Nature Center.

NEW! America’s lost forests
Seeing the forest and the trees
Friday, April 5, 9:00 to 10:00am
FREE - Ages 12 and up
Vast swaths of old growth virgin forest once covered America east of the Mississippi. Most have been felled for lumber or have succumbed to disease. We now understand that forests are complex ecosystems that are home to great biodiversity. What has been lost to deforestation and clear cutting? There are no simple answers but exploring this history helps us anticipate the future.
Join Florida Master Naturalist Kate Borduas in the classroom at the Nature Center as she explores the history of old growth forests and the efforts to compensate.

Seasons & Serendipity Nature Walk
Second Friday every month 8:00 to 9:30am
FREE - 12 years old and up
Come join Master Naturalist, Kate Borduas to see the changes in the park as summer turns into fall. We’ll learn a little bit of the history of the park, current habitat restoration projects and look for gopher tortoises, butterflies and Florida scrub jays. Don’t forget your sunscreen and binoculars! Meet outside the Nature Center for an adventure.

Wild Sarasota: Alien Invaders Near You
Friday, April 19, 9:00 to 11:00am
FREE - ages 12 and up
Non-native invasive plants and animals are among the leading threats to native biodiversity around the world and can negatively affect property values, agricultural productivity, public utilities, fisheries, tourism, outdoor recreation, and ecosystem function. They’re estimated to cost the U.S. $120 billion each year. Join a UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension educator and learn how to identify many of these plants and animals, hear about how and when they were introduced to our region, and find out what you can do to be a responsible property owner.
Start out in classroom, and weather permitting a short walk will be included. For more information and to register, visit scgov.net/parks or call 941-861-5000.

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