



# VENICE CITY SCENE

April 2016

A Publication for the Employees of the City of Venice, Florida

Venice City Scene is published by email. Please send news items to Public Information Officer Lorraine Anderson at landerson@venicegov.com.

## Employees of the Year honored



Marine Patrol Officer Paul Joyce, a nearly 25-year city employee, was named overall Employee of the Year during a recent City Council meeting. Joyce is pictured with his wife Tabitha and Assistant City Manager Len Bramble. Joyce weighs in on the procurement of vehicles, along with installation of electronics and helping arrange for maintenance. In addition, he is a tireless volunteer and an FDLE-certified driving instructor as well as the principal driving instructor for city employees.

At top right, Susan Carpenter, a 17-year employee, was named Public Works Employee of the Year. She is pictured with Alan Bullock, Director of Administrative Services, left, and Public Works Director John Veneziano. At bottom right, Nancy Hurley with IT, a 16-year employee, is congratulated by Bullock after receiving the award for City Hall/Airport/Archives Employee of the Year.



**Editor's Note:**  
Colleen Winkler, now retired, received the Utilities Department Employee of the Year award. Winkler worked for the city for 20 1/2 years.

## Awards & Laurels



The Saramana Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution awarded a Fire Safety Commendation Medal to Venice firefighter Tyler Eaton, left, at its March 18 luncheon. Fire Chief Shawn Carvey's nomination noted Eaton was the 2015 Firefighter of the Year, an award voted on by his peers. Eaton "continues to demonstrate the very best attributes of a motivated firefighter and leader and is usually the first to offer his talents and skills to newly created programs at the department," Carvey wrote. "An example of this can be found in our CPR program. Since Tyler took over the CPR program last year, our department has certified over 400 people in CPR."



VFW Post 8118 of Venice has chosen Officer Mathew Sauchinitz as its 2015 Police Officer of the Year. Sauchinitz received his award March 9 at the VFW. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, he was deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004, and was again deployed in 2005 to Al-Asad, Afghanistan, for a second tour of duty. He joined the VPD seven years ago, serving as a detective and now as a field training officer. Sauchinitz is also responsible for developing the implementation of a Citizens Police Academy for the department.



Jim Eppley, Airport Operations/Maintenance Supervisor, pins a 15-year Service Award on Jerald Manchester, Municipal Service Worker II at the Airport, as Mayor John Holic looks on in February.



City Council Member Richard Cautero congratulates members of the Venice Area Historical Society after reading a proclamation March 8 naming March 15, 2016, as the Society's 25th Anniversary Day.

## Awards & Laurels



Mayor John Holic reads a proclamation naming Feb. 21-27, 2016, "Engineers Week," presented to Norman Robertson, Project Manager, Florida Water Infrastructure; along with Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, Director of Public Works John Veneziano, Assistant City Engineer James Clinch, Stormwater/Engineering Research Analyst Gillian Carney, Stormwater Engineer John Monville, Director of Utilities Tim Hochuli, Mike Nixon of the Florida Water Environment Association, and Utilities Project Manager Tony Wierzbicki.



City Council Member Bob Daniels reads a proclamation March 8 decreeing March 20-26, 2016, "Surveyors and Mappers Week."

City Engineer Kathleen Weeden was the winner of the coveted "Engineering Department Pi Day Token" (around her neck) for the tastiest pie during a contest on March 14 featuring over a dozen pies both sweet and savory. Among the many delicious pies, her homemade chocolate satin pie received the most votes. Weeden credits James Clinch, John Monville and Gillian Carney for the first annual event. "It was all their idea and they did all the work to put it together," she said.



Mayor John Holic with Skip Thomas, secretary treasurer, and Bob Bethke, Eagle Point historian, of the Eagle Point Club Property Association, after proclaiming March 22, 2016, as the Historic Eagle Point Centennial.



# Movin' on Up



Venice Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, middle, is pictured with Battalion Chief Scott Blanchard, Administrative Battalion Chief Frank Giddens, Lieutenant Craig Runck and Lieutenant Jerry Collins, who were promoted in January.

Mayor John Holic swears in Venice Police Department Chief Tom Mattmuller in January, as his wife Denise looks on.



Vice Mayor Kit McKeon swears in Venice Police Captain Mike Rose in February.



Mayor John Holic swears in Venice Police Department Lieutenant Jessica Chappa on March 8.



Officer Mat Sauchnitz, left, and Officer Dan Schuler, bottom left, were both promoted to master police officer on March 21. Sauchnitz has served with the VPD since 2008 as a patrol officer, detective and field training officer. He is assigned to the Patrol Division and will continue as a field training officer, instructor and recruiter for the department. Schuler has also been with the VPD since 2008, serving as a patrol officer, honor guard member, field training officer and traffic homicide investigator. He is assigned to the department's Training Section.



## BUS Token recipients

Bravo for Ultimate Service is an employee incentive program based on the PRIDE (Productive, Responsible, Innovative, Dedicated, Ethical) initiative adopted by City Council. It rewards employees for going above and beyond. Once an employee collects five tokens, he or she can turn them in to Administrative Services for \$50. BUS tokens were recently awarded to:



Sharon Middleton, VPD Records  
 Aaron Isley, Utilities  
 John Monville, Engineering  
 Dave Guilmette, Utilities  
 Susan Carpenter, Public Works  
 Jimmy Bennett, Utilities  
 Rodrigo Morales, VPD  
 Al King/Joan Moudy/Audrey Symowicz, Development Services/  
 Building  
 Joe Gaudio/Karen Butterworth, Development Services/Building  
 Al King, Development Services/Building  
 Danny Watson, Development Services/Building  
 Dan Tucci/Kevin Barrett/Mark Botelho, Public Works Maintenance

## Anniversaries

The following employees celebrate one of the 5-year milestones of employment with the city:

### 25 YEARS

Michael Carello, Recycling, Jan. 28  
 Kevin Barrett, Public Works/General Maintenance, Feb. 11

### 15 YEARS

Timothy Tramel, Fire, Feb. 5  
 Scott Blanchard, Fire, Feb. 26

### 10 YEARS

Carolyn Hart, Finance, Jan. 23  
 James Healy, Utilities/Dist/Collection, March 6

### 5 YEARS

Timothy Hochuli, Utilities/Administration, Jan. 31

## Welcome to the Team

The following employees recently started working for the city:

Ryan Burns, Public Works/Engineering, Jan. 4  
 Jeffrey Hackett, Public Works/Engineering, Jan. 4  
 Marty Dietz, Utilities/Dist/Collection, Jan. 11  
 Italia Adams, Administrative Services, Jan. 25  
 Marion Pace, Administrative Services, Jan. 25

Sean Thornton, Utilities/Dist/Collection, Jan. 29  
 Pablo Jauregui, VPD, Feb. 15  
 George Burgos, Public Works/Parks, Feb. 17  
 Phillip Young, Public Works/Parks, Feb. 17  
 Taylor Saunier, Public Works/Parks, Feb. 22  
 Lorraine Anderson, City Manager's Office, Feb. 29  
 James Koenig, Planning, Feb. 29

Jason Malina, Recycling, March 1  
 Ricky Simpson, Public Works/Gen Maint, March 2  
 Brittany Spinosi, VPD, March 7  
 Zane Keister, VPD, March 7  
 Frank Cece, Utilities, March 28  
 Dustin Little, Utilities, March 28  
 Tricia Saulnier-Littlejohn, Utilities, March 28

**MARCH**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>
3	Timothy Merritt	Utilities/Sewer
4	Tawnie Murdock	VPD
4	Renee Ball	Utilities/Administration
5	Linda Senne	Finance
6	Dwayne Evans	Public Works/Garbage Collection
8	Sharon Middleton	VPD
11	Ronald Carter	Utilities/Water
13	H. Brian Bettehausen	Utilities/Sewer
14	Cynthia Fitzpatrick	Utilities/Administration
15	Phillip Young	Public Works/Parks Maintenance & Development
16	Kit McKeon	Mayor & Council
17	Vadim Bugayev	Utilities/Dist/Collection
17	Regla Schuler	VPD
18	William Henderson	VPD
21	Paul Joyce II	VPD
23	Joan Moudy	Building
24	Edward Lavallee	City Manager
27	Michael Deneweth	Information Technology
28	Brendalee Westlake	Finance



**APRIL**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>
2	Andrew Spafford	Public Works/Parks Maintenance & Development
3	Timothy Tramel	Fire
4	Jerald Manchester	Public Works/Airport
4	Michael Sellers	Utilities/Dist/Collection
5	Bill Long	VPD
8	David Hemmer	Public Works/Garbage Collection
11	Sean Thornton	Utilities/Dist/Collection
12	Rocky Reid	Utilities/Dist/Collection
12	Robert Bondurant	Public Works/Gen Maintenance
14	Carolyn Hart	Finance
16	Valerie Marquez	Utilities Administration
16	James Hagler Jr.	Historical
16	Amy Turner	VPD
17	Gregory Schneider	Building
19	Kurt Krug	Utilities/Sewer
19	Darrell Edwards	Utilities/Dist/Collection
19	Paul Knowles	Utilities/Dist/Collection
21	Kathy King	Utilities/Water
23	Gerard Stause	Fire



<b>DAY</b>	<b>EMPLOYEE</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT</b>
24	Mathew Sauchinitz	VPD
24	Kenite Webb	VPD
25	Justin Cochara	Fire
28	Jonathan Mayes	Finance
28	Travis Hardwick	Utilities/Sewer
28	Italia Adams	General Government/Finance

# TAKE A BOW

## Police Department

"I cannot stress more how impressed I was by the professional and courteous behavior of the police officers who came to my call (about my problem with the builder of the new houses on our private drive). Especially Patrol Officer **Regla Schuler**, who went beyond her call of duty to help to resolve the issue ... I am glad to have these professional and well-trained women and men in our Venice Police Department," resident Tatiana Lizon wrote.

"I worked with your department on a case, especially with **Cheryl Prevatte**. I can't even begin to explain to you how impressed I was, from the professional and courtesy that your officers represented. Our Tampa OSHA office covers 22 counties and I have not worked with a better quality team. Other police departments should model themselves after Venice!" wrote Olja Correa, Compliance Safety and Health Officer, Tampa Area Office, U.S. Dept. of Labor, OSHA.

In regards to an incident where a renter was throwing bottle rockets into the parking area at Par Four Condos, "Officer **Kenite Webb** was knowledgeable, courteous, listened attentively, gave three of us ample time to make our points and offered a possible resolution. ... In the event of any further problems, I am grateful to know that your highly responsive department and thoroughly prepared officers will be there," resident Barbara Dunderdale wrote.

A doctor at Coastal Behavior passed on a compliment about Officer **Rodrigo Morales**, saying "it is not often that a person an officer Baker Acts sings the praises of the officer. ... (The doctor) stated he felt you handled the situation appropriately and professionally and that his patient was very appreciative. ... Thank you for providing exemplary service."

"While traveling on Venice Ave. I ran out of gas and was stranded without a cell phone. My old 1955 MG doesn't have a fuel gauge," a resident wrote. "I soon met Sgt. **Keith Quick**, who parked with his lights on to shield me and assisted me in contacting a neighbor to bring gas. Sgt. Quick was polite and concerned and demonstrated the actions of a professional police department. My thanks to him and to the Venice Police for again reinforcing why we chose to live in this community.

"The Venice CareerSource Suncoast office would like to thank Lt. **Mike Rose** for the many useful safety tips. We plan to follow up on ways they can be best utilized. We appreciate your time, concern and service to this community," CareerSource center staff wrote.

Leslie Faett wanted to convey in person how pleased she was with Officer **Rodrigo Morales**. She felt his service was "unbelievable." He responded to a fraud call, and Faett said "he didn't just take notes and leave," but stayed and advocated for her in attempts to get her money back. She told me she was "so distraught" upon contact with him and described him as "so calming" and "wonderful" for taking an "inordinate amount of time and patience" to help her.

## Fire Department

"I would like to thank you and your company for all the services you provide the community throughout the year. One of the services that makes a big impact is the education of children on fire safety. **Jeremy Dowd** takes time to come to our childcare home and talk to our children about fire safety and the work

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## TAKE A BOW

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a firefighter does ... The children talk about his visit for many weeks after. Thank you for your services,” Barbara Tannehill of The Country Academy wrote.

“Last year I took a couple of my grandchildren to the fire station to see the firetrucks. A couple of the firemen came out and spent close to two hours explaining how everything worked ... Then this year I had the pleasure of meeting and working with **Cynthia Dehler**. Cynthia is very knowledgeable when it comes to the questions that we had about our alarm system and extinguishers. She is a very competent and congenial rep of ... the Fire Department,” resident Richard Hartz wrote.

### Utilities Department

“Thank you for having in place an astonishing city water department, and in particular, its leadership and in the field crew members,” residents Marion and Richard White wrote. “We've resided all over America (and other countries) the past almost 55 years working for the federal government. We chose the City of Venice to retire in four years ago. The offerings, and or so-called “services” offered by other localities to its citizenry could not begin to hold a candle to your people. During our four years lately we noticed our water pressure declining. It finally reached the point where I thought I would at least ask, and or bring the matter to the water department’s attention. My phone call was received via a most professional and knowledgeable operator who showed care and real concern. She assured me there would be representatives from the water department to our location in a matter of days. Two days later a crew of three arrived. ... They came back to the door and wanted us to know they did not solve our problem, however, would be returning. During the next four-to five-day period, on and off, three to four trucks at a time worked feverishly to solve the problem. Not once was there ever one crew member leaning on a shovel, or playing department heads standing about and drinking coffee like in “all” other municipalities. We were given periodic briefings as the investigation continued by some of the most polite, hard-working, and honest-to-goodness, professional crew anyone could ever possibly meet. ... Keep up the good work .”

### Public Works Department

A resident on Groveland St. said that workers trimming palm trees on her street did a really great job. She said the palms were perfectly trimmed and they look great. They have happy people due to their conscientious work.

In response to an email about pothole work, “Venice Public Works is by far one of the greatest departments in the city. Again, thank you for your response to these anomalies,” resident Richard Hullfish wrote.

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Venice, Florida Municipal Government**

### IN TRAINING



At left and above, Venice firefighters attended the annual Orlando Firefighter Conference in February. This conference has instructors from all around the country attend, and they demonstrate new techniques and provide firefighters with hands-on training. This allowed city firefighters to come back to the department and improve their firefighting skills and techniques.

At right and above right, the Fire Department conducted hurricane impact glass training March 21-23 at Kimal Lumber in Nokomis. The training focused on forcible entry and the obstacles faced when dealing with this type of glass. Firefighters demonstrated the different tools that are utilized when attempting to make access through these windows.



## AROUND TOWN



Officer Louis White, Officer Erin Mungavin and Sergeant Keith Quick of the VPD Special Investigations and Targeted Enforcement Unit (SITE) make friends with the Friends of the Legacy Trail during the Tour de Parks cycling event on March 20.



Venice Airport staff with City Manager Ed Lavallee, far right, at the Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) open house and block crushing ceremony March 9 at the airport: Administrative Coordinator Marta Ugás-Carpenter, Administrative Coordinator Anna Terpstra, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor James Eppley, former Airport Director Chris Rozansky, Maintenance Technician II Bill Ford and Acting Airport Director Heather LeDuc.



At left, city employees, council members and other guests enjoy a barbecue lunch March 9 at the EMAS open house and block crushing ceremony at Venice Airport.



Students from Venice High School, above and below, participate in Student Government Day with City Council members and staff on Feb. 17.



**City of Venice  
Annual Hurricane  
Preparation Seminar  
May 25, 2016**

- 9:00 a.m. Refreshments served in the foyer
- 9:15 a.m. Welcome  
City Manager Ed Lavallee
- 9:20 a.m. City of Venice Hurricane Response Preparation  
Venice Police Chief Tom Mattmuller  
Venice Fire Chief Shawn Carvey
- 10:00 a.m. City of Venice Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Management  
City Engineer Kathleen Weeden
- 10:20 a.m. BREAK
- 10:30 a.m. American Red Cross Shelter Information  
Sarasota County Red Cross
- 10:45 a.m. Sarasota County Emergency Planning  
Emergency Operations Chief Ed McCrane  
Sarasota County Government
- 11:15 a.m. What You Can Do to Prepare for a Hurricane  
Meteorologist Bob Harrigan  
ABC Channel 7

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS WILL FOLLOW EACH SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION.

For more information, visit these websites:

City of Venice: [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)

Sarasota County [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net)

Florida Department of Community Affairs: [www.dca.state.fl.us](http://www.dca.state.fl.us)

National Flood Insurance Program: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Florida Division of Emergency Management: [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org)

The Weather Channel: [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

**Thanks to Bella Vita for generously providing refreshments.**