



VENICE CITY SCENE

September 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.

Finance employees awarded BUS Passes



Kathy Millspaugh, the Finance Department's administrative assistant/program administrator, and Robin Williams, junior accountant, with their BUS Pass certificates.

Two Finance employees received BUS Passes in August — Kathy Millspaugh and Robin Williams. Both were nominated for the laurel by Controller Linda Senne for providing excellent service to others, or establishing a new level of excellence in duties through self-initiative and exemplary behavior.

Each BUS (Bravo for Ultimate Service) Pass comes with a \$100 monetary award.

With the absence of a finance director at the time, Millspaugh, administrative assistant/program administrator, became more involved in the process and production of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2015. Finance was able to submit both reports to the GFOA by the deadline date for each report, and obtain the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the CAFR and the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the PAFR.

Millspaugh took the initiative of finding all the data and photos to include within the PAFR. She designed all charts and graphs and the layout of the entire report. In addition to the production of these two reports, she was instrumental in getting the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017 to City Council by the deadline date. Millspaugh also took the initiative to redesign the Capital Improvement Project worksheet and design a goals/objectives/performance measures format for improvements and consistency that are included within the budget document.

All these tasks required a significant amount of time and effort to undertake with limited staffing for the past year, according to Senne, and all the while Millspaugh continued to perform her regular tasks. Millspaugh extended herself way above and beyond the call of duty with exemplary behavior putting in many extra hours (some evenings until 9 p.m.) to accomplish these tasks and goals, Senne said.

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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 BUS Tokens, he or she can turn them in to Administrative Services for \$50.

BUS Tokens were recently awarded to:

Debbie Briggs, Finance

Carolyn Hart, Cashier's Office

Jessica Samson, Cashier's Office

Nancy Carello, Cashier's Office

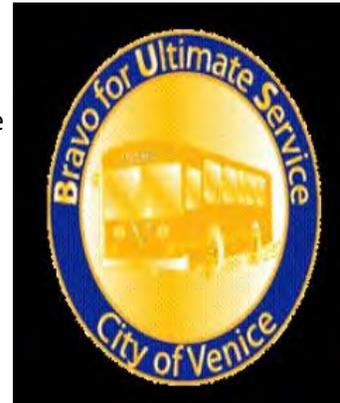
Michelle Girvan, City Clerk's Office

Ricky Simpson, Public Works

Dan Tucci, Public Works

Kevin Barrett, Public Works

Mark Botelho, Public Works



BUS Passes, from page 1

Williams, previous utility billing coordinator, became Finance's junior accountant on Feb. 8. She only had two weeks to learn the payroll functions prior to her predecessor's retirement. This task required a significant amount of effort to undertake including, learning the HTE payroll application, reviewing what has been done, what needs to be done and how best to accomplish the payroll processing as efficiently as possible, all while continuing to perform the utility billing coordinator's functions, Senne said.

Williams performed both job duties for three months before a new employee was hired as the utility billing coordinator. She also trained the new utility billing coordinator after she was hired. In addition, the payroll specialist posi-

tion was upgraded with more complicated accounting duties/functions added to it. All these tasks required a significant amount of time and effort to undertake.

Williams maintained a positive attitude, continued to provide excellent customer service to citizens and employees, and has displayed exemplary behavior in performing both positions' tasks in a timely manner, Senne said. Williams also learned the accounts payable process as a backup to that position and is undertaking this task while the employee is on vacation.

Williams is very cooperative and a real team player, Senne added, stepping up to the plate whenever needed to achieve Finance's goals.

City firefighters ‘on top’ of training

Venice Fire Rescue firefighters participated in high-rise training on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at the Sansovino condos on The Esplanade.

The goal of the training at the nine-story condo complex was ladder placement and pre-plan review. Many of the condos along the beach have parking overhangs that limit the fire department’s apparatus access. The purpose of the training was to highlight some potential limitations, as well as assess personnel’s flexibility in overcoming them, according to Lt. Stephen Worobel. Additionally, crews were asked to look at simplifying pre-plans for structures.

Some background on pre-plans, according to Worobel — when firefighters respond to emergency calls involving buildings three stories or higher, crews rely on pre-plans to find items such as electrical, gas and water shut-offs. Pre-plans also provide personnel with a snapshot of the building’s layout, egress and potential hazards. The vital information contained in the pre-plans can be critical for the successful conclusion to any emergency incident, but too much info can also be overwhelming, Worobel said.

Along with pre-plans, the Venice Fire Department is the only one in this area that performs a risk assessment of our critical buildings. Critical buildings are defined as having a high potential for loss of life or effect on our local economy. The risk assessment is separate from the pre-plan in that it looks at Fire Rescue’s operational capacity to control the worst-case scenario at a specific address. During this risk assessment review, crews consider the strengths and weaknesses of each site. Pre-assigned qualifiers, based on a point system, assesses the building’s risk to firefighters. The lack of sprinklers, egress, expo-



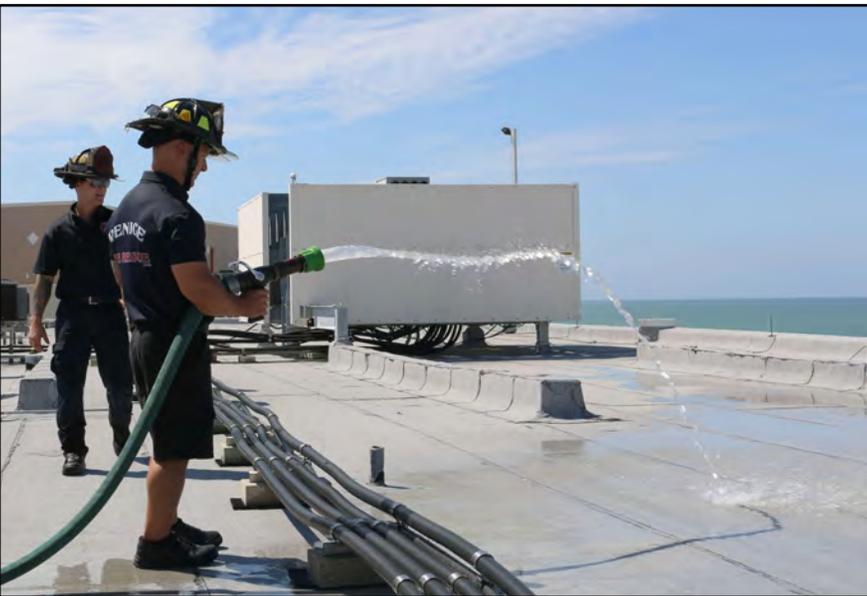
Above, firemedic Colton Schuchert flow tests a standpipe on the roof of the Sansovino condos, on the 800 block of The Esplanade N.



Continued on page 4



Above, Firemedic Sean Conner raises Ladder Truck 51's platform, which can extend 100 feet. At top left, firefighters Hunter Snyder, Joe Parsons, Mark Devine, Lt. Derek Lowery, and Colton Schuchert assess the strengths and weaknesses of the site with Fire Chief Shawn Carvey and Lt. Steve Worobel.



Colton Schuchert looks on as Joe Parsons tests water pressure on the Sansovino roof.

Training, continued from page 3

asures and water flow all play a role in increasing the risk rating. Once the weaknesses are highlighted, an effective operational plan can be created to overcome them.

The Aug. 10 training offered members the opportunity to reflect and opine what they would like to see in future pre-plan creations, Worobel said. Just taking the time to walk these buildings provides members with a critical reflection period to consider their tactics, limitations and capacity to control. Age, material, location, building systems and access all play a role in how effective a positive outcome might be.

See more photos, page 5

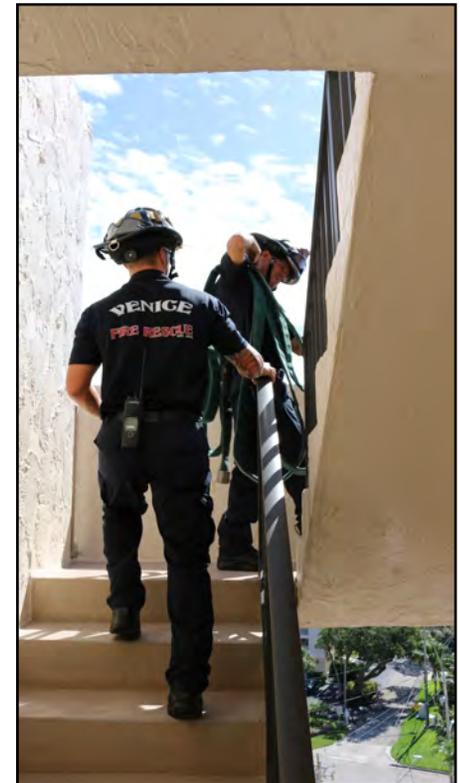
IN TRAINING



Above, Sean Conner, far left, talks about access to the condo from the ladder truck's aerial platform. Below, firefighters were granted access inside several units to see their layout, including one belonging to a retired FDNY battalion chief.



At right, Colton Schuchert and Lt. Derek Lowery on the roof. Below, Joe Parsons rolls up a 1 3/4-inch hose. Below right, Mark Devine, followed by Schuchert, hoists a condo pack up the stairs.



Lewis named new Human Resources manager

The City of Venice has hired a new Human Resources manager, Oliver Lewis of Tampa, who will start his new role with the city on Sept. 1.

Lewis has more than 25 years of human resources management, collections and consulting services.



LEWIS

"I'm truly excited about Venice and look forward to the opportunity to becoming a part of its fabric," Lewis said.

"My main goal is to deliver great customer service to both our internal and external customers."

Currently the personnel assistant with Human Resources for the City of Tampa, a post he's held since 1986, Lewis was involved with recruiting, testing, interviewing, hiring, writing and evaluating job descriptions, full-time employee position control, and administering health-care open enrollment and other employee benefits. In addition, he managed the Recreation Department's summer program, hiring an average of 400 students over the summer, for 17 years, and co-developed Tampa's Wellness Program, with 65 percent participation in the first year.

Prior to working with the City of Tampa, he was the branch manager of Collections and New Accounts with Mid-State Homes Inc. from 1982 to '83. He managed two branches, and was responsible for monitoring the delinquent accounts status and developing a collection strategy. He inspected property

used to build new homes, arranged new account mortgage payments and represented the company in district court regarding regional property matters.

He has eight years of collection experience collecting medical, student loans, revolving credit and home loan accounts. Lewis was also a small business owner of MOS' Gourmet Bakery/Deli in Tampa from 1996 to 2007.

He received his BA degree in Business Administration, Management Information Systems and Economics from the University of South Florida and St. Leo University, and Master of Health Administration/Informatics from the University of Phoenix.

"The city advertised for an HR manager in July and received a great deal of interest," said Administrative Services Director Alan Bullock. "Of the eight candidates interviewed, Oliver Lewis presented himself, among tough competition, as the best fit for the city's needs at this time. He brings with him a wealth of relevant experience, notably in a municipal environment, that will allow him to assimilate to the job with ease. He is mild-mannered, well-presented, even-keeled and will represent the department and the city very well."

Lewis and his wife have been married for 38 years and have two children, a daughter in nursing and a son who is a real estate investor.

Former HR manager Marion Pace left the city in June to spend time with family.

City Hall closed for Labor Day

Venice City Hall will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5 for the Labor Day holiday. Garbage, yard waste and recycling will not be collected in the city. All materials will be picked up on customers' next regular collection day, Thursday, Sept. 8.

All other collections schedules, (e.g. Tuesday/Friday and Wednesday/Saturday) will remain the same. Residents are reminded to have their items to the curb by 7 a.m.

MEET YOUR CO-WORKER

Ryan Burns: Bringing it home

Engineering/Stormwater Technician Ryan Burns has been on the job in Venice for eight months, but it's a city he knows well.

Burns, 33, was born in Sarasota County and grew up in Venice. A 2001 graduate of Venice High School, he's known fellow co-workers James Clinch, assistant city engineer, since middle school, and John Monville, stormwater engineer, since high school. Clinch was in Burns' class at VHS; Monville, a year behind.

Being able to work with his longtime friends was a big draw for Burns taking the city job.

"Working with James and John is great. There are no dull moments," he said.

Being here "feels like home," Burns said. "It's a small town, a little slower, and I like it that way. This is a great place to work."

Burns' duties include a lot of field work.

"Basically, we have 15-20 projects going on (at the same time), and my job is to drive around and make sure everything is in order, that it matches the plans, making sure the best management practices for the environment are being adhered to for stormwater construction on the island."

Burns also responds to concerns from the community.

"It's simple, but the job is not simple – the answer is simple," he said. "The job can be chaotic."

Recently, a concerned resident Tweeted a photo to City Hall of a road storm grate that had come unseated from its frame, leaving a large, hazardous gap. In less than half an hour, Burns had responded to the location and resealed the grate.

"This is a line of work where you really can connect with people every day," Burns said. "There's a lot of face-to-face interaction, a lot of opportunities to make people happy."

Burns received his degree in public administration online at Southern



Engineering/
Stormwater
Technician Ryan
Burns in front of
a city vehicle
outside City Hall,
top, and ham-
ming it up with
Engineering co-
workers James
Clinch, John
Monville, Jeff
Hackett and Gilli-
an Carney on
City Hall Selfie
Day Aug. 15.



Continued on page 8

Welcome to the Team

The following employees were recently hired by the city:

Thomas Ferraro, Public Works/Solid Waste, Aug. 8
Diane McGuerty, Utilities/Administration, Aug. 8
James Pollard, Public Works/Parks Maintenance, Aug. 8
Hunter Snyder, Fire Rescue, Aug. 10
Doris Likens, Building, Aug. 23
Tom West, Assistant Utilities Director, Aug. 29
Oliver Lewis, HR Manager, set to start Sept. 1
Sherry Bridger, Building, set to start Sept. 26

Anniversaries

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

10 YEARS

Vadim Bugayev, Utilities Dist/Collection, Sept. 18
David Guilmette, Utilities Dist/Collection, Sept. 18

20 YEARS

Joseph Silva, Fire Rescue, Sept. 30

Co-worker, continued from page 7

New Hampshire University and also attended State College of Florida locally. He's currently pursuing a master's in business administration.

Before taking the job with the city, he worked for Sarasota County for 11 years as a plans reviewer specialist.

Burns, who has a 2 ½-year-old daughter, Avery, currently lives in Englewood,

but hopes to get a place on the island in November. When he's not working, he enjoys fishing – including off a paddleboard – hitting the gym and watching football, as well as “going out and meeting good people.”

“I like to stay in town,” he added.

“I have every intention on staying (with the city),” Burns emphasized, pointing out that he immediately began working in the area after getting his degree. “I haven't met one sour, dull soul since I've been here.”

SHOP WITH A COP



"Shop with a Cop" was held Friday, Aug. 5 at the South Venice Walmart. This year, there were 16 children, 12 volunteers and 12 Venice Police Department members participating, including Chief Tom Mattmuller, at left. All were served breakfast from Yellow Subs, lunch at Firehouse Subs and ice cream from the Venice Avenue Creamery. Kids were given \$300 to buy their school and clothing needs for the upcoming school year. All participants left with smiles and new friends.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DAY	EMPLOYEE	DEPARTMENT
2	Mike Rose	Police
2	Gillian Carney	Engineering
3	Al King	Building
3	Robert Bosnyak	Utilities/Wastewater
4	Jimmy Campbell	Utilities/Wastewater
9	Joseph Szejc	Utilities/Wastewater
9	Daniel Van Acker	Public Works
9	Tyler Eaton	Fire
9	Ricky Simpson	Public Works
10	Judy Gamel	City Manager's Office
10	Nancy Hurley	IT
11	Theresa Krabill	Police
13	Brandon Dilmore	Fire
14	Wayne Ball	Utilities/Wastewater
21	Dennis Rodriguez	Utilities/Dist/Collection
21	Jeffrey Cripe	Fire
21	Chad Armstrong	Utilities/Dist/Collection



DAY	EMPLOYEE	DEPARTMENT
22	Kevin Barrett	Public Works
23	Joseph Gaudio	Building
24	Mercedes Barcia	City Clerk's Office
27	Michael Pell	Public Works
30	Robert Palmieri	Police
30	Derek Lowery	Fire
30	Deeann Sayban	Police

TAKE A BOW

Engineering

Kirsten Roth with the National Flood Insurance Program in Washington, D.C., wrote to Stormwater Engineer Analyst **Gillian Carney**: “On behalf of the FEMA customer experience transformation team, we’d like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your participation in our focus group last week. The honest feedback we received was very helpful to us, and we have incorporated as much of it as was possible into our approach. Our next steps will be to test the letter and postcard in communities undergoing map changes. Pending successful tests, and incorporating additional feedback from those users, we will then aim to develop notifications to serve all U.S. residents who are undergoing a map change. Thank you again for your time and attention! Your feedback is very valuable.”

Police

Jeff Geiser of Preferred Mowers of Venice wrote to Chief Tom Mattmuller: “We would like to thank the Venice Police Department for their diligence and hard work. What could have been a major blow to our company was minimized as a direct result of the efforts of your entire department. Special thanks to Officers **David Creasy** and **Kristen Kimson** (and K-9 **Mako**), who recognized the suspicious activities of the suspects, and followed up even before being aware of the burglary to our premises. The suspects were apprehended and all of our property was recovered. Also, a special thanks to the crime scene technicians who processed our stolen goods into evidence and got them back to us in a timely manner. As a local business owner we appreciate the support that your department provides to the community.”

The following thank you was sent to Sgt. **Keith Quick**, Marine Patrol Officer **Paul Joyce**, Officer **Paul Freeman** with the Motorcycle Unit, Patrol Officer **Rodrigo Morales**, School Resource Officer **Sean Hammett** and Criminal Specialist **Cheryl Prevatte**: “The Venice Farmer’s Market and our partners the Summit at Venice and Pet Passings by Kays-Ponger & Uselton want to say ‘thank you’ and let you know the things you do for the community do not go unnoticed. You’re a necessary piece to this event and we appreciate your dedication and service to our community, and we know others do too. The Venice Farmer’s Market Scavenger Hunt event (Aug. 13) celebrated its fifth year with a better focus on education and appreciation for what you offer to our community. Knowing how much time and energy this assignment demanded, we deeply appreciate all of your efforts to make it a great success. As always, it’s great to know that we can count on you to go the extra mile.”

On the first day of school, Aug. 22, Sandy Davitt wrote on Facebook: “Thumbs up to the Venice Police Dept. for putting our kids’ safety first this morning and directing the mad rush of traffic on Venice Bypass into Venice High! Awesome job! Very thankful for your service!”

Josh Brooks posted: “The VPD was at Venice Elementary welcoming parents and students. Even the police chief was there! Awesome!!”

IN TRAINING

A "Sensitivity for Seniors" workshop was held for staff Aug. 4 in Community Hall, facilitated by Joan Lowery and Stacy Prouty. Participants donned special goggles to see the effects of cataracts and gloves to mimic having arthritis, among other exercises. The next session will be held Sept. 14.

A highlight of the session was role-playing, with assistance from Stormwater Engineer John Monville, who demonstrated his excellent acting skills as a disgruntled resident with Zane Keister, at right, and Brittany Spinosi, both of the Police Department.



New monthly bicycle ride launched

City of Venice Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Darlene Culpepper is starting a monthly bicycle ride in the city, open to the public.

It will be a fun, casual, 6-mile ride around the Island of Venice, traveling along



the ever-so-popular Venice Island Loop that is highlighted on our bicycle maps.

The free ride will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. There will be a brief safety discussion prior to the ride, as the group will be riding along shared bicycle lanes. Participants will need to bring their own bike and will be required to wear a helmet and sign a waiver.

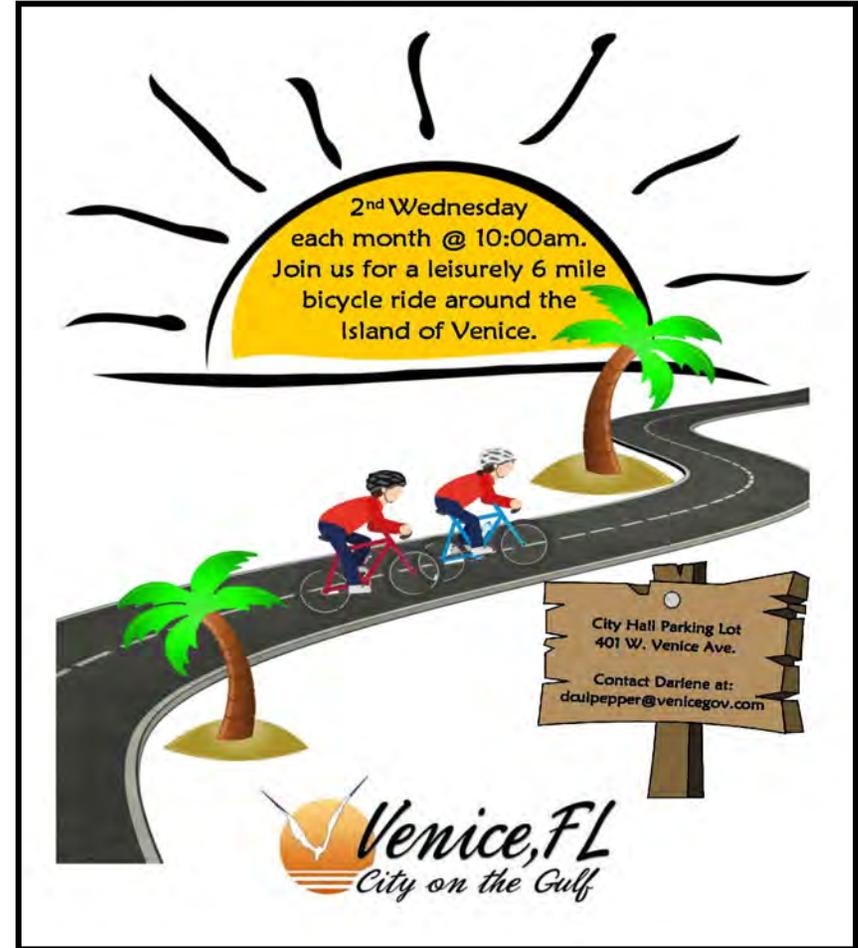
CULPEPPER

The first ride will be on Sept. 14. Bicyclists should meet in the City Hall parking lot at 401 W. Venice Ave.

“Riding a bicycle on the road can be a little intimidating,” Culpepper said.

“Riding in a group builds confidence and provides motivation and accountability, pushing individuals to their limits so they can improve their skills. Cycling is one of the best ways for people to achieve good health and fitness. So let’s encourage one another to get on that bike and ride!”

For more information, email Culpepper at dculpepper@venicegov.com.



GOOD NEWS: Through a grant recently approved by the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust, the city will be reimbursed for \$6,000 of money spent on safety-related products this fiscal year. This is the maximum available annually under the program, according to Administrative Services Director Alan Bullock.

CITY HALL SELFIE DAY

To promote government officials and staff having fun on the job and while serving the community, the Florida League of Cities promoted National City Hall Selfie Day on Aug. 15. Even Council Member Bob Daniels, bottom row middle, participated in the picture-taking!



AROUND TOWN

City police officers, fire-fighters and Public Works staff participated in the 5th Annual Venice Farmer's Market Scavenger Hunt for children on Aug. 13 in Centennial Park. According to organizers, the little hunters and their parents had fun, and all of the participants loved interacting with the hunters.



AROUND TOWN



Venice police officers assisted at the South Jetty Sun-coast Reef Rovers cleanup dive on Aug. 6. From left, Marine Officer Paul Joyce, Officer Brett Woodworth, Officer David Creasy, Police Service Aide Steven Short and Sgt. Ron Perisho.



Assistant City Manager Len Bramble, right, helps City Manager Ed Lavallee see the light.



Director of Administrative Services Alan Bullock spends a day a month in the field working alongside employees from various departments. On Aug. 26, he spent time on the water with Marine Patrol Officer Paul Joyce.

A Pokémon Crawl was held downtown on Aug. 17, sponsored by Café Venice. The event drew Pokémon Go enthusiasts like city Planning/GIS Technician Will Smith, at right, in this picture taken by city Administrative Support Technician Italia Adams.



City of Venice Employees
PLEASE JOIN US!!!

**City of Venice 6th Annual
Health & Wellness Fair**

Venice Community Center
326 South Nokomis Av.
August 31st, 12:00 - 5:00 pm
Sept. 1st, 7:00—11:30 am

**SET AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR
FREE PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL
HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT
(HRA)**

FEATURING:
* Health Risk Assessment * Health Coaching
* Healthcare Providers * Local Wellness Vendors
* Healthy Lifestyle Information * Raffle Prizes
* Fitness Demonstrations

**CITY OF VENICE EMPLOYEES WILL EARN \$\$\$\$\$\$ FOR HRA
PARTICIPATION**
Family and Friends Welcome to Enjoy the Fair!
Bring your City ID to enter a Door Prize raffle

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOUR HRA!
Airport: Marta @ 882-7251—**City Hall:** Nancy @ 882-7426
Fire Dept.: Tammy @882-7515—**Police:** DeeAnn @ 480-3500
Public Works: Susan @ 882-7361—**Utilities:** Stacy @ 882-7310 or Dorothy @ 882-7313

The Explore Venice For Wellness - Health Fair for city employees is this week

Wednesday, Aug. 31, noon to 5 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 1, 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

At the Venice Community Center
326 Nokomis Ave.

Flu Shots

Fitness Demos - Happy Hooper! Yoga!
Paddle Boarding! Healthy Meal
Prep Demos!

Meet your Benefit Carriers- FL Blue, FL
Combined Life (Dental), Comp Benefits
(Vision) MASS MUTUAL (457 PLAN)

Learn about Bike Safety and Venice area
wellness

Learn about our Parks and Trails

Get a Chair Massage and a Smoothie!

Music for the soul

We hope to see you there
The City of Venice Wellness Team