

City of Venice, Florida  
Popular Annual Financial Report  
For the year ended September 30, 2013

*Citizens' Guide to City Finances*



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# FINANCE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA

## DEAR CITIZENS OF VENICE:

Understanding the importance of being accountable for the receipt and expenditure of public funds the Finance Department is very pleased to present the City of Venice's 2013 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2013.

This report, prepared for the non-financial reader, contains

valuable, summarized information to let you know how the City is doing financially and to showcase the City's various programs and projects. Through

easier, more user friendly financial reporting the PAFR exemplifies Venice's commitment to maintaining communications with you, our citizens, and preserving public confidence in the governing body. The financial information presented in the PAFR is derived from the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial

Report (CAFR) but is presented here in summarized form. The CAFR outlines the City's financial position and operating activities for fiscal year 2013 in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The CAFR is audited annually by Moore, Stephens, Loveless, PA an independent Certified Public Accounting Firm. The auditors have issued an

unmodified (clean) opinion.

Much of the information presented in the PAFR comes from an audited source however this information is presented in an unabridged, unaudited, non-

GAAP format. The major differences between GAAP and non-GAAP reporting deal with the presentation of segregated funds as well as full disclosure of all material financial and non-financial events in notes to the financial statements. Citizens who wish to review the GAAP basis audited financial

statements can refer to the CAFR, which is available from the Finance Department or on the City of Venice's web site:

[http://www.venicegov.com/Municipal\\_links/Finance/finance.asp](http://www.venicegov.com/Municipal_links/Finance/finance.asp)

Team Finance, the entire City Staff, and elected officials proudly serve the City of Venice. The PAFR is a notable achievement. The purpose of the PAFR is to increase awareness, accountability, and transparency of the City's financial information provided to you, our valued citizens. We hope this information helps to assure you that every effort is being made to maximize the City's resources to the benefit of each and every citizen, and that the public dollars are being used for the overall public good and how the City is preparing for the financial challenges of the future using a dynamic and collaborative Strategic Plan. Sincerely,



Jeff Snyder, CPA  
Finance Director



# CITY ON THE GULF INCORPORATED 1927

## CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA

World renowned city planner John Nolen planned Venice in 1926 for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, who were building the gulf-side city to replenish its dwindling retirement funds. The 1926 plan, which includes parks, roads and zoning, resulted in the most fully realized of the three towns

designed by Nolen. The distinguished urban plan is famous for establishing a distinctive sense of place for the community. That sense of place he gave Venice is one of the

reasons we all love living here. In his Venice plan, Nolen sought to achieve balance between two transcendental ideals – the promotion of civic virtue through harmonizing effect of effective urban planning and the humanizing influence of the beauty of nature. For Nolen,

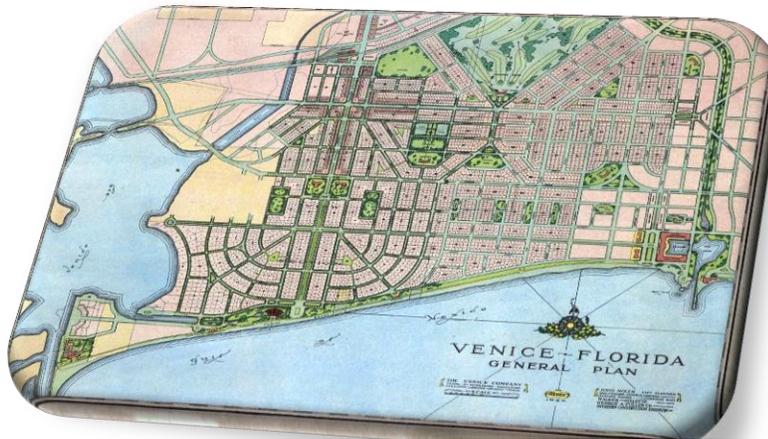
“nature led the way” and the plan, Nolen wrote, “followed her way.” It is significant that the plan was never abandoned, even in the bust years of the city's economic history.

The City, incorporated during 1927, is located in Sarasota County, the south western part of the state.

maintenance of streets and other infrastructure, solid waste services, a general aviation airport, recreational activities, and cultural events. The City also provides utilities for water, waste water, and storm water runoff services.

The City has operated under the Council-Manager form of government since

incorporation in 1927. Policy making and legislative authority are vested in a City Council consisting of the Mayor and six other members. The Mayor and the City Council are elected at large to serve staggered three year terms.



Venice, well known for its beautiful beaches, enjoys a semi-tropical climate with an average summer temperature of 83.5 degrees, and an average winter temperature of 63.6 degrees.

The City provides a full range of services that include public safety, construction and





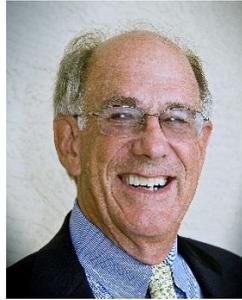
John Holic  
Mayor

## City Council's Vision Statement: *Maintain Venice as a vibrant, charming, historic community in which to live, learn, work, and play.*

Emilio Carlisimo  
Vice-Mayor



James Bennett  
Council Member



Bob Daniels  
Council Member



Jeanette Gates  
Council Member



Thomas "Kit" McKeon  
Council Member



Dave Sherman  
Council Member



## City Council's Goals

Edward Lavalley  
City Manager



Lori Stelzer  
City Clerk



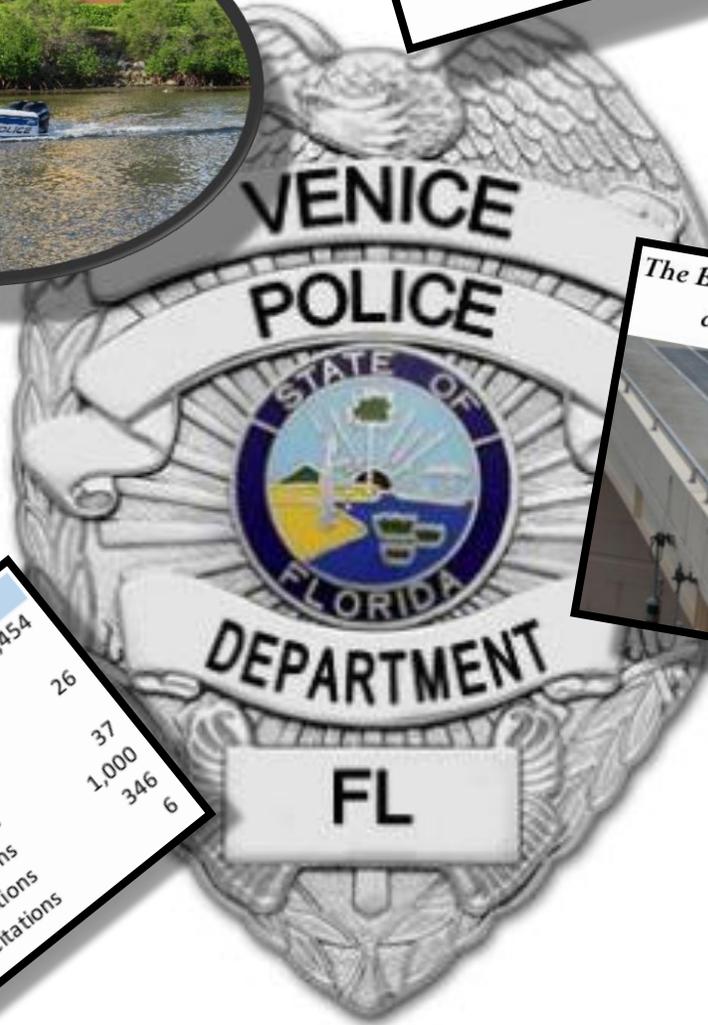
David Persson  
City Attorney





### Marine Patrol Unit Stats

- ★ Responded to 474 Calls for Service
- ★ Patrolled 2,482 Nautical Miles
- ★ Accrued 1,001 Public Service Hours on the Local Waterways



*The Bike Unit Patrolled over 809 miles and saved \$571 in fuel costs.*



2013 Police Services		30,454
Number of Calls for service:		26
Number of Crime Scenes Processed (Property Division):		37
Law Violations:		1,000
Drug Related Arrests		346
Traffic Citations		6
Parking Citations		
Marine Citations		

**Be SAFE.** A new initiative by the Venice Police Department is SAFE (Senior Assistance Freedom Enrichment). If you are over 60, have special needs and live alone; or if you are over 18, have a handicap and live alone, you can register at the Venice Police Station, then call in daily. If you don't call, someone will check on you. For more information, call (941) 486-2444.

**FINANCIAL POSITION STATEMENT**  
**All Funds**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30**  
**(IN 000'S)**

<b>FINANCIAL BENEFITS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 44,606	\$ 37,396
Investments	33,650	20,136
Receivables	5,187	5,141
Capital Assets	152,945	145,406
Other Assets	1,056	1,063
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 237,444</b>	<b>\$ 209,142</b>
<b>FINANCIAL BURDENS</b>		
Amounts Owed to Employees, Vendors & Customer Deposits	\$ 4,993	\$ 3,919
Notes Payable	872	918
Bonds Payable	11,967	14,653
Other Liabilities	28,855	7,585
	14,319	13,956
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL BURDENS</b>	<b>\$ 61,006</b>	<b>\$ 41,031</b>
<b>BENEFITS OVER BURDENS</b>	<b>\$ 176,438</b>	<b>\$ 168,111</b>

Benefits over Burdens represents the difference between the financial good stuff (assets) and financial bills (liabilities) of the City, providing the Net Position of Venice.

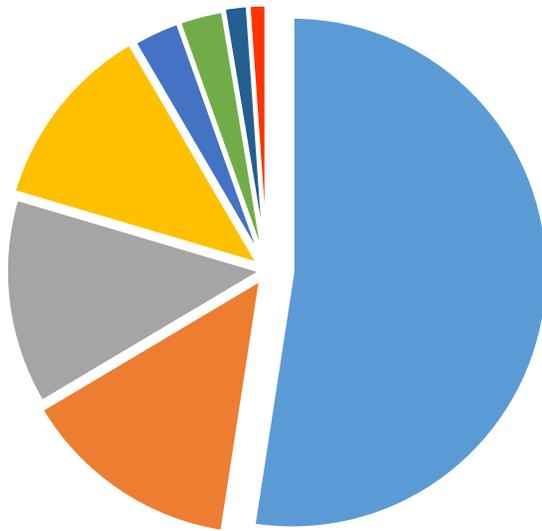
The Financial Position Statement, commonly referred to as the "Balance Sheet", reports the benefits (assets) available to provide services while burdens (liabilities) are the amounts for which the City must pay in the future.



**FINANCIAL ACTIVITY STATEMENT**  
**All Funds**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30**  
**(IN 000'S)**

SOURCES OF REVENUE	2013	2012
<b>PROGRAM</b>		
Charges for Services	\$ 31,478	\$ 29,235
Operating Grants and Contributions	673	890
Capital Grants and Contributions	7,870	8,391
<b>GENERAL</b>		
Property Taxes	8,428	8,401
Sales Taxes	5,037	4,747
Excise Taxes	2,170	1,979
Franchise Fees	1,694	1,665
Intergovernmental	1,784	1,748
Interest Earnings	141	520
Other	765	366
<b>TOTAL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 60,040</b>	<b>\$ 57,942</b>

**Where The Money Comes From**



Charges for Services	\$ 31,478	52.43%
Property Taxes	8,428	14.04%
Capital Grants and Contributions	7,871	13.11%
Sales and Excise Taxes	7,207	12.00%
Intergovernmental	1,784	2.97%
Franchise Fees	1,694	2.82%
Other	905	1.51%
Operating Grants and Contributions	673	1.12%

*City of Venice –  
Entity Wide  
Financial  
Information*

*Readers of the  
City of Venice's  
Financial Activity  
Statement and  
Financial Position*

*Statement should  
keep in mind that  
both statements are  
in a summary format.*

*Those desiring to  
review the full  
detailed financial  
statements should  
refer to the City's  
audited financial  
statements, which  
are contained in the  
2013 CAFR, available  
on the City's website.*

# FINANCIAL ACTIVITY STATEMENT

## All Funds

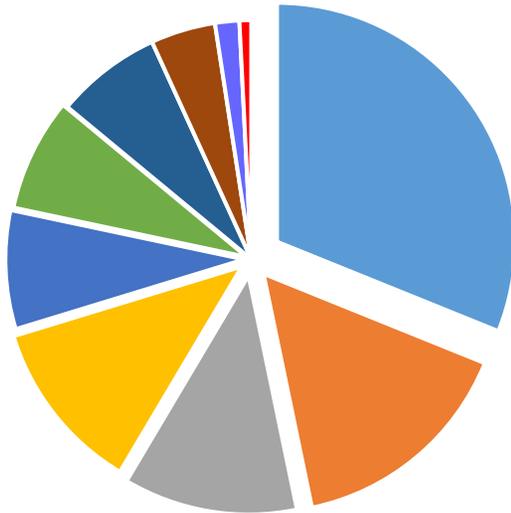
FOR THE YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30

(IN 000'S)

USES AND EXPENSES	2013	2012
General Government	\$ 4,207	\$ 4,447
Finance	1,087	1,152
Information Services	802	768
Parks and Recreation	3,713	3,756
Police	8,087	7,816
Fire	6,077	6,008
Public Works	3,970	3,451
Interest on Long-Term Debt	411	349
Water and Sewer Utility	16,086	15,746
Solid Waste	4,154	3,753
Airport	2,269	1,886
Storm Water Drainage	850	751
<b>TOTAL USES</b>	<b>\$ 51,713</b>	<b>\$ 49,883</b>

**TOTAL SOURCES OVER (UNDER) USES \$ 8,327 \$ 8,059**

### Where The Money Goes



Water & Sewer Utilities	\$ 16,086	31.11%
Police	8,087	15.64%
General Government	6,096	11.79%
Fire	6,077	11.75%
Solid Waste	4,154	8.03%
Public Works	3,970	7.68%
Parks and Recreation	3,713	7.18%
Airport	2,269	4.39%
Storm Water Drainage	850	1.64%
Interest	411	0.79%

### City of Venice – Entity Wide Financial Information

The City follows the accounting rules applicable to governments. This requires the use of separate buckets (called funds) to account for all of our activities. Funds are further divided into special types requiring different accounting treatment based upon their purpose. The City has 23 separate funds that we use during our operations. The information provided here is presented in a combined format (less our pension funds) for a holistic look at the results of City operations.

# GENERAL FUND REVENUE VS. EXPENDITURES

In governmental accounting and reporting many activities are separated into individual activity buckets called funds. This type of accounting structure has been developed to provide you, the readers, with a method of presenting the financial data in a form that will assist with oversight. The City has 21 funds to account for all of our different activities. The only fund that is always present in each city is the *General Fund*. *The General Fund* is the chief operating fund of the City and as such accounts for activities such as public safety, general governmental services, streets, parks, etc.

The chart reflects the effects of changes in revenues (cash) and expenditures (expenses) on the General Fund balance. When revenues exceed expenditures fund balance is increased and when expenditures exceed revenues then fund balance is decreased. Just like your own personal budget, the City strives to cover all its annual expenses with the funds it receives. When this doesn't happen, the City must tap its savings account (which in government is the fund balance) to cover the shortfall.

As the chart demonstrates, Venice's revenues exceeded expenditures from 2004 to 2008, as the corresponding increases in fund balances illustrates. Venice's expenditures exceeded revenues from 2009 to 2013 with a corresponding drop in fund balance. The decrease in resources was due primarily to falling property values during the great recession which negatively impacted our tax revenues. Instead of raising taxes during the great recession, the City Council and Senior Management began a concentrated effort to reduce expenditures which included staffing reductions (25%), evaluating services provided and streamlining operations. The goal of this effort was for the City to live within its means. (The apparent increase in revenues over expenditures in 2012 was a one-time cash infusion as a result of restructuring some of our funds due to changes in the accounting rules.)

The City Council has wisely decided to implement a policy of having an emergency savings account equal to the cost of three months operating expenditures due to the real possibility of experiencing a devastating hurricane. The City has maintained this emergency savings account throughout the great recession.

During the current fiscal year (2013) General Fund expenditures were increased \$400,000 in excess of revenues; the majority was used for a one-time two percent wage bonus for employees. For most employees, it was the first salary

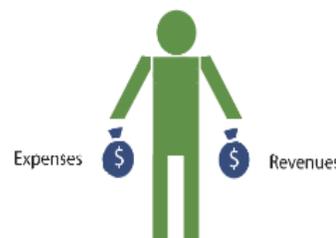
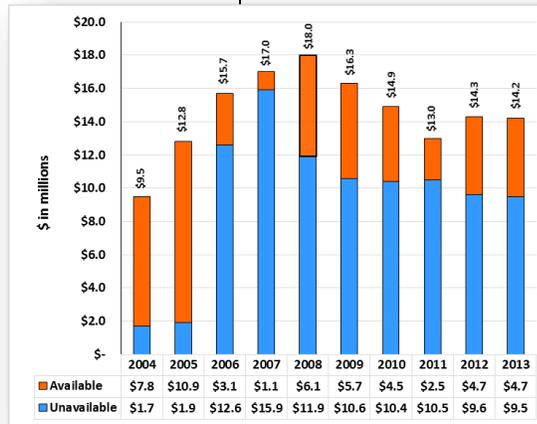
increase in more than five years. There was an additional increase to general fund expenditures to reinstate a few positions that were frozen or eliminated in previous years, and for the purchase of an emergency generator that was installed at the Venice Community Center. The fund balance remained stable from fiscal year 2012 to fiscal year 2013.

A healthy General Fund Balance is the primary measure of the city's financial health. These savings are necessary to cover unexpected emergencies, expenses, and cuts in funding. A major revenue stream supporting the City's General Fund operating budget is property tax revenue. From 2004 to 2012, the total ad valorem value (value derived from property) of Venice properties fluctuated from a low of 2.099 billion dollars, in

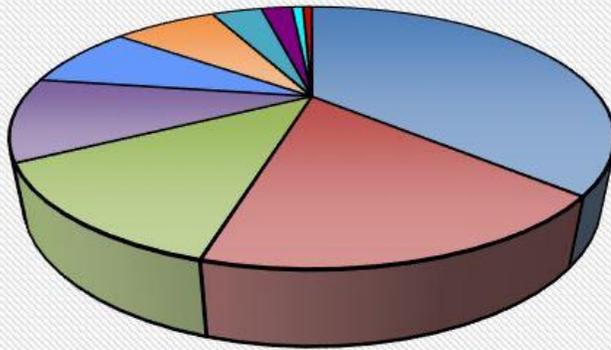
2004, to a high of 4.369 billion dollars in 2008. In 2008, the City revenue from ad valorem tax was \$13.75 million an all time high. During this time, to control the cost of taxes the millage (tax rate charged per \$1,000 in property value) was annually being reduced.

The real estate market began a pronounced decline in 2008. As much as the property values increased from 2004 to 2008, they summarily decreased from 2008 to 2012. In fact the ad valorem generated tax revenue to the City in 2012 approximated the revenue received in 2005. By 2011, the tax revenue had dropped to \$7.7 million from a high of \$13.8 million in 2007, the tax revenue to support the City's General Operating budget had declined by more than \$6 million dollars. At the same time, the general cost of doing business continued to rise. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), as an indicator of inflation, increased approximately 19% from 2008 through 2012. During this period property values dropped an estimated 40%, or about \$1.6 billion. In summary, since 2008, while inflation and other expenses outside the control of local government continue to rise the primary source of funding to support municipal service

delivery has measurably declined. The challenge for the city is to create a stable stream of income for high quality service delivery while remaining sustainable for long-term financial planning.

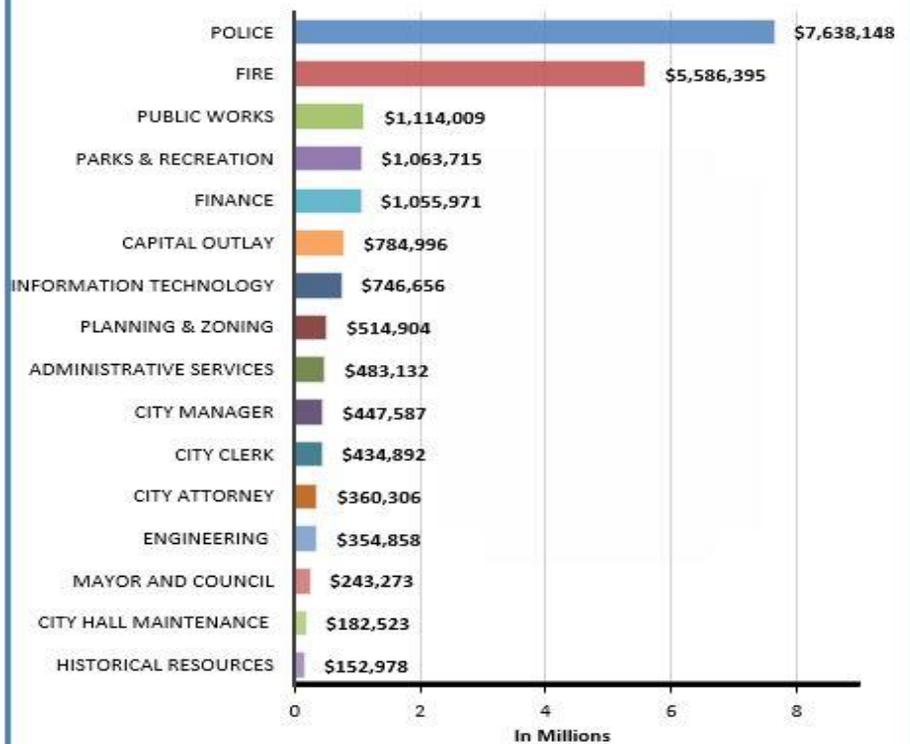


**Where the Money Comes From  
General Fund  
For the year ending September 30, 2013**



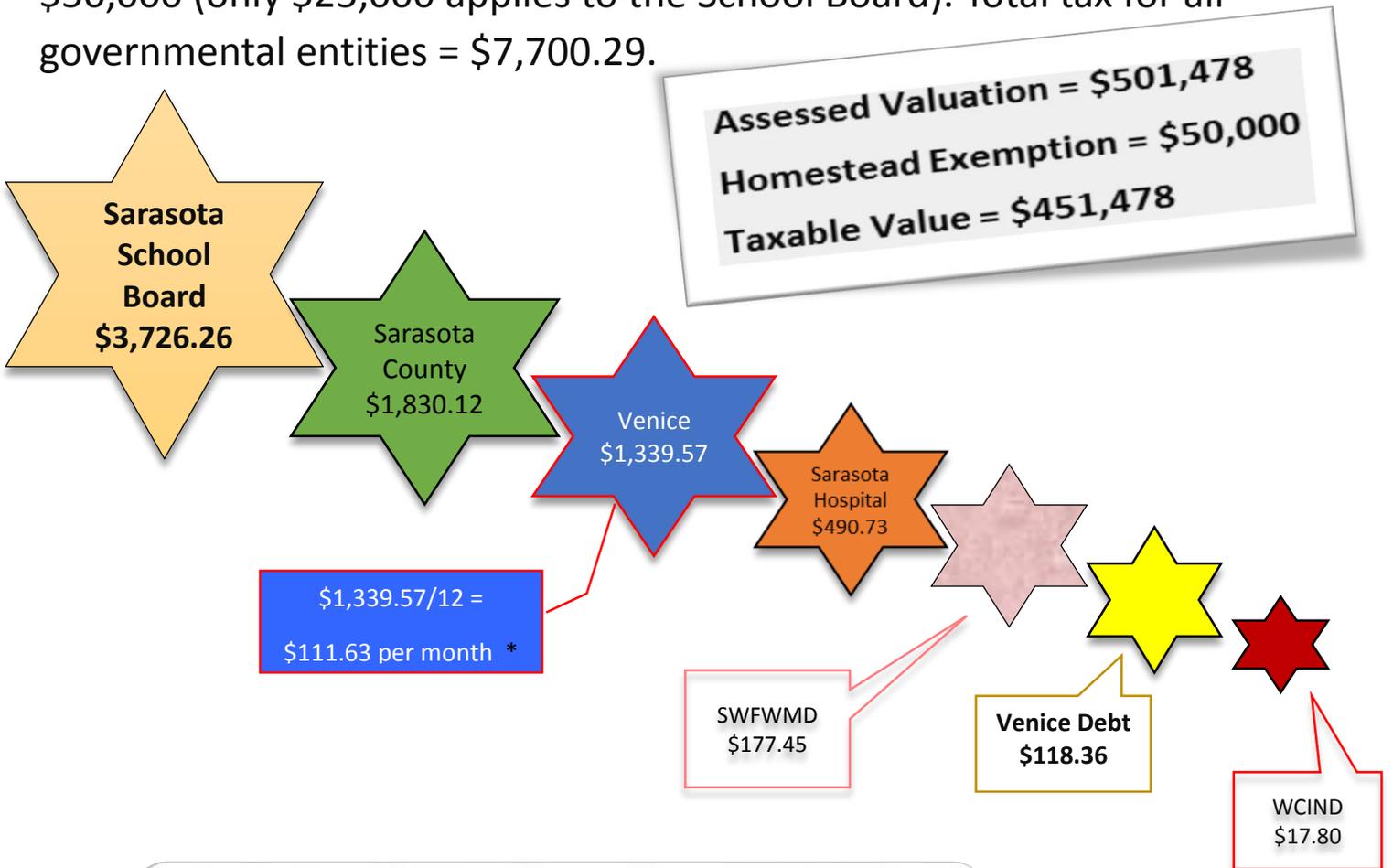
Property tax	\$ 7,742,568	36.67%
Transfers in	3,735,494	17.69%
Intergovernmental	2,677,451	12.68%
Other taxes	2,169,465	10.28%
Franchise fees	1,694,100	8.02%
Sales taxes	1,545,414	7.32%
Fees, Fines & Misc.	768,106	3.64%
Licenses and permits	470,683	2.23%
Charges for services	171,962	0.81%
Interest	138,393	0.66%

**Who Spends the General Fund Money?**



**Total 2013 General Fund Expenditures = \$21,164,343**

**This example** represents the tax bill of an average single family residence located within the City with the homestead exemption of \$50,000 (only \$25,000 applies to the School Board). Total tax for all governmental entities = \$7,700.29.



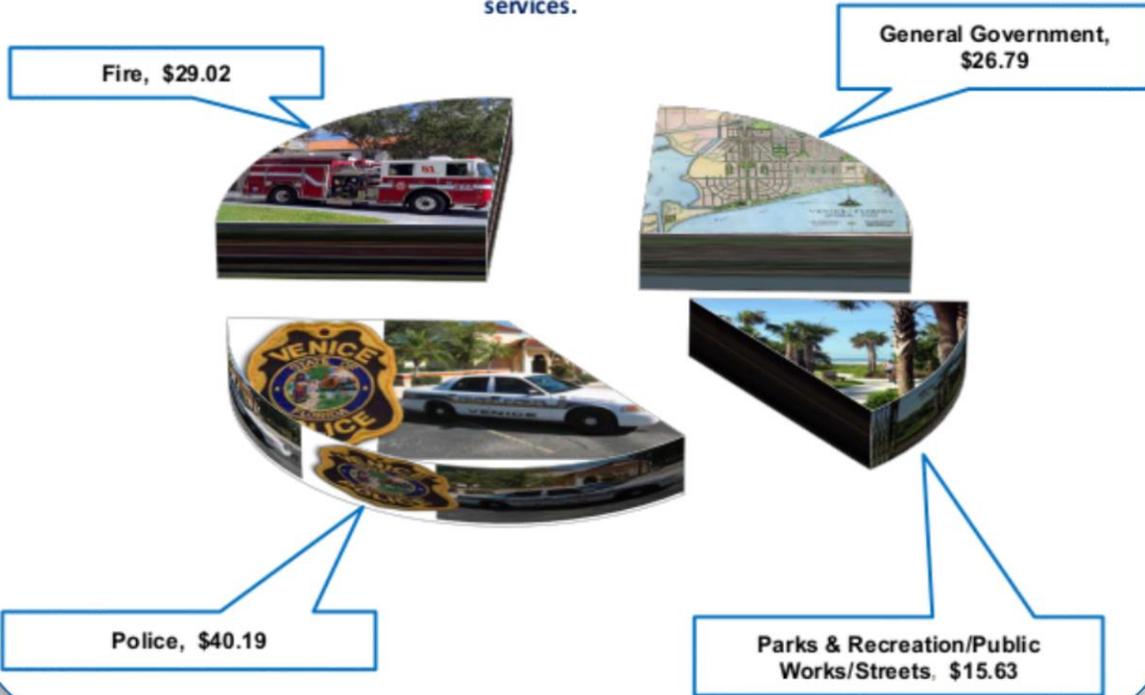
**SWFWMD = Southwest Florida Water Management District**

**WCIND = West Coast Inland Navigation District**

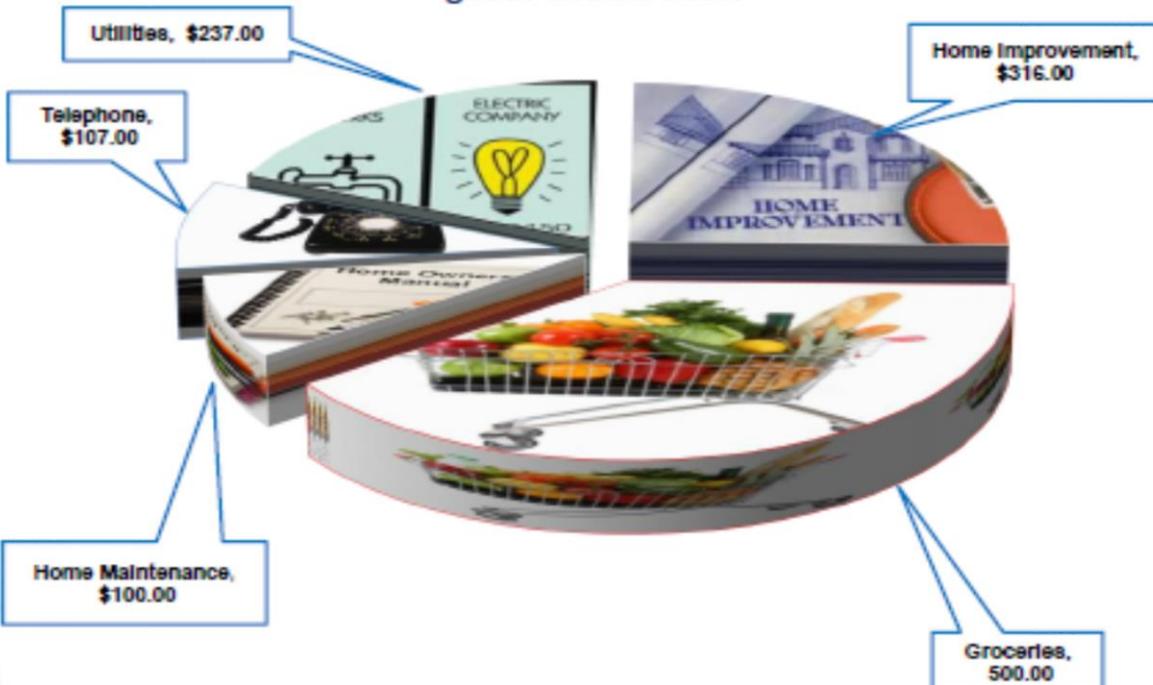
*\* See following page for a breakdown of what the \$111.63 per month "buys" you.*

## What does your \$111.63 per month get you?

For just \$111.63 per month, the average household in the City of Venice receives these basic services.



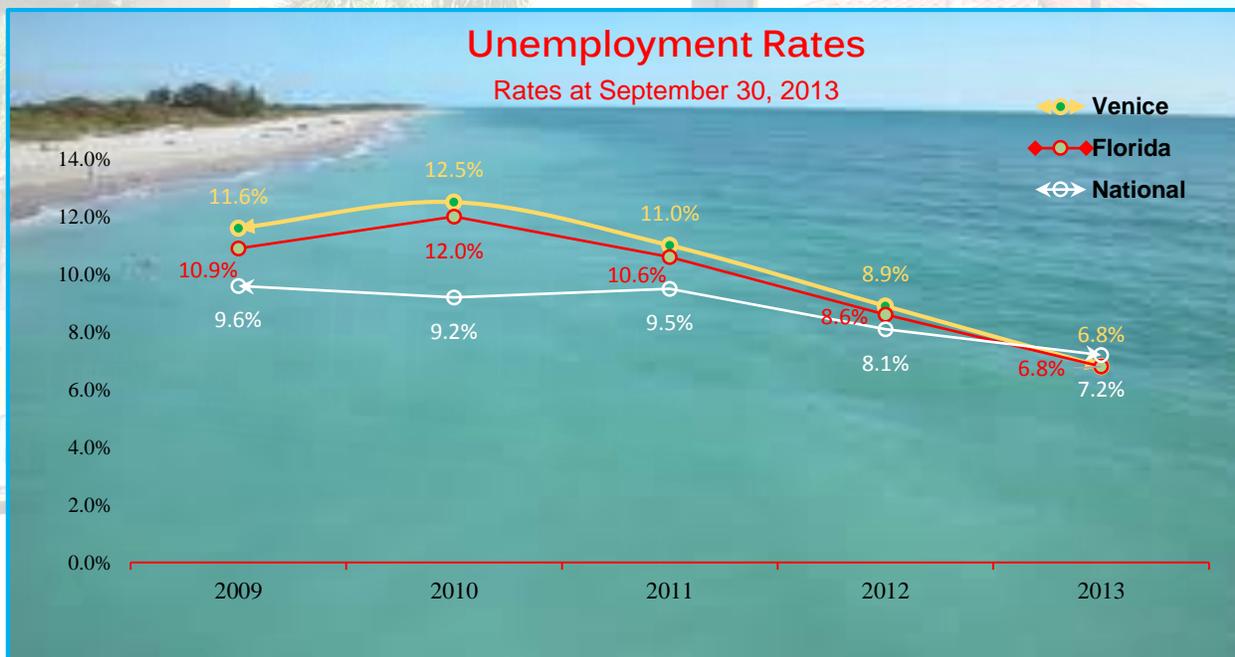
As a comparison to the \$111.63 monthly taxes, the average American family spends \$1,260 per month on these other basic goods and services.



Source: Bundle.Com

## Principal Taxpayers (Property Tax) and Unemployment Rates

	2013 Taxable Assessed Value	Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value
<b>Principal Taxpayer</b>		
<b>Venice HMA Inc. (Venice Regional Medical Center)</b>	\$ 66,618,056	2.47%
<b>MHC Mobile Home Communities (Bay Indies Vistas Inc.)</b>	42,342,372	1.57%
<b>PGT Industries, Inc.</b>	31,773,262	1.18%
<b>Sunrise AG Pelican Pointe, LLC (Aston Gardens at Venice, LLC)</b>	25,553,530	0.95%
<b>Florida Power &amp; Light Co.</b>	25,270,491	0.94%
<b>Publix Supermarkets Inc.</b>	15,306,591	0.57%
<b>Bre Mariner Venice Plaza, LLC</b>	14,492,800	0.54%
<b>Tervis</b>	13,924,309	0.52%
<b>Southwest Florida Retirement Center Inc.</b>	13,751,033	0.51%
<b>Verizon</b>	13,416,677	0.50%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>62,449,121</b>	<b>9.72%</b>
<b>All others</b>	<b>2,438,822,002</b>	<b>90.28%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,701,271,123</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



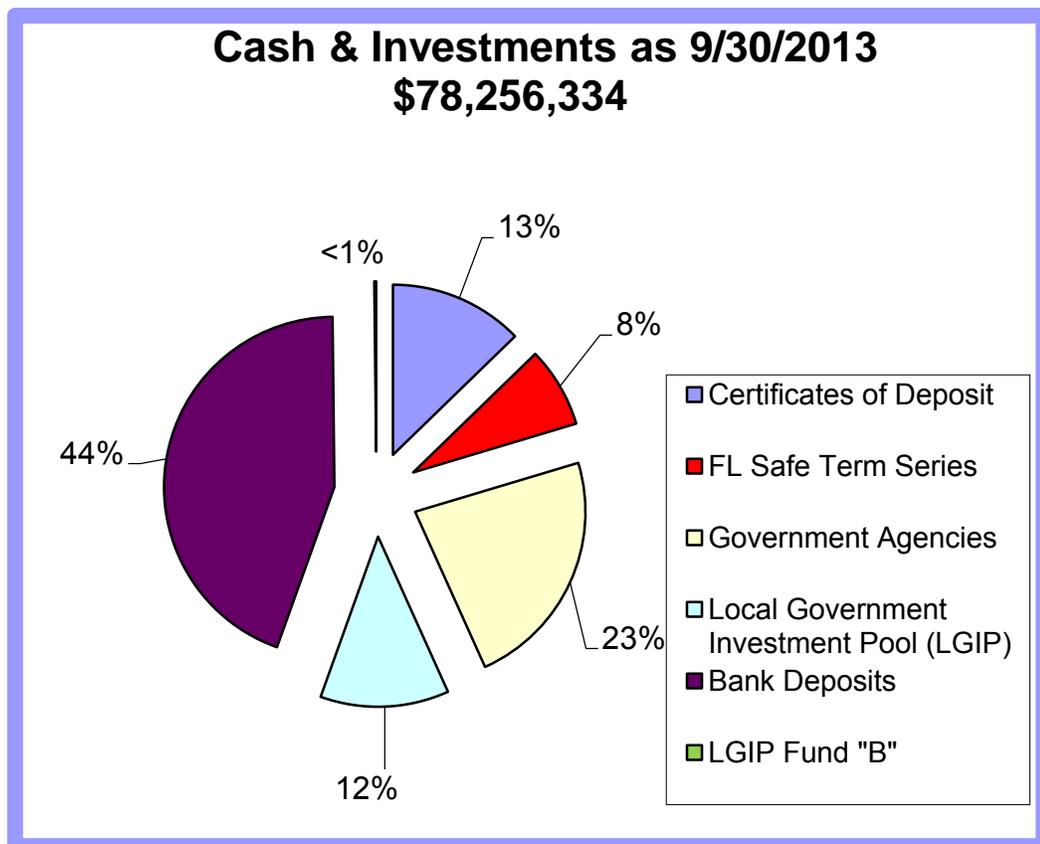
# Cash & Investments

The City's investment policy is governed by state statute and City ordinances. State law requires collateralization of all deposits with federal depository insurance, eligible securities, or a surety bond having an aggregate value at least equal to the amount of deposits. The City's investment policy requires the minimum collateral level to be 102% of market value of principal and accrued interest. The City is authorized to invest its surplus public funds in Local Government Investment Pools (LGIP), obligations of the U.S. Treasury, agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. Government, and interest-bearing time deposits with

banks and/or savings and loans who qualify as "authorized depositories" under Florida law. The City maintains a pool of cash and investments in which each fund participates on a dollar equivalent and transaction basis.



The primary objective of the city's cash and investment strategy is the safety of investments, including preservation and protection of the investment principal. As of September 30, 2013 the City's fair market value of its pooled cash and investments total was \$78.3 million (excluding the pension trust funds) and the weighted average return was .67%.



# Debt

Three major rating institutions (Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s and Fitch) have evaluated the City’s financial management, economic conditions and administrative practices. The bond ratings continue to reflect that the City’s bonds have the characteristics of investment quality as shown below:

	<u>Standard &amp; Poor’s</u>	<u>Moody’s Investors Service</u>	<u>Fitch Ratings</u>
General Obligation	AA-	Aa2	AA
Revenue Bonds	AA-	Aa3	AA

There is no direct debt limitation in the City Charter or under State law. Article VII, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Florida provides that, exclusive of taxes levied for the payment of voter-approved general obligation bonds, cities may levy up to ten mills for municipal services. Pursuant to the Florida Constitution, there is no limit on the amount of ad valorem taxes a city may levy for the payment of debt service on voter-approved general obligation bonds. The current voter approved debt service millage tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation is \$0.262.

The City of Venice has employed a variety of financing techniques as described below:

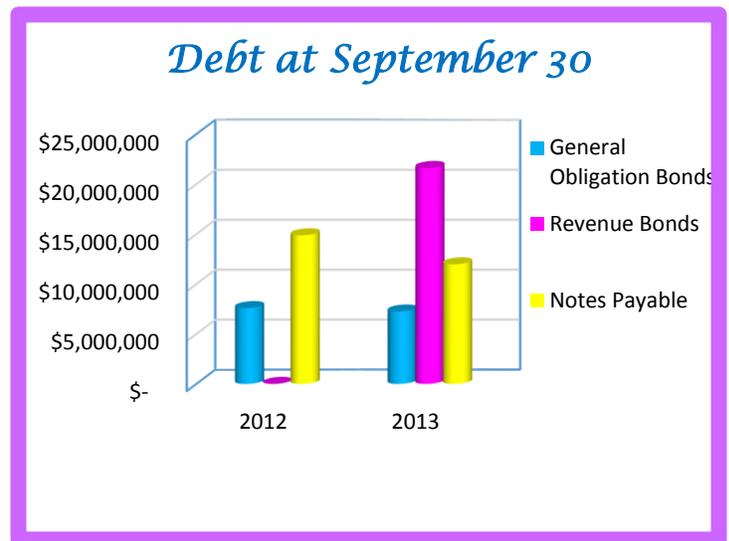
### *General Obligation Bonds*

General Obligation (GO) Bonds are long-term debt payable from ad valorem taxes levied without limit on all taxable property in the City and for which the City pledges its full faith and credit. Purpose: construct a park, beach nourishment, community center improvements, and fishing pier.

### *Utility System Revenue Bonds*

Utility Revenue Bonds are special limited obligations for which revenues of the utility system are pledged to re-pay the bonds. In December 2012, the City issued \$20,770,000 utility system revenue bonds for the purpose

of financing the cost of design, permitting, acquisition, construction and reconstruction of water and sewer capital projects.



### *Notes Payable*

The City has refunded utility system revenue bonds, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Agreements, and storm water and drainage revenue bonds to take advantage of favorable interest rates. These notes payable are secured by future water and sewer utility revenues and storm water management utility system revenues.

# Construction Permit Applications

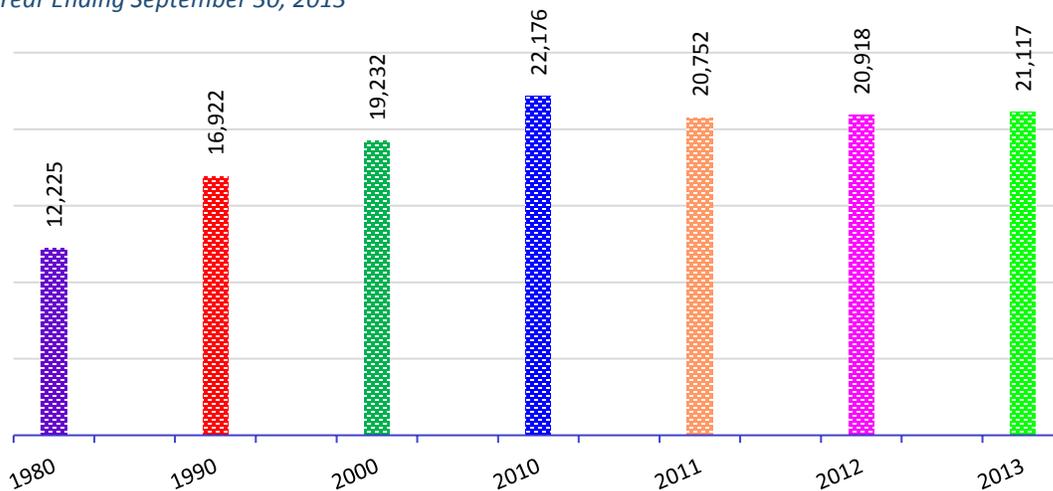


Presented in the graph is the total number of construction permit applications and building permit fees collected since 2004. The types of permits included are building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and various other permits.

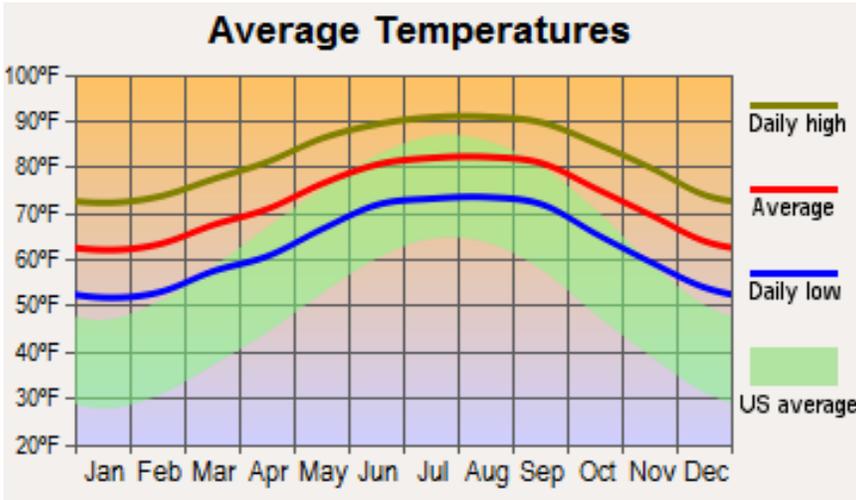
Source: Venice Building Department

## Population Figures

For the Year Ending September 30, 2013



Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida



source: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Venice-Florida.html>



## Did you know?

To access meeting agendas, visit [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com). On the left of this page, click on meetings, then click on Meetings-Granicus, find the meeting you want to view, look to the right of it and click on Agenda, click open, and view.

To listen to live audio of meetings, or to watch city council meeting live videos, instead of clicking on Agenda, click on Meeting Details, go to the right and click on video



Jacaranda Tree

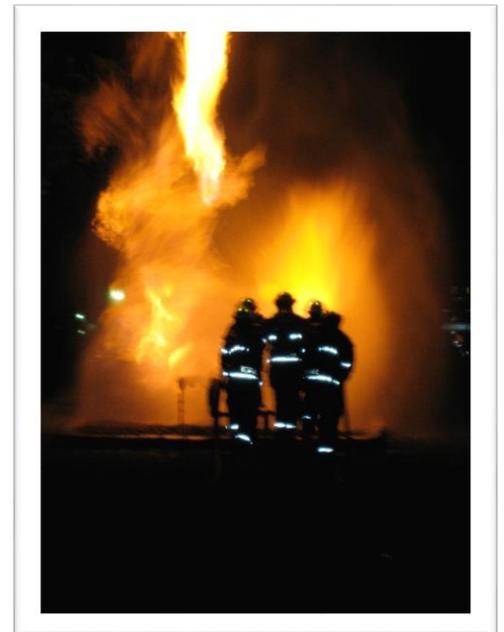


Banyan Tree - West Venice Avenue





The mission of the Venice Fire Department is to achieve a goal of zero deaths and property loss from fire and to protect the citizens of Venice from natural and manmade disasters.



# Welcome to



sharks tooth capital of the world and host to the annual Shark Tooth and Seafood Festival.

**Brohard Paw Park** is designed for the dog lover and allows the four legged family members to



enjoy the beach, sun and surf. Complete with dog drinking fountains, dog showers and leash post.

Whether it is beaches, boating, biking or fishing you will find it in Venice. If it is shopping and dining you prefer, our downtown, with its quaint, old Florida charm is lined with unique boutiques, cafés and bistros that will welcome you along with special events that draw people from around the world. Come experience all Venice has to offer



Venice Municipal beach is another great location for finding sharks teeth. Combined with the Venice Pier and a coral reef off shore it

is also a great location for fishing, diving and catching a magnificent sunset.

**Beaches:** Casperson Beach is the longest beach in Sarasota County. Its natural and secluded charm is an exceptional area for shelling and looking for sharks teeth. After all Venice is the

**Biking:** In 2012, the City of [Venice](#) earned the Silver Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists. Venetian Waterway Park offers 5 miles of trails on each side of the Intracoastal Waterway. It connects to Legacy Trail at the Historic Venice Train Station on the east side of the Intracoastal creating almost 23 miles of uninterrupted trails.



**Boating:** Originally built as a wartime project during World War II, the Intracoastal Waterway created Venice Island and now serves as a

# Paradise

peaceful pleasure for boaters. Higel Park boasts a public boat ramp along with a canoe and kayak launch from the island while Marina Park offers boat ramp access from the east side of the Intracoastal.



**Fishing:** Along with the Venice Pier located at the Venice Municipal Beach, Humphris Park is home to the South Jetty. Located on the western edge of the island and serves as the gateway between Roberts Bay and the gulf and offers superb fishing.



## Here are a few of our Annual Special Events:

Venice Rotary Artfest  
Italian Festival and Carnival  
March Art Classic  
Shark's Tooth Festival  
Suncoast Barbecue Bash

4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks  
Sertoma Sun Fiesta  
REV3 Triathlon  
Holiday Parade  
Holiday Boat Parade

# Water and Sewer Utility Fund

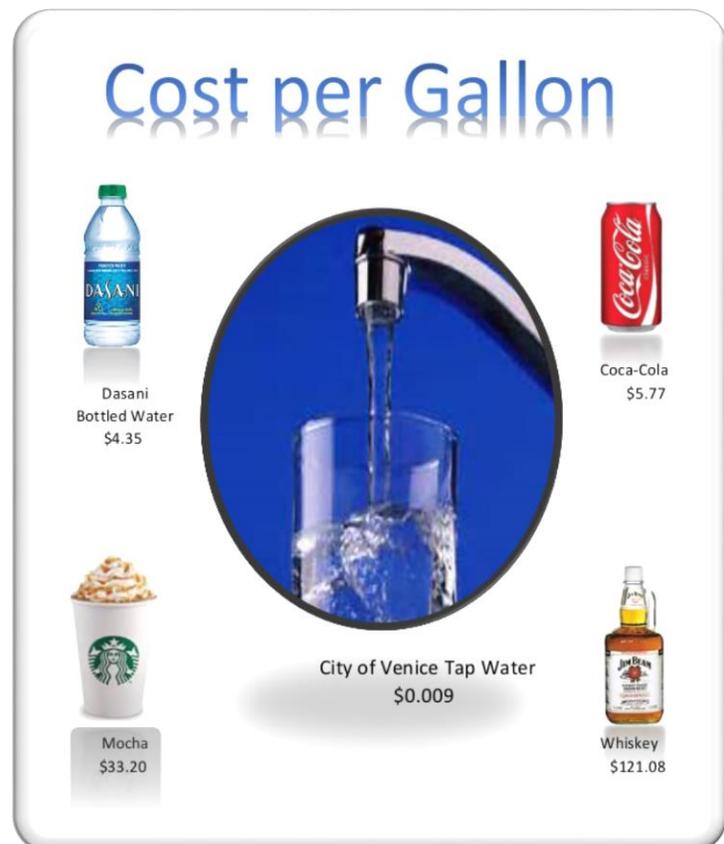
The Water and Sewer Utility Fund is the largest enterprise fund. The City provides potable water, reclaimed water and sanitary sewer services to customers located primarily inside the City limits. The water system provided potable water service to 11,243 customers as of September 30, 2013. The membrane softening reverse osmosis water treatment plant provides an average daily flow of approximately 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) of finished water that is pumped to the transmission and distribution system.

The sanitary sewer collection system served 10,869 sewer customers as of September 30, 2013. The advanced wastewater treatment plant processes an average annual daily flow of approximately 3.0 mgd. The wastewater treatment plant includes facilities capable of producing reclaimed water for irrigation purposes to a limited number of customers and public spaces. The reclaimed water system served approximately 3,005 customers as of September 30, 2013.

The City has planned certain capital improvements, extensions and additions to the System during the next several fiscal years. The City has identified approximately \$18.5 million for water system projects, and \$34.5 million for wastewater and reclaimed water systems projects that are underway and anticipated to be performed through 2017. Current capital projects include: Lift

Station Telemetry, Lift Station #65 Improvements, Water Main Replacement Program, Water Valve Addition Program, Water Service Line Replacement Program, Second Degasifier, RO Membrane Improvements, EWRf I-75 Landscape Buffer and Additional Reclaimed Storage, Odor Control Headworks, Second Forcemain from Island, EWRf Aerations System and Grit Removal System Replacement, Reclaimed Water Filtration System, Sanitary Sewer Replacement Lines, and I & I Study and Improvements (Sewer Rehab).

The various capital improvements will be funded from excess operating revenues, the Series 2012 Bonds, Renewal & Replacement funds, Infrastructure Surtax funds, water and sewer capacity charges, and from future borrowing anticipated in FY2017.



# Few Examples of Current Utility Capital Projects



*Eastside Water Reclamation Facility Odor Control Project*



*Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant Renovation Celebration*



*Construction of 7.5 MG Storage Tank at Eastside Plant*



*Intra-coastal Waterway Wastewater Force Main*

# Stormwater

The Stormwater Management Utility was established in September 1995 to provide an adequate and stable funding to be used for managing the water run-off from rain and thunder storms to help alleviate flooding. The fund was also established to demonstrate compliance with the city's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit and to track the capital improvements identified in the Stormwater Management Plan.

The City Engineer acts as the Stormwater Utility Director and the Engineering Department provides management of the development of capital project initiatives, infrastructure maintenance, answers day-to-

day questions from citizens, and field inspections.

In 2013, the department received all permits and easements to complete the demucking and invasive plant removal and restoration of Flamingo Ditch and Deertown Gully. Construction began in October 2013. Also, completed the design and permitting to install water quality improvements on Venice Beach (Outfall#1) and Alhambra (outfall #2) and received high ranking for funding from SWFWMD (Southwest Florida Water Management District). They completed a comprehensive pipe cleaning and CCTV (closed-circuit television) inspection program for the Alhambra Outfall system to remove accumulated debris and numerous other stormwater repairs and maintenance projects to ensure effective operation of the City stormwater system.



# Solid Waste

The Solid Waste and Recycling Divisions provide collection service for curbside solid waste, yard waste, and recycling collection within city limits as well as dumpster collection services. The Solid Waste Division also provides specialized services such as bulk collection and roll-off container service. The city's collection fleet consists of 17 residential and commercial collection trucks, 4 roll-off container trucks, 4 special service trucks, 4 pickup trucks and 1 fleet service truck.

In 2013, the Solid Waste and Recycling Divisions successfully increased their marketing for roll-off container rentals and increased their rental revenue by 25.8% from \$227,626 in 2012 to \$286,466 in 2013. The division also partnered with the Parks Division to expand the public recycling program in city parks, initiated measures to track divisional functions in the work order system for increased accountability and implemented a pilot program for the Big Belly solar powered trash/recycling compactors.

## Tonnage amounts for 2013:

Solid Waste – 16,622

Yard Waste – 3,306

Mixed Paper – 1,546

Co-Mingled – 1,182

Cardboard – 955

Construction – 1,069

Scrap Metal – 61



*According to a 2013  
Operational Assessment  
Study done by Kessler  
Consulting, Inc., Solid Waste  
Collection:*



- *Is a very well-run operation*
- *Provides a high level of service to residents*
- *Has very productive drivers*
- *Drivers are currently meeting the "human fatigue factor" of 6 tons per worker per day.*
- *Residential rate is among the lowest in Florida.*

# Shark Tooth Festival in Venice, Florida

Venice, a beach town set on Florida's southwest coast, less than 20 miles south of Sarasota, features white sandy beaches and an abundance of entertainment and recreation options. The area is known as one of the nation's foremost destinations for discovering shark teeth, a reputation celebrated by the city's annual Shark's Tooth Festival.

## Festival Facts

The Shark's Tooth Festival which celebrated its 20th year in 2012, is typically held on a weekend in mid-April at the Venice Airport Festival Grounds, with the backdrop of Caspersen Beach, one of the area's most-noted shark-tooth havens. The three-day event, which draws approximately 25,000 people, features live entertainment, children's activities and food and merchandise booths. Daily tickets are available at a nominal cost, and children 12 and under are free. All festival proceeds go to the Special Olympics of Sarasota County. (sharkstoothfest.com),

## The Teeth

Venice is often called the "Shark's Tooth Capital of the World" because of the millions of shark teeth that wash up on its shores, thanks to the city's Gulf of Mexico beaches being unprotected by a barrier island. Each spring, the festival draws more than 100 artists and fossil collectors from throughout the Southeast who display and sell shark teeth and



additional prehistoric finds, as well as clothing, jewelry, paintings and other sea-related artwork. For children, a Shark's Tooth Scramble is always a festival highlight.

## Events and Activities

The Shark's Tooth Festival is more than just teeth. The main stage features live performers each day of the event, including bands, and other entertainers, and the savory smells of Southern and coastal cuisine such as barbecue and seafood waft across the festival grounds.

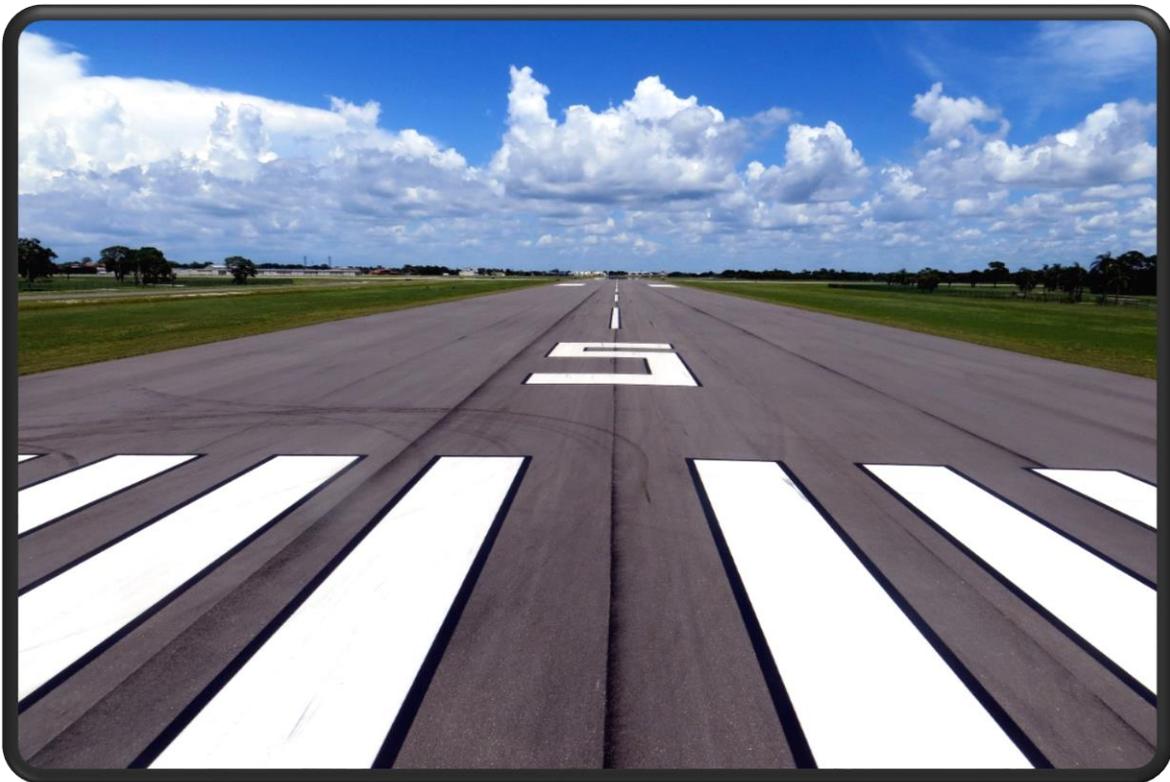
# Venice Municipal Airport

Venice Municipal Airport (VNC) is a historic general aviation facility that generates a significant economic impact in the community. VNC shall be operated and developed as a safe, secure, modern, efficient and financially self-sufficient facility that is committed to being a good neighbor in the community.

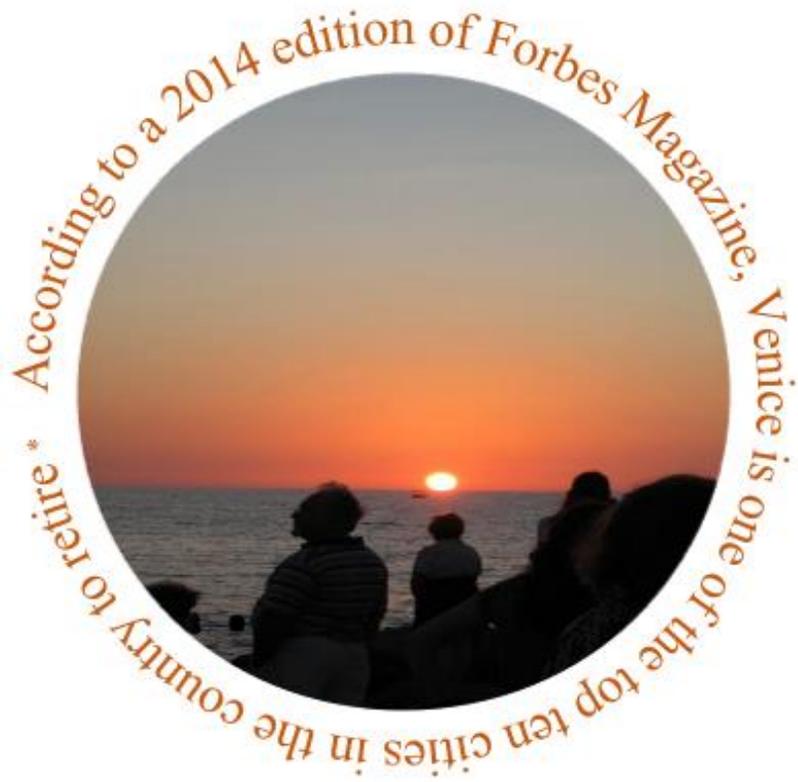
VNC has two 5,000-foot lighted runways, an automated weather observation system (AWOS) and non-precision instrument approaches. The airport has approximately 221 based aircraft. VNC is home to Fixed Base Operators (FBO) who offer fuel, line

services, flight instruction, aircraft rental, aircraft maintenance and avionics to the public. VNC is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Venice Municipal Mobile Home Park. A golf course, trapeze academy and multiple restaurants are among the non-aeronautical businesses located on airport property.

VNC completed the Runway 4-22, Taxiway E and PSA/ROFA Improvements Project during fiscal year 2013. This project was awarded the *2013 General Aviation Project of the Year* from the Florida Department of Transportation



AWARDS, CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



# 2013 General Aviation Airport Project of the Year



Venice Municipal Airport



The **2013 Earle B. Phelps Award** was presented to the **Venice Utilities Department** by the Florida Water environment Association in recognition of the wastewater treatment facility that has maintained the highest removal of major pollution causing constituents prior to discharging the treated effluent to the receiving water.

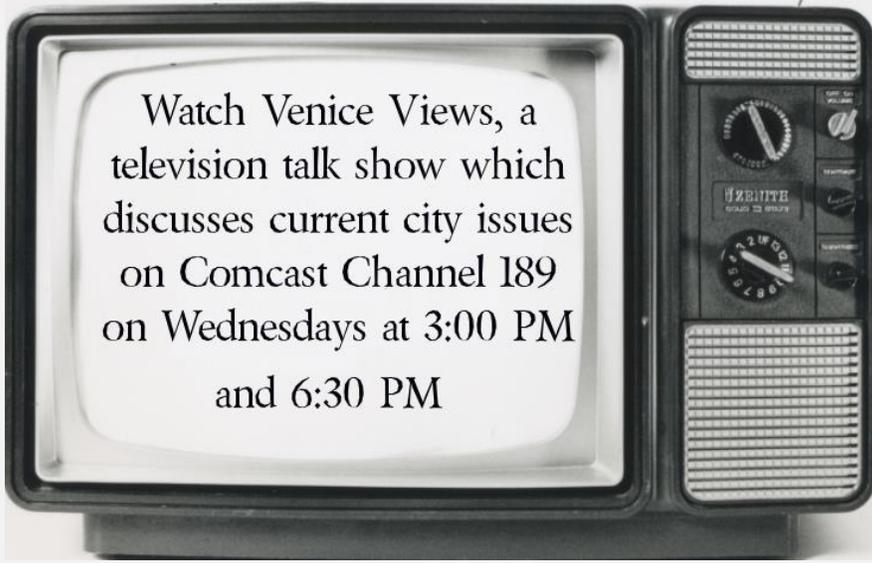


AWARDS, CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

# Keeping Citizens Connected



# Keeping Citizens Connected



iPhone



<https://www.facebook.com/CityofVeniceFlorida>



The City of Venice now has a Helpline for those who have questions, concerns, compliments or suggestions. Get direct information by calling (941) 999-1415, weekdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If we are handling other calls, leave a brief message and we'll get back to you quickly.



Android





*Venice, FL*  
*City on the Gulf*