

2021

Happy New Year! South Venice Beach Wave

JANUARYJ 2021 (YEAH!)

The heart of South Venice since 1955



FROM DUKE DOOGUE

President's Message

On behalf of the South Venice Civic Association, may I wish you and your families a very Happy, Healthy, Peaceful and Prosperous 2021.

We look forward once again, to being able to provide you with a whole range of activities for you to enjoy at the South Venice Civic Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the SVCA board of directors for all of their hard work and dedication, and to our great members who have donated to us, and have patronized our functions and activities, ensuring the success of our Civic Association, and to the fulfillment of our mission in the South Venice community !

Please remember to renew your membership — we have kept dues at \$60 per year for membership. I thought I would just do a recap of what your membership in the Civic Association entitles you to enjoy .

We have a number of programs that focus on social causes and had the Blood Bus come by, allowing our members and residents of South Venice to conveniently donate blood.

We also offered an AARP safe driving course, which was excellent, and provided approximately six hours of instruction at a cost of \$16, which I managed to get back as a discount from Allstate, who ensures my own vehicles.

We also started the Educated Homeowners Series providing meaningful seminars on diverse topics, allowing our homeowners to be better educated in a number of areas.

One of the seminars covered Disaster Preparedness, delivered by the gentleman responsible for Sarasota County's disaster preparedness. He gave a very attractive gift to

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We have a winner!

As the year wound down, we held the drawing for the winner of the Golf Cart. People gathered at the SVCA at 2:00pm on New Years Eve and waiting for the big moment. The lucky winner was Beverly Gardella—that's Duke above giving her a call with the good news.



At left, it was just a year ago on December 31, 2020, that we were last able to gather for dinner and dancing as we celebrated and rang in the New Year together. Let's all look forward to doing it again this year!

South Venice Civic Association

*The heart of South Venice
since 1955*

**720 Alligator Drive
South Venice Beach, FL 34293**

Phone: 941-493-0006

Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

www.SouthVeniceBeach.org
info@southvenicebeach.org

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South Venice Beach WAVE

Editor: Maureen Holland
maurenholland@comcast.net

Every Sunday at the SVCA building

Fellowship Bible Church

Services at 10:00

Bible Study at 11:15



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South Venice Beach Wave

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

Mark Twain once remarked it is easier to fool people than to convince them they have been fooled.

First, regarding masks, every time you touch your mask you are touching your face. Try a full face shield if you must.

I read the droplet study. Again, if you are coughing (3000 droplets) you are emitting about the same number of droplets as a five minute conversation while if you sneeze the number reported in the study was 40000 droplets. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK143281/#!po=13.1579>

Curiously, all of this was known when under a prior administration we had widespread H1N1 and no one ever considered wearing masks or "social distancing". When the statistics got over 10,000 deaths NIH stopped counting.

N95 masks are specifically labeled as ineffective against viruses. N95 masks were found to be as effective at stopping viruses as surgical masks, which is to say they are ineffective: <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-10-surgical-masks-flu.html>

There is a spurious correlation between wearing a mask and contracting COVID-19: <https://www.rt.com/news/504219-danish-mask-study-rejected-coronavirus/>

The preceding obviates any need to debunk the damned lies posing as statistics. What we do know is we as a nation are spending resources far in excess of the cost of the risk and in fact will be spending more to delay herd immunity, whether or not there are generic therapeutics that have demonstrated efficacy as well as vaccines coming to market. In the final analysis we are discussing a corona virus whose most remarkable trait appears to be its contagiousness and not its lethality.

There is much more to this contrived reporting of "cases". Abuse of PCR testing leads the way and thankfully this week Gov. Ron Desantis is dealing with it: <https://www.zerohedge.com/medical/first-time-us-state-will-require-disclosure-pcr-test-cycle-data>

In closing, I could have written this article that appeared today but I did not. You might pause and reflect on its message. <https://www.zerohedge.com/political/listen-scientists>

Respectfully, Daniel J. Gauthier III, South Venice

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This letter is a response to Pat Wellington's letter in the December issue (itself a response to Daniel Gauthier's in the November issue!). While we aren't usually the vehicle for lengthy argument, we are glad to provide the forum. Of course, any opinions expressed are those of the author of the letter, not the SVCA.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEND TO: maurenholland@comcast.net

Names withheld upon request

All letters are subject to review



FROM SANDY McHENRY, Chair
Beach Trust News

New Year's Greetings!

I do hope that everyone had a holiday that brought them joy and precious memories. 2020 had its challenges for us all and many of us are ready to move on in a direction that promotes peace and optimal health. I wish for all a 2021 that allows for movement towards normalcy and hope.

This holiday season, the Trust was able to bring some assistance and joy to South Venice Families who were especially hit by the economic downturn by giving gift cards and a family ferry pass at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The families that I was able to speak to were most appreciative. This truly is a time that we need to share with and look out for friend, neighbor and stranger.

As folks purchase their ferry passes, they will notice that there is an increase in the business rate this year. We have found that the significant increase in short-term rentals in our community has led to a consistent greater ferry use by groups on a daily basis. This has resulted in additional wear and tear on the ferry. Previously business and non-resident rates were the same as the non-resident numbers have always been small and the usage negligible. South Venice, having a growing number of short-term rentals, is experiencing a significant change.

Kudos to our Head Captain Randall Patterson as well as our other Captains and the Wednesday volunteers. We passed all aspects of our five-year inspection with flying colors and there was never an unexpected ferry closure for maintenance! The preventive maintenance and trouble-shooting have been commendable. Our ferry is used in real estate advertising for sales and rentals both. It is good to know that it is running as scheduled!

A big thank you to Bob Pietras who has completed his five year term as a Trustee. Bob served as Treasurer and also took care of a lot of "behind the scene" Trustee jobs including daily monitoring of the boat ramp, care and maintenance of the equipment in the pump house, minor repairs and much more. As we are a working Trust, his contributions were greatly appreciated.

Finally, we would not function on a day by day basis without the support of Karen Lewis, Trust Administrator. She is the face of the Trust for hundreds and always greets folks warmly, gives the same explanations unnumberable times, and offers speedy service—even with the office closed to foot traffic. Over a thousand ferry passes and boat ramp keys are processed as well as all her administrative tasks for the Trust, the Captain and the website. She also monitors things at 4800 Lemon Bay Drive everyday she works. Karen's expertise and commitment to the Trust and the South Venice Community is laudable.

Most indoor meetings and events at SVCA are on hold for now. We'll keep you updated.

BOTH THE SVCA AND TRUST OFFICES ARE CLOSED TO WALK IN TRAFFIC AT PRESENT.

You can still contact us by phone to 941-493-0006 or email to info@southvenicebeach.org or

Meanwhile, let us all:

WEAR OUR MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCE, STAY SAFE, AND BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

SVCA's MISSION

To protect, preserve and improve our community's character, conditions and quality of life. To bring South Venice together to promote the civic, social, intellectual and recreational interests of South Venice

FROM TERESA GOOD, Shamrock Park
What's up at the Park

The Shamrock Park Nature Center is open on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. The Nature Center has fossil displays, Native American displays, taxidermied native animals and a Kid's Corner complete with coloring pages, do-it-yourself craft projects, books and toys.



Seasons and Serendipity Walks are happening again on the 2nd Friday of every month. Please call 941-861-5000 or go online to scgov.net/parks to register. Class size is limited.

A Paw Print scavenger hunt map is available in the nature center on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm if you are interested in having some fun with your kids outside! It is about a mile in length and covers many fun areas of the park. You can pick up a map and then do the scavenger hunt at your convenience!

Shamrock Park bike path is scheduled to be re-paved this year. You may see Sarasota County staff trimming and cutting trees along the path prior to the project.

In December, staff from both Sarasota County Fire Department and Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources Department successfully completed a prescribed fire on 1.65 acres in the northern part of Shamrock Park. This not only enhances gopher tortoise and Florida Scrub Jay habitat, but also greatly reduces the threat of wildfire.

Activities will occur over the next several months to maintain and promote Sarasota County's newly acquired Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program purchase. Located south of Shamrock Park, this 39-acre parcel will

Continued on Page 6



IT'S COMING— FEBRUARY 20!

9:00am to 2:00pm

We're still taking donations. You drop off during office hours or call Cherry Giovinazzo at 215-872-2943. She can arrange pick up of large items

if you need. (No TVs, stereos or computers please.)

***You don't want to miss it.
There will be bargains galore!***

Because of Covid, we ask you wear your masks. The number of people inside the hall at any one time will be limited, and this year, weather permitting, we'll have much of the merchandise outdoors.

FROM GAIL PARKER



Our first Jewelry Sale was a success

The Jewelry Sale Fundraiser in September worked well. It was our first time doing it and was conducted in a way that fit well into this Covid- world. Display tables were 6-10 feet apart. Everyone wore masks and hand sanitizers were out for everyone's use. Attendance was steady and sales were too. We collected quite a bit of jewelry at the door to replenish the *Jewelry to the Rescue's* supply and thanks to the generosity of our guests, we made \$840 to put toward the new electrical panel the Center needs. Thanks to all of you who donated jewelry and who purchased items.

And thanks again to *Jewelry to the Rescue* for doing this fund-raiser for us. We look forward to doing it again in 2021.

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2021 MEMBERSHIP

(Membership year is January 1 to December 31, 2019)

ANNUAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP STILL ONLY \$60.00* (Veterans \$50.00)*

*Credit card payment—add \$3.00 Pay Pal payment—add \$4.00

Join or renew online at southvenicebeach.org, at the SVCA office or by phone to 941-493-0006
You can also just mail payment WITH THIS FORM to 720 Alligator Drive, South Venice Beach FL 34293

I am attaching my check I wish to pay with my Credit Card

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Name as it appears on card _____ Billing zip code _____

Please check: **New Member** **Renewing Member**

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 • International Coastal Cleanup • Government Affairs Committee liaises with Sarasota County on issues that affect our community • Meet County officials at SVCA meetings • Community Emergency Response Teams

CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS - Please print

PRINT NAME - Please print

ADDRESS

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

2017 Small Business of the Year



Blair Post, HAS, BC-HIS, ACA
Board Certified Hearing Instrument Sciences
American Conference of Audioprosthology

Solutions Not a Sales Pitch

As a dedicated hearing specialist, some of the most rewarding experiences are getting to hear the positive impact I have had on people's lives. Here is what Mr. Bridle had to say about his experience:

"I have worn hearing aids for a number of years, on and off. I say on and off because it has been off more with my most recent pair purchased from another provider in Venice. I had an annoying problem with feedback, which neither they nor another local provider were able to correct or alleviate. Both told me I should consider newer, more advanced models, which they would be happy to sell me. Since mine were similar, I felt they were more interested in making a sale than helping me. As a result, they wound up in my dresser drawer (not an uncommon situation.) I decided to give it one more go. A friend referred me to Blair Post at Contemporary Hearing.

What they said couldn't be done, was done by Blair.

No sales pitch on newer models; just a willingness to listen to and work with me.

After testing my hearing, he patiently worked with me to make adjustments to the programming. He also refitted the aids with new leads and cones. The ones I had were not sized or fitted properly and caused much of the feedback.

I was given a follow up appointment the next week at which time Blair fine tuned the programming and changed out one of the cones for another size. These were simple, inexpensive solutions to a fixable problem. Although I was advised of charges ahead of time, no payment was collected until I was satisfied.

Although I found Blair to have an abundance of knowledge, patience and humor, his greatest attribute is INTEGRITY. He honestly wants to help. I would recommend Blair Post and Contemporary Hearing to any person desiring to improve their hearing." ~ M.J. Bridle, Venice

If you have struggled to hear conversations with ease, call for a free hearing test, 941-244-9300.

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



To join one of our teams or just learn more about what we do contact: **Marla Wilcox at mswlcx_50@msn.com 303-818-3641**

Saturday, January 30 - 9:00am

Grove Workday at Siesta Creek

Meet at corner of Seminole and Quincy. Workers are encouraged to bring yard tools and gloves. Face masks please. Trash bags will be provided.

Trash Buddies!

Saturday, January 16 - 9:00am

Venetian Waterway Clean-Up

Meet at Parking lot by tennis courts in Shamrock Park
THIS IS A LOVELY WALK ALONG THE INTRACOASTAL

Saturday, February 20 - 9:00am

Seminole Drive

We meet at corner of Quincy and Burke

Saturday, March 20 - 9:00am

Alligator Drive Clean-Up

We meet in the SVCA parking lot.

Community Emergency Response Team

CERT Team as of now is not yet meeting but we have now got three enthusiastic volunteers and discussions are underway with other local groups for cooperative ventures with South Venice CERT.

Shamrock Park

Continued from Page 3

provide habitat protection for native wildlife. The County will be conducting land management activities and the property boundary will have a cleared fence line established for accessibility by County staff and contractors. This cleared fence line will also serve as a fire break between county property and private property.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at tjgood@scgov.net or call the County at 941-861-5000.

**FREE WI-FI
AT SVCA**

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SVCA

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civic1955

President's Message *Continued*

attendees — a waterproof document holder for essential items should you be evacuated.

We are also planning to have an end-of-the-year tax planning seminar next year to learn how to optimize deductions in the calendar year.

Bishop Toupe conducted an excellent session on wills, trusts and estates and he will be back in January to deliver that same seminar again.

Water quality was a large topic. Steve Suau, a previous SVCA Board member, delivered an excellent presentation on the issue of water quality and red tide. We also had a very good seminar on well and septic maintenance, as most of us are on well and septic.

Sheriff Knight delivered a very good presentation on policing and public safety, which was very well attended.

We will once again offer the Educated Homeowner Series in 2021. They will initially be online with Zoom. As the Covid threat recedes we hope to again offer the seminars

in person, at the SVCA.

The SVCA, as a 501 (c)4 organization, needs to generate income, by holding events for the South Venice community which raise funds while offering recreational activities.

Welcome to our newest members!

Bob Westmascott

Charles & Leona Steel-Lindmar

Jamie Sealander & Jim Francavilla

Bart Berry

We have held very successful Arts and Craft sale, and recently a jewelry sale for the first time. It was a great success and will be repeated in 2021. We also focused on providing classes for different interests—our watercolor painting class is a popular class.

Our pancake breakfasts, which normally run from September through to March, were always well attended and also generated good income, while providing us the opportunity to meet and mingle with our fellow South Venice Civic Association members and property owners.

We also remembered the children, and had two very successful breakfast events for them. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Breakfast with Santa were very well attended and the kids seem to really enjoy both events. Covid 19 permitting, we plan to run these events again, and look forward to all those bright and excited young faces again.

What would February be, without our Giant Garage Sale, which has always been a very well pat-

ronized event and is our largest fundraiser. Our members and South Venice residents have always been extremely generous in donating items to us over the years for the sale and then also coming and buying different items at our garage sales.

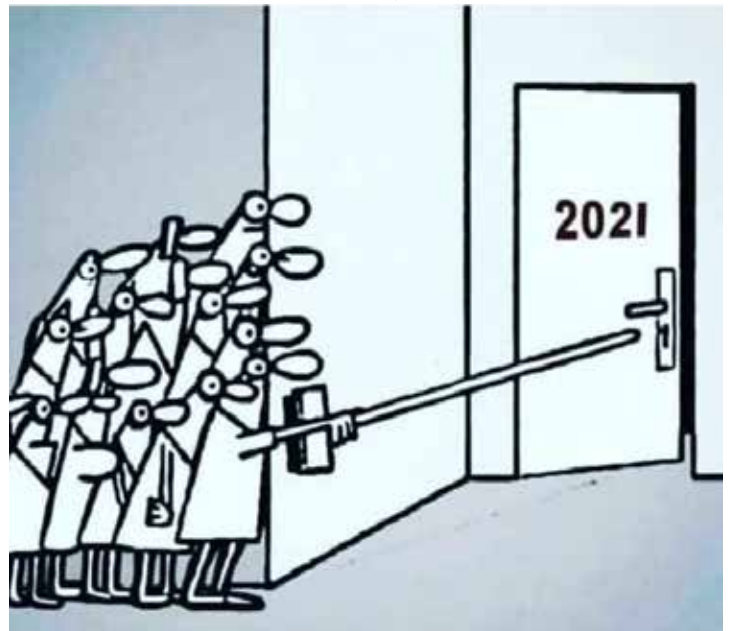
For the first time this year, we held a preliminary sale in November, which was very successful and we intend to have that again sometime next fall.

Please mark your calendar to attend our Giant Garage Sale on February 20, 2021 and please invite your friends and family. We welcome your donations and also your attendance at the event.

Talking about events, let us also remember the two great parties that we held in 2019, our 4 July barbecue with Bandanna, and our New Year's Eve party, both of which were great events and very well attended.

Continued on page 11

Your January Chuckle



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Attention Community Residents A Note From Your Newsletter Publisher:

We are **Community Media** – the publisher of your community newsletter.

We hope that you all are staying safe during the coronavirus pandemic. This is affecting many aspects of daily life for almost every American. Our office staff is following the CDC guidelines of staying home when not feeling well, seeking medical help when necessary, and washing hands constantly.

We encourage you to follow the same guidelines located at coronavirus.gov.

The phrase “We’re all in this together” is more meaningful now more than ever.

What are we doing?

We are still providing a **FREE newsletter to your community**.

This newsletter is FREE to your community because we partner with local and regional businesses to advertise their products and services in this newsletter.

We are temporarily reducing publishing expenses so we can continue to publish your newsletter long term. For your community newsletter this may include:

- Making sure the page count of each newsletter is in line with current advertiser support
- Verifying the number of newsletter copies needed so we don’t print too many newsletters

What can you, as a community resident, do?

Suggest businesses to support your newsletter with advertising.

- Who does work in/on your home? Home services trades like roofers, plumbers, A/C, etc.
- Who provides other services for your? insurance, doctors, travel, etc.
- Any other businesses your patronize?

Let us know and we’d love to reach out to them.

Be patient and kind with each other, especially now. Reach out to friends and neighbors who may need help.



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FULL DAY: full hall \$360 or half hall \$240
HALF DAY: full hall \$220 or half hall \$120

NON-MEMBER RATES

FULL DAY: full hall \$450 or half hall \$300
HALF DAY: full hall \$260 or half hall \$150

**ASK ABOUT
MONTHLY or
WEEKLY RATES**

Home Sales: NOV 16, 2020 to DEC 15, 2021

Address	HTD	BE	FB	Built	Pool	Garage	ADOM	List Price	Close Price
2431 GENTIAN RD	908	2	2	1980	None	1	7	\$170,000	\$161,000
465 FOXGLOVE RD	1,030	2	2	1972	None		16	\$165,000	\$165,000
780 E SEMINOLE DR	1,504	2	2	1964	None	2	18	\$195,000	\$177,500
1330 CUMBERLAND RD	1,001	2	2	1974	None	1	27	\$123,456	\$183,700
911 JAMAICA RD	942	2	2	1963	None		38	\$182,000	\$190,000
1123 PIEDMONT RD	750	2	1	1985	None	1	4	\$199,900	\$195,000
2947 ARROWHEAD RD	884	2	2	1978	None	1	6	\$195,000	\$200,000
4621 BONITA RD	1,234	3	2	1977	None	4	6	\$204,990	\$204,000
447 ARGUS RD	1,160	2	2	1980	None	1	8	\$214,900	\$210,000
2921 SUNSET BEACH DR	1,156	3	2	1976	None	1	1	\$210,000	\$215,000
672 ALTAIR RD	1,485	2	2	1984	None		39	\$219,000	\$217,000
556 MISSOURI RD	1,274	3	2	1987	Private	1	2	\$220,000	\$220,000
141 RUTGERS RD	996	2	2	1981	None	1	17	\$215,000	\$220,000
761 FERN RD	1,861	3	2	1976	Private	2	5	\$190,000	\$225,000
931 HORIZON RD	1,108	2	2	1988	None	2	23	\$229,900	\$225,000
4215 TARPON RD	1,189	3	2	1960	None	1	89	\$249,000	\$231,000
1910 REDFERN RD	1,698	4	2	1971	None		47	\$239,900	\$234,000
2685 YUCCA RD	1,218	2	2	1972	None	1	12	\$235,000	\$240,000
3116 VALENCIA RD	1,384	3	2	1956	None	2	51	\$239,000	\$242,000
748 CONSTANCE RD	1,690	2	2	1981	None	2	0	\$249,000	\$244,500
441 HOLLY RD	1,255	2	2	1979	Private	1	4	\$239,000	\$245,000
1116 SOUTHLAND RD	1,919	4	2	1987	None	2	200	\$258,800	\$250,000
5864 VIOLA RD	2,325	3	3	1983	Private	1	3	\$244,900	\$251,000
5780 OXALIS RD	1,551	3	2	1981	None	2	35	\$259,000	\$255,000
551 RANDOLPH RD	1,605	3	2	2005	None	2	33	\$274,900	\$260,000
350 PORPOISE RD	1,640	3	2	1977	None	1	219	\$268,900	\$261,000
1072 EUCLID RD	1,498	3	2	1986	None	2	2	\$262,000	\$266,000
1247 COLUMBINE RD	1,679	3	2	1988	None	2	9	\$268,000	\$268,000
1287 RINGTAIL RD	1,243	3	2	2003	None	2	17	\$269,000	\$269,000
288 COWRY RD	1,670	3	2	1983	None	2	2	\$269,900	\$269,900
887 CUMBERLAND RD	1,498	3	2	2003	None	2	1	\$279,900	\$279,900
2548 DAWN RD	1,293	3	2	1998	Private	2	0	\$289,900	\$285,000
2841 VALENCIA RD	1,753	3	2	1977	Private	2	6	\$289,000	\$285,000
271 AZURE RD	1,689	3	2	1988	None	2	2	\$288,000	\$290,000
6109 ORCHIS RD	2,056	4	3	1976	Private		10	\$285,000	\$290,000
155 ABALONE RD	1,880	3	2	1975	None	2	22	\$290,000	\$290,000
952 PONDEROSA RD	1,755	4	2	2019	None	2	172	\$311,237	\$311,237
2720 CARMINE RD	1,914	2	2	2004	None	2	8	\$315,000	\$315,000
5996 ORCHIS RD	1,622	3	2	2001	Private	2	3	\$310,000	\$315,000
653 ACADIA RD	1,752	3	2	2018	None	2	276	\$339,999	\$330,000
380 AURORA RD	1,780	3	2	2003	Private	2	4	\$329,900	\$335,000
3244 INDRA RD	1,800	3	2	2020	None	2	12	\$345,000	\$340,000
121 GINGER RD	1,630	3	2	2005	Private	2	54	\$399,900	\$389,000
825 COLONIAL RD	2,565	3	3	1996	Private	2	26	\$495,000	\$497,000

For 66 years, the SVCA has been here for South Venice, for YOU!

MEMBERSHIP MAKES US STRONG MEMBERSHIP MAKES US A COMMUNITY

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, water and sewer.

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



State of the Market

KELLEY ANN AYERS, Ayers Team, Exit King Realty

There were 44 SALES in the last thirty day period! That is a high number of closings for any month! The highest sale was for \$497,000! It is a large home on a 20K square foot lot (five SV lots), located on Colonial and it has a separate guest house plus a newly updated pool. The average "sold price per square foot" was \$176.74, up a little bit again and very good. The average sale price this period was \$257,880, which is up from last month. Also, the Average Days On Market was just 46, which is consistent and good news for homeowners of South Venice Beach! Inventory Continues to be Shockingly low with even less this period, only 41 Active listings at the time of this article (Dec 28) compared to the report in May when there were 94 Active listings! Lastly, 50 homes are currently Under Contract at the time of this article; still a very large number of homes waiting to close! My sister Katheren and I are experts in South Venice having sold fifteen homes in South Venice this year. It is a

very hot market right now and clearly a Seller's Market! If you are thinking of selling or buying Please call for a confidential 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.*

President's Message *Continued*

We also had a Business Expo, which was a great opportunity for local business to showcase their products and services to South Venice residence. The businesses did very well, and are keen to return. The businesses chosen had been used by members of the board, who find these vendors to be honest, reliable, and reasonably priced.

We are also continuing to develop our Preferred Vendor program, which once again will offer proven, reliable, and reasonably priced services to the South Venice Civic Association members. Members will qualify for a discount on any of the services purchased from our preferred vendors.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to bringing you



The kids loved our holiday breakfasts in 2019!



interesting, and exciting programs and events in 2021!

Be safe! Be well!

Water Coloring with Carol Merenda every Wednesday at SVCA

OUR CLASSES HAVE RESUMED!

Monthly sessions. Course starts the first Wednesday of every month 1:00 to 4:00pm

The full course is \$100 (plus supplies)

New students may register at the class or contact instructor Carol at 941-366-2866 to get started.



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Real Estate Experts!*

Ayers Team

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5th Generation Floridians &
2nd Generation Realtors®!

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