

MS146 2007.46.03

511 Villas

Golden Beach History

***50 Years
1958-2008***

***Golden Beach Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 802
Venice, Florida 34284***

Written By

BJ Carson

*Golden Beach Newsletter Editor
from 2002 to the present time*

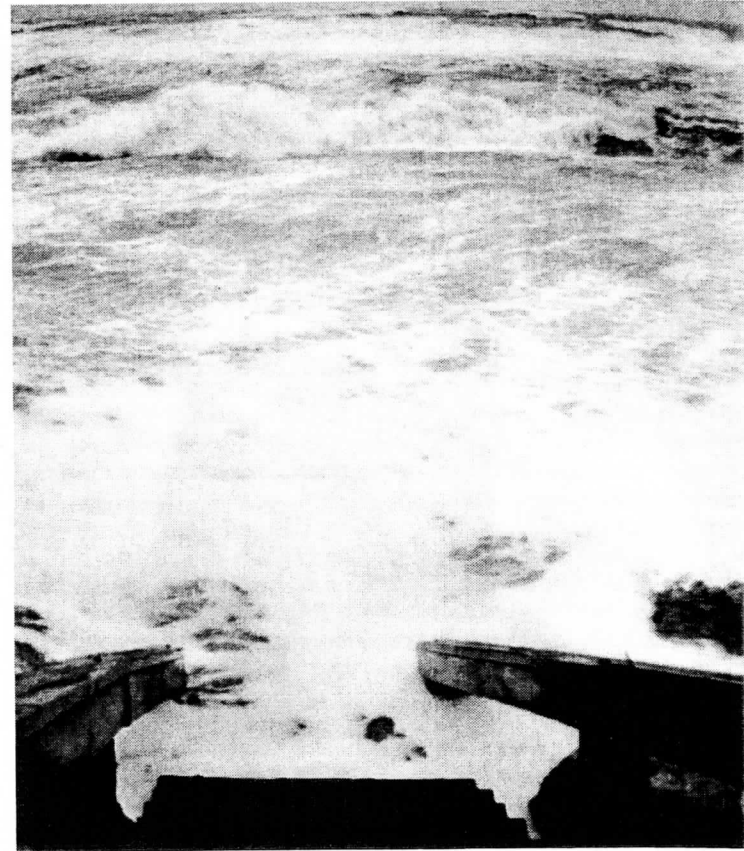
*“Never doubt that a small group of committed
citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only
thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead*

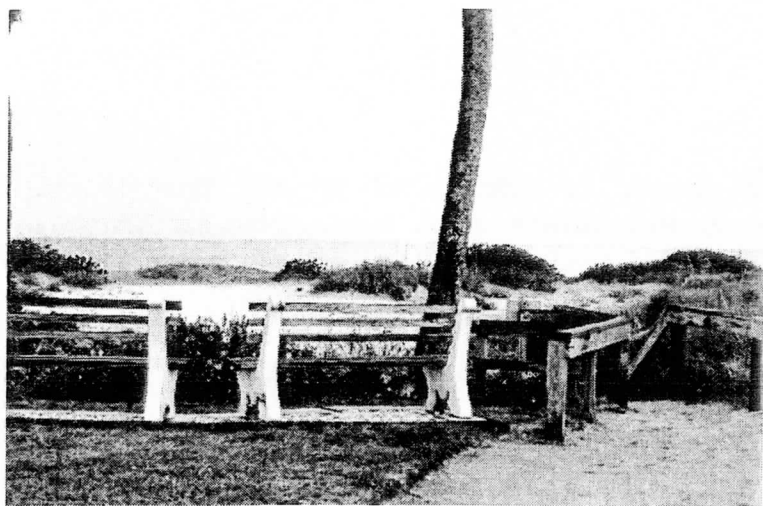
Thanks to the 2007 Board Members and Maureen Eberhart who took the time to review the booklet before going to print.

On page 29 - The decision to not move Venice High School was revisited in early September and it was once again decided to keep it at its present location.

Introduction

This book is dedicated to all the Golden Beach neighbors who have passed through this area and were blessed to have shared paradise on earth.





There are countless numbers of volunteers who have spent hours, in one way or another, to make certain that Golden Beach would remain our little paradise for future generations to share.

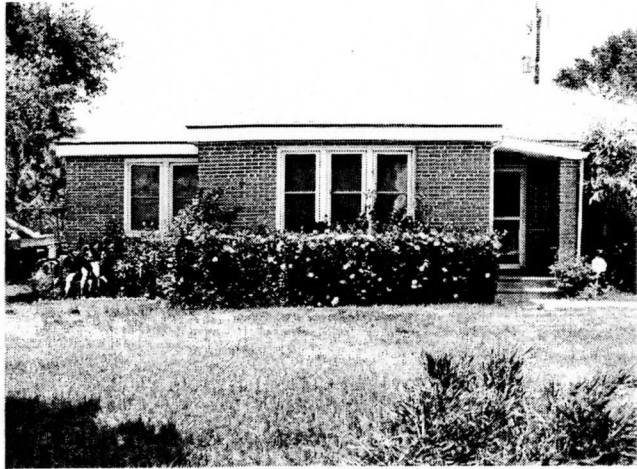
We pause to thank the neighbors who took the time to assist during sea turtle nesting season; we thank the neighbors who collected trash as they made their beach walks; we thank the neighbors who watched after neighbors' property while away for the summer or on vacation; we thank the neighbors who volunteered to keep our neighborhood a secure place by not hesitating to contact authorities when needed; we thank the neighbors for volunteering to serve on the Golden Beach board and committees; we thank the neighbors who spoke out at Venice City Council meetings to ensure that we, as a neighborhood, had a voice on important issues; we thank the neighbors who watched after one another when stricken with an illness; and we thank the neighbors who shared the numerous sunsets and offered their own Golden Beach history stories. This is, indeed, a remarkable family.

Special note: Emma Knob volunteered for the Golden Beach board and committees for 22 years, while Dave Hopley served for 14 years and Aileen Gaza for 17 years. Aileen's husband, Joe, has assisted in the maintenance at the beach access for going on 30 years.

In the beginning, this area was inhabited by red foxes, black bears, opossum, bobcats, quail, turkeys, duck, deer and many other native animals and birds. The humans who shared this land were Indians from the Timuqua and Caloosa tribes.

The first official owner of the land was Chaucey I. Hawley of New York City. In 1884-85, he purchased from the US Government general land office 500 waterfront key acres for \$1.25 per acre, which included what is now known as the Golden Beach neighborhood. Fifteen years later, in 1900, Hawley sold this entire property to J.L. Young for \$1700 or about \$3.25 per acre. In 1910, the famous Mrs. Potter Palmer of Chicago purchased many parcels of land in what is now Sarasota County (until 1921 Manatee County) of which Golden Beach was a part.

The record shows that in 1910, Bertha Honore Palmer purchased property (including Golden Beach area) for about \$25 an acre. The early 1920's were a time of intense real estate activity in the Venice area, during which the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the BLE Investment Company purchased 341 acres, including the Golden Beach area, for \$2,500 an acre, to be subdivided into lots and blocks for sale to the public. The land was formally deeded to the BLE in 1927. In 1947, when Tony Spadaro and his brother, Joe, were traveling to Ft. Myers, they encountered one of the Blackburn family members who suggested they buy land from O.W. Casperson. They did, and the property included in the sale was the Golden Beach neighborhood.



436 Spadaro Drive

First owners were Dr. and Mrs. Samuel E. Kaplan

The first homes that were built in Golden Beach were brick. There were only five homes for many years, four red brick and one yellow brick; 458 Spadaro, 801 Golden Beach, 448 Spadaro, 436 Spadaro (*owned by the second doctor in Venice, Dr. Samuel E. Kaplan and his wife Sarah who moved to Venice in 1949. It was originally built for Joe Spadaro's personal doctor from New York, however, Joe died before the doctor could move*) and 441 Spadaro, the yellow brick home (*owned by Joe Spadaro*). There was also an orange grove located on his property.

During this time, a pond was located in the area of what is now known as Villas Drive. Sheila Fox, the daughter of Dr. Samuel E. Kaplan, recalls her neighbor, Nina Presso, going to the pond to feed the alligators daily. One day she forgot to feed them and one came looking for the food. Sheila, along with several other neighborhood children and a neighbors' dog were in the street when the gator started charging them. The dog distracted the gator until George

Presso was forced to shoot it. Sheila enjoyed growing up in Golden Beach and she especially enjoyed her circus neighbors who taught her how to fly on the trapeze. She also remembers how teenagers would drag race on the dirt road towards Caspersen Beach before it was paved.

By 1942, the U.S. Army Air Base was established at what is now the Venice Municipal airport. In 1945, the West Coast Inland Navigation District was formed to begin the study of continuing the Intracoastal Waterway that would eventually divide the city of Venice, creating the "Island of Venice". The opponents of this project would often refer to it as "the big ditch".

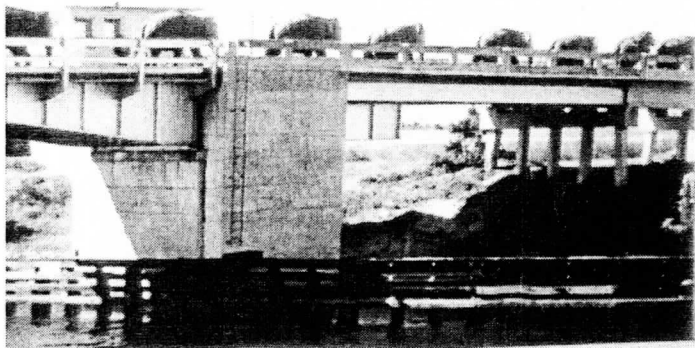
In the 1940's, Joe Spadaro launched two projects: the construction of the Venice Villas and McArthur Hotel on Golden Beach Blvd. He did not live to see either one completed. His brother, Tony, took over his brother's business affairs.



Circus Arena photo: courtesy of the Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection

In 1946, the City of Venice was granted the airport property with two stipulations: one was that the city continue to operate the airport under the supervision of the Federal Aviation Agency, and secondly was that all revenues received in rent from any airport facility be used to improve the properties.

In 1960 the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus moved its winter quarters to Venice after 32 years in Sarasota. Many employees and performers bought homes in Golden Beach and remained in the area after retirement. In 1961, the Venice Circus Arena was completed with seating for 5,000. It was used as a rehearsal location for the circus acts, at which time the public was invited to attend. In the 1970's through the 1980's, the circus train would unload just east of the waterway and just north of Center Road. They would cross the south bridge (Circus Bridge) to transfer the animals to their winter home at the Arena. Onlookers would pack the streets and waterways to watch the spectacular event.



Circus Bridge photo courtesy of the Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection



50 YEARS GBAI HISTORY 1958-2008

1957-Anthony Spadaro, Edward Darling, Robert Baynard and Orlando Mahon organized **A.E.R.O. Inc.** The initial fee was \$5.00 per household with a \$2.00 annual fee. In 1959, A.E.R.O., Inc. set aside a fifty-foot strip of land for a beach easement for Golden Beach members. By 1964, the easement became the property of Golden Beach Associates, Inc. There were sixteen steps into the water where the benches are located today.

Tony Pisano, born in Italy, ran the famous Italian restaurant, "Tony's Kitchen", at 212 79th Street in New York City before coming to Venice. He and his wife, Nellie, bought the Venice Villas in 1956, and ran it for years before buying back-to-back lots at 449 Spadaro Drive and 448 Baynard Drive.

Senator Warren Henderson owned and ran the Beachcomber for years before moving to 825 Golden Beach Blvd. Milard Henry bought the Beachcomber and turned it into individually owned condos in 1968 before moving to 452 Baynard Drive.

1958 - Golden Beach Associates, Inc. (GBAI) was formed and the Charter By-laws were written. Fred Koenig was the first president of GBAI; Fred Corbett was Vice President, Mrs. Ross Durant, Secretary and June Dammann, Treasurer.

A committee was formed to begin the process to have the Golden Beach neighborhood streets paved. Drainage problems had to be resolved, street signs and telephone poles had to be moved and legalities with the City of Venice and Sarasota County were put in motion.

Fred and Nancy Corbett (412 Darling Drive) owned the Western Auto Hardware store on Venice Avenue and introduced the three-wheel bicycle to the area. Nancy

passed away in 2003 and Fred moved out-of-state to live with his son.

1959-61 GBAI President David Hopley. Membership annual dues increased to \$10.00.

During that period, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus moved their winter quarters from Sarasota to Venice. Members of the Gaona family still reside in the Golden Beach neighborhood. For many years, Tito Gaona (trapeze artist) gave lessons on his professional trapeze equipment in his backyard (432 Spadaro Drive) before moving it to the circus arena.

1960 Hurricane Donna arrived, destroying the Australian Pines that lined both sides of Golden Beach Blvd. Residents were ordered to leave the island. Many homes were flooded with nearly a foot of water.

Dottie Kimmerlin (437 Darling Drive) recalls when the police came house to house in the middle of night ordering everyone to leave their homes. She laughs now, remembering how she packed her four children in her car and wondered what else she could fit in to take. She decided on her curtains since she had just finished sewing them.

1962 1962-66 W.C. Cadwallader is GBAI President. He was instrumental in lowering toll phone calls made from Venice to Sarasota, taking effect in 1964.

1964 Golden Beach license plates were purchased for 63 cents each. Parking passes were issued to GBAI Members and their guests to display on their vehicles while parked at the beach access.

Beach access was deeded for the total sum of \$10.00 to all GBAI homeowners by A.E.R.O. Board Members: O.L. Mahon, Robert Mahon, Robert Baynard, Anthony

Spadaro and E.W. Darling. It was no longer an easement.

The Beachcomber parking area was built a foot onto the GBAI access. Rather than having it changed at great cost, the Beachcomber agreed to pay GBAI a \$1.00 rental fee per year.

1967 GBAI President Col. R.T. Neuman. In May 1967, the Venice City Council asked the State of Florida for annexation of submerged Gulf of Mexico lands extending from the Venice Jetties on the north, southward to a point south of the Venice Fishing Pier and fronting on both incorporated and unincorporated land next to the Gulf. It was not until October 15th that this information was reported in the local newspapers.

1968-69 GBAI President M.W. McLaren and current board members protested against the Venice City Council's secret annexation request. Mr. McLaren was able to authorize State Senator Warren Henderson to be the GBAI representative who asked for a delay, enabling the citizens to be heard. History proves that the annexation was not granted, preventing the city of Venice from taking over beachfront property for high-rise commercial buildings. Col. M.W. McLaren continued the process of getting Golden Beach neighborhood streets paved but drainage problems still remained on several streets.

1970-1997 an Annual Bulletin reviewing the yearly events was mailed to GBAI members once a year. It was not until 1993 that the newsletter was written May-October each year and delivered by street captains. Neighbors wrote letters to the Venice Airport Manager to encourage a flight pattern change.

1970 GBAI President Henry Wolf. 1971 GBAI President Robert Logan. 1972-73 GBAI President Lesley Crossley. Golden Beach Associates, Inc. made a donation to the Community Mobile Meals, Inc.

Hurricane Agnes created serious erosion problems. Dottie and Wayne Kimmerlin had Bob Mahon build an Ocala Block home at 437 Darling Drive. One of their friends in the area, Walter Farley (author of The Black Stallion and other novels), would ride his horse along the beach. Dottie fondly recalls the numerous picnic and fishing outings at the beach. Since they were one of the few homes with a swimming pool, they also hosted many pool parties. It was a fisherman's paradise. At that time there were no high-rise buildings or homes west of her house. It wasn't unusual for neighbors to find six to eight-inch sharks' teeth along the waterline.

1974 GBAI President Frank P. Alexander. 1975-76 GBAI President William Horstman. 1977 GBAI President David Sterrett. 1978 GBAI President Gus Vandembush.

1976 Len Ufford (825 Golden Beach), George Foster (Everglades Drive) and Ed Littlehales (448 Baynard Drive) mowed and maintained the beach access until 1982. Len Ufford also built four picnic tables and a bicycle rack.

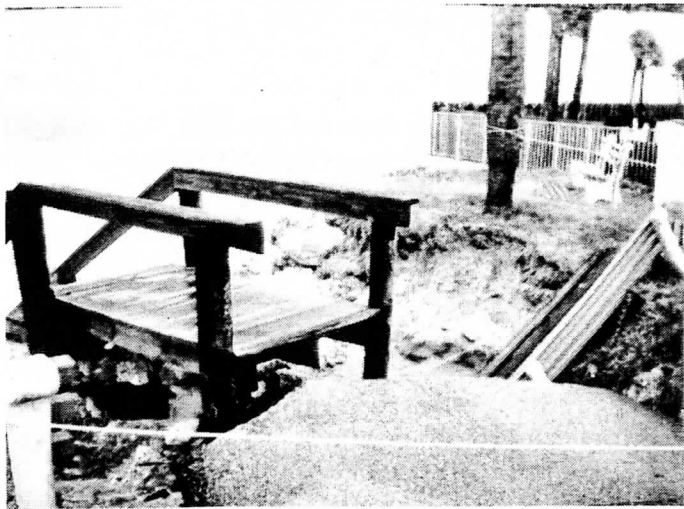
1979 GBAI President Russ Snyder. Golden Beach member, Bob Redd, owner of a concrete and flooring company, built a barbeque grill at the beach access for members.

1980 Membership annual dues increased to \$15.00. 1980-81 GBAI President, Merle Graser, worked with GBAI Board Members to encourage the city of Venice

to slow development and restrict airport traffic over the Golden Beach neighborhood.

The city of Venice water and sewer connection and irrigation system began in the Golden Beach neighborhood and was completed by 1982. It took longer than expected because some of the pipes were not at the correct depth. It was found that the roadbed did not meet county requirements so the roads were torn up and raised. Many residents found large puddles at the end of their driveways after a heavy rain (it continues to puddle in some areas). Because of the high cost, (starting at \$8,000 per home) it took many years for all of Golden Beach homes to connect to the city water system.

The St. Petersburg Skyway Bridge collapsed on May 9 1980. Shirley Bennett (413 Mahon Drive) was instrumental in helping Jim Curtis publish his book, "Skyway".



1981 Beach repairs after the no-name storm. (This may have been when the BBQ that Bob Redd built

was destroyed.) The storm washed out the beach and the benches and palms were washed away. The waves pounded the seawall at the Ocean Sands and threatened to collapse their pool. Ed Littlehales worked with June Doyen, a marine engineer with worldwide experience who was also an owner at the Ocean Sands, to get an emergency permit to install riprap in order to avoid any further damage. At that time, the City of Venice was replacing sidewalks and hired a truck service to haul away the sidewalks. Ed Littlehales convinced the driver to dump the sidewalk debris at the Ocean Sands water edge and at the Golden Beach access to form a riprap. Meanwhile, June Doyen continued the permit process in Tallahassee only to learn that the sidewalk debris was not permitted that close to the shoreline. The Golden Beach access was used as a staging location for heavy equipment to be used in order to sink the sidewalks deep below the permitted riprap. The area was torn up for several weeks before the job was completed.



GBAI President, Merle Graser, organized Neighborhood Watch in Golden Beach, with the first meeting held March 3, 1981. Officers from the Venice Police Department and Sarasota County Sheriff's department were on hand to talk to several neighbors. Addison "Van" Van Wagner (829 Harbor Drive) formed a committee of neighbors who patrolled the Golden Beach neighborhood. The neighborhood watch continues to this day.

The United Venice Area Citizens (UVAC) was established to discourage the City of Venice from allowing developers to build high rises along the beaches in the area from the Venice public beach to the Venice pier.

Although the City of Venice had established an ordinance of no dogs on beach, it continued to be a problem on all beaches.

1982 GBAI President Robert Koson. Red tide was a concern in the area. Golden Beach neighbors organized to meet regularly to bury the dead fish during the outbreaks. Later years, the City of Venice would send bulldozers to clean up the area from the South Jetty to the Venice Pier.

GBAI President Robert Koson had the crime watch signs installed at the GBAI beach access.

Edna Littlehales (448 Baynard Drive) and George Foster (Everglades Drive) founded the 'Elephant's Trunk Thrift Shop. In 1983, Edna received national television recognition by the American Hospital Association for her innovative hospital auxiliary program. Joe Gaza (601 Gardenia Drive) drove and maintained a delivery truck for the shop. He also took over mowing the beach access for \$15 a mow and assisted with any maintenance.

1984 1983 GBAI President Pat Tyler. 1984 GBAI President Dr. Fred Stammer.

1985 Golden Beach escaped the path of a tornado less than one mile away. GBAI President Joseph Dempsey had gravel added and graded at the beach access.

1986 GBAI President Gary Novak. The current board members agreed to *not* fill in the ditch at the beach access because it would cause water drainage and possibly illegal parking problems.

1987 GBAI President James Killorin. Membership annual dues increased to \$20.00.

After years of compiling historical photographs and information, Shirley Bennett (413 Mahon Drive) and Norah Denison wrote, "Venice, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow". You may find a copy at the Venice Public Library.

Jan Conner (817 Cincy Street) was a partner in the initial group that restored the old Venice Hotel, once called Park Place and is now known as Summerville of Venice, an assisted living facility. She was responsible for the building being processed and placed on the National Register of Historic Places, becoming the first structure in South County to be given that honor.

1988 GBAI President, Richard J. Lanzara, reported on airport flight path and noise concerns, enforced patrolling at the beach access to help monitor any trespassers and was instrumental in the additional streetlights installed in the neighborhood. So many of the properties still had ditches in front of their homes that it was extremely difficult to see during the night hours. 1989 GBAI President Helen Pape.

1990 GBAI President, Lloyd M. Felmly, M.D., organized a petition drive asking for airport noise reduction over the Golden Beach neighborhood. He collected 250 signatures, and neighbors agreed that the airport should remain in its location but the flight patterns should change so airplanes would not fly over the neighborhood, with no take-offs or landings from 10pm to 7am.

Polly and Rolin Becker (413 Darling Drive) continued the Security Patrol for Golden Beach. Members volunteered to drive around a couple of hours a night per month to check on the neighborhood. A Patrol Training session was held at the Venice Rifle Range and 35 neighbors attended. Volunteers went door-to-door to distribute security brochures.

1991 GBAI President Rolin Becker requested that the speed limit be lowered in the neighborhood. Jim Barbur continued to volunteer for the maintenance at the beach access and arranged for two deputies to be on hand for July 4th at the beach access.

1992 GBAI President Jim Barbur. The City of Venice completed a noise study of the Venice Airport. It was determined that there was excessive traffic over our neighborhood.

Red tide in September caused an extensive fish kill. Neighbors organized to bury the fish.

1993 A new bicycle rack was built and installed by Tom Callahan (404 Mahon Drive).

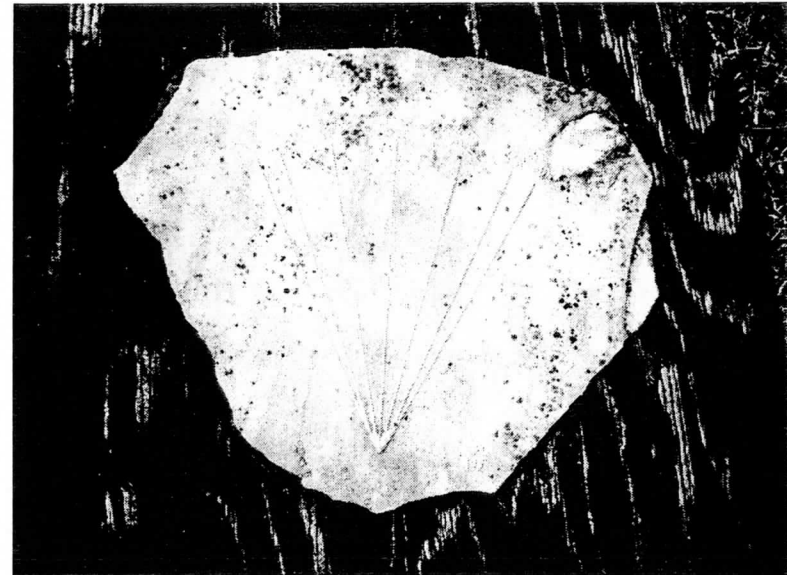
1993-94 Greg Hutton, (GBAI President 1993-94) a marine biology teacher at Venice High School, was named Sarasota County Teacher of the Year.

George Brandeau (405 Mahon Drive) organized "Street Captains" to help distribute the news around the Golden Beach neighborhood.

1995 GBAI President, Jack Stevenson, encouraged members to continue their membership in order to keep informed of local changes that might affect the neighborhood during the growth in Venice.

Bill Millman compiled the data for the first GBAI Directory.

Ed Littlehales installed the 'sun setter' at the beach access after two years in the making.



Sun setter by Ed Littlehales



View looking south at the Beachcomber

1996 Beach renourishment gave Golden Beach a wonderful beach area which allowed members to avoid walking on boulders or using the steps to get into the water. It also covered fourteen of the sixteen steps leading down to the water.

Jim Barbur (863 Golden Beach Blvd.) and crew: Russ Rink, Addison Van Wagner, Dick Hofmann and Milt Cross made beach access improvements. New sprinkler heads, a water pump and box, and electrical services were all repaired and updated.

1997-98 GBAI President Jack Herre. He served on the Board of Zoning Appeals for six years and encouraged GBAI Members to get involved with matters concerning the growth of Venice.

Helen Gobdudak (435 Golden Beach Blvd) received a trophy for the fall racing season from the Venice Women's Sailing Squadron.

1999-2000 GBAI President Kay Scimone. Beechwood Builders Inc., owned by Jeff and Jeanette Gates (448 Spadaro Drive), built the gazebo at the beach access.



Kay Scimone (419 Spadaro Drive) and Pam Savickas (801 Golden Beach Blvd.) established a Guidelines Manual for GBAI Board Members and Committee Members. They were also the force behind the City of Venice that led to the creation of the bicycle trail on Harbor Drive.

Ed Littlehales and committee conducted a parking survey to determine how many people were using the Golden Beach access illegally. The committee strongly encouraged members to use parking tags and neighbors stepped up security by leaving more warning notices on non-tagged cars.

2001-02 GBAI President Bob Tellman. 2002 BJ Carson volunteered as the GBAI newsletter editor and over the next five years added a column, "*Meet Your Neighbor*", where she interviewed a different neighbor monthly. There are over 40 interviews in the 2002-2006 newsletters stored at the Venice Archives.

Maureen Eberhart manages the Beachcomber and Dick Eberhart is the President of the Beachcomber Association. They live at 601 Ravenna Street.

2003-04 GBAI President Eddie Palmer. Rollins Coakley (813 Robert Street) was the force behind the restoration of the Venice Train Depot. The City of Venice held a dedication for the Train Depot that currently houses a museum on the history of the station and is used for a SCAT bus station. Later, Rollins moved to Utah until his death in 2007.

Roger Krinke (417 Spadaro Dr), Kevin Leytze (609 Gardenia Drive), and Eddie Palmer (389 Flamingo Drive) built two picnic tables that replaced the old ones at the beach access. Bruce Lebedun installed a new roof on the shed.

Roger Krinke, Bruce Lebedun (508 Everglades Drive) and Kevin Leytze constructed a concrete pad for the dumpster at the beach access.

BJ Carson, (508 Everglades Drive) mural artist, painted artwork on the dumpster. It was a beach scene with sandpipers and an egret.

2003 the wastewater treatment plant was moved off the island and 19 acres became available for development. GBAI Board Members and over 50 Golden Beach residents attended a meeting to speak out against any development. The Venice City Council voted to keep only 5.5 acres as a park. The development on the remaining 13.5 acres is still being discussed.

Sharky's Restaurant at the Venice Pier planned to expand. Owners, Greg Novak and Mike Pachota, spoke to GBAI members about their plans. To this date, nothing has changed with the exception of additional parking, and a pavilion was installed by the city.

On July 4th the beach access was patrolled from 6-9pm. Thirty-one carloads of people and twenty-three groups of trespassers were turned away.

Herman Zornes (828 Cincy Street) pitched for the Venice Senior Softball Team, Suncoast Orthopedic and Sports Medicine. The team won the Huntsman World Senior Games for the second year in a row winning 1st Place Gold Medal.

Tropical Storm Henri drenched Venice. Many streets and yards were flooded with six inches of rain that fell on an already soaked area.

2004 Membership annual dues increased to \$40.00. The remaining two steps at the beach access were covered with sand to prevent any accidents.

This was also the year for Florida hurricanes: Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. Venice was spared with only minor damage.

In March 2004 over sixty Golden Beach residents attended the Venice Town Hall Meeting. There were

concerns about the Venice Airport property (how to develop the 125 acres at the waste water treatment plant) and Sharkey's Restaurant expansion.

Bruce Lebedun built a new shed to house the portable BBQ. (It is currently used to store the GBAI beach chairs.) Al Filipe (408 Darling Drive) and Bruce Lebedun installed spotlights at the gazebo. Rick and Peg Magee (628 Gardenia Drive) and John Nash (812 Cincy Street) painted the fence and bicycle rack.

On July 4th, GBAI patrol watch turned away five people on bicycles, 28 walkers and seven carloads of trespassers.

Franc Talarico (405 Baynard Drive) created a bronze statue, "Ted with Small Boy", for the Ted Williams Museum in Hernando, Florida.

On April 14th, 2004, the Venice Neighborhoods Coalition was formed by Sue Lang (421 Darling Street) and other residents over concerns about airport and growth.

2005-06 GBAI President Bruce Lebedun. Three alligators took up residence at the Flamingo ditch. One that was nearly six feet long was relocated.

Beach renourishment from the Venice Public Beach to the Venice Pier took place after the 2004 storms caused erosion. (650,000 cubic yards of sand along 3.3 miles of beach were added, which took two months to complete at a cost of \$15 million.)

Red tide lingered for nine months killing 25 bottlenose dolphins, four whales and 140 sea turtles. These numbers included Sarasota and Manatee counties.

January 2005, the Envision Venice meetings began to establish guidelines for the growth of Venice.

Thanks to Eddie Palmer (389 Flamingo Drive), the following streets were repaved: Flamingo, Gardenia, Ravenna, Villas, Hibiscus and Poinsettia.

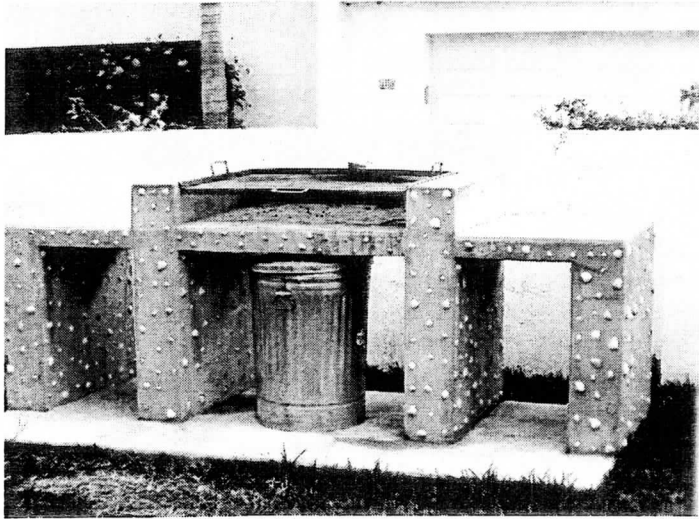


GBAI purchased 20 beach chairs to be stored at the beach access shed for members' use.

Bill Whalen (433 Baynard Drive) organized the Great American Clean-up for the Golden Beach area. Volunteers that helped were Sue Lang, Steve Trombeta, Bruce Lebedun, BJ Carson, Lee Goolden, Jan and Eva Pucher.

On July 4th at 12:30am a fire started in the beach access dumpster. The Venice Fire Department was called and the fire was extinguished but not before it destroyed the dumpster. The dumpster was replaced with one that was painted by an elementary art class. (Note that the new dumpster is larger than the old one, resulting in an increase in city trash fees.)

2005 was also a busy year for hurricanes with 20 named storms. Venice experienced only minor rainfall.

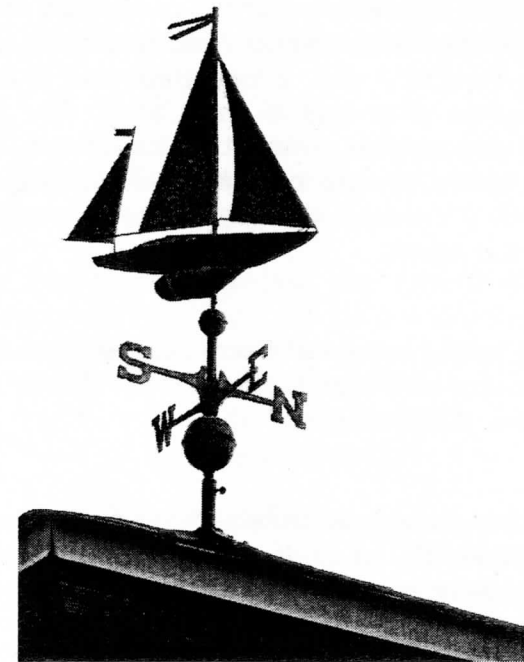


A new permanent BBQ grill was installed at the beach access by neighbors Al Filipe, Jeff Fraser, Joe Gaza, Ed Hicks, Bruce Lebedun, Kevin Leytze, Eddie Palmer, and Steve Trombeta.

A property investor purchased over 20 properties in the city of Venice and several were located in Golden Beach. The properties were being used as daily, weekly or monthly rentals and claimed to sleep up to 16 per household. A petition was circulated in the neighborhood stating that the current law restricts rentals in a residential neighborhood to three times a year. The GBAI Board Members took these signed petitions to the Venice City Council. Although it is currently unlawful to run a business in a residential neighborhood, the investor is appealing the law and is being allowed to run his rental business until the matter is taken to court. As of this writing the issue is still under investigation.

GBAI President, Bruce Lebedun, and the board members agreed to hire a lawyer to represent Golden Beach Associates, Inc. on the short-term rental issue, funded by voluntary contributions.

Security patrols continue and each year the Venice Police Department warns citizens to be aware of the gypsies who come through the area every season (October-April).



A weathervane was installed in memory of Jim Barbur who was instrumental in getting the gazebo built, helped maintain the beach access for many years, and served as GBAI President in 1991.

Eddie Palmer and Sue Lang replaced the large planter at the GB access. Ed Hicks and Bruce Lebedun

installed two fans at the gazebo and replaced a sprinkler head.

Jerry Hines replaced the worn beach chairs with twelve new ones for the GBAI members.

Current GBAI Secretary, Joyce Ranalli (409 Mahon Drive), encouraged that a raffle be held for Habitat for Humanity at the annual picnic. The raffle raised \$500.

BJ Carson, (508 Everglades Drive) completed the mural on the side of the Venice Little Theatre (titled, "Sharing Paradise in Venice". She chose that title in order to remind everyone that this is their land, (the wildlife) and that we are all just visitors). It took her 300 hours during May and June to complete. Rick Magee (628 Gardenia Drive) created a DVD on the step-by-step of BJ painting the mural.

Graser Park, at the corner of Barcelona Avenue and The Esplanade, was dedicated. (Named for Merle Graser, GBAI president 1980-81).

"The Mediterranean Architecture of Venice and Sarasota, Florida", a self-guided tour book was completed by Sebastiano Liseo (608 Hibiscus).

2007-08 GBAI President Betsy Steiner-Fraser. In 2006, ballots were mailed to all GBAI members for the election of the 2007 GBAI Board Members. For the first time in GBAI history, several members wanted to run for various board positions, including president and vice president.

In February, the City of Venice held a Town Hall meeting; the main discussions were about the airport

noise and whether to move the Venice High School. By May, the decision had been made to keep the VHS at its current location and to have it remodeled.

A special meeting was held with Fred Watts, the Venice Airport Manager, to discuss future development plans for the airport. Over 40 GBAI members attended.

A raffle for Habitat for Humanity continued at the annual April GBAI picnic raising \$650.

Watering restrictions: watering residential lawns was restricted to one day a week.

Several unlocked cars were broken into in the neighborhood. Neighbors were encouraged to lock their cars even in their garages.

July 4th, residents patrolled the beach access and turned away 19 carloads of people and 18 groups walking. It rained for about an hour before sunset but the rain stopped long enough to allow the fireworks show at the South Jetty, sponsored by the Sertoma Club of Venice, to be held as planned.

GBAI Board Member, Randall Greene, is Board liaison for monitoring the Venice Airport development. His continued research and reports keeps Golden Beach members well informed.

Neighbors have always gathered together for socials during the history of Golden Beach. The GBAI annual membership dinners/meetings have been held at various places: Fisherman's Wharf, Elks Club, American Legion, Orchard Restaurant at the Best Western Resort (now the Beleza condos), Venice Golf & Country Club, the Venice Yacht Club, the SunTrust

Bank, the Venice Public Library and the GBAI beach access.

There are 319 properties in the Golden Beach neighborhood. These are located on Baynard Drive, Cincy Street, Coral Street, Darling Drive, Everglades Drive, Firenze Avenue, Flamingo Drive, Gardenia Drive, Golden Beach Boulevard, Gulf Street, Harbor Drive, Hibiscus Drive, Mahon Drive, Poinsettia Drive, Ravenna Drive, Roberts Street, Serata Street, Spadaro Drive and Villas Drive.

I researched this information from the Golden Beach Associates, Inc. records at the Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection, located at 351 Nassau, the Golden Beach Associates, Inc. newsletters, "Venice" written by George E. Youngberg, Sr. and W. Earl Aumann, "Venice in the 1920's" written by Gregg M. Turner, "The Ringling Legacy" written by Pat Ringling Buck, and "Venice Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" written by Nora Denison Scanlan and Shirley Bennett.

I would like to thank Mary Charles for editing the book. Mary has lived in Golden Beach for over thirty years and has volunteered for the Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection for eight years. I would like to thank Hilde Cross, Ed Littlehales and Joyce Ranalli for their expertise in editing and Sheila Fox and other neighbors for their wonderful stories. Also, a special thanks goes to Rick Magee for his expert computer advice.

See you at sunsets and maybe we will witness another green flash! *BJ Carson, GBAI newsletter Editor from 2002 to the present time.*