



Golden Beach Newsletter March 2023

Laissez le bon temps rouler, GB!

Let the good times roll, Golden Beach! 92 neighbors turned out for the Mardi Gras Red Beans & Rice Event at the beach pavilion on Saturday, February 18th.

Many thanks to our Social Committee, led by Dee Leatherbury, for organizing a wonderful event.

Pictures do speak louder than words, and below are event photos.



Mardi Gras Mask competition won by Gigi "I Don't Like To Lose" Bova, with Connie Taylor a strong second.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming neighborhood events:

April 1: Annual Cookout – hamburgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers

Oct. 14: Oktoberfest – brats and stuff

Nov. 11: Chili party

Event information will also be posted on the bulletin board at the beach and sent to you by Paperless Post



Mardi Gras at Golden Beach

James Lee Grubbs

Jim Grubbs, a Golden Beach neighbor, died in his home on January 5.

Jim lived a rich and full life. Born in Arkansas, he lived in the Aleutian Islands, Germany, and San Antonio before arriving in Venice, studied at UofP's Wharton School, travelled the world and enjoyed fishing, cycling, reading and a glass of fine wine or good scotch. Jim is survived by his wife (our neighbor the Rev. Dr. Lisa B. Hamilton), a son and grandson, and his younger sisters.

Memorial donations may be made to The Venice Theatre Restoration Fund, which includes a new system for those whose hearing, like Jim's, is compromised. Checks may be mailed to Venice Theatre, 140 Tampa Avenue West, Venice, FL 34285. Please indicate that gifts are in Jim's memory.

Golden Beach Singer to Perform at Carnegie Hall

Gianna Weerasooriya, 17, will perform with a group of Venice High School choral students at Carnegie Hall in New York this June. The group will join other high school, college and community choirs for several days of rehearsals and what is expected to be a sell-out final combined performance.

The group of 29 students will be led by VHS choir director and alumnus Brittany Smith, who also sang at Carnegie when she was a VHS student. Smith says *"There is nothing like travel to broaden a mind. Students grow musically, personally, and socially on a trip like this... A trip like this makes a difference in every student's life ... and it has a lasting positive effect on our chorus program at Venice High School."* A total of 51 people, including chaperones and family members, will make the trip.

Travel expenses -- flight, hotels, meals -- are approximately \$2,000 per student. Venice residents can contribute to underwriting the costs in a number of ways, helping all the selected students join the trip.

There will be a "Singer's Showcase" benefit concert and reception (4:00 pm and again at 7:00 pm) on Saturday, March 25 at Unity Church, 125 N. Jackson Road, Venice. Tickets are \$15 and available until they sell out.

There will also be a student fund-raising presence at Publix and other local venues.

For more information, to make a donation, or to become a sponsor please visit <http://www.vhschorus.org> or email vhschoralboosters@gmail.com.

Ms. Weerasooriya is a Junior at VHS, an alto, and has been singing in a chorus since sixth grade. This is her first performance at Carnegie Hall. In her words, *"I learned about it (Carnegie Hall) in U.S. History, and now it will come to life for me."*

GBAI Food Drive

Many of our neighbors in Venice, Nokomis, Laurel and Osprey are struggling to put food on their table. To support these neighbors, the newly formed GBAI Charitable Committee is organizing a canned food and household essentials drive to collect items for the South County Food Pantry in Venice.

From **March 15th through April 7th**, we are collecting non-perishable food and household essentials at four locations: the Beach access; 613 Gardenia (Caldwell); 444 Darling (Flynn/Oglethorpe); and 812 Serata (Calder).

Canned foods, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, soup, beans, rice, instant potatoes, and canned milk are needed. Personal items are needed as well: shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, deodorant, and paper towels. ***Golden Beach Snowbirds – this is a terrific opportunity to help clean the pantry as you prepare to migrate North!*** Unfortunately, expired dates and opened containers cannot be accepted. *Thank you!!*

Golden Beach Directories

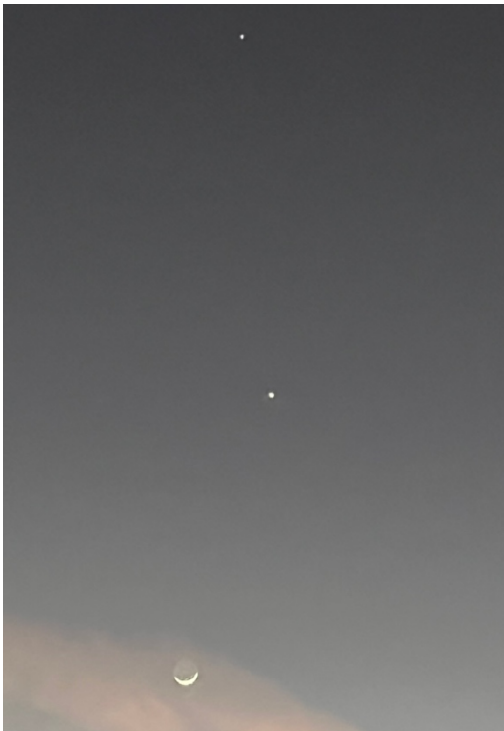
Street Captains have delivered 2023 Golden Beach Directories. If you haven't received yours, please contact Street Captain Coordinator Nancy Liscow at nliscow@gmail.com

What's up? Look up!

Remember to look up when you are taking your nighttime stroll, and enjoy the beauty of the night sky.
-- Courtesy of Bob Mondelli

As the seasons change and the Earth continues its journey around the Sun, the night sky reveals different celestial objects to be seen. March 2023 offers a great opportunity to observe a range of celestial objects from Florida, including several constellations and planets.

Planets: If you've been watching Jupiter and Venus in the last few weeks you've been treated to a show. Jupiter and Venus were those bright points of light in the western sky right around sunset. The brighter one was Venus and the slightly dimmer one was Jupiter. They were also joined by the moon. It was a great sight – see pictures below of the event. Starting from the bottom, Moon, Venus, Jupiter and then a couple of days later...



Constellations: One of the most recognizable constellations visible from Florida in March 2023 is Orion, the Hunter. Orion is easy to spot due to its distinctive shape, which resembles a large hourglass almost resting on its side. The constellation contains several bright stars, including Betelgeuse and Rigel, which are two of the ten brightest stars visible in the night sky.

Another constellation visible in March 2023 is Taurus, the Bull. Taurus contains the bright star Aldebaran, which is easy to identify due to its reddish hue. Taurus also contains the Pleiades, known as the Seven Sisters, a cluster of stars that can be seen with the naked eye. The Comet 2022/ZTF reviewed last month was in the same binocular view with the star Aldebaran. Pictures below showing the comet and Aldebaran were taken from my backyard.

In March 2023, several planets will also be visible from Florida. The most prominent planet will be **Jupiter**, visible in the early evening and appearing as a bright point of light in the western sky. Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system and is known for its distinctive stripes and swirling storms.

Saturn will also be visible in the southeastern sky in the early evening, appearing as a slightly dimmer point of light than Jupiter. Saturn is known for its iconic rings, which can be seen through a telescope.

Lastly, **Mars** will be visible in the early morning hours before sunrise, appearing as a bright reddish point of light in the eastern sky. Mars is known for its distinctive red color and is often referred to as the "Red Planet."

Comet C/2022 E3 ZTF: Also known as Comet ZTF, "the Green Comet" was not as bright as hoped, but it was a delight watching it on consecutive nights as it moved across the night sky. Pictures below, taken with a 300mm lens.



Comet just above the horns of Taurus

Comet in the circle.

Observing Tips: To observe these constellations and planets, it's best to find a location with minimal light pollution, such as a park or open field. Use a pair of binoculars or a small telescope to see more details. Finally, be patient! Give your eyes time to adjust to the darkness. It can take up to 30 minutes for your eyes to fully adjust to the darkness to see the most detail in the night sky.

Finding objects in the night sky can be frustrating. I want to share with you two apps that I use and recommend to friends. *Stellarium* and *Sky Guide* are both popular mobile apps designed for stargazing and astronomical observation. I recommend starting out with Stellarium as it is free. If it too cumbersome try Sky. There are some notable differences between the two apps:

- *User Interface:* Sky Guide has a sleek and minimalist design with a user-friendly interface, whereas Stellarium has a more complex interface with a wide range of customization options.
- *Features:* Both apps offer similar features, such as identifying stars, planets, and constellations, and providing information on celestial events. However, Stellarium has more advanced features, such as the ability to simulate the movement of celestial bodies over time and the option to customize the sky view.
- *Cost:* Sky Guide is a paid app that costs \$2.99, whereas Stellarium is free to download and use.
- *Compatibility:* Sky Guide is only available for iOS devices, while Stellarium is available for iOS, Android, and desktop operating systems.

Beach Parking Passes

Please display your 2023 member parking pass in the lower driver's side windshield area, and ask your houseguests to display a guest pass face-up on the dashboard when parking at the beach access lot.

Parking space in the lot is limited, so please park only one vehicle at a time in the lot to ensure there is space for all who need it. Cars without GBAI stickers are subject to towing.

GB emails going into your Spam/Junk folder?

To help guide GB emails to your inbox, add 2 emails to all your computer address books and contacts (Gmail webmail, Apple mail, Contacts, Outlook, Thunderbird, etc). Add: news@goldenbeachassociates.com and contact@goldenbeachassociates.com

Contacting Golden Beach Associates -- 2 easy ways!

Need to contact Golden Beach Associates with a problem, a question, or a suggestion?
There are two quick and easy ways:

Email: contact@goldenbeachassociates.com

Or use *Contact Us* on the website: <https://www.goldenbeachassociates.com>

