

Venice Heritage

Florida

SUPPORTING HISTORICAL RESOURCES SINCE 1994



WINTER, 2025

HORSE & CHAISE GAZETTE

Venice Heritage Luncheon

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Venice Yacht Club

1330 Tarpon Center Dr, Venice, FL

Topic for the Luncheon

All About the Venice Theatre



Speaker Kristofer Geddie

Executive Director Venice Theatre

Kristofer is a highly engaging speaker. Expect to be entertained by his knowledge of Venice Theatre history.

Go to VeniceHeritage.org to make your \$85 reservation

KRISTOFER GEDDIE IS A HIGHLY ENGAGING SPEAKER. EXPECT TO BE ENTERTAINED BY HIS PERFORMANCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF VENICE THEATER HISTORY.

**JOIN US FOR THIS FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON AT THE VENICE YACHT CLUB.
PROCEEDS BENEFIT VENICE MUSEUM PROJECTS,**

INCLUDING COMPACT SHELVING FOR THE ARCHIVES BUILDING TO INCREASE STORAGE CAPACITY BY 60%.

Everyone is invited to attend, not for members only

REGISTER ONLINE



The Venice Museum is housed within the historic 1927 Triangle Inn. Have you visited our history museum lately?

NEWS FROM HISTORICAL RESOURCES

**HARRY KLINKHAMER
HISTORY TSAR,
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

We have entered the high season and things are sure getting busy around here. Our latest exhibit *Financing a City: The History of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers* is open and receiving good attention.

Opening February 3 will be our new photo exhibit, *We're Staying the Night: The Historic Hotels of Venice*. Both of these exhibits are for gearing up for the city's upcoming centennial.

Thanks to several of our volunteers who were able to beautify the outside of the Venice Museum a little with some new plantings. This is in anticipation of more work to be done later this year with the completion of the Old Betsy Museum.

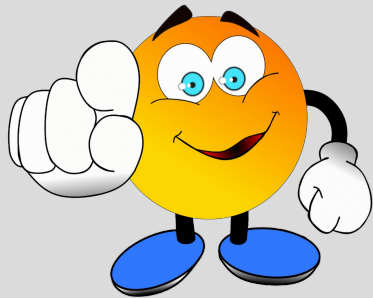
And speaking of the Old Betsy Museum, work is progressing quickly on this new home for our 1926 American LaFrance Pumper. The cinderblock shell is complete and the building is under roof. No word yet on a ribbon cutting, but it should be sometime this spring. We are also working on the interpretation of Old Betsy for when the truck gets housed in its new home.

If you are in town, consider exercising your body and mind by joining us on one of our seasonal tours. You can walk and learn about the history and architecture near downtown, the Venezia Park National Historic District, Edgewood National Historic District, or bicycle through the post-John Nolen era of Venice. Get more information on our website www.venicemuseum.org.

And finally, if you've visited the Venice Museum - or even if you haven't - we would like to encourage you to participate in a national museum visitor survey we are taking part in. This survey takes about 9 minutes and asks you how often you visit, why you visit, and who you visit with. If you don't visit, that's important too. So

please share your opinion. Access the link by clicking [HERE](#).

Harry Klinkhamer



WE WANT YOU...

JOIN THE VENICE HERITAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TEAM!

WHO WE ARE:

Venice Heritage is a support group for the City of Venice Division of Historical Resources. Our mission statement includes *support* Venice's historical assets (such as the Venice Museum), *promote and protect* the heritage of greater Venice, *preserve and protect* the John Nolen Plan, and *educate* the public about the history of Venice.
[Could you help us support our mission?](#)

WHO WE NEED:

Our current Board is looking for people with varying skills, who have new ideas and thoughts for long-term objectives and goals, who would enjoy the creation of new community events and fund-raising projects for the Division of Historical Resources. This will be a particularly interesting time to participate as we move into Venice's Official Centennial Celebration occurring November, 2025 through May, 2027.

[Are we describing someone like you?](#)

CONSIDER:

- Time requirements may be less than you think, 15-20 estimated hours monthly, not including special events.
- Seasonal residents are welcome. We can Zoom!
- Being a volunteer is rewarding.
- Being a Champion of Historic Venice, you will join a community of history and preservation volunteers whose efforts benefit the entire Venice community.

WANT TO TALK?

To get more information on joining our Board, contact us by email or phone so a VHI Board member can contact you. Nothing to lose but lots to gain!

EMAIL: veniceheritageinc@gmail.com

VENICE WAYBACK MACHINE

OUR TIME MACHINE WENT SEARCHING FOR INTERESTING RECENT EVENTS

THE PARK VIEW HOTEL OPENED ON FEBRUARY 11, 1927



In June of 1926 the BLE opened its first building, the Hotel Venice. To handle the anticipated volume of real estate investors the BLE quickly started constructing the Park View, which was based on the same blueprints as the Hotel Venice.

During the Depression Dr. Fred Albee converted the vacant hotel into the Florida Medical Center, which provided needed jobs and commerce for Venice. During WW2 the hospital served the Army Air Corp Base. After the war the Park View resumed being a hotel under a succession of different names.



In 1965 a dubious decision was made to raze the historic Park View Hotel to build the Venice Post Office, a bland institutional building that poorly fits the Mediterranean character of our downtown historic district.

With the creation of the Architectural Review Board in 1987, such a mismatch would (hopefully) be disallowed today.

A1926 BLE billboard advertised a Venice real estate sales office in the Park View Hotel.
Notice the Venice Company logo in the center



It is not a coincidence that the current Venice Centennial Logo is similar to the billboard logo seen above, also to the versions on the right. This modern logo was modeled after the historic examples.



WAYBACK MACHINE

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER TRIP



FRED & LOUELLA ALBEE ARRIVE IN VENICE AREA FEBRUARY 22, 1917

On this date Fred and Luella Albee arrived in Sarasota on a snowbird vacation. It took two days to get there on the Seaboard Airlines Railroad "Homesteader's Special" from New York. The fare was \$25 round trip each but likely the Albee's paid extra for a Pullman Car.

Dr. Albee loved Florida immediately. By the time he left, *only eight days later*, the Doctor had purchased a large parcel of land from the Palmer holdings, then largely owned by Bertha Palmer's sons Honore and Potter. That parcel included all of Nokomis, which includes the area we now know as Bay Point, along with the land that the historic portion of Venice is now located. In short order he hired John Nolen as city planner. Less than one year later Dr. Albee sold the Venice Project to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.



In **February** 1925 the Albee's decided to take a break from the New York winter and established Nokomis as their permanent residence. This started the chain of events leading to modern day Venice.

Did You Know?

VENICE HERITAGE HAS A SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM.
WE ARE SEEKING PARTNERING RELATIONSHIPS WITH

BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE GREATER VENICE COMMUNITY.



- Create a connection with the Venice historical community through engagement with Venice Heritage, a support group for the Division of Historical Resources.
- Discover and appreciate the many mutual benefits of a relationship with Venice Heritage.
- Levels of sponsorship from Bronze to Platinum are available to fit your commitment.

Contact us to learn more about our Sponsorship Program.



EMAIL: veniceheritageinc@gmail.com

PHONE: 941.237.0478

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Imagine this custom flower art displayed on your home or business location. Support Venice Heritage and a local artist through this community fundraising program.

MORE INFORMATION OR READY TO ORDER? CLICK [HERE](#)

Venice Heritage Inc. (VHI)

An all-volunteer tax exempt 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to **promote and protect the heritage of the greater Venice area.**

OUR GOALS

- To preserve and protect the John Nolen Plan of Venice
- To support and promote City of Venice Museum & Archives sites:
 - Triangle Inn
 - Julia Cousins Laning and Dale Laning Archives & Research Center
 - Lord-Higel House
- To support an exhibit space for Old Betsy, the city's first fire engine
- To educate the public about the history of Venice

Individual \$40 - Nonprofit Organization \$40 - Family \$55 - Business \$75

JOIN TODAY



Venice Heritage Inc. | P.O Box 1190 | Venice, FL 34284 US

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