

Back at the beach!



See A7

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# VENICE GONDOLIER SUN



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## No-fertilizer resolution set for Tuesday

By **BOB MUDGE**  
SENIOR WRITER

The Venice City Council doesn't have a red tide cure, but it can take steps in hopes of reducing the severity of blooms when they occur.

Two are on the agenda for next week's meeting.

First, the Council will consider a resolution that "encourages all persons, businesses, associations, clubs,

and/or organizations" to discontinue the use of fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorus or both, year-round.

The two elements are believed to nourish red tide algae and aggravate blooms when they occur close to shore.

The resolution was discussed at a recent special meeting on red tide as something the city could do in the immediate future, while

other measures to address red tide were being researched.

The city currently follows the county's six-months-a-year ban and is precluded by state law from enacting a stronger one.

The resolution also directs staff to create an educational program "regarding the effects of fertilizer on water quality, methods to reduce fertilizer usage and the proper

application and usage of fertilizer."

Then, the Council will discuss a proposal by Vice Mayor Bob Daniels that the city "develop a plan to monitor all surface water systems such as outfalls, creeks and septic systems that drain into the Gulf."

Together with a reduction in fertilizer use, Daniels wrote in an email putting his proposal on the agenda, monitoring will help to ensure that

the level of nutrients entering the Gulf is kept as low as possible.

"With no food, the red tide can be starved and hopefully be decreased or eliminated in the 3 miles of the Gulf that borders Venice beaches," he wrote.

### Other business

Also on Tuesday the Council will:

- Consider adopting an ordinance raising water,

sewage and reclaimed water rates.

- Consider adopting an ordinance raising solid waste and recycling rates.

- Discuss taking over mobility and park impact fees from the county.

- Discuss whether to continue to regulate vehicles for hire now that a state law precludes local regulation of ride-sharing services.

**FERTILIZER | 10A**

## No more biking; Mom gets free SUV



SUN PHOTOS BY LARRY EVANS

Jeff Hazeltine, Donna Hazeltine, Pamela Chal, Chad Hazeltine and Therese Spaude-Larsen pose for a group shot after Chal is surprised with a free car.

## American Import Auto donates vehicle

By **LARRY EVANS**  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

Donna and Jeff Hazeltine, who own and operate American Import Auto on East Venice Avenue, say it is not unusual for a customer to give them a broken car rather than pay to have it fixed.

"When that's happened in the past, we've taken the car, repaired it and sold it," Jeff Hazeltine said.

In July, a customer gave them a 2005 Saturn sport utility vehicle in need of a costly repair — a broken timing belt that rendered the car inoperable.

Donna Hazeltine said she and her husband decided that this time they would fix the car and give it



Pamela Chal fights back tears of happiness as she talks with Donna Hazeltine.

away to a needy family that could not afford a car.

"We decided we wanted to donate the car to someone who needed a car and who is out there

trying to make their lives better," Donna Hazeltine said.

She contacted organizations in the community and asked them to recommend a family. Several possible recipients were considered before a choice was made.

On Thursday morning, Pamela Chal saw her car for the first time.

A big smile flashed across Chal's face as she stood next to the highly polished red sport utility vehicle with gray leather seats. The smile gave way to tears of happiness when Chad Hazeltine, the couple's son and owner of Goosehead Insurance, opened a rear door and pulled out a box containing a

**MOM | 12A**



PROVIDED GRAPHIC

Sarasota Memorial is asking for relief from Venetian Gateway architectural standards that would mandate small windows instead of large ones to allow in natural light and offer a view, as shown here.

## SMH seeks relief from height limit

By **BOB MUDGE**  
SENIOR WRITER

Venice Regional Bayfront Health is ahead of Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) in getting local approvals for its new facility, but SMH could catch up a bit next week.

The Venice City Council is scheduled to consider a request from SMH to amend the 2002 pre-annexation agreement that brought its proposed site at the southeast corner of the Laurel Road/Pinebrook Road intersection into the city.

The agreement provides that development on the 65-acre site must conform to Venetian Gateway Overlay District standards for architecture and signs.

Compliance with the standards, which limit building height to 35 feet and mandate small windows, would inhibit building a state-of-the-art hospital, according to attorney Dan Bailey, representing SMH.

The standards "are at variance with functional building design

standards for hospitals, specifically, the need to stack patient rooms vertically over treatment areas in order to facilitate the safe and efficient flow of staff and patients within a compact building footprint, and the need to introduce healing natural light into patient rooms," he wrote in a June 29 letter to the city clerk.

The hospital acquired the property in 2005 subject to the terms of the agreement. It was designated "Commercial" on the city's Future Land Use Map and was rezoned to a Planned Commercial Development District, which authorized 390,000 square feet of retail shopping center and office uses, Bailey wrote.

But it was always SMH's intent to use the property to develop a hospital, and in July it got final state permission to build one — a 110-bed facility, with room for expansion.

Plans also call for a medical office building,

**HEIGHT | 3A**

Good morning,  
Gondolier Sun  
subscriber  
Mary Neubei

### FRONT SECTION

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LET'S GO

### DEATHS

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