

May 10, 2016

The Venice Historic Preservation Board and the City of Venice take pleasure  
in presenting the

## Venice Legacy Award

to

### Venice Nokomis Women's Club

in recognition of their contribution to the recorded history of early Venice

In 1926, the Venice Nokomis Women's Club met for the first time at Mrs. Albee's House, with the first order of business being to form a library. The Club's purpose was to foster civic and educational projects and successfully opened the library with over 6,000 books after soliciting favorite books from various individuals, including the governor. The library was the only one in Sarasota County until the late 1950s.

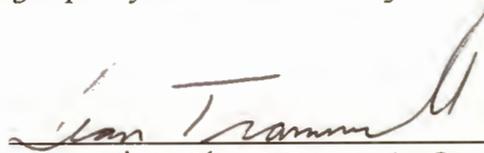
The Venice Nokomis Women's Club provided many services to the community including bringing famous lectures to the area, helping the local Camp Fire Girls send Florida history books to a Camp Fire Chapter in Mexico, and helping form a local Boy Scout troop.

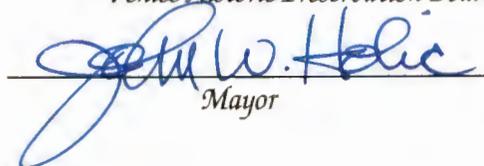
Over the years the Club has been instrumental in fundraising efforts to assist local organizations including donating volunteer hours. The Club supported legislation on curbing netting and seining fish in the bays, and assisted the black community by providing school supplies and clothing, adequate church facilities, opening a nursery school, developing a Negro Library Fund, as well as teaching some of them to read.

During World War II the clubhouse was used as a Red Cross Center and sewing room. The current clubhouse was built in the 1950s at Harbor Drive and Tampa Avenue on land donated by Robert S. Baynard, with Mrs. Albee donating the library wing. The Club also provided a dental screening program in the schools for those unable to pay.

As part of their original charge, the Club continues to watch over the library and contributes financially, holds fundraisers and donates to various local civic charities, and provides scholarships for post high school education. The Venice Nokomis Women's Club has been an integral part of the Venice community since 1926.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Venice Historic Preservation Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Venice Legacy Awards are given to individuals or organizations in recognition of their contributions to historical preservation or significant historical impact in the Venice area.