

To: Jim Yelverton <[JYelverton@Venicegov.com](mailto:JYelverton@Venicegov.com)>

Subject: Tree ordinance

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Message submitted from the <Venice, FL> website.

**Site Visitor Name:** Barb viaene

**Site Visitor Email:** [Barbara.viaene@yahoo.com](mailto:Barbara.viaene@yahoo.com)

Jim, is there a clear definition anywhere of what is considered a Venetian or heritage tree? I have read the ordinance and was unable to find a succinct description that would help someone know whether the tree fits this category.

## JoAnne Crawn-Brewer

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**From:** Jim Yelverton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 3:36 PM  
**To:** Barb viaene  
**Cc:** JoAnne Crawn-Brewer  
**Subject:** RE: Tree ordinance

Hi Barb,

The parameters for a Heritage and Venetian trees are in the definitions so start there. Section 118-10 deals with details for designation of Venetian trees and all the incentives and conditions that go along. We presented to City Council today and were asked to clarify section 118-7 and 118-8 so the wording will change some in those 2 sections.

The short version, Heritage trees are native trees 30 inches in diameter and greater.

Venetian trees can be any tree that has significance, desirability or utility to the community. They are nominated by the property owner where they exist with consent from all property owners where the canopy overhangs. The application comes to me, I inspect the tree to be sure it is healthy and safe and if the tree is suitable for preservation. There will be an application process that has not been finalized yet.

Once the ordinance is finalized I will be available to meet with HOAs and any interested groups to answer questions about the new ordinance.

Thank you for your interest,  
Jim

*Jim Yelverton, BCMA #FL5655B*  
*Tree Program Administrator/City Arborist*  
*Planning & Zoning Division*  
*(941)882-7433*  
[jyelverton@venicegov.com](mailto:jyelverton@venicegov.com)  
[www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com)

*"The significant problems we face today - cannot be  
solved by the same level of thinking that created them".  
- Albert Einstein*



## JoAnne Crawn-Brewer

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**From:** Jim Yelverton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** JoAnne Crawn-Brewer  
**Subject:** FW: Tree ordinance

**From:** Barbara Viaene <[barbara.viaene@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara.viaene@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 3:57 PM  
**To:** Jim Yelverton <[JYelverton@Venicegov.com](mailto:JYelverton@Venicegov.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Tree ordinance

Thanks Jim, I did read the ordinance 128-10 but clear definition is not there but I will read it again. I was watching the presentation at council today.

Thx I will follow up if I still think it lacks common definition after the re-review

Sent from my iPhone

**JoAnne Crawn-Brewer**

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**From:** Jim Yelverton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2019 4:01 PM  
**To:** Barbara Viaene  
**Cc:** JoAnne Crawn-Brewer  
**Subject:** RE: Tree ordinance

You are welcome. After it is final give me a call and we can get together if you like.

Jim

## Mercedes Barcia

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**Subject:** RE: Banyan Tree on Lot 10, Harbor Drive

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**From:** JoAnne Crawn-Brewer <[jcrawn-brewer@venicegov.com](mailto:jcrawn-brewer@venicegov.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 3:02 PM  
**To:** Danielle Lewis <[DLewis@Venicegov.com](mailto:DLewis@Venicegov.com)>  
**Cc:** Lori Stelzer <[LStelzer@Venicegov.com](mailto:LStelzer@Venicegov.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Banyan Tree on Lot 10, Harbor Drive

*Written Correspondence. Thanks*

*- JoAnne Crawn-Brewer*

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**From:** Jim Yelverton <[JYelverton@Venicegov.com](mailto:JYelverton@Venicegov.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 2:05 PM  
**To:** Paula Wesley <[paula.wesley@premiersir.com](mailto:paula.wesley@premiersir.com)>; Tom Mallett <[tmallett@scgov.net](mailto:tmallett@scgov.net)>  
**Cc:** JoAnne Crawn-Brewer <[jcrawn-brewer@venicegov.com](mailto:jcrawn-brewer@venicegov.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Banyan Tree on Lot 10, Harbor Drive

Ms. Wesley,

The proposed city tree ordinance will not protect the tree or require a permit for the tree to be removed. Unless there is a Heritage tree (native tree 30" in diameter) or Venetian tree on the property, or the property is adjacent to a designated Canopy Road, the City will not be regulating trees on single family residential lots of less than ½ acre as it now stands.

The proposed ordinance will protect a tree like the banyan on Lot 10 *only* if the tree is designated by City Council as a Venetian tree. To be a Venetian tree, a tree *must be nominated by the property owner* where the tree is located along with written consent to the nomination by all surrounding property owners under the canopy. Once nominated, I will evaluate the tree's health, condition, etc. and make a report to Council. City Council will then decide whether or not to designate a tree as a Venetian tree.

If a tree is designated as a Venetian tree we will require a permit to remove the tree and to prune a branch larger than 10" in diameter. There are several incentives for a property owner to nominate a tree to be a Venetian tree. I will provide an annual inspection to advise with the maintenance of the tree; an optional plaque to be placed on the property if desired; a possible grant up to \$250 annually to offset pruning costs; and pruning permit fees will be waived.

Please keep in mind that the new ordinance has *not* been passed yet. We are scheduled for a second and final reading before Council on December 10. Until the ordinance has final approval, I cannot commit with certainty to the information above. Until then and assuming a January 1 takeover, Sarasota County has jurisdiction over the trees in the City.

Hope this answers your questions.

Jim

*Jim Yelverton, BCMA #FL5655B  
Tree Program Administrator/City Arborist  
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**From:** Paula Wesley <[paula.wesley@premiersir.com](mailto:paula.wesley@premiersir.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2019 12:21 PM  
**To:** Tom Mallett <[tmallett@scgov.net](mailto:tmallett@scgov.net)>; Jim Yelverton <[JYelverton@Venicegov.com](mailto:JYelverton@Venicegov.com)>  
**Subject:** Banyan Tree on Lot 10, Harbor Drive

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*Good Morning Tom and Jim,*

*As I understood our conversation and per Jim Yelverton, the large Banyan Tree on the subject lot is currently under the county jurisdiction until January 2020 then the fate of this tree is in the hands of the City of Venice, correct? At that point limitations will be dependent upon the city ordinance and the county tree permitting regulations, correct?*

*From what we have read in the papers and the public's perception of the situation is this lot is near impossible to sell or purchase to build upon due to the restrictions. As I have been told, at the present time in order to get a tree permit to remove the tree a building permit in hand would be required and then a review of the lot would take place before the tree removal permit would be issued. Can you see how these restrictions present a huge problem in the marketing and potential sale of this lot?*

*Our question is simply what would be the possibility for a buyer to purchase that lot which is over 7500 SF and remove the tree in order to build after January 2020? Would you please provide information and an e-mail summary of what would be possible for a buyer to purchase with confidence they would be able to build on the lot that I could share with a potential buyer?.*

*Your swift response and any information to this ongoing issue will be greatly appreciated.*

*Respectfully,*

*Paula Y. Wesley*

Realtor, GRI, CRS  
Premier Sotheby's International Realty  
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**From:** [JoAnne Crawn-Brewer](#)  
**To:** [Mercedes Barcia](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Banyan Tree on Lot 10, Harbor Drive  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 27, 2019 9:27:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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*More Written Correspondence from yesterday ☺*

*- JoAnne Crawn-Brewer*

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**From:** Tom Mallett <tmallett@scgov.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2019 9:10 AM  
**To:** Paula Wesley <paula.wesley@premiersir.com>  
**Cc:** JoAnne Crawn-Brewer <jcrawn-brewer@venicegov.com>; Howard Berna <hberna@scgov.net>; Darren Semones <dsemones@scgov.net>; Jim Yelverton <JYelverton@Venicegov.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Banyan Tree on Lot 10, Harbor Drive

Hello Ms. Wesley:

The Sarasota County Tree Code includes a removal permit requirement for vacant lots and provides special conservation protections for 12 native tree species that meet specific size and condition class criteria. The Banyan tree is not one of the designated Grand Tree species. The Lot 10 will require an approved Tree Permit prior to development. The Banyan tree would be subject to standard Trees Code evaluation practices for residential development.

My thanks to Jim for the information on the planned implementation of a City of Venice Tree Ordinance. Please reply if there are other concerns regarding the compliance with the Sarasota County Trees Code.

Thank you,

Tom Mallett  
Environmental Specialist II  
[tmallett@scgov.net](mailto:tmallett@scgov.net)  
(941) 830-5071  
Environmental Protection Division | [Environmental Permitting](#)  
Planning and Development Services Department  
1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240

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