
Updates and analysis from the Government & Leadership Office
of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

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Did You Know?

Buy Local Has its First 2026
Winner!



Click here for a quick video briefing moment:

<https://youtu.be/GllbNpg9glk>

Leadership 2026 Class Project

The adult Leadership Venice group (ALV2026) has chosen their project. They are partnering with Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (<http://VABI.org>) to add needed updates to the Venice Urban Forest for a hummingbird and scrub jay habitat. Take a look at the ALV2026 project information here and help however you can. VABI is a great group of people doing great things and we are glad to see ALV2026 working with them. Partnerships make things happen!



**VENICE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FOUNDATION**

LEADERSHIP VENICE CLASS OF 2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

HELP GROW THE VENICE URBAN FOREST

*Creating Habitat for Hummingbirds,
Scrub Jays & Future Generations*

GOAL:

\$10,000

FOR NATIVE TREES, NATIVE PLANTS & IRRIGATION ENHANCEMENTS





RUBY-THROATED
HUMMINGBIRD



FLORIDA
SCRUB JAY

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Leadership Venice Class of 2026 is proud to partner with Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) to support the continued growth of the Venice Urban Forest.

Our project will fund the installation of native trees and flowering plants designed to attract and support Florida's hummingbirds—including the Black-chinned, Rufous, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird—while creating additional habitat for Florida Scrub jays, pollinators, and other wildlife.

Funds will also help extend existing irrigation infrastructure to ensure the long-term success of these valuable plantings.

YOUR GIFT WILL HELP

- Plant native trees and flowering plants
- Create habitat for hummingbirds and scrub jays
- Provide a beautiful amenity for the public to enjoy
- Improve biodiversity and environmental health
- Extend irrigation for optimal growth and sustainability

DONOR RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

CANOPY SPONSOR
\$2,500+

Plants native trees and flowering plants designed to attract and support Florida's hummingbirds—including the Black-chinned, Rufous, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird—while creating additional habitat for Florida Scrub jays, pollinators, and other wildlife.

HABITAT SPONSOR
\$1,000-\$2,499

Large amount of native trees and flowering plants designed to attract and support Florida's hummingbirds—including the Black-chinned, Rufous, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird—while creating additional habitat for Florida Scrub jays, pollinators, and other wildlife.

POLLINATOR SPONSOR
\$500-\$999

Native flowering plants and shrubs designed to attract and support Florida's hummingbirds—including the Black-chinned, Rufous, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird—while creating additional habitat for Florida Scrub jays, pollinators, and other wildlife.

FRIENDS OF THE URBAN FOREST
UP TO \$499

Native flowering plants and shrubs designed to attract and support Florida's hummingbirds—including the Black-chinned, Rufous, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird—while creating additional habitat for Florida Scrub jays, pollinators, and other wildlife.

Recognition benefits are offered as a token of our appreciation and are not intended to represent the value of the charitable contribution. We respect donor privacy and gladly accept anonymous gifts.

DONATE TODAY



Scan to donate via Credit Card

CHECK DONATIONS

Payable to: Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Memo Line: Leadership Venice Project

Mail To:
Venice Area Chamber of Commerce
597 S. Tamiami Trail
Venice, FL 34285

GIFTS OF STOCK WELCOME

Please contact us for stock transfer instructions.

CHARITABLE GIVING INFORMATION

All gifts will be processed through the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation and are eligible for charitable deduction as permitted by law.

PROJECT LOCATION



Along the east bank of the Intracoastal Waterway, south of the Historic Venice Train Depot.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(941) 800-1482

Hot Topic - Energy - from Nicolas Liberoni (VACC summer intern)

Energy plays a critical role in the economy. As oil prices have trended higher due to conflict in the Middle East, both consumers and producers have felt a pinch in their purchasing power.

Oil prices have a greater effect on the global economy than just the price paid at the pump. Oil and gas are necessary for the transport and manufacturing of products. This means that if goods become more expensive to make, they become more expensive to sell.

Oil prices also affect food costs. Chemical fertilizers use natural gas as a core input. When gas is expensive, farmers must either increase the price of their goods or use less fertilizer, meaning global food yields could decrease as oil and gas prices remain high.

Certain regions are uniquely prone to energy shocks. While gas prices in America may feel high, they pale in comparison to the strains felt in parts of Southeast Asia and Europe. Many nations on these continents are net energy importers, making them highly dependent on global markets with fewer opportunities to profit from high prices. For instance, countries like Thailand and Vietnam asked their populations to work from home to reduce fuel usage during price spikes.

If countries around the world, including the US, see harder times as oil prices rise, why don't they immediately turn to other forms of energy?

Nuclear energy has seen a massive revival driven by the AI data center craze. It is the most productive form of energy available, where a single uranium fuel pellet can yield the same energy output as one ton of coal. Despite its productivity, nuclear energy requires a large initial financial investment and leaves behind radioactive waste as a byproduct. Additionally, nuclear plants face political hurdles, as local residents often link nuclear energy to past historical disasters.

Another expanding sector is the solar industry. Europe has seen rapid growth in solar deployment to divert money away from Russian gas. Solar power features low operating costs and simple energy generation from sunlight. However, panels only function during the day, and solar farms require vast amounts of land.

Wind turbines offer another renewable alternative. Wind power, much like solar, features low maintenance costs but requires a vast segment of land. However, turbines can be built offshore over water if land is unavailable. Still, energy from these turbines depends on the wind, which remains unpredictable and intermittent.

While alternative energies help economies diversify away from oil and gas and reduce emissions, they all carry distinct trade-offs, often requiring massive upfront investments or suffering from reliability constraints.

Did you Know?

The first lucky \$1000 winner for "Buy Local" was chosen today, click the link here for video of CEO Kathy Lehner making the winning pick: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/18scNpVRvP/>