

Venetian Bay: A Community En Voie

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NEW SMYRNA BEACH

— Julie Miglioranza stood in the courtyard facing the manmade lake at Venetian Bay Resorts. The sun hung low in the sky, illuminating the landscape with dark tinges of red.

"It's like no other place," she mused. "It's a place where the community comes together."

This past Saturday, residents and guests jammed the Venetian Bay Resort's courtyard for a family music and movie entertainment evening. The resort hosts such events every other weekend said developer Jerry Johnson.

"The ambition here was to create a town that was a family orientated place."

Mr. Johnson said Saturday's event was another step in the right direction for Venetian Bay.

"The whole concept was that we wanted Venetian Bay to be a towns center," he said. "People don't need to get in their cars to go somewhere. Everything is right here."

Mr. Johnson said the day was a collage of good American atmosphere.

"We wanted to make an effort to restore that

sense of community that people enjoy — that community that knows one another that seems to have been lost over time recently."

For David and Leigh Slayeack Venetian Bay family fun day was a good time to relax with their two dogs, Cassie and Bentley.

"We both work," Mr. Slayeack said. "Sometimes it's a great idea to kick back after a hectic day."

The day's events featured the Millennium Musicians — kids dressed in uniform doing pop tunes for the collective joy of the young and the old. These kids come from schools all over Southeast Volusia.

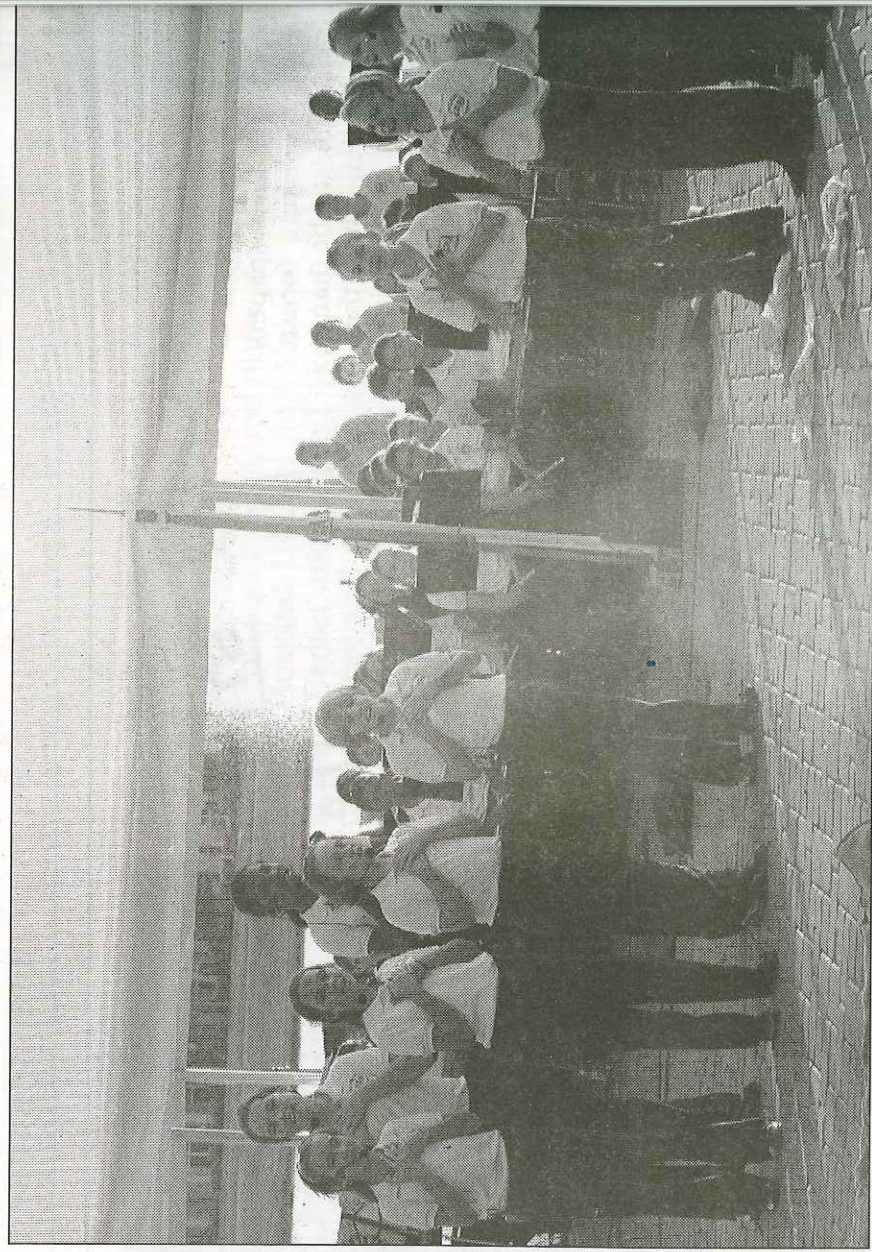
Director of the Millennium Musicians Jeff Leder said it is events like Venetian Bay's family fun day not only gives children opportunities to perform, but good for the community as well.

"It offers our kids the ability to perform, as well as being something a community can enjoy."

Mr. Leder said when kids perform it invigorates interest in other kids.

"We have parents come up and ask how do they get their kids involved," he said.

"Anything that benefits



both kids and serves the community is a wonderful thing."

Carla Intriago said the importance of community at Venetian Bay adds a lot to the atmosphere. "I think the whole importance of community is really something special," she offered. "Neighbors need to know neighbors."

After four years in development, Venetian Bay Town and Country Club has about 800 homes with almost 1,600 residents. Mr. Johnson said the resort adds almost 300 new residents a year to the complex.

"I think it's just a great atmosphere," he said.

And for Mrs. Miglioranza, living in Venetian Bay is a little like the often-used word paradise.

"It's the most beautiful place to live," she beamed as she turned to face the sunset cascading across the water.

STAFF PHOTO
Above, The Millennium Musicians perform at last Saturday's Family Fun at Venetian Bay Town and Country Club. The event was one of many efforts to celebrate and restore a close-knit community. Below, seas of Venetian Bay Town and Country Club gather in the courtyard of Luna Bay's Family Fun and Movie Day.

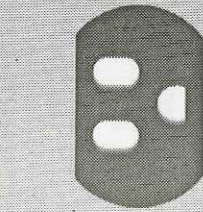


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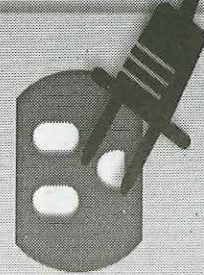


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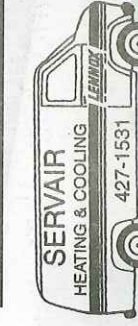
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