

## **VABI to Make Connections (Venice Gondolier)**

### **New Manatee Sculpture Dedicated in West Blalock Park**

01/19/2011

(Venice, Florida) The newest art in public places, the metal manatee sculpture in West Blalock Park, was dedicated at VABI's 4th Annual Tree Lighting ceremony recently. Member of the Venice Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and VABI Advisory Council, Monty Andrews dedicated the sculpture with Mayor Holic, City Council and VABI Board members in attendance.

The artist Thomas Prochow was commissioned to make the sculpture that is dedicated to Dorothy Bombera. Known for her spirited dedication to planning and planting trees and gardens of all types, Dorothy Bombera was a true steward of the environment.

West Blalock Park is located on the island of Venice between Turin, Nassau and Pensacola streets and is free to the public, handicap accessible and open from dawn to dusk.

### **An Exciting New Sea Creature has just arrived at West Blalock Park in Venice**

10/20/2010

(Venice, Florida) A handsome metal manatee has joined the turtle in West Blalock Park on the island of Venice. The artist Thomas Prochow was commissioned to make the sculpture that is dedicated to Dorothy Bombera. Known for her spirited dedication to planning and planting trees and gardens of all types, Dorothy Bombera was a true steward of the environment. One of her most memorable projects was working as a volunteer with Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI), as the leader of the Pepper Patrol for a number of years. She teamed with VABI supporters to augment the planting of palm trees, a rose and succulent garden in the newly refurbished West Blalock Park. With her commitment to 'Keep Sarasota County Beautiful', the recent installation of the manatee sculpture is a fitting tribute to her environmental efforts.

Named after the first mayor of Venice, West Blalock Park is free to the public, handicap accessible and open from dawn to dusk. The park is located on the island of Venice between Turin, Nassau and Pensacola streets.