

Press release :

White Cane Awareness Day in Venice

Wednesday, October 20th, is the **White Cane Awareness Day** in Venice. Once again the Lions Club members will be walking alongside our vision impaired neighbors, in an effort to inform the public the rights of persons carrying white canes.

The Lions Club members and the visually impaired persons will first meet at the gazebo in Venice around 10:30 a.m. for socializing. About 11:00 a.m. they will start their short walk across the parking lot to Venice Avenue, cross Venice Ave and walk along to U.S. 41, cross U.S 41 and back to Venice Avenue and to the parking lot. The Venice police will be there to guide the traffic and assist in other ways.

The event will be concluded with lunch at the Jacaranda Trace at 3600 William Penn Way, Venice, FL 34293.



(file photos)

Above left – Venice Police Officer with organizer of the event (Lion) Lillian Reilly
Above Right – Lions Club members Ed Boudreaux and Barbara McGillicuddy carrying the **Florida Council of the Blind** banner at the walk.

Background Info go to:

<http://www.lighthousecentralflorida.org/subpage.asp?PID=26&CID=49>

White Cane Awareness Day

President Lyndon B. Johnson, along with Congress, signed a joint resolution in 1964 as a way to increase knowledge among Americans that the white cane is a tool used by the blind and visually impaired, and also a tool that helps them live more independently.

State of Florida “White Cane Law”

FL Statue # 316.1301 Traffic Regulations to assist blind persons

It is unlawful for any person, unless totally or partially blind or otherwise incapacitated, while on any public street or highway, to carry in a raised or extended position a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white tipped with red.

A driver must come to a stop before reaching a location where a blind pedestrian is crossing, or attempting to cross, a public street or highway. For purposes of this law, a blind pedestrian is a pedestrian guided by a dog guide or carrying in a raised or extended position, a white cane (or white cane tipped with red). Before proceeding, the driver must take precaution to avoid injuring the pedestrian.

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to deprive any totally or partially blind or otherwise incapacitated person not carrying such a cane or walking stick, or not being guided by a dog, of the rights and privileges conferred by law upon pedestrians crossing streets or highways. The failure of any such person to carry a cane or walking stick or to be guided by a dog shall not be considered comparative negligence, nor shall such failure be admissible as evidence in the trial of any civil action with regard to negligence.