

## *Wavelengths*

*Timely News & Information for the Media*

*January 2016*

### **St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Epiphany Celebration!**

Join the annual Feast Day of the Epiphany and Blessing of the Waters Ceremony. Hosted by St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church at 12:00pm (noon), Sunday, January 10, 2016. At Ventura Harbor Village, visitors gather dockside with the St. Demetrios congregation to watch the Blessing of the Waters, which are blessed outside The Greek Restaurant. Waters are blessed to protect those who sail on it; divers vie for a cross that is believed to bring special blessings for the rest of the year. A celebration with food, music and dancing follows the ceremony.

Where: Ventura Harbor Village in front of The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood Restaurant and inside at noon

When: noon

Who: all ages

How: just show up

Cost: FREE! ceremony, food inside restaurant is extra

Call the church office at 805-482-1273 or visit [St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church](#) if you wish your boat to be blessed in the Harbor after the celebration or to inquire for more details.

### **They're Big, They're Awesome, They're Majestic!**

The Tall Ships will sail in to Ventura Harbor Village January 15, and they're open for everyone to explore! It's an unforgettable experience seeing these magnificent historical vessels docked in front of The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood Restaurant & Le Petit Café and Bakery in the Ventura Harbor Village. Head for Ventura Harbor this January 15 through February 8 to board these grand ships for an adventure guaranteed to thrill everyone. Catch the magical sight of the Tall Ships during the Grand Arrival in the afternoon on January 15, 2016 where members of the crew "man the yards" by standing upon the masts. For ticket reservations, call 800-200-5239 or visit [Historical Seaport](#). Tickets are on sale now. The best viewing locations are at the Harbor Cove Beach, Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center, Rhumb Line-The Sunset Restaurant, and Ventura Harbor Village.

*Battle Sails* – Looking for adventure on the high seas? - Three-Hour Battle Sails complete with firing cannons and hoisting of the main sails are just the ticket! Battle Sails feature a recreation of a naval skirmish with close-quarters maneuvers and are available Saturdays & Sundays, January 16 & 17, 23 & 24, and 30 & 31 from 2 PM – 5 PM.

*Adventure Sails* - Learn a sea shanty or help raise a sail aboard a 2-Hour Adventure Sail. These fun and informative sails take place on Sundays, January 17, 24 & 31 and February 7, 11 AM-1PM. Plus! New this year is Wednesday Night Family Sails. Enjoy these stunning sunset sails on January 20 & 27 and February 3 from 4-6 PM.

*Dockside Tours* - Open to the public from January 16, the Tall Ship Dockside Tours offer a living history experience (Thursdays & Fridays) from 4 PM – 5 PM and Saturday (2 ships) and Sunday (1 ship) from 10 AM – 1 PM; PLUS OPEN for Dockside Tours on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Monday, January 18, 10 AM – 1 PM. Dockside tours focus on an authentic 18<sup>th</sup>-century sailor's view of traveling by tall ship, as well as a chance to meet the ship's crew and learn what it took to adventure to new lands. Take a Dockside Tour and dine for breakfast, lunch, or dinner at one of the Ventura Harbor Village's seaside restaurants overlooking the Tall Ships and the boats. Also, enjoy live entertainment along the promenade and at the Carousel Stage on January 16, 17, 23, 30 and February 6.

## **Best Photo Op!**

Tall Ships are stunning subjects for any photographer – capture the Tall Ships coming in and out of the Harbor on the dates listed above and make sure to partake in the Grand Arrival of the Tall Ships – a photographer “must capture” on January 15<sup>th</sup> at approximately time (weather pending). Share your Tall Ships photos @VenturaHarbor #TallShipsVentura on Instagram! For more Tall Ship information visit [Ventura Harbor Village](#) or Facebook Ventura Harbor. Admission and parking free daily at Ventura Harbor Village.

## **Find Your Park Centennial Campaign in 2016**

This year marks the National Park Service Centennial (100<sup>th</sup> birthday), and the National Park Service (NPS) invites you to Find Your Park! The NPS is launching a movement to spread the word about the amazing places it manages, the inspirational stories that the national parks tell, our country's natural resources, and America's diverse cultural heritage. Find Your Park is about the NPS working in communities all over the country, through education programs, community assistance projects, and more. It's about state parks, local parks, trails, museums, historic sites, and the many ways that the American public can connect with history and culture, enjoy nature, and make new discoveries. Join in by visiting [FindYourPark.com](#) and plan on participating in upcoming centennial events near you, share your stories, and find your park! Visit [Find Your Park Experiences](#) to have fun in national parks. *Find Your Park is supported by the National Park Service's nonprofit partner, the National Park Foundation.* For more information, visit [National Park Service](#) where you'll find details, lectures or programs in January.

## **It's a Whale of a Good Time in Ventura Harbor!**

The mighty Gray Whales are running now until mid April 2016, and there's no way better to see these leviathan beauties than aboard Island Packers' whale watching cruises. Island Packers offers whale-watching trips every day through mid April. Affordable Family Fun - \$37.00, Adults; \$33.00, Seniors (aged 55 and up); and \$27.00 Child (aged 3-12). Call 805-642-1393, or visit [Island Packers](#) for details.

## **Four Ways to Get Wet at Ventura Harbor**

**Nothing dampens your fun when you get out into the weather!**

- **World Class Diving & Lessons** – Ventura Harbor offers many options for World-Class Dive Trips out towards the spectacular Channel Islands National Park Marine Sanctuary! Also – already wet? Take a Dive Lesson or pick up Dive Gear at Ventura Dive & Sport in Ventura Harbor Village
- **Storms Here - Surf's Up!** Stop in and load up on surf gear – like booties, wet suits and wax, for those epic waves that come in with the storm at Beach Break Surf Shop at Ventura Harbor Village.
- **Awe Inspired Spray from a Breaching Whale – Gray Whale Watching** is in full swing – take a trip with Island Packers and be amazed!!
- **A Little Time on the Water** - Ventura Boat Rentals offers weekend **Harbor Boat Tours** on the Dreamer – that is completely enclosed. The Harbor is still beautiful and can be enjoyed in the comfort of the boat with drinks on board. Visit [VenturaHarborVillage.com](#)

**On Assignment?** Ventura Harbor Village Public Relations Department can arrange for accommodations, meals, activities, and exciting interviews and/or a short list of angles for journalists on assignment.  
Contact [sbejeckian@gmail.com](mailto:sbejeckian@gmail.com) or [maris@somervillepr.com](mailto:maris@somervillepr.com)

###