

VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

Wavelengths

Timely News & Information for the Media

March/April 2016

Trending Tropical Chic

A new laid-back boutique, Island Creations, which recently opened waterside at Ventura Harbor Village, boasts a colorful collection of stylish, hard to find tropical and Afro-Caribbean inspired clothing and accessories. Open daily, the specialty shop features fun and comfortable sundresses in many vibrant colors, handmade sandals, Bob Marley T-shirts, shoulder bags, hemp backpacks, sarongs, and other fashions perfect for seaside lifestyle. Visit Islandcreationsvhv.com

Defining The Dress Code

One of Ventura Harbor Village's most popular retail stores, among local and visitors alike, Barefoot Boutique, has more than doubled its square footage. The expanded location offers a new selection of affordable hip and trendy fashions that reflect a fun and active lifestyle, according to owner Liz Marino who is placing the final interior touches to the new space. Her fabulous selection of new looks for fashionistas is sold in a variety of coastal colors just in time for spring. In addition to trendy apparel, Marino also sells handmade sea glass jewelry from regional designers, stylish handbags and fun coastal accessories. Visit www.VenturaHarborVillage.com/shop

One-Of-A-Kind Finds

Handcrafted art and gifts for all occasions proudly made by creative resident artisans can be found at the The December Store & More that has moved from downtown Ventura to its permanent new home at Ventura Harbor Village. The boutique showcases local artists' painting parties in the community, local readings and book signings by local authors. The new location is sure to attract international visitors because artisans at the shop speak five different languages. An array of unique crafts, photography, fair trade coffee with ornate coffee scoops, organic breads and wonderful gift items are available for sale. Think Makers Mark meets the seashore! Visit <http://www.VenturaHarborVillage.com/shop/>

Springtime Egg-Citement

Hop on over for family fun at Ventura Harbor's Cottontail Day Festival, Saturday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The annual event features face painting, pony rides, a petting zoo, hands-on arts and crafts, glitter tattoos, jumpies, tumbling fun with MyGym and live children's entertainment. There is something for the entire family! Kids delight in a photo op with the Cottontail Bunny and families enjoy the \$2 Egg Hunt held every 15-30 minutes. Other must-do activities include a Village Scavenger Hunt, the Village Arcade & Carousel, pedal boats, ice cream and family-oriented vendor booths. Planned are a variety of free children's crafts provided by Harbor Village Gallery, Macaroni Kid, and Lakeshore Learning Store. Admission and parking are free. www.VenturaHarborVillage.com. On Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016 from noon to 3 p.m., the Harbor is Hopping – A great way to bring family together for Easter brunch or dinner is to dine by the boats at one of the variety of restaurants that offer great views of the water. Children can meet and take photos with the Easter bunny, ride the Village Carousel, or play in the arcade. Live music can also be enjoyed. Visit VenturaHarbor.com

Ladies of Sea

The legendary aquatic creature, fondly known as the mermaid, is making her spring debut all month long. From nautical finds to coastal décor, fashion, artwork and special events inspired by the sea, the seaside enclave pays homage to the mermaid in all of us during Ventura Harbor Village's March 2016 month-long Mermaid Madness celebration. At the ready are all things mermaid, including a Meet & Greet with Ariel (Disney character Look-a-Like) outside the Village Carousel & Arcade; ocean-inspired crafts for kids; classes and activities; treasures showcasing apparel, accessories and gifts; mermaid treats and sweets; and mermaid Eats. For a complete listing of what's in store, visit <http://www.VenturaHarborVillage.com/march-mermaid-madness/>

A Whale Of A Good Time

Get up close and personal with gray whales on a 3.5 hour Islands Packers Gray Whale Watching Cruise now through April 12, 2016. The affordable excursion takes visitors from Ventura Harbor Village to the Southern California waters of the Santa Barbara Channel out of Ventura Harbor. Native for their marine mammal diversity, the waters allow adventure goers to witness a diverse array of species of marine mammals including seals, sea lions and several species of dolphins. Island Packers captains narrate and inform visitors about the variety of marine mammals that can be seen on the cruise. Cost is \$37 for adults, \$33 for seniors and \$27 for children 3-12 years old. Visit www.islandpackers.com

Angler Alert

If sea life is a passion, discover Ventura Sportfishing, which launched its 2016 season this month with open and private boat charters through the Santa Barbara Channel. During the trip, anglers have a chance to catch fish Indigenous to the waters of the Channel, including Red Vermillion Rock Fish, Chucklehead, and Lingcod. The world-class sportfishing company with four boats takes novice, intermediate and advanced fishermen out to sea on a daily 12-hour tour. Ask for Captains Pat, Jeff, Johnny or Mike. Cost is \$95 per person and seniors receive a \$10 discount. Visit www.venturasportfishing.com

A Salute to National Parks

In celebration of the National Park Service's 100 anniversary, Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center will host Junior Ranger Day on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Highlighted will be tidepool talks, Pinniped programs, and visitor center representatives will distribute junior ranger booklets to kids of all ages. Children will have the opportunity to interview rangers and participate in fun activities. The lectures are free and open to the public. Visit www.NPS.gov/CHIS

Spring Breaks Top 5:

Ventura Harbor Village has just revealed its top 5 Things To Do for Spring Break with a vibrant lineup of enticing experiences to make it memorable:

--Get on the water with ease and enjoy a day in the sun with boating, kayaking, electric boats, SUPs, peddle boats, sail boats and more. Visit Ventura Boat Rentals dock and explore Ventura Harbor on the water and view wildlife, seals, birds, and see the stunning homes along the Ventura Keys. Visit www.venturaboatrentals.com

--Savor seaside dining at its best with stunning harbor and ocean views amid colorful sunsets. Not to be missed are a half dozen of the Village's top seafood cafes and restaurants that offer fresh succulent seafood in both casual and more formal settings. With a wealth of Ventura Harbor Village options, the coastal destination is a perfect headquarters for fish n' chips, chowder, oysters, clams, fish tacos, and fresh fish entrees. Try Andria's Seafood Restaurant & Market for the original fish and chips, savor Baja Bay Surf N' Taco's the shark tacos, relish the flavors of Brophy Bros. Restaurant & Clam Bar's famous clam chowder, taste test the Ahi tuna and Mahi-mahi at Boatyard Café, dine on a meal of fresh Hope Ranch mussels at Rhumb Line The Sunset Restaurant, and delight in The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood's coconut black tiger shrimp, seas scallops calamari, and octopus. Visit www.venturaharborvillage.com/dine

--Sample a sweet treat and satisfy your sweet tooth at the seashore from a host of shops that salute all things sweet. Delight in French pastries such as the éclair and Napoleon at Le Petit Café & Bakery. Cool off with mermaid Snow cones at the Village Carousel & Arcade. Devour a delicious strawberry or banana smoothie at Coffee Dock & Post and indulge in the Dole Whip, a pineapple-flavored soft-serve frozen dessert at the Coastal Cone & Parlor. Undoubtedly, these perfect spring break confections will have visitors raving long after spring break. Visit www.venturaharborvillage.com/dine

--Sip colorful cocktail concoctions from master mixologists while watching a vibrant sunset at a host of Ventura Harbor Village waterfront restaurants. Pull up a chair at Milano's Italian Restaurant, where guests can now enjoy signature drinks such as the Lemon Drop and the Italian Margarita made with Amaretto on the Restaurant's new outdoor patio with fireplace or new indoor bar. At the Rhumb Line The Sunset Restaurant, the bartender serves classic favorites. Order a Manhattan (made with whiskey, sweet Vermouth, and bitter) and the Old Fashioned (made with muddling of sugar with bitters, alcohol such as whiskey or brandy, and a twist of citrus). Visit venturaharborvillage.com/dine

--Enjoy Spring Break like never before with an upbeat lineup of lively entertainment at a host of outdoor and restaurant venues. Spring break goers get in the mood to relax and unwind amid the lively ambiance of 805 Bar & Grilled Cheese patio where they can listen to live music from musician Kenny Devoe, known for his acoustic jazz and blues; enjoy Boatyard Café's Blue Grass Jam, Rock by Bobby & Steve, and Tom & Milo Folk N' Blues; sit around the Village Carousel Stage on the weekends to listen to spirited selection of Reggae, Rock and surf tunes; and dance the night away at The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood restaurant where restaurant goers are entertained with live Greek music and belly dancing. Visit venturaharborvillage/dine

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 or maris@somervillepr.com