

VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

Wavelengths

Timely News & Information for the Media

May-June 2016

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

Dive Into Summertime Fun

Seeking a little rest and relaxation just in time for Memorial Day weekend? Ventura Harbor Village (recently voted by Ventura County Star newspaper's 21st Annual Readers Choice poll as a "Favorite Place To Take Visitors," and "Favorite Place To Entertain Kids) reveals its top 5 ways to get on the water with ease this summer:

- **Adventure Sailing Charters** allows couples and families to take to the sea and learn to sail on a 72-foot schooner and experience several types of sailing yacht services, from romantic dockside stays to overnight adventures in the remarkable Channel Islands National Park. As part of the adventure, nature enthusiasts encounter whales, dolphins, seals and sea lions. All charters include licensed captain and crew, and guests are welcome to assist in sailing the vessel. www.AdventureSailingVentura.com
- **Island Packers**, the official concessionaire to the Channel Islands National Park (referred to as "The American Galapagos"), provides couples and families bound for the open sea both landing and non-landing trips to three of the five islands: Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa. The Channel Islands and surrounding waters are home to more than 2,000 plants and animals, world-class diving, kayaking, sea cave exploration, snorkeling and whale watching. www.IslandPackers.com.
- **Ventura Boat Rentals** is a one-stop shop for on the water fun from kayaks and SUP boards to pedal or power boats and now jet skis. The company also offers harbor cruises that depart daily from Ventura Harbor Village daily during the summer months (June 8 through Labor Day) to the calm waters of Ventura Harbor and the Ventura Keys aboard one of their Dreamer vessels. During the summertime, the company also operates daily 40-minute Public Harbor boat Tours and private cocktail cruises, great ways to enjoy the scenery and relax with friends. www.VenturaBoatRentals.com.
- **Ventura Dive & Sport** offers thrill seekers comprehensive scuba dive lessons and dive rentals on site at Ventura Harbor Village. For diving enthusiasts seeking a convenient way to try scuba, then look no further than a two-hour PADI Discover Scuba Diving experience to learn more about the ocean sport. Those seeking a world-class diving off the Channel Islands with an in-depth experience can take two weekends of dive lessons at an onsite swimming pool and at the nearby ocean, and learn skills that may be credited toward the PADI Open Water Diver certification. Avid and novice divers can also partake in day dives and overnight boat trips to obtain a comprehensive diving experience. www.VenturaDive.com.
- **Ventura Sportfishing** provides beginners to veteran anglers with optional daily fishing trip to Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and San Nicholas Islands, or one the company's popular overnight excursions aboard the Amigo, Island Spirit, Pacific Dawn or Pacific Eagle sportfishing boats. Each of the company's vessels is staffed with friendly and professional crews. The landing office has a full tackle shop with rental equipment and fishing licenses. Once aboard, fishermen catch Rockfish, Ling Cod, White Fish and Sole. www.VenturaSportfishing.com.

Gear Up For Summer

Ventura Harbor Village has got you covered with an array of specialty shops that sell everything from board shorts to bikinis. Barefoot Boutique, Beach Break Surf Shop, Casa de Regalos, Hat Unlimited and Ventura Swimwear have the hottest new looks that are great for in and out of the water. Visitors can find women's and men's apparel including shorts, T-shirts, tank tops, sun dresses, bathing suits, cover ups, sandals, hats, and accessories.

Sway to the Sounds Of Live Music

Celebrate the great outdoors with the **"Sounds of Summer Concert Series"** on Sundays, June 19- August 28, 2016, 1 to 4 p.m. Soak up the sun while listening to an array of live music ranging from Jazz, Soul, Pop and Rock to a blend of Caribbean and Reggae every Sunday from 1 to 4pm on the Carousel Stage. www.VenturaHarborVillage.com.

Dance To Another Beat

Be present for the kick-off of live entertainment at the Carousel Stage or Promenade and listen to an alfresco performance as part of **"Steel Drum Saturdays Seaside"** from June 18 – August 27, 1-4 p.m. Fun, beachy sounds can be heard while visitors to Ventura Harbor Village shop, dine, play and relax.

Entertain Kids All Summer

With summer drawing near, it's almost time for kids to engage in summer fun at Ventura Harbor Village's **Seaside Kid's Club**. Set for its debut on Thursday June 16, 2016, the new club entertains kids every Thursday through August 11, 2016 from 11 a.m. – Noon at the Carousel Stage. Children ages four through 12 get creative with free themed weekly activities that include arts and crafts. www.VenturaHarborVillage.com

Show Your Artistic Side

For the art lover in all of us, wander over to **Harbor Village Gallery** to see this month's featured artist Nance Hodge. Hodge's new work, entitled **"Of Lassies, Horses and Songs"** spotlights a total summation of Hodge's life experiences. The artist makes use of ink and watercolor almost exclusively, and visitors can witness quickness and fluidity of these two mediums that are her signature style. Most of the artist's paintings focus on three main subjects: women, music, and animals. She also integrates sayings with some of her paintings. Harbor Village Gallery open 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tuesday – Sunday. www.BenaventuraGallery.org.

Go Tropical

Want to spice up your summer wardrobe? **Island Creations** has stylish and affordable tropical & Afro-Caribbean clothing & accessories from around the globe. Ventura Harbor Village's newest store features artisans from Nepal, India, West Africa and the Caribbean. According to Owner Jo Anna Hawthorne she works with artisans to secure hard to find, unique items and aligns her store's mission to promote sustainability. The handmade sandals are made of shoe laces and recycled compressed tire and the fashionable item can be worn with a favorite dress or casual shorts or slacks. In addition they have fun Hawaiian sundresses; Jamaican singer, songwriter, musician, and guitarist Bob Marley shoulder bags; T-shirts; tank tops; Reggae sarongs; hemp backpacks; bohemian bracelets; dream catchers; and other fun island wear. For store hours and contact information visit www.IslandCreations.com.

Celebrate the Great Outdoors

In a salute to the National Park Service's 100th birthday, the **Robert J. Lagomarsino Channel Islands National Parks Visitors Center** is hosting a free **"Kids To Parks Day And National Park Bioblitz,"** a national-wide celebration of outdoor play and scientific learning on May 21, 2016. The event invites parents and kids of all ages to participate in a variety of activities with park rangers that include bird and garden walks, sand crab digging, special lectures and other programs by scientists. Kids will also be able to enjoy art and crafts activities such as button making, paper folding and the creation of fish prints. www.nps.gov/CHIS.

Tap Into Your Aquatic Side

"Kayaking The Channel Islands," part of the free lecture series "From Shore to Sea" presented by the **Robert J. Lagomarsino Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center**, will spotlight experienced waterman Chuck Graham on June 9, 2016 beginning at 7 p.m. The talk provides nature lovers with an understanding of current research on the Channel Islands and surrounding waters. Past lecture topics have included the recovery of the sea otter populations in southern California water, the French and Italian heritage of Santa Cruz Island, survival strategies of open water fishes, new approaches to understanding kelp forest ecosystem health, and park efforts to restore the Prisoners Harbor wetland. www.nps.gov/CHIS.

Just In Time For Summer

After being closed for several years, visitors will now be able to visit the **Channel Island's San Miguel Island** again. The remote island wilderness, known as the back country of the Channel Islands, will be re-open to the public on May 17, 2016, according to the U.S. Navy (Navy) and National Park Service (NPS). To visit San Miguel Island visitors may now fly to San Miguel Island via Channel Islands Aviation (www.flycia.com) located in the Camarillo Airport. For future trips to the newly-reopened island that offers hiking and kayaking, visitors can visit the islands via Island Packers to have their name placed on a waiting list. www.IslandPackers.com.

Make Safety A Priority

Sun worshippers to Ventura Harbor's **Harbor Cove Beach** and **Surfer's Knoll Beach** can be reassured that beach lifeguards are on the alert to make both of these popular beaches safe all summer long from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend thanks to the Ventura Port District who has funded summer lifeguards for the past two years. Nicknamed "Mother's Beach," Harbor Cove Beach, a jetty-protected surf-free lagoon invites solo sunning or a day with the family, and Surfer's Knoll Beach entice visitors with beachcombing and bird watching. Beach goers are cautioned to only swim at Harbor Cove Beach due to varied currents near the shore. There is free beach parking at Harbor Cove beach. For convenience of those with limited mobility, a wheelchair aisle is available. www.VenturaHarbor.com.