



Ventura Harbor  
HOME OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Summer 2018  
Vol. 7 No. 2

# Harbor Views



## Happy 50th Birthday to Island Packers

**B**ack in the mid-1960s, Bill Connally was an engineer by trade, an adventurer at heart and a resident of coastal Ventura County. Ultimately, his heart and the ocean pulled him from his desk job and drew him to the sea – and specifically to the local Pacific waters and islands that make up the Channel Islands National Park.

With a future maritime life in mind, Connally bought a boat – a dilapidated old passenger boat, a World War II vintage converted Navy launch – and on weekends, he, his wife Lil and their four children worked together refurbishing it.

On Mother's Day 1968, Bill Connally christened the boat *Island Packer* and launched his tourism company, offering the boat for charters out of Ventura Harbor, to two of the five Channel Islands: Anacapa and Santa Cruz.

The Island Packers business took off, with thousands getting on board each year and with charters eventually going to all the Channel Islands. But winters were always hard and over the years the company barely survived some trying times – including Bill Connally's death in 1987.

The Connally family kept the patriarch's beloved company, and in the more than 30 years since they took it over, they've driven its growth and success as a local institution. In fact, over the past decade, Island Packers' business has been booming at Ventura Harbor, where its

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## Fratelli's is Open

Pizza eatery takes over Milano's location at Harbor Village

**A** new casual dining option is available at Harbor Village.

Located directly below Brophy Bros., Fratelli's Pizza & Brew restaurant is now open, serving oven-baked pizzas, sandwiches and salads – all using made-from-scratch recipes – as well as beer, wine and specialty cocktails.

Its motto: "Eat. Drink. Eat More."

Fratelli's takes over the space previously held by Milano's. The restaurant opens at 11:30 a.m. daily, closing at 9 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and at 10 p.m. on weekends. To view the complete menu, visit [www.fratellispizzaandbrew.com](http://www.fratellispizzaandbrew.com).



## Holiday Inn Express is Expanding

**A** 40-room expansion is underway at the Holiday Inn Express at Ventura Harbor. When completed, the expansion will bring to 109 the total number of rooms available at the inn, at 1080 Navigator Drive. A complete renovation of the building – including a new lobby and a larger breakfast room – is slated for 2019. Newport Beach-based Brighton Management has owned and operated both the Holiday Inn Express and Four Points Sheraton at the harbor since 2006.



## Plans Advance for Sustainable Mussel Farm off Ventura Coast

The Ventura Port District is moving forward with plans to pre-permit commercial mussel farms in the ocean off Ventura.

The Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE) seeks to farm sustainably cultivated mussels in the Santa Barbara Channel off Ventura Harbor. Supported by a \$300,000 grant, the Ventura Port District, as a VSE member, plans to submit applications by August for permits to farm the mussels within federal waters. Federal and state agency review and public participation in the review process would follow.

The Mediterranean mussels, which grow throughout the Santa Barbara Channel, would be farmed by commercial fishermen and landed at existing fish offloading facilities in the Ventura Harbor. This would expand and diversify commercial fishing activities in the Harbor, provide new opportunities for local fishermen, and bring a new source of fresh seafood to the public that is grown using sustainable and responsible practices.

Once fully operational, the farms are projected to bring in an additional \$50 million in revenue to the local economy.

"California continues to import over 90 percent of our shellfish to meet local demand, which in our view is better served by local fishermen delivering locally produced fresh mussels," said Port District Chair Everard Ashworth. "Years from now, when people come to the Harbor to enjoy locally produced fresh mussels, we want everyone to say, 'They got this right.'"

The Port District and VSE partners are seeking permits to support 2,000 acres in federal waters for the farms. Working closely with federal and state agency staff, and in collaboration with several premier sustainability research institutions, they hope to secure approval and be able to land product in the Harbor within three or four years.

For more details on the VSE project, visit [www.venturashellfishenterprise.com](http://www.venturashellfishenterprise.com).



**"Years from now, when people come to the Harbor to enjoy locally produced fresh mussels, we want everyone to say, 'They got this right.'"**

— **Everard Ashworth**  
Port District Chair

## VYC Teaches Kids to Sail at Summer Camps

Youths ages 8 to 18 are invited to sign up for the Ventura Yacht Club's (VYC) annual Summer Sailing Camp taking place in the Ventura Harbor.

This long-running summer camp offers children a chance to spend an entire week learning to sail small, one- and two-person boats.

One-week camps run through Friday, Aug. 17, at the Ventura Harbor, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Siblings get a discount and camps also are open to non-VYC members.

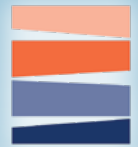
Students learn the basics of sailing, strategy, sportsmanship and safety from experienced instructors. They learn to rig and sail the boats and compete in short races. Campers learn self-reliance, good decision-making skills and the use of sound judgment – skills that will last a lifetime.

For details and an application, visit [www.vycyouthsailing.org](http://www.vycyouthsailing.org) and click the link "2018 Programs." For questions, email [vycyouthsailing@gmail.com](mailto:vycyouthsailing@gmail.com). VYC Junior Sailing is located at 1755 Spinnaker Drive at Ventura Harbor.



## Leasing Begins at Portside Ventura Harbor

Southern California's premier mixed-use development and Ventura's only such oceanfront community, Portside Ventura Harbor begins this summer to lease its first sequence of 56 residences.



**PORTSIDE**  
VENTURA HARBOR

Portside Ventura Harbor will offer its residents a unique opportunity to live, work and play on Ventura Harbor's gleaming waterfront. Ultimately, the 27-acre coastal community will feature:

- ◆ 270 deluxe apartment residences.
- ◆ 30 live/work units.
- ◆ A contemporary 104-boat-slip marina.
- ◆ Portside Park, a public place featuring a 50-foot-wide promenade and bike path, a sand park, pet parks, sitting areas and public parking.
- ◆ 21,000 square feet of retail and outdoor community venues.

For a better view and more information on the unique enclave, visit [www.portsideventuraharbor.com](http://www.portsideventuraharbor.com).

## Ventura Lifeguards Return for the Summer

Daily lifeguard services run through the summer at Ventura Harbor beaches off Spinnaker Drive.

Unanimously approved for 2018 by the Board of Port Commissioners, these services are funded by the Ventura Port District, which contracts with California State Parks.

The contract runs through Labor Day, with seasonal lifeguards covering the harbor's Surfer's Knoll Beach and Harbor Cove Beach.

Starting and ending times may change throughout the summer to address crowd trends. Harbor Cove lifeguards will begin around 10 a.m. daily, and lifeguarding at Surfer's Knoll will begin by 11 a.m. on weekends. Additional coverage may include a beach patrol.

For questions on lifeguard times, call the State Lifeguards Dispatch at **805-648-3321**.



## Port District Welcomes New Commissioner Jean Getchell

### Everard Ashworth is Reappointed

Ventura environmental attorney Jean Getchell has been appointed to complete the last year of Commissioner Nikos Valance's term on the Port District Board.

A Ventura native and an attorney since 1995, Getchell previously served on the Port District board from 1996-1999. She returns after being interviewed and selected by the City Council Appointments Committee. "I emphasized the importance of the commission, city, business community and citizens working together," said Getchell, who will serve until Valance's term expires on June 30, 2019.

Valance, an attorney, economist and environmentalist originally from New York, had served on the voluntary board since his appointment on July 27, 2015, and he recently resigned.

In other board news, Commissioner Everard Ashworth has been appointed to serve another term. Ashworth's new term began June 4 and runs through June 30, 2022. Ashworth is a principal with Ashworth Leininger Group, a consulting and engineering firm that provides expertise to business and government on air quality, environmental and coastal zone permitting issues.



## Brian Pendleton Promoted to Deputy GM

Congratulations to Brian Pendleton on his promotion to deputy general manager of the Ventura Port District.

Hired in June 2015 as the district's business operations manager, Pendleton focused in that capacity on leading the district's economic strategy as well as oversight of various district department managers.



Among his many accomplishments, Pendleton helped create the process to bring two exciting new developments to vacant lots at the harbor: an "Adventure Lodge" (hostel) proposed for Harbor Village and a boutique hotel proposed for the end of Spinnaker Drive. Port District officials are currently working with both projects' developer, H. Parker Hospitality, which owns Fess Parker Winery, on these pending projects.

Pendleton also was instrumental in negotiating a lease with a new restaurant operator for Harbor Village, slated to open in the first quarter of 2019 in the old Blackbeard space adjacent to the lawn area.

Pendleton has extensive economic development experience and a master's degree in real estate development from the University of Southern California.

"Brian has brought a great deal of professionalism and dedication to the district," said District General Manager Oscar Peña. "We are fortunate to have such a creative and resourceful thinker as part of our executive staff. His promotion to deputy general manager will certainly benefit the district in the future.

"I enjoy working with Brian," Peña said. "He's a real team player."

## Island Packers

### Continued from page 1

fleet of three 145-person-capacity catamarans operates.

In 2017, Island Packers Cruisers transported 109,000 people on day, overnight and whale-watching excursions to the five Channel Islands and the surrounding waters. These trips provide visitors unparalleled views of wildlife, whales and other ocean life and memorable hiking, camping, kayaking and snorkeling adventures.

After 49 years of work, matriarch Lil Connally retired last year. Her son Mark is the company president and daughter Cherryll is treasurer and marketing director.

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday to this wonderful, unique harbor business, and thanks to the Connally family for half a century of ocean and island adventures. Here's to the next 50!

For more information on Island Packers Cruises, including rates and services, visit [www.islandpackers.com](http://www.islandpackers.com); email [info@islandpackers.com](mailto:info@islandpackers.com); or call **805-642-1393**.





# Spend Summertime Seaside



## Seaside Kids Club

Thursdays through Aug. 9, 11 a.m. to noon

Children ages 4 to 10 take part in crafts, entertainment and seaside fun. Memberships are available, and walk-ups are welcome. Signups start at 10:30 a.m. each Thursday.



## Fun Times Seaside

### Water Front

### Wednesdays

Wednesdays in July & August (All day)

Special seaside offers and happenings, including a live steel drummer from noon to 3 p.m. and happy hours, highlight the next two months of Wednesdays at Harbor Village.



## Steel Drum Saturdays

Saturdays in July & August, 1 to 4 p.m.

Sway to the summer sounds of the steel drum on Saturdays seaside. Each Saturday at Harbor Village's Seaside Stage.



## Sundays Seaside LIVE MUSIC

Sundays through Labor Day, 1 to 4 p.m.

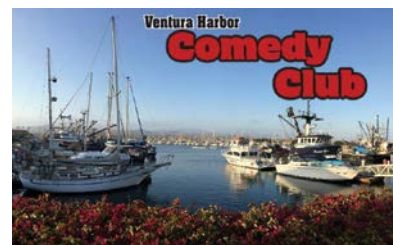
Soak up the sun while listening to an array of music ranging from jazz and soul to pop and rock to Caribbean and reggae,

during the summer concert series that takes place every summer Sunday on the Seaside Stage.

## Ventura Comedy Festival – Laughter by the Sea

Aug. 27-29, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, Showtimes are at 7, 8 or 9 p.m.

The festival, held at the Ventura Harbor Comedy Club, features nine shows and more than 150 comedians. For more information, visit [www.VenturaComedyFestival.com](http://www.VenturaComedyFestival.com)



## Rock on the Dock

Saturdays in September: Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dusk visitors can dine seaside, sip on cocktails and catch live music performances from the water! Eat, drink, dance and shop, as bands play on a floating dock in the harbor.

## Ventura Art and Street Painting Festival

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 8-9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local artists display glasswork, jewelry, sculpture and handcrafted items. Street chalk artists create "Chalk for Charity" pieces along the Village Promenade to support FOODShare, plus live music and art activities. Admission and parking are free.



Connect With Us! @venturaharbor



VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

[www.VenturaHarborVillage.com](http://www.VenturaHarborVillage.com)

## 'Protecting a National Treasure'

Visitors to Harbor Village can learn more about the Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary, and how to visit them, thanks to a beautiful and informative orientation sign funded by the National Park Service and installed recently in the Village, in the recently renovated courtyard near Brophy Bros.

The national park's visitor center is located at Ventura Harbor, half a mile from the Village.



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Ventura Port District

[www.venturaharbor.com](http://www.venturaharbor.com)

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## Board of Port Commissioners

Everard Ashworth, *Chairman* (appointed: 6-16-14/expires: 6-30-22)

Brian Brennan, *Vice Chairman* (appointed: 8-1-16/expires: 6-30-20)

Jim Friedman, *Secretary* (appointed: 8-6-12/expires: 6-30-21)

Jean Getchell, *Commissioner* (appointed: 6-4-18/expires: 6-30-19)

Chris Stephens, *Commissioner* (appointed: 7-1-17/expires: 6-30-21)