

BALBOA



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**Meet Your  
Balboa Island  
Neighbors**

**PAUL & LISA RICATTO**

**YOUR STORIES • YOUR PHOTOS • YOUR FAMILIES • YOUR ISLAND**

*Jarville*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

# Nov 12

## Mark Your Calendar for Fun

### MUSEUM TEAMS WITH NEW FUN ZONE OWNERS FOR FESTIVAL



#### history

By **Pete Weitzner** – Balboa Island Resident and Co-Producer, “The Golden Age of Newport Harbor”

Friday, November 12, will be a fun and historic day in the harbor. The Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach will team with the newly-owned **Balboa Fun Zone** for what else – a day of fun – with the “Fun Zone Festival.”

“I reached out to the new owners, spoke to **Henry Pyle** about three months ago,” museum president emeritus **Shirley Pepys** said. “Very receptive. I’m grateful for their generosity, hosting our event.”

**Chartwell Real Estate Development** is the new owner of Fun Zone, just buying the historic property from **Discovery Cube** Orange County at an undisclosed price. Chartwell is the investment vehicle of the Pyle family, longtime Newport Beach business, and community stalwarts.

Newport-based Elite OC productions is putting on the festival, which promises to be the biggest in the museum’s history – concerts, carnival



rides, games and prizes, and other entertainment. 400-500 people are expected.

“This is going to be a spectacular event,” Executive Director Tiffany Pepys Hoey said, noting the theme: “It’s Good To Be A Kid Again.”

The Fun Zone turns 85 this year, is, of course, a Balboa Peninsula landmark along the Newport Bay waterfront. It was developed by **Al Anderson**.

Check [balboaislandmuseum.org/events](http://balboaislandmuseum.org/events) for the latest details on the “Fun Zone Festival.”

#### That’s Rock ‘n’ Roll

Author **Chris Epting** regaled a sold-out museum crowd with tales of Orange County’s rock-and-roll history. It’s deeper, edgier, and quirrier than you might think. Like how Huntington Beach indirectly cost **Elvis Presley** his marriage to Priscilla.

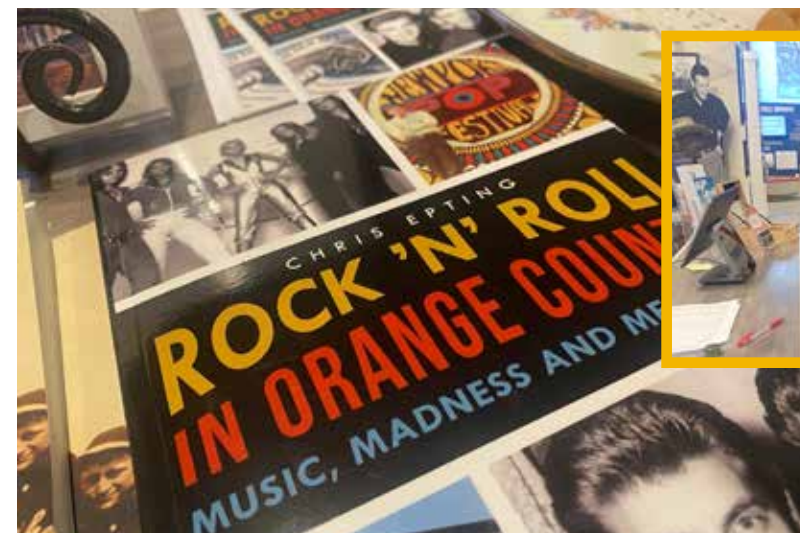
“Moves from Graceland to Beverly Hills, needs a place to board his horses...Huntington Equestrian Center,” Epting said.

“And he’s into martial arts so Elvis finds a guy down here named Mike Stone. Elvis was great, he’d sign albums for kids, but he convinces Priscilla to take up martial arts. Her lessons go in a different direction,” Epting said.

“Elvis’ marriage dissolves in a cul-de-sac in Huntington Beach.”

Epting emphasized OC’s “diverse musical breeding ground,” like the punk movement in the ‘70s at **The Meadowlark**, **Spats**, **Night Moves**, **Safari Sam’s**, **Cuckoo’s Nest**, and **The Golden Bear** were other famed OC rock venues – the latter hosting **Linda Ronstadt**, **Janis Joplin** – a two-week run – and **Jefferson Airplane**. It was the Grateful Dead’s **Jerry Garcia** who booked Airplane, saving The Bear when it was foundering under new owners whose original plans called for an Indian restaurant.

Epting published these riffs in 2014, in “Rock ‘n’ Roll in Orange County: Music, Madness and Memories,” one of 30 books the Huntington Beach historian, music-and-travel journalist has written, including “Adrenalized,” co-written with longtime South County resident and **Def Leppard** guitarist **Phil Collen**.



Epting’s talk was part of an ongoing series at the museum and free to members. Yearly memberships start at \$50 for individuals, \$500 and above includes name on the donor wall.

Visit Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach – discover the history of the Fun Zone and much more. Open daily. Free general

admission. Become a member. [balboaislandmuseum.org/become-a-member](http://balboaislandmuseum.org/become-a-member)