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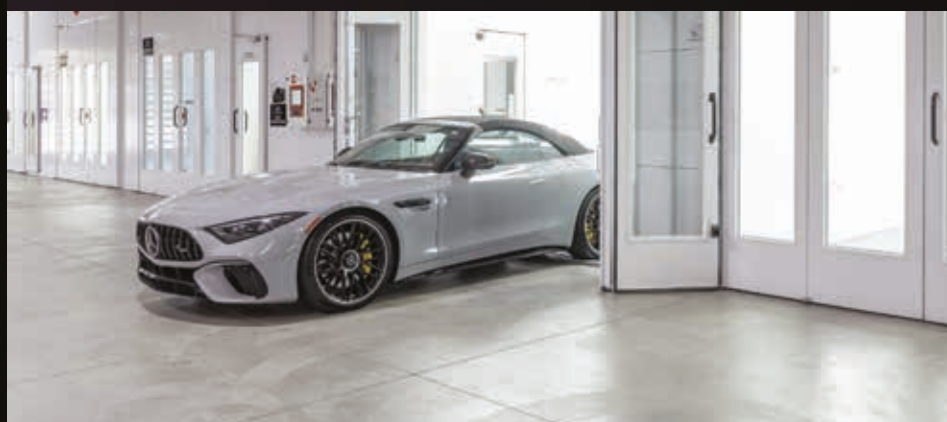
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

September is Here...

Back to School, summer ending and FOOTBALL...

HELLO BALBOA ISLAND,

As summer winds down and the rhythm of life on Balboa Island begins to settle back into its familiar pace, I find myself reflecting with gratitude. This September, I'm especially thankful as my wife and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary in July—a milestone that reminds me how precious time, love, and family truly are.

Like many of you, we're watching the kids prepare to head back to school, with some already in school, ushering in a new chapter with sharpened pencils and fresh hopes and dreams. The end of summer also means the return of football season (GO Bruins, sorry Trojans) and that calm, golden light that makes life at the beach feel a little more peaceful and a lot more magical.

Here's to soaking up the last sunny days, cheering from the sidelines, and embracing the beauty of everyday moments on the Island. Thank you for being part of this wonderful community, Balboa Island and all its magical qualities.

Rob Gallagher

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~ Tom & Connie, Balboa Island Residents

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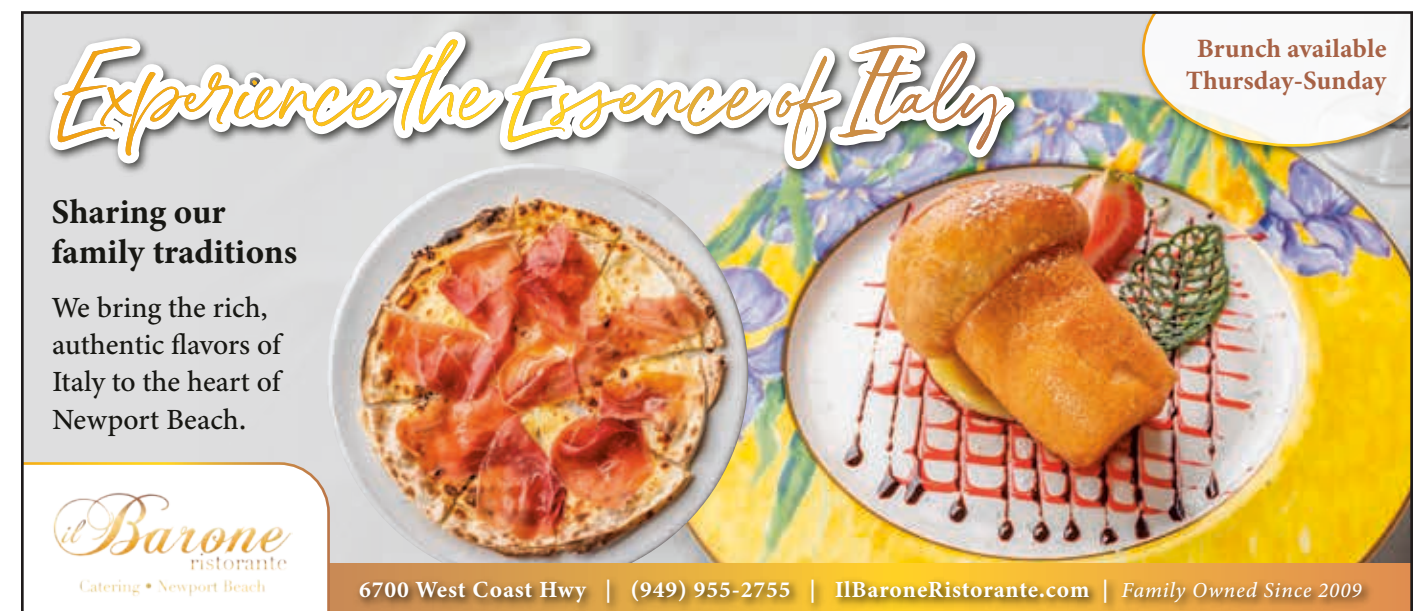
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Living the Island Dream

Longtime Balboa Island residents Jim and Sandy Lindberg share a life rich in family, service, and sunshine.

BY DIANA RANEY, STROLL BALBOA ISLAND STAFF | PHOTOS BY TURVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY

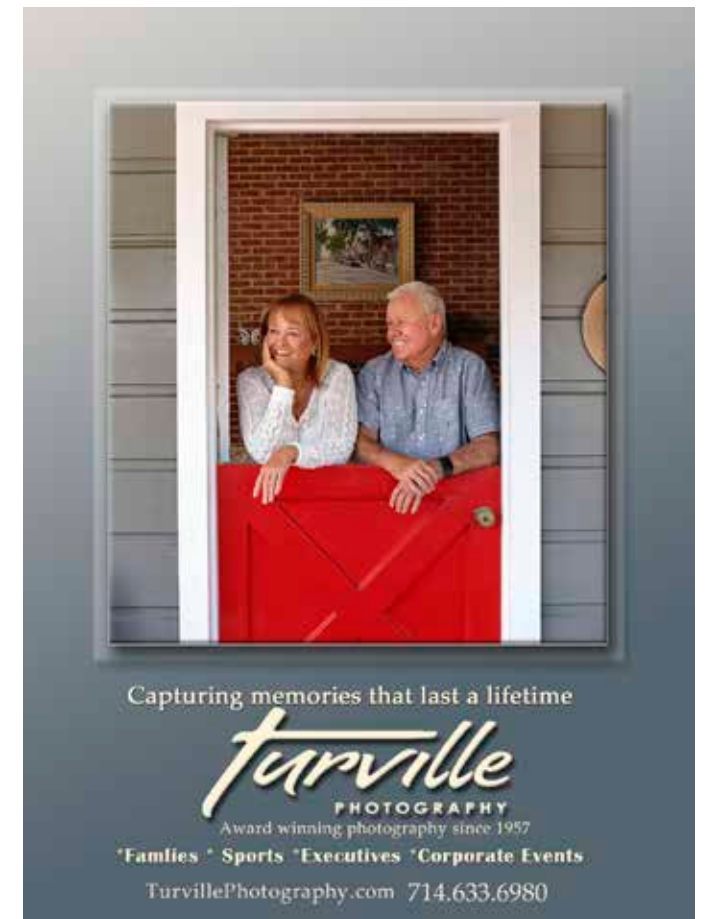


When Jim and Sandy Lindberg traded the suburbs of Mission Viejo for the charming shores of Balboa Island nearly three decades ago, they weren't just relocating—they were beginning a whole new chapter. Today, 27 years later, they've built a life filled with community, memories, and generations of joy on the island they call home.

Jim and Sandy first met doing what they loved—running races and competing in triathlons. That shared passion for movement and adventure set the tone for a life full of energy and exploration. Between them, they have four grown children—Allyson Ranier, Lisa Ranier, Jennifer Lindberg, and David Lindberg—and eight grandchildren who are scattered across San Francisco, Atascadero, and Texas. While their grandkids may live far away, they absolutely love visiting their grandparents on the island. From rides in the golf cart to afternoons at the beach and visits to the Fun Zone, Jim and Sandy have created the kind of place the kids never want to leave. “We’re so happy to live somewhere our family loves to come to,” they say.

Over the years, the Lindbergs have been more than just residents—they’ve been active contributors to the Balboa Island community. About a decade ago, they embodied the holiday spirit as Mr. and Mrs. Claus during Snow Day on the island. They’ve also served on the Balboa Island Improvement Association and were involved in Neighborhood Watch, always doing their part to help maintain the charm and safety of the place they love.

One of their prized possessions—a classic 1955 Thunderbird—sums up their approach to life: stylish, timeless,



“We had some great times and many fun—and some scary—adventures.”

—SANDY LINDBERG



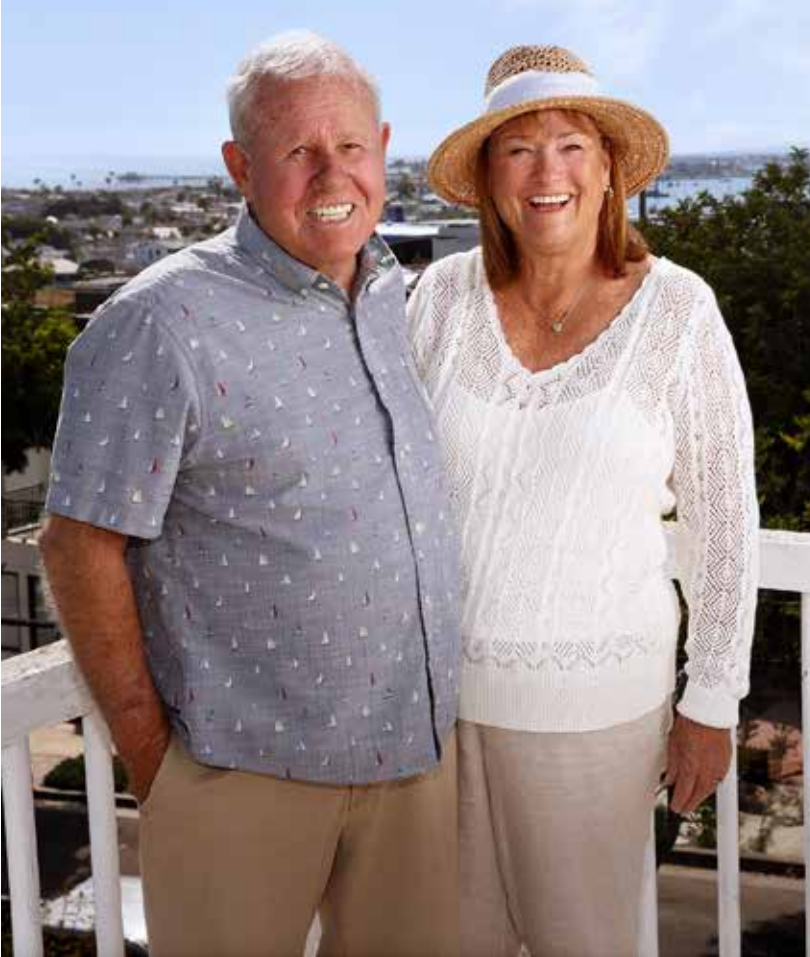
and made for cruising the coast. Sandy’s had the car since 1970, when she drove it off to college, and it still turns heads on Marine Avenue today.

Jim’s own story began with a life of frequent moves—his father was an Air Force General, and the family spent time all over the world. He spent much of his high school years overseas, in Wiesbaden, Germany, and Châteauroux, France. Following in his father’s footsteps, Jim joined the military and served in Vietnam, flying F-4s and OV-10s. After his military service, he went on to a 30-year career with American Airlines, then spent another five years driving trains for Union Pacific Railroad. “He loved to fly and was always up for an adventure,” Sandy laughs. “We had some great times and many fun—and some scary—adventures.”

Sandy’s roots are firmly planted in Southern California. A third-generation Orange County native, she grew up in the Tustin/Santa Ana area. She worked for a landscape company, designing plans and running the office. These days, her creative passions include gardening, painting, mosaics, and her latest passion: genealogy. “I love learning about my ancestors,” she shares.

Today, the Lindbergs embrace a slower, sweeter rhythm of life. You can often find them sitting on their porch chatting with neighbors, spending time at the gym, or soaking up the sun at the beach. They’re regulars at Wilma’s Restaurant, drawn in by the cozy beachside vibe and friendly faces. Other days, they grab a coffee and settle onto a bench on Marine Avenue to watch the world drive by.

Their family legacy reaches beyond the island. Jim’s father, James Lindberg, was a longtime resident of Corona del Mar. He purchased a home at 214 Dahlia Avenue in 1979 and lived there for 40 years before passing away at the age of 100. That house,



built in 1910, still stands today and remains in the family—it’s the oldest home in CdM, a living piece of local history.

Whether cruising in the Thunderbird or waving to neighbors from their front porch, Jim and Sandy Lindberg have created a life rich in story and full of heart on Balboa Island. Together, they represent what makes Balboa Island so special: community, connection, and a life well lived.

Would you like to nominate a family to be highlighted in *Stroll Balboa Island* magazine? We’d love your suggestions! Email us at balboalivingnews@gmail.com.

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223 Amethyst

At 223 Amethyst, the garden blooms with a spirit that's pure Balboa Island meets Americana.



Gail Vasterling has stretched her imagination, curating just the right combination of flowers to reflect a relaxed coastal lifestyle. From the Flamingo Lily gracefully hugging the patio wall to the solitary Templetree Flower standing alone yet bursting with life—this garden invites discovery at every turn while paying homage to our great red, white, and blue.

Bright Impatiens bring pops of cheerful color, while charming sculptures tucked into the patio corners quietly honor treasured family memories. It's a space that feels both personal and picturesque.

But Gail's creativity isn't limited to the garden. She stays active with the Balboa Island Improvement Association (BIIA) and is often seen around the island, spending time with old friends—and welcoming new ones with a warm smile.



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ISLAND BUDDIES

The Emerald Avenue Paw-trol

Oliver the Westie lives a paw-some island life full of zoomies, treats, and tennis balls.

BY OLIVER, EMERALD AVENUE'S FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WESTIE

Hello Islanders! Oliver here on patrol on Emerald Ave. I am a happy and feisty West Highland White Terrier (Westie). I have lived on Balboa Island since I was a puppy, and I am three and a half years old. A lot of people know me on my porch perch, looking over the fence and Greeting everyone with a bark or a tail wag.

My mama is Diana DeBruhl, and my human sister, Morgan, also lives on the Island on Garnet. People say “I am a big dog in a small body,” and I might even agree. My most amiable traits are my outgoing personality, my ability to charm all humans, and my unfaltering loyalty. My mama says I can be stubborn, but that’s because I am so clever and intelligent. Born naturally very athletic, my favorite pastime is with a tennis ball, either playing catch, trap, or soccer, as I am able to dribble the ball so well. Another one of my favorite toys is a green long-neck dinosaur named Dino that my family bought for me from the Balboa Island Museum. He comes with me wherever I go.

I am mostly fearless, but do get afraid of the big, noisy trucks that drive by and cause me to be on high alert. My favorite is the brown UPS truck driven by my best friend, Keith. My owners order a lot of brown boxes, stimulating the economy they say, so he gives me treats often.

I am grateful for the fresh Farmer’s Dog food that my family feeds me each day, but I only like it with a little sprinkle of Parmesan on top. My favorite day of the week is Wednesday, when I get to go to Dutch Touch Grooming and come home clean and tired from “play play play” all day. My favorite daily activities are going for walks around the island (you will find me walking in the alley) or going for a ride in my car, our red golf cart. Another favorite activity is going to the beach. Running in the sand and ocean gives me the dog zoomies.

Blessed and grateful to be an @island_westie living the Southern California dream. I love looking out for my “Emeralds” family, so make sure to stop by and say hi!

We want to see your family’s pet! Email Diana at BalboaLivingNews@gmail.com.



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SMALL BITES WITH BIG FLAVOR

Serve these sweet & savory Salmon Bites at your next gathering.

BY SHAWN MASTOS, BALBOA ISLAND RESIDENT



I recently took a trip to Montana and ended up at a fabulous bar in, of all places, Butte. My friend and I ordered the salmon bites—and they were incredible. I loved them so much, I recreated the dish at home to share with you.

When selecting your salmon, try to avoid the end pieces for the best texture. I paired mine with a sweet chili soy glaze, but feel free to use any sauce you prefer. It's an easy and delicious dish, perfect for summer. Enjoy!



INGREDIENTS

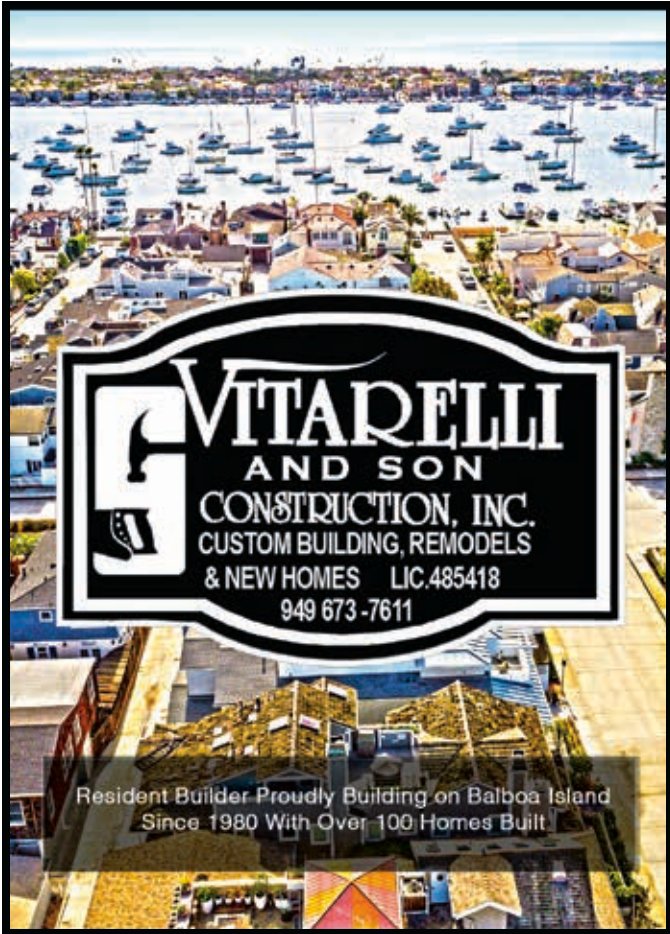
- 1 – 1½ salmon skin off, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Sesame seeds (optional)

Sweet chili soy glaze:

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 clove of garlic chopped fine
- ⅓ cup sweet chili sauce
- 2 Tablespoons light soy sauce
- 2 green scallions, chopped for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the fish, sprinkle lightly with salt.
2. Heat a grill pan over medium heat. Once the pan is heated, cook the fish for one minute over medium heat. Cover the pan with a lid. Cook 2 minutes.
3. Remove the lid and turn the pieces. Cook for one more minute. (I don't like it dried out; it will still continue to cook.) Add sesame seeds if you want.
4. For the glaze, I like to use a clean pan for the sauce, but you can use the same pan you cooked in. Heat a tablespoon of oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook one minute, stirring until slightly brown.
5. Add ⅓ cup chili sauce and 2 tablespoons of light soy sauce. Mix and cook 1 minute or so, stirring until bubbly.
6. Once it's ready, mix the salmon with the sauce. Warm up slightly. Remove from heat, put in a fancy bowl, and sprinkle with scallions.



Exploring Balboa ... For Kids Only!

BY JOSEFINA VILICANA-SALZER, BALBOA ISLAND RESIDENT & JR. WRITER



Everyone's been talking about AI, so I decided to explore Balboa in a different way by seeing what AI has to say about the island.

"Balboa Island, located in Newport Beach, is a charming coastal spot that's perfect for teens looking for a fun, laid-back adventure. Whether you're spending the day with friends or just exploring on your own, there's plenty to do—and most of it doesn't require a car or even a plan.

The best way to start your visit is with a walk around the island's famous loop. It's about 1.7 miles and takes you past beautiful beach houses, boats in the harbor, and cute little docks where you can stop and take in the views. It's flat, easy to walk, and a great way to get a feel for the island.

No trip to Balboa Island is complete without trying one of its most famous treats: a chocolate-dipped frozen banana or a Balboa Bar. You can get one at Sugar 'n Spice or Dad's Donuts and pick your own toppings like sprinkles, nuts, or cookie crumbs. They're fun, tasty, and totally photo-worthy.

Feeling more adventurous? Rent a bike or an electric scooter and take the short, scenic ride across the harbor on the Balboa Island Ferry. It only takes a few minutes and drops you



Balboa Island is the kind of place where you can enjoy scenic views and time with friends and family.

off right near the Balboa Fun Zone, where you can play arcade games, ride the Ferris wheel, and grab snacks by the water.

Back on the island, you'll find local shops and restaurants on Marine Avenue. You can browse for souvenirs, check out beachy clothes and jewelry, or grab lunch at a casual spot like Wilma's Patio. If you're with a group, consider renting a Duffy boat to cruise around the harbor—bring snacks, music, and enjoy the breeze. If you're more into water sports, paddleboarding is another great option and an awesome way to see the harbor up close.

Balboa Island isn't about loud parties or big crowds—it's more relaxed and friendly. It's the kind of place where you can enjoy simple things: good food, pretty views, and time with the people you like being around. Whether you're walking, eating, riding the ferry, or just watching the sunset, Balboa Island is a perfect spot for a fun and easy day by the water."

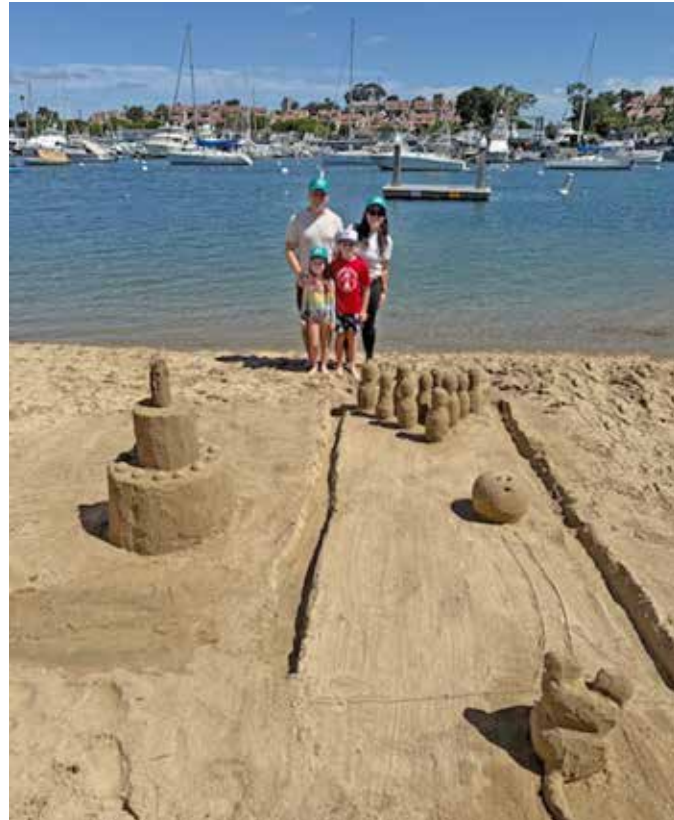
That's what AI had to say about the island, but it didn't mention some of my favorite activities, such as kayaking around the island and all of the seasonal events on the island throughout the year, like the boat parades and other fun activities.

I hope you enjoyed hearing from Chat GPT and me. Could you tell whether it was me or AI? Do you have a topic, event, adventure, or place you would like Josefina to write about? Email your ideas to BalboaLivingNews@gmail.com.

Balboa Island Sandcastle Contest

Over 75 participants created the 12 teams that competed in the Annual Balboa Island Sandcastle Contest on Saturday, July 26th.

BY CHRIS CROSSON - BALBOA ISLAND RESIDENT, PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CHRIS CROSSON AND JON REMY



Families and friends arrived early to sign up at the 8:00 AM registration. After two hours of stacking, building, and carving the sand, the beach was transformed into a temporary art gallery.

This event is held at Ruby Beach, located on Ruby Avenue and the North Bay Front on Balboa Island. "In summer, this is a very busy beach, yet the crowds made way for the contest to take place," Chris Crosson stated. "It was great to see families working together, playing in the sand, and having fun."



2nd place - Lighthouse City - Team Yarbrough



Shell Mountain - Team Dirty Socks



Drip Castle with Bridges - Team Sonic



Balboa Trucker Hat - The Jones Girls



1st place - Big Fish - The O'Brians



Tall Pterodactyl Castle - The Canover Family



Shell Bridge Castle - Maddie, Parker & Friend



4th place - The Pavilion - Eastmond Construction



Christmas in July - This Tiss Family



Whale Breaching - Team Couch Potatoes



The Sandcastle Gang

Each team member was awarded a Dad's Donuts hippo cookie for participating. Additional awards from The Golden Rabbit, Balboa Island Baking Co., and SandcastleKit.com were awarded to the top participants.

Chris Crosson and his daughter, Stephanie Crosson, continued to organize this event, which is sponsored by the BIIA (Balboa Island Improvement Association). Chris's sand work is usually found at Sapphire and South Bay Front on the Island.

Reminder for those interested in building a sand creation, sandcastle building lessons and parties can be arranged with Chris at 949-735-6203.



Chris Crosson and daughter, Stephanie



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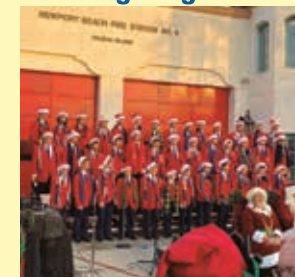
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Snow Day



HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY!

In celebration of Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 7th, we're honoring the heart and soul of so many families—the incredible grandparents of Balboa Island! Whether they're spoiling the grandkids, sharing family traditions, or simply offering a warm hug and words of wisdom, these cherished residents are deeply loved. In this special feature, families share heartfelt shout-outs and sweet messages by and for grandparents who make life on the Island even more special.

MIRIAM BAKER

At 86, living on beautiful Balboa Island — proud grandma of 7, great-grandma of 5, and feeling so blessed!

JACK HAMILTON

Dear Grandpa, Happy National Grandparents Day! Thank you for all that you do, and thank you for being you. We are so lucky to have you as our Grandpa, and we love you more than you know! And please never stop taking pictures or videos. – Lots of love, Kuhen, Max, Ryan, Dylan, and Keaton

HAROLD HOFER

Onyx Avenue resident Harold Hofer loves exploring with his grandson.



Miriam Baker



Jack Hamilton



Harold Hofer

THROUGH THE LENS

Birds of Orange County

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DON ABRAMS, BALBOA ISLAND RESIDENT & OWNER OF ABRAMS COASTAL PROPERTIES

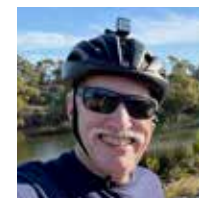
Juvenile Bald Eagle



American Avocet



Snowy Egret



About the photographer:

Balboa Island resident Don Abrams, an avid birding, photography, and cycling enthusiast, enjoys weekly bike rides in pursuit of coastal bird sightings. His favorite routes include Newport's Back Bay and Irvine's San Joaquin Marsh, both

rich with diverse and striking birdlife. Most evenings, Don can be spotted strolling around the Little Island, iPhone in hand, capturing the beauty of local seabirds. If you see him, don't hesitate to say hello!

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SWEET SENSATIONS

STEEPED IN FLAVOR

Perfect for tea lovers and special occasions alike, this London Fog Cake is both refined and irresistibly indulgent.

BY ORSI MESTER



Inspired by the cozy elegance of a London Fog latte, this London Fog Cake brings together the comforting flavors of Earl Grey tea, floral lavender, and sweet vanilla in every bite. Moist and aromatic, the cake is soaked in a creamy tea-infused milk and topped with a luxurious lavender cream cheese frosting.

INGREDIENTS

For the cake:

- 3 tablespoons Earl Grey tea
- 1 tablespoon culinary lavender
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour

- 1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 10 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 3 eggs, room temperature
- 1 tablespoon vanilla bean paste
- 1 cup buttermilk

For the milk soak:

- ½ cup whole milk
- 2 tablespoons Earl Grey tea
- ½ tablespoon culinary lavender
- ½ cup sweetened condensed milk
- ½ teaspoon vanilla bean paste

For the frosting:

- 1 tablespoon culinary lavender
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste

INSTRUCTIONS

Cake:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x9-inch baking pan and line it with parchment paper.
2. Add the Earl Grey tea and the lavender to a food processor and pulse until finely ground. Pass through a sieve to separate any large bits. In a bowl, mix together the flour, Earl Grey tea, lavender, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add the butter and sugar in another bowl, and cream together with a mixer. Then add the eggs and vanilla and mix together. Add the buttermilk and dry ingredients, a little bit at a time, mixing on low speed until smooth.
3. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for 35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Let the cake cool completely.

Milk soak:

Add the milk to a small saucepan and heat on low until steaming, then add the Earl Grey tea and lavender. Allow to steep for 10 minutes, then take it off the heat. Pass the mixture through a sieve and allow it to cool. Then mix in the sweetened condensed milk and vanilla.

Frosting:

Add the lavender to a food processor and pulse until finely ground. Pass through a sieve to separate any large bits. Add the butter into a mixing bowl and mix on high speed until fluffy. Then add the cream cheese and mix on high speed. Sift in the powdered sugar and add the lavender and vanilla. Mix on low speed until combined.

Assembling the cake:

When the cake is completely cooled, cut a thin layer off the top of the cake using a sharp knife. Poke holes using a wooden spoon. Slowly pour the Earl Grey milk mixture on top of the cake. Frost the top of the cake with a thick layer of lavender cream cheese frosting using an offset spatula. Enjoy!

Balboa Island Holiday Home Walking Tour

SUBMITTED BY GAIL VASTERLING,
BALBOA ISLAND RESIDENT



Mark your calendars for the 27th Annual Balboa Island Holiday Home Walking Tour, a cherished tradition brought to life by the Balboa Island Improvement Association. Join us on **Saturday, December 13th, 2025, from 11:00am to 4:00pm**, as the island transforms into a wonderland of holiday cheer. This event offers a rare opportunity to explore an enchanting selection of island homes, each decked in its finest seasonal décor—blending coastal sophistication with classic holiday whimsy.

Stroll the picturesque streets of Balboa Island and delight in exclusive home tours, where every doorway opens onto unique visions of festive elegance, creativity, and island warmth. Whether you're inspired by the sparkle of coastal holiday style or the nostalgia of timeless decorations, each home invites you in with heartfelt hospitality.

Tickets are \$50 and will be available for purchase starting September 1st on Balboa Island at the following stores: Crush Clothing, the Museum, or Sunny

Days—all conveniently located on Marine Avenue. Off-island tickets are available at Where's the Party on 17th Street, Bliss Home Design on PCH in Corona del Mar, and Seaside Gallery & Goods on Tustin Avenue in Newport Beach. You may also purchase tickets online at biia.org.

More than just a festive day out, the Holiday Home Tour is a cornerstone fundraiser supporting the beautification projects and events that bring our community together all year long. Make the most of your visit—enjoy a stroll down Marine Avenue, explore boutique shops, savor seasonal treats, and immerse yourself in the joyful spirit that makes Balboa Island truly magical during the holidays.

To be a Docent or Sponsor, please visit our website at biia.org to sign up or call 949-384-8580 for more information.

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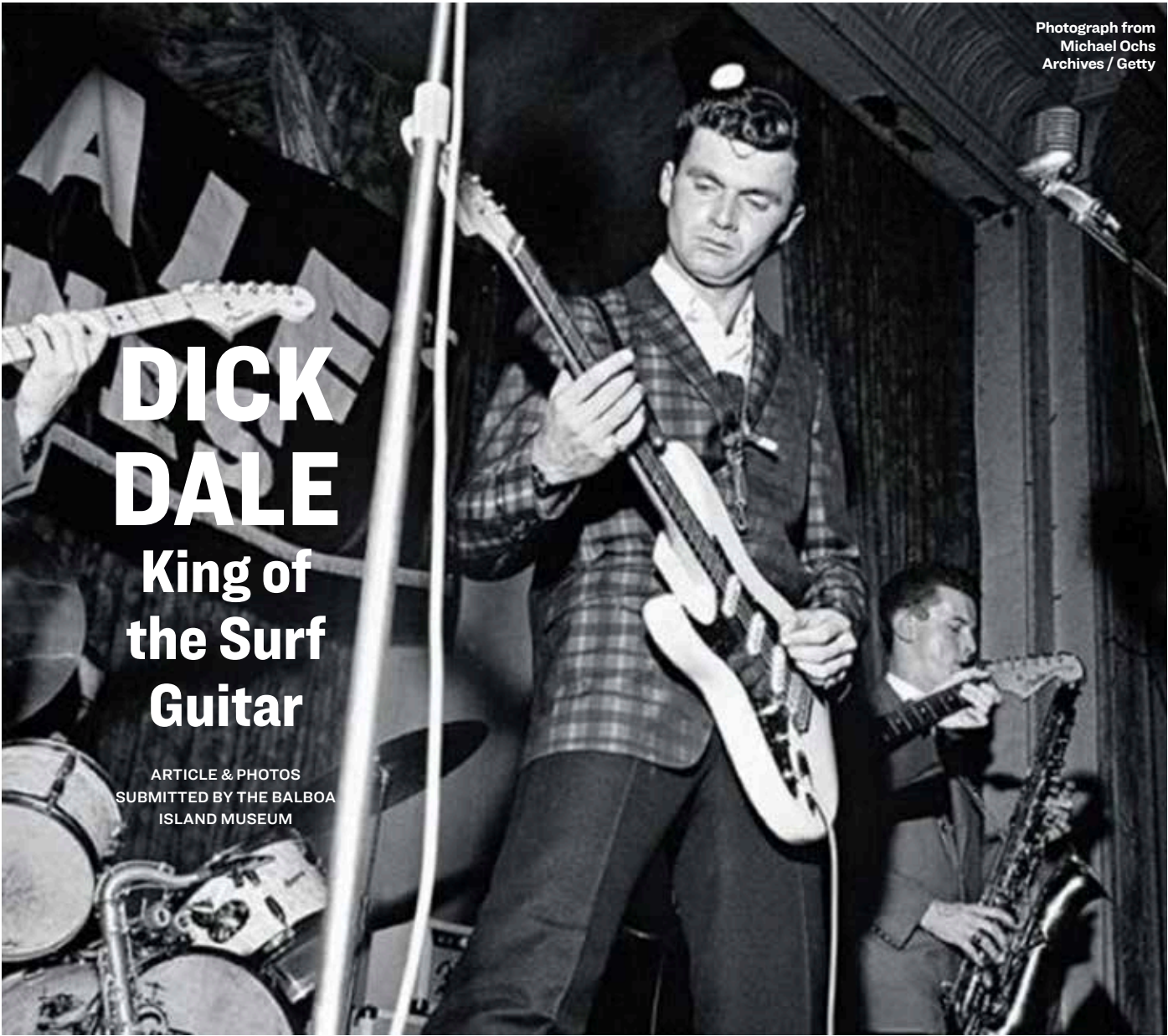


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DICK DALE

King of the Surf Guitar

ARTICLE & PHOTOS
SUBMITTED BY THE BALBOA
ISLAND MUSEUM



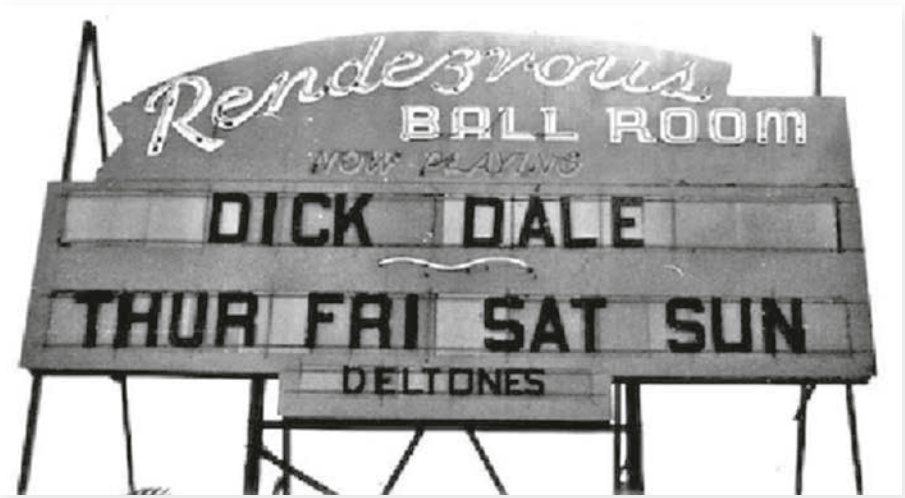
IT IS SAID THAT Dick Dale was playing at a local ice cream parlor until he formed a band called Del-Tones, and they appeared at the Rendezvous Ballroom on July 1, 1961. Only seventeen surfers were in the audience, and they were friends of the band! However, this sound became a driving force in the music of a generation. Dale, who would come to be known as the King of the Surf Guitar and pioneer of the surf music sound, would soon be playing to sell-out crowds at the renowned Balboa dance hall, breaking attendance records when up to 4,000 fans would crowd the Rendezvous every weekend. In a 1963 article published in the *San Bernardino County Sun*, Dale was dubbed the “Pied Piper of Balboa.”



John Blair, Images of America Southern California Surf Music, 1960-1966, pg 20

He developed a method of playing the guitar based on that sensation, pounding the strings rather than plucking them, with unprecedented volume.

In the early 1960s, surf music presented an entirely new sound. Dick Dale had a unique style, blending Lebanese folk songs he listened to as a child with the swing rhythm of the big bands and the twang of country music. He was already a seasoned musician before moving from the East Coast to Southern California, where he fell in love with surfing and the thunderous sound of ocean waves crashing against the shoreline. He developed a method of playing the guitar based on that sensation, pounding the strings rather than plucking them, with unprecedented volume. This sound, which became known as surf rock, was primarily instrumental and heavily amplified, with a fast beat and reverberation effect. In a *Los Angeles Times* article on February 1, 1981, Dale



The San Bernardino County Sun, 12 Dec 1963, pg 17

said, “Part of the Dick Dale sound was the sheer volume at which we played. We had to. Our amps weren’t miked so we had to *blast* to fill up that monstrous room.” Dale drew enormous crowds at the Rendezvous by night, while continuing to surf all day long whenever he had the chance. His surfing buddies gave him the title “King of the Surf Guitar.” The story goes that at times the high tide came so close to the Ballroom that the shoes of dancers got wet, thus creating the perfect setting for Dale’s shows,

which were called “stomps” and where the dance “Surfer’s Stomp” was born. His song “Miserlou” (1962) became a surf music standard. Other surf bands also graced the stage at the Rendezvous Ballroom, including the Bel-Airs (“Mr. Moto,” 1961), the Surfaris (“Wipe-Out,” 1962), the Chantays (“Pipeline,” 1963), the Chancellors and the Lively Ones (“Surf Rider,” 1963).

Visit the Balboa Island Museum and learn more about the history of surf music.

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BALBOA ISLAND
IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION
UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sept 23; 7:00 PM** – Classical Concert at Saint John Vianney Chapel
- **Sept 30; 6:30 PM** – Board Meeting at Beek Community Center
- **Oct 28 30; 6:30 PM** – Board Meeting at Beek Community Center



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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR again, tailgates, burgers, and brews! We love football season! Get your gear on for your favorite cross-town rivals and enjoy cheering for our hometown favorites this fall. Here's a schedule to keep all the game dates for UCLA and USC at hand. Sit back, relax, and enjoy... oh, yes... and don't forget to send us some pictures as you celebrate and show your school pride throughout the season!

Let's go!

- UCLA BRUINS**
2025 UCLA Football Schedule
- August 30 vs. Utah
 - Sept. 6 @ UNLV
 - Sept. 12 vs. New Mexico
 - Sept. 27 @ Northwestern
 - Oct. 4 vs. Penn State
 - Oct. 1 @ Michigan State
 - Oct 18 vs. Maryland
 - Oct 25 @ Indiana
 - Nov 8 vs. Nebraska
 - Nov. 15 @ Ohio State
 - Nov. 22 vs. Washington
 - Nov. 29 @ USC

- USC TROJANS**
2025 USC Football Schedule
- August 30 vs. Missouri State
 - Sept. 6 vs. Georgia Southern
 - Sept. 13 @ Purdue
 - Sept. 20 vs. Michigan State
 - Sept. 27 @ Illinois
 - Oct. 11 vs. Michigan
 - Oct. 18 @ Notre Dame
 - Nov. 1 @ Nebraska
 - Nov 7 vs. Northwestern
 - Nov. 15 - vs. Iowa
 - Nov. 22 - @ Oregon
 - Nov. 29 - vs. UCLA



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