And the Winners Are...

...all of you! You, the readers of the Peninsula Beacon, are the ones who have enjoyed great service, friendly assistance above and beyond the norm, unusual selections, mouthwatering menu items and more all around town — and you, our readers, let us know about it.

We are proud to present the first Peninsula Beacon Readers Choice Awards. Our categories cover the sunniest corner for your morning coffee to smoothest spot for a soothing nightcap and everything in between.

These awards recognize the people and places that make the Point Loma and Ocean Beach areas truly extraordinary. From Euro chic to American casual, you can find it all in these dynamic beach communities.

Ballots were printed in the Peninsula Beacon for six weeks — Dec. 13, 2007 through Jan. 17. Many ballots were dropped off at the Ocean Beach Main Street Association office, at several local businesses, some were mailed and other readers chose to vote online. The votes have since been tabulated and the results presented inside this special supplement.

Some of the winners may surprise you; others have enjoyed sterling reputations for years and even decades. We hope these awards will delight those who aspire to excellence every day and inspire new businesses to reach new heights. Although we all are sometimes crushed by the daily grind, it’s gratifying to know that kindness, care and a bright smile do not go unnoticed.

The Peninsula Beacon would like to thank all the readers who took the time to single out the businesses and merchants who make Ocean Beach and Point Loma such rich and unique communities.

Congratulations!

Kevin McKay, Editor, The Peninsula Beacon
Readers Choice

AWARD WINNERS 2007

Dining

Category
1. Restaurant
2. Late Night Dining
3. Patio Dining
4. Breakfast
5. Lunch
6. Dinner
7. Take Out
8. Sunday Brunch
9. Family Restaurant
10. Wine Selection
11. Happy Hour
12. Burrito
13. Best Value
14. Place For A Birthday Party
15. Most Romantic
16. Best Ocean View
17. Appétizer
18. Burger
19. Desserts
20. Margarita
21. Pizza
22. Hawaiian
23. Sandwich
24. Steak
25. Appetizer
26. Burger
27. Coffee Shop
28. Chinese
29. Thai
30. French
31. Italian
32. Mediterranean
33. Mexican
34. Bakery
35. Bar
36. Coffee Shop
37. Deli
38. Ice Cream / Frozen Yogurt
39. Vegetarian
40. BBQ
41. Live Music Venue

First Place
The Venetian
Nick's At The Pier
Shades Oceanfront Bistro
Con Pane
Thee Bungalow
Humphrey's By The Bay
Shades Oceanfront Bistro
Shades Oceanfront Bistro
The Brigantine
Nico's
TIE: Nico's/South Beach Bar & Grill
Chuck K. Cheese
Thee Bungalow
Thee Bungalow
Thee Bungalow
The Venetian
The Brigantine
Umí Sushi
Pt. Loma Seafood
Hodad's
Poma's Italian Deli
Thee Bungalow
Thee Bungalow
Thee Bungalow
TIE: Faisouz/3rd Corner
Miguel's Cocina
Con Pane
South Beach Bark & Grill
Newbreak Coffee & Cafe
Poma's Italian Deli
Lighthouse Ice Cream & Yogurt
OB Peoples Organic Food Co-Op
Poma's Italian Deli
OB Peoples Organic Food Co-Op
European Cake Gallery
Shades Oceanfront Bistro
Shades Oceanfront Bistro
TIE: Pomp's Italian Deli/ Nicos
Sunset Garage/76 Station
Blue Ocean
Goodlife
Baja Grill Bar & Grill
Details TLSpa/Haute Spa

Special Recognition
Shades Oceanfront Bistro / Miguel's Cocina
3rd Corner / The Vine
Tower Two / Nati's / O'Bistro
Hodad's/Little Chef
The Venetian / Nick's At The Pier
Hodad's / PDQ
Bali Hai
Blueberry Hill / The Venetian
Wine Steaks / The Bungalow / The Vine
Shine Time Company / Solano / South Beach
Santana's / Adalbertos
Nati's / Tower Two
Blueberry Hill
Briagantine / 3rd Corner
Hodad's
Shades Oceanfront Bistro / Bali Hai
Blueberry Hill
Briagantine / Nati's
Expresso / Pizza Nova
L &L Barbeque / Da Kine's
Subway / Olive Tree / Chris’ Liquor / Brown Bag Deli
Island Prime / The Briagantine
Sapporo / Kirin
The Brigantine / South Beach Bar & Grill
Blueberry Hill / The Briagantine
Pick Up Stix / Mandarin China
That Time / Royal Thai
Old Venice / Expresso / Pepe's
European Cake Gallery / Stephanie's
Sunshine Co. Saloon/Tiny's Tavern / Pacific Shores
Living Room/Four Mama's Mug/Starbucks
Poma's Italian Deli
Cold Stone / Baskin Robbins
Ranchos Cocina
Phil's Barbeque
TIE: Nificos / Ortega's

Shopping & Services

Category
1. Antiques
2. Bookstore
3. Chiropractor
4. Furniture
5. Place W/ Unusual Gifts
6. Auto Repair
7. Bank
8. Bike Selection
9. Men's Apparel
10. Women's Apparel
11. Eye Wear
12. Swimsuits
13. Shoe Store
14. Dry Cleaners
15. Florist
16. Grocery Store
17. Travel Agency
18. Pet Hospital
19. Pet Store
20. Hair Salon
21. Nail Salon
22. Day Spa
23. Yoga Studio
24. Tanning Salon
25. Bike Shop
26. Surf Shop
27. Skate Shop
28. CD's & Music Shop
29. Tattoo Shop/Baby Piercing
30. Fitness Club / Gym
31. Place For A Bargain
32. Smoke Shop
33. Doctor
34. Dentist
35. Veterinarian
36. Specialty Grocery

First Place
Newport Avenue Antiques
Bookstar
Dr. Sean Silva
Malkoff's
Rock Paper Scissors
Rich's Automotive
Point Loma Community Bank
Ocean Beach Hotel
South Coast Surf Shop
The Closet
Newport Avenue Optometry
Sports Chalet
Embassy Cleaners
Point Loma Village Florist
Vons
Carefree Vacations
Cabrillo Pet Hospital
Pet Bone Appetit
Details
B's Hair & Nails
Details
Namaste
San Diego Sun Tanning
Bernie's Bikes
South Coast Surf Shop
Pet Loma Animal Clinic/shelter Island Hospital
Pet Smart/Pet Kingdom
Details
The Strand
Details
Hollywood Tan/California Tan
Discovery Shop/VFW
Ob Surf Shop/Pt. Loma Board Room/Rob'sy
Ob Surf And Skate
Bernie's Bikes
Cow Records
Apoge Bird Piercing
Gold's Gym
The Closet
The Black
Dr. Cara
Dr. De Rosa
Dr. Rose Cabrillo Vet
Ob Peoples Co-op

Special Recognition
Cottage Antiques / OB Antique Mall/Newport Ave Antique Center
Greater Life Chiropractic / Dr. Patch
Vignettes/Karen's Consignment/Cottage Antiques
The Black / Just For The Halibut/Ocean Gift & Shells
Sunset Garage /76 Station
Sunset Garage /76 Station
Sunset Garage /76 Station
Sunset Garage /76 Station
Arcadia Travel
Pt. Loma Animal Clinic/shelter Island Hospital
Pet Smart/Pet Kingdom
Details
The Strand
Details
Hollywood Tan/California Tan
Discovery Shop/VFW
Ob Surf Shop/Pt. Loma Board Room/Rob'sy
Ob Surf And Skate
Bernie's Bikes
Cow Records
Apoge Bird Piercing
Gold's Gym
The Closet
The Black
Dr. Cara
Dr. De Rosa
Dr. Rose Cabrillo Vet
Ob Peoples Co-op

Congratulations to the following businesses who were chosen by the readers of the Peninsula Beacon.

The business categories were published in ballot form over a period of 6 weeks. Readers were asked to cast ballots for their favorite choices. This was no simple task!

With more than 75 categories, our readers came through with overwhelming response.

We wish to thank all the readers who took the time to recognize these businesses which do so much to make Ocean Beach and Point Loma such wonderful communities.
Dining
Restaurant
The Venetian
If visuals get your Italian-cuisine appetite in gear, The Venetian is your restaurant forevermore. It’s physically impossible to escape the concepts behind the décor – the Tuscan wall murals and tabletop scenes complement vine-strewn latticework and mellow lighting on the patio. The food has best been described as California-Italian, which simply means you can expect great fare without a lot of heavy sauce, the way some other places think Italian should be done. The pastas and chicken entrees will command your serious attention, as will the tidy bar and the family-style menu. Anything else you could ask for probably doesn’t exist.

The Venetian
3663 Voltaire St., Point Loma
(619) 223-8197
www.venetian1965.com

Late-Night Dining
Nick’s at the Pier
Take Nick’s at the Beach (arguably the archetypal Pacific Beach eatery) and drop it in Ocean Beach; oddly enough, Nick’s at the Pier materializes, with the same vibe and commitment to quality you’ll find at the P.B. staple. The fried calamari, the Papas Queasadilla, the Crab Cakes and Steamed Mussels – they’re all here, along with a killer wine list, a serious banquet menu and a stratospheric 23 big-screen TVs. For a place that first opened its doors only last year, Nick’s at the Pier has thought of just about everything. There’s a reason it all looks familiar – but don’t worry.

You’ve come to the right place.
Nick’s at the Pier
5083 Santa Monica Ave.
(619) 222-7437
www.nicksatthepier.com

Patio Dining
Shades
Oceanfront Bistro
This Ocean Beach venue has an odd habit of opening at 6:30 a.m. In and of itself, that’s maybe not so unusual – until you add in the rockin’ happy hour and the 9 p.m. close (so during the summer). That’s a long day, to be sure, but we have every faith you can handle it. The big hit at breakfast involves something called Salmon Scrambles, which should tide you over until lunch and that Veggie Sandwich with goat cheese and sprouts you’ve had your eye on. The excellent food, unique cocktails and quality-service mark the evening as well, and the ocean view never stops.
Shades Oceanfront Bistro
5083 Santa Monica Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-0501
www.shadesob.com
(see photo page 10)

Breakfast
Shades
(see entry under Patio Dining)

Thank You for Voting Us #1 in Pt. Loma & Ocean Beach

1st PLACE
Best Pizza
Best Italian
Best Overall Restaurant
Service

Full Bar & Large Covered Patio
Wine Cellar / Dining Room
3663 Voltaire St., San Diego • (619) 223-8197

Voted Best Restaurant

The Venetian
If visuals get your Italian-cuisine appetite in gear, The Venetian is your restaurant forevermore. It’s physically impossible to escape the concepts behind the décor – the Tuscan wall murals and tabletop scenes complement vine-strewn latticework and mellow lighting on the patio. The food has best been described as California-Italian, which simply means you can expect great fare without a lot of heavy sauce, the way some other places think Italian should be done. The pastas and chicken entrees will command your serious attention, as will the tidy bar and the family-style menu. Anything else you could ask for probably doesn’t exist.

The Venetian
3663 Voltaire St., Point Loma
(619) 223-8197
www.venetian1965.com

Lunch
Con Pane
You guys probably didn’t know that the Italian “con pane” is the root phrase for the word “companion.” You guys also probably didn’t know that “con pane” is literally translated as “with bread.” Now that you do,
Dinner

Thee Bungalow

We’ve wondered every so often about that pesky little extra ‘e’ in “Thee Bungalow, but after favoring our palates with some of the finest cuisine we’ve ever had, we finally get it. This really is THEE place to go for an exquisite dining experience. Celebrating 30 years in Ocean Beach, Thee Bungalow features four intimate dining rooms perfect for that romantic rendezvous, small party or business meeting. House specialties include roast duck, roast lamb, fresh seafood and near-scandalous dessert soufflés— one taste of anything on the menu, and you’ll have a new favorite place to eat. ■

Thee Bungalow
4996 W. Point Loma Blvd. (619) 224-2884 www.theebungalow.com

Wine Selection

3rd Corner

Your first glance at this OB wine bar may prompt a certain confusion. You won’t know whether you’ve walked into a bar that dabbles in retail sales or a wine cellar with a drinking license— such is the level of attention this establishment renders both services. Hundreds of bottles from around the world are there for the taking, surrounded by funky-colored walls and maps of the world’s most well-known wine regions, 3rd Corner serves dinner, too, and many patrons make a habit of ordering a meal and then visiting the racks to pick the wine that goes best with their food. You’ll come away with a very decent bottle of wine, and you won’t be paying an inflated price just ‘cause you’re at a restaurant. ■

3rd Corner
2265 Bacon St., Ocean Beach (619) 223-2700 www.the3rdcorner.com

Take-Out

Poma’s Italian Deli

The folks at Poma’s like to call their eatery the home of the roast beef sandwich – but you’ll talk about this place’s pizza before anything. Or more specifically, the choice of toppings. Remember, Poma’s is a deli, and delis are topped first for their sandwiches. Not only does this place serve up 14- and 16-inch pies, the pizzas come with your choice of 11 condiments, from ham to pineapple. Add that to the wide selection of sandwiches, and Poma’s becomes a deli and pizzeria in one. And don’t think the staff stumbled on the fare selection anytime in the recent past – this family-run business has been in Ocean Beach since 1965.

Poma’s Italian Deli
1846 Bacon St., Ocean Beach (619) 223-3027 www.pomasdeli.com

Nico’s Mexican Food

“I’ve never loved anything in this crazy world,” one partisan says, “as much as I love a Nico’s bean ‘n’ cheese burrito.” “Anything”? That’s quite an endorsement, especially when you consider that this crazy world has lots of cool stuff in it – like this eatery’s legendary hot sauce and the way it piles on the beans. The chicken taquitos rate high as well, as does the veggie burrito and the refried fare. In a city that touts close to 5 million Mexican restaurants, Nico’s must indeed be unique in this crazy world – or in crazy OB at the very least.

Nico’s Mexican Food
4918 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach (619) 223-0230

you guys have probably figured out that this Point Loma eatery toasts its many types of bread as heavily as what it puts between the slices. That Turkey Cobb Sandwich with avocado couldn’t taste better between slices of the house’s finest garlic entry. Or how about a Raisin and Hazelnut Batard wrapped around your choice of sugar-coated delicacy? There’s even a three-bread platter that comes with olive oil and goat cheese to help you decide on your fare. Good bread indeed makes the best of companions. Here, you’ll find both.

Con Pane
4996 W. Point Loma Blvd. (619) 224-4344 (see photo page 9)

Hodad’s
(see entry under Burger)
Sunday Brunch
Humphrey’s by the Bay
Unless they’ve been homesteading on Mercury the last several years, everybody in the city knows about Humphrey’s Backstage Music Club, a premiere place around here for all sorts of good live music and all sorts of good times. Everybody also knows a lot about Humphrey’s by the Bay, the iconic restaurant that anchors the venue. If they don’t, they might want to try the weekly brunch as their introductory experience. Fresh off its interior facelift, Humphrey’s leaves no stoneware unturned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays—desserts, breakfast items, cheeses and salads, the showcase Seafood Station and much more are designed to make midday the best part of the first day of the week.

Happy Hour
The Brigantine
OK. So The Brigantine in Point Loma is part of a family of eateries. So’s the McDonald’s in Tyler, Tex., and you don’t hear anybody complaining about the quality and taste of the food. Same with The Brigantine’s Happy Hour – the service is quick and individualized, and unlike most such rituals, this one is fairly quiet and relaxed. Maybe they, like, put sedatives in their appetizers. Or maybe everybody’s contented amid the prices of the specials and the fare at the oyster bar. Whatever. The fact is that, bar none, this is the best Happy Hour in the neighborhood.

Burger
Hodad’s
“If this isn’t the best burger you’ve ever had,” declares an electronic page devoted to Hodad’s in Ocean Beach, “we really don’t want to hear about it.” The staff wouldn’t have time to listen anyway – everybody’s too busy serving up OB’s favorite burger. No less than the peeps over at Fodor’s travel guides call the Hodad’s bacon-cheeseburger “awesome,” and there’s even a grilled cheese sandwich on the menu for those desiring lighter fare. You can get beer and malts to go with it all – the important thing, though is that you show up.
in the history of the universe. But did anybody ever think about what kind of fare rests inside that delicious shell? South Beach Bar & Grille can only speak for itself on that score – and the mahi taco, at an absolutely unbeatable price, speaks volumes for South Beach Bar & Grille. This place has lots of stellar values on everything else – it’s all part of doing business on the coast, which is already overrun with competitors. When it comes to a cheap, great taco, South Beach has it made. And if you visit, so do you.

South Beach Bar & Grille
5059 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 226-4577
www.southbeachob.com

Place for a Birthday Party
Chuck E. Cheese’s

With all that hype about its traditionally great rides, prizes and birthday fare for the kids, it’s easy to forget that Chuck E. Cheese’s also serves up great food and entertainment for the whole family, like pizzas and salads and soups. The place, of course, is best known for its age-appropriate games, rides, prizes, food and entertainment that children of all ages from toddlers to big kids will love. It’s been described as part arcade, part playground and part children’s theater – that’s three ways to please the kids, and that oughta be plenty.

Chuck E. Cheese’s
3146 Sports Arena Blvd., Point Loma
(619) 523-4385
www.chuckecheese.com

Most Romantic
The Bungalow

(see entry under Value)

Best Ocean View
Nick’s at the Pier

(see entry under Late-Night Dining)

Appetizer
South Beach Bar & Grille

(see entry under Value)

Burger
Hodad’s

If this isn’t the best burger you’ve ever had,” declares an electronic page devoted to Hodad’s in Ocean Beach, “we really don’t want to hear about it.” The staff wouldn’t have time to listen anyway – everybody’s too busy serving up OB’s favorite burger. No less than the peeps over at Fodor’s travel guides call the Hodad’s bacon-cheeseburger “awesome,” and there’s even a grilled cheese sandwich on the menu for those desiring lighter fare. You can get beer and malts to go with it all – the important thing, though is that you show up.

Hodad’s
5010 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-4623
www.hodadburger.com

(see photo page 5)

Desserts

The European Cake Gallery

You’d think this place had staked its claim on its carrot cake – such is the fanatical public response the delicacy’s gotten over the years. Truth is, The European Cake Gallery is more than just an item or two. Apple, pumpkin and other pies line the shelves as surely as the German chocolate and white Bavarian cake entries, cookies and fruit bars – and you haven’t lived until you’ve tried a piece of the Swiss Black Forest. It’s three layers of chocolate cake filled with a light chocolate mousse and whipped cream, iced with whipped cream and either milk chocolate or white chocolate shavings. That’s a lot of “chocolates” in one sentence – stop by here, and you’ll taste the justification for each one.

The European Cake Gallery
3661 Voltaire St., Point Loma
(619) 222-3377
www.europeancakegallery.com

(see photo page 7)

Margarita
Miguel’s Cocina

There are too many theories behind how the Margarita got its name, let alone opinions about who serves the best one. As to the former, it’s said that a Mexican bartender named the drink for his wife after mixing it by accident – but taste one of the venue’s very special blends, and you won’t care. Miguel’s serves em up fresh and bold, with the tequila, Triple Sec and other staples poured to order. Miguel’s also happens to be a cousin of The Brigantine, which you already think has the best Happy Hour – so your Margarita’s probably in good hands to boot.

Miguel’s Cocina
2912 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma
(619) 224-2401
www.brigantine.com/miguelts

PHOTO BY Casey Dean / The Peninsula Beacon
Alex Moffat pours a award winning Margarita at Miguel’s Cocina.
Margarita
Miguel’s Cocina
There are too many theories behind how the Margarita got its name, let alone opinions about who serves the best one. As to the former, it’s said that a Mexican bartender named the drink for his wife after mixing it by accident—but taste one of this venue’s very special blends, and you won’t care. Miguel’s serves ‘em big and bold, with tequila, Triple Sec and other staples poured to order. Miguel’s also happens to be a cousin of The Brigantine, which you already know has the best Happy Hour—so your Margarita’s probably in good hands to boot.

Miguel’s Cocina
2912 Shelter Island Dr., Point Loma
(619) 224-2401
www.brigantine.com/miguels
(see photo page 6)

Sandwich
Poma’s Italian Deli
(see entry under Take-Out)

Steak
Black Angus Steakhouse
Oddly enough, Black Angus Steakhouse is best known for its meat dishes, something you’d hardly suspect amid the name. But if the idea has lulled you into complacency, consider that this eatery has some equally fetching nonmeat entries, such as three-cheese garlic bread, chicken tenders, crab cakes and potato skins. There’s even wine and a Happy Hour to go along with everything. Black Angus may specialize in a certain fare, but its flair for stuff outside the box is decidedly worth a taste.

Black Angus Steakhouse
3340 Sports Arena Blvd.,
Point Loma
(619) 223-5604
www.blackangus.com

Sushi
Umi Sushi
“Umi,” see, is the Japanese word for ocean. It’s also an utterly appropriate handle for this restaurant, since everything tastes pretty much like it was lifted from the Pacific. If you go, you can entertain yourself while you’re.

Umi Sushi
2230 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma
(619) 222-1181
www.umisushi.com

Hawaiian
Bali Hai Restaurant
There’s no escaping the Hawaiian theme at this longtime San Diego fixture, on the menu or in the décor. Hawaiian nachos, macadamia nut chicken, halibut and about a million more: The 50th state rules here by virtue of its cuisine, and its tiny place on the map be hanged. Meanwhile, the restaurant’s accouterments are ever-changing in deference to tiki art, or Polynesian carvings of human forms. And the fact that the building sits smack on the water doesn’t exactly interrupt the flow of things. Mahalo—and enjoy!

Bali Hai Restaurant
2230 Shelter Island Drive, Point Loma
(619) 222-1181
www.balihairestaurant.com

Desserts
The European Cake Gallery
You’d think this place had staked its claim on its carrot cake—such is the fanatical public response thedelicacy’s gotten over the years. Truth is, The European Cake Gallery is more than just an item or two. Apple, pumpkin and other pies line the shelves as surely as the German chocolate and white Bavarian cake entries, cookies and fruit bars—and you haven’t lived until you’ve tried a piece of the Swiss Black Forest. It’s three layers of chocolate cake filled with a light chocolate mousse and whipped cream, iced with whipped cream and either milk chocolate or white chocolate shavings. That’s a lot of “chocolates” in one sentence—stop by here, and you’ll taste the justification for each one.

The European Cake Gallery
3661 Voltaire St., Point Loma
(619) 222-3377
www.europeancakegallery.com

PHOTO BY Casey Dean / The Peninsula Beacon
Linda Andrade shaves pieces of chocolate to be used as cake topping at The European Cake Gallery.
Ice Cream

Lighthouse Ice Cream & Yogurt

The Lighthouse serves up some of the best ice cream and yogurt in Ocean Beach – but if you already read the name of the venue, you got the idea. But the Lighthouse also has something that the other places don’t – a hot waffle ice cream sandwich, which includes your favorite ice cream stuffed between two Belgian waffles and put in a special iron. Reportedly, the heat doesn’t even melt the ice cream – that means this place is worth a visit for the scientific phenomenon alone. The also feature Bud’s World Famous Ice Cream of San Francisco. Even time magazine has dubbed Bud’s one of the world’s best ice creams. And what’s good enough for Time ought be good enough for you.

Lighthouse Ice Cream & Yogurt
5059 Newport Ave., Ste. 102, Ocean Beach
(619) 222-0600
www.afcthailand.com

Happy Hour in Lounge Areas Only
Must Be 21 with Proper ID to Enter Upstairs Bar

Full Menu ’Til 1am
Now Serving Breakfast!
Saturday & Sunday
9am-2pm

Enliven every meal with excellent appetizers. Some 60 chicken, beef and shrimp dishes dot the menu, and Little Chef offers delivery to a limited area as well. Add the daily specials, and there’s not a lot Little Chef is missing as a restaurant or a community service.

Little Chef
4910 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-6627

American

Hodad’s
(See entry under Burger)

Seafood

Point Loma Seafoods
Nothing like buying and selling local to increase your neighborhood’s tax base. Local’s also a pretty neat concept when you want to ensure the freshness of your product. Point Loma Seafoods offers a staggering 70 menu entries, and all of ’em reportedly taste like they were caught about 15 minutes ago (check out the chowders and the shrimp). There’s even a sushi deli, unlike in 1963, when this firm opened its doors. That’s 54 years’ experience – experience for which the creatures of the deep are no match.

Point Loma Seafoods
2805 Emerson St., Point Loma
(619) 223-1109
www.pointlomaseafoods.com

Thai

Antique Thai Cuisine

If décor were food, Antique Thai Cuisine wouldn’t be standing. The lush, quiet surroundings and lighting are absolutely some of the most beautiful you’ll find anywhere, let alone in a high-class restaurant. The entrees, such as ginger and kapraow, are as tasty as the walls amidst their unique aromas and rich components. This an outstanding eatery, one that will appeal to the art lover in you as well.

Antique Thai Cuisine
3373 Rosecrans St., Point Loma
(619) 222-0689
www.antiquethaicuisine.com

French

Thee Bungalow
(see entry under Most Romantic)

Italian

The Venetian
(see entry under Restaurant)

Mediterranean

Fairouz Restaurant & Gallery

This eatery is making a career out of both gastronomic and visual art.
It’s a quality Middle Eastern restaurant known for its very good entree prices – and its lamb, chicken and beef dishes would whet the most sophisticated appetites at twice the cost. But the dining experience also begins and ends with what’s on the walls, namely the paintings of Ibrahim Al Nashtashibi. The themes of his work speak to the passions of life, relationships between man and woman and the depictions of life in Jerusalem, portrayed as the city of love.

Fairouz Restaurant & Gallery
3166 Midway Drive, Point Loma
(619) 224-1387

3rd Corner
(see entry under Wine Selection)

Mexican

Miguel’s
(See entry under Margarita)

Bakery

Con Pane
(see entry under Lunch)

Bar

South Beach
Bar & Grill
(see entry under Best Value)

Coffee Shop

Newbreak Coffee & Café
Ocean Beach routinely capitalizes on its rep for the laid-back lifestyle, and that’s why the Newbreak Café is in exactly the right place. The place caters to a number of pursuits – there’s free wireless for the studious types, an outdoor patio for people-watching and lots of comfortable chairs and big tables for hanging out with friends. All that people-watching is bound to make you hungry, which is where the excellent omelet bar comes in. Sandwiches, burritos and pastries are available, and you can wash ’em down with a large latte for only $2.75. Newbreak’s in the right area of town, all right; it’s as Ocean Beach as – well – Ocean Beach.

Newbreak Coffee & Café
1830-D Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach
(619) 226-4471

and

Newbreak at the Beach
1959 Abbott St., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-6666

Ice Cream

Lighthouse

Ice Cream & Yogurt
The Lighthouse serves up some of the best ice cream and yogurt in Ocean Beach – but if you already read the name of the venue, you got the idea. But the Lighthouse also has something that the other places don’t – a hot waffle ice cream sandwich, which includes your favorite ice cream stuffed between two Belgian waffles and put in a special iron. Reportedly, the heat doesn’t even melt the ice cream – that means this place is worth a visit for the scientific phenomenon alone. They also feature Bud’s World Famous Ice Cream of San Francisco. Even time magazine has dubbed Bud’s one of the world’s best ice creams. And what’s good enough for Time oughta be good enough for you.

Lighthouse Ice Cream & Yogurt
5059 Newport Ave., Ste. 102, Ocean Beach
(619) 222-8600
www.allocator.com
(see photo page 8)

Vegetarian

Ocean Beach People’s Organic Food Co-op
This cooperative was born as a small neighborhood buying club in 1971. The people who nurtured its growth were activists seeking to create alternatives to established institutions, including grocery stores. Their dream was a facility that provided healthful, nonpolluting foods at a fair price, a store that belonged to the community it serves. The idea has stuck – this employee-owned business is nearly 40 years old now, and it’s still buying and selling with the same healthful options in mind, options that never seem to go out of style with its 8,000 members. There’s acoustic music on Friday nights, too.

Ocean Beach People’s Organic Food Co-op
4765 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-1387
www.obpeoplesfood.coop

Live Music Venue

Winston’s
You already know that Winston’s is the most popular live music venue in Ocean Beach – it’s been that way for almost all of its 22 years, and things aren’t expected to change in the foreseeable future. What you may not have known is that Winston’s also hosts many special shows, such as its own film festival and an array of bus trips, and works to support local causes and charities on behalf of community members who’ve suffered injury, affliction or loss. Winston’s is proud of its work with the ocean beach MainStreet Association and...
Barbecue

Bar-B-Que House
Barbecue is one of those things you eat only with friends or family. The best barbecue, after all, can be pretty messy, so you need to know your fellow diners really well to save—uh—face. On the other hand, the stuff at this eatery is so good you may just lose any sense of decorum. The locals especially recommend the house sloppy Joe, and the pork sandwich is reportedly the best anywhere. Come hungry—but be prepared to ask for a ream of extra napkins.

Bar-B-Que House
5025 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-4311

Shopping & Services

Antiques

Newport Avenue Antiques
You’ll find a range of items you may never have considered in the antique family before, like signage and lighting fixtures. The stained-glass lights are interesting without exception, and the light bar in the shape of a set of antlers will probably get your attention first. If you’re just in the market for furniture, no question is out of bounds. You, and your prospective purchase, are in the best of hands.

Newport Avenue Antiques
4836 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-0465

Chiropractor

Dr. Sean Silva
Chiropractors like to say that their skill gets at the source of a medical problem rather than just the symptom(s). They may well be on to something, as the mainstream medical community (once a bastion of hostility toward chiropractic) is beginning to warm to the idea as alternative therapies gain in popularity. Sean Silva is a leading proponent of this modality—and to boot, you’ve said he’s a darn good chiropractor, even for infants.

Sean Silva
Midway Chiropractic
3405 Kenyon St., Point Loma
(619) 224-5731

Patio Dining

Shades Oceanfront Bistro
This Ocean Beach venue has an odd habit of opening at 6:30 a.m. In and of itself, it’s maybe not so unusual—until you add in the rockin’ happy hour and the 9 p.m. close (to during the summer). That’s a long day, to be sure, but we have every faith you can handle it. The big hit at breakfast involves something called Salmon Scrambles, which should tide you over until lunch and that Veggie Sandwich with goat cheese and sprouts you’ve had your eye on. The excellent food, unique cocktails and quality service mark the evening as well, and the ocean view never stops.

Shades Oceanfront Bistro
5083 Santa Monica Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-0501
www.shadesob.com

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for choosing us

LITTLE CHEF CHINESE FOOD TO GO

Thank you for voting us
BEST CHINESE
BEST CHINESE TAKE OUT
BEST TAKE-OUT
We appreciate your support over the last 19 years!

4910 Newport Ave. Ocean Beach, CA. 619-222-6627

5050 Newport Ave. , O.B. 619.222.6540
OB PIZZA KILO PCO M
Four Sisters in Ocean Beach
Furniture Store
Mallory’s New Furniture
Turns out that the staff here knows a lot more about new furniture than you do. And they’re as generous with their information as they are with their prices and delivery schedules (order before a certain hour, and you can get your stuff the same day). Seems everybody’s a shine to the leather coaches here – great deals on some quality stuff. But don’t be bullied – this inventory goes way beyond that.
Mallory’s New Furniture
4905 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 226-0236

Place with Unusual Gifts
Rock Paper Scissors + International Galleria
If you’ve spent anywhere close to 10 minutes in Ocean Beach looking for an eclectic line of gifts, somebody’s pointed you to this venue – Rock Paper Scissors carries unusual paintings, books, jewelry and other items made locally and the world over. But it’s also got a rep for instruction in expertise you don’t hear about every day, like silversmithing, belly dancing and art for children. Rock Paper Scissors can help you decide on a gift and instruct you in how to make your own. Now, that’s service.
Rock Paper Scissors + International Galleria
4976 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-7625
www.rockpaperscissorsob.com

Auto Repair
Rich’s Automotive Service
Rich’s has been at it since 1981, just about the time you were watching Ronald Reagan take his first oath of office. That was a bit of a while ago, in fact, today’s car engines have something like 400 computers in them, as opposed to virtually none in Reagan’s day. Fear not – Rich’s staff has kept up with the technology as well as anybody, and supporting him means supporting a local business to boot.
Rich’s Automotive Service
1869 Cable St., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-4684

Bank
Point Loma Community Bank
Point Loma Community Bank opened its doors in 2004 with the idea that local folks can handle local stuff the best. The team offers an array of banking products and solutions backed by a commitment to quality, personalized service. Its business decisions are made smack-dab in the building, and it’s committed to supporting the people and organizations that make Point Loma a special place to live and work.
Point Loma Community Bank
1350 Rosecrans St., Point Loma
(619) 243-7900
www.pointlomabank.com

Hotel
Ocean Beach Hotel
The closer the water, the more gregarious Ocean Beachers seem to become – this hotel, in fact, sits
Ocean Beach Hotel
5080 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 223-7191
www.obhotel.com

Men’s Apparel
South Coast Surf Shop
You know you’re in a die-hard beach community when a surf shop is voted the No. 1 store for men’s apparel. But that’s what’s happened here — South Coast is your pick for the hippest duds around, including its shorts, T-shirts, crew sweats and accessories (check out the wallets and their cleverly crafted extra ID holders). No, this store doesn’t feature any top-hats or cummerbunds to go with those sweats — then again, it’s not supposed to.

South Coast Surf Shop
5023 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 223-7017
www.southcoast.com

Women’s Apparel
South Coast Surf Shop
You know you’re in a die-hard beach community when a surf shop is voted the No. 1 store for men’s apparel. But that’s what’s happened here — South Coast is your pick for the hippest duds around, including its shorts, T-shirts, crew sweats and accessories (check out the wallets and their cleverly crafted extra ID holders). No, this store doesn’t feature any top-hats or cummerbunds to go with those sweats — then again, it’s not supposed to.

South Coast Surf Shop
5023 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 223-7017
www.southcoast.com

Eyewear
Newport Avenue Optometry
No wonder one local thinks this is the best place in town for all things ocular — not long ago, he’d had a metal fragment removed from his eye here. Everything’s fine now, and the guy’s probably a customer for life. That means he gets to choose from scores of lenses and frames, furnished by a courteous and friendly staff as they come, emergency or not.

Newport Avenue Optometry
4822 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-0559
(see photo page 13)

Women’s Apparel
Closet
Locate this retailer anywhere else, and it’d still be great — but its Newport Avenue digs assure that more of you will stop in, maybe with a purchase in mind. This store is great if you have the items that you want to purchase already in mind. Going through all the apparel can be overwhelming — you can begin to forget what you think is fashionable and what is not. Don’t worry, though. The friendly staff is there to remind you.

Closet
4949 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-0379
(see photo page 12)

Details Salon & Spa
4943 Niagara Ave., Suite 205, Ocean Beach • (619) 222-6777
www.detaillsalonspa.com

Men’s Apparel
South Coast Surf Shop
You know you’re in a die-hard beach community when a surf shop is voted the No. 1 store for men’s apparel. But that’s what’s happened here — South Coast is your pick for the hippest duds around, including its shorts, T-shirts, crew sweats and accessories (check out the wallets and their cleverly crafted extra ID holders). No, this store doesn’t feature any top-hats or cummerbunds to go with those sweats — then again, it’s not supposed to.

South Coast Surf Shop
5023 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 223-7017
www.southcoast.com

Women’s Apparel
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Closet
4949 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-0379
(see photo page 12)
Swimsuits

Good Life Boutique

Maybe you stop at Good Life so often because it carries feather boas and other exotic dancewear in addition to its full line of swimsuits. Whatever the reason, you said we could find you here first when it comes to beachwear. Good Life’s fare changes with the seasons, after all – the knowledgeable sales staff is as ready to help during January as it is in June. And it carries clothing up to size 40-E to boot.

Good Life Boutique
4967 Newport Ave., Suite 2,
Ocean Beach
(619) 222-9374

Shoe Store

Sport Chalet

Leave it to you guys to choose a sporting goods store for your favorite shoes. In sand-crazed San Diego, the formal stuff apparently takes a back seat to what’s comfortable – accordingly, Sport Chalet carries the best running, walking, hiking and cross-training footwear there is. This is where you and your feet want to be.

Sport Chalet
3965 Midway Dr., Point Loma
(619) 224-6777

Dry Cleaner

Embassy Cleaners

Martinning is a term of art for the dry cleaning process, named after the guy who came up with it in the late 1940s. A lot goes into it – but that’s not your problem. Your problem is deciding which of the many services Embassy can provide in the interest of appearance’s sake. Embassy is a totally appropriate name for this place – once you let it handle your sartorials, you’ll look like you’ve stepped out of one.

Embassy Cleaners
4320 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach
(619) 223-6621

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Your Unique and Exciting Natural & Specialty Neighborhood Market

Thank you so much to all the readers of The Peninsula Beacon for giving us “Special Recognition” as The Best Specialty Grocery for 2007.

We carry a selection of health and beauty products at the lowest possible prices every single day.

Thank you for voting us THE BEST!

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www.balihiarestaurant.com

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The Peninsula Beacon

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We are proud to be your Neighborhood Grocery Store!

AppleTree

4949 Santa Monica Ave. Ocean Beach 619.222.0102
Antiques

Newport Avenue Antiques
You’ll find a range of items you may never have considered in the antique family before, like signage and lighting fixtures. The stained-glass lights are interesting without exception, and the light bar in the shape of a set of antlers will probably get your attention first. If you’re just in the market for furniture, no question is out of bounds. You, and your prospective purchase, are in the best of hands.

Newport Avenue Antiques
4836 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-1994

Mowgli, the official greeter at Newport Avenue Antiques, welcomes customers, Ellen Craig and Jerry Hall.
Florist
Point Loma Village Florist
You’re probably thinking that florists deliver primarily to residences on special occasions. You’re positively wrong about that. Point Loma Village Florist routinely delivers its product to some 160 businesses in the area, and it somehow manages not to forget its duties to private parties. Point Loma Village Florist is No. 1 with you for at least 160 reasons.

Point Loma Village Florist
3020 Canon St., Point Loma
(800) 995-6110

Grocery Store
Vons
Unless you’ve been living on Mercury for several years – and many of you have – you already know this name. Vons is an area byword for the highest-quality food and sundry items, and depending on the location, you can fill a prescription, effect a money transfer and even send flowers. Vons may be big, but it’s got you covered in all the little ways.

Vons
Several locations in Point Loma and Ocean Beach
www.vons.com

Specialty Grocery
OB People’s Organic Co-Op
At O.B. People’s Organic Food Co-Op, you’re more than a member. You’re an owner. You can participate in decision-making by running for the board of directors or joining one of several committees. And as a member/owner, your financial investment at every level works toward a better co-op and a better community. Oh, yeah – the selection is second to none as well.

OB People’s Organic Food Co-Op
4765 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-1387
www.obpeoplesfood.coop

Travel Agency
Carefree Vacations
Carefree vacations manager Tracy Anderson can probably book you a trip to, like, Mars or something. If you’d rather stay here, she can hook you up in 11 destinations, from Disneyland to Turkey. Surfing and ski getaways, European river cruises, jaunts to the South Pacific: Anderson and her staff know and love these places as much as you will.

Carefree Vacations
2927-A Canon St., Point Loma
(619) 224-2961
www.carefreevacations.com

Bank
Point Loma Community Bank
Point Loma Community Bank opened its doors in 2004 with the idea that local folks can handle local stuff the best. The team offers an array of banking products and solutions backed by a commitment to quality, personalized service. Its business decisions are made smack-dab in the building, and it’s committed to supporting the people and organizations that make Point Loma a special place to live and work.

Point Loma Community Bank
1350 Rosecrans St., Point Loma
(619) 243-7900
www.pointlomabank.com
Pet Hospital
Cabrillo Veterinary Hospital & Pet Care
It's one thing to hang yourself as a vet hospital. It's another to hold yourself out as a pet sitter. Cabrillo handles both for you, like it's been doing both from day one. Your pet is an important member of the family, and in the event it's sick or just needs the extra company (or both), Cabrillo is right here in the 'hood. It even has its own pedigree — it's endorsed by the American Animal Hospital Association.
Cabrillo Veterinary Hospital & Pet Care Center
4138 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach
(619) 225-9684

Pet Store
Bone Appetit
You have a cute pet. Bone Appetit has a cute name. It's about time you two got together. You can never have enough supplies on hand for that other family member, and Bone Appetit insists it has what you're looking for. It even stocks a full line of "green," environmentally friendly foods and sundries, the coming thing in pet care circles. Go on, make an acquaintance. You know you want to.
Bone Appetit
4845 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 226-6250

Hair Salon
Details Salon Spa
Unwind at Details — an Aveda Concept Salon & Spa. They offer hair and nail services, waxing and facials, spa treatments, color, updos, massage and Day of Beauty Packages. They also carry a full line of Aveda Products and of course they'll pay attention to all the "details."
Details Salon Spa
4993 Niagara Ave., Ste. 205, Ocean Beach
(619) 222-6777
www.detailsalonspa.com
(see photo page 17)

Nail Salon
B's Hair and Nails Salon
How does this place get its manicures to stay so fresh even three weeks on? Know-how, that's how. Your nails, after all, are made of hair — and B's, being a hair place too, has lots of tricks in its command for care of the former. Cash only, please.
B's Hair and Nails Salon
1910 Cable St., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-9000

Day Spa
Details Salon Spa
(See entry under Hair Salon)

Yoga Studio
Namaste Yoga Center
"Namaste" is taken from the ancient Sanskrit, and it means "I bow to you." A gesture of deep respect accompanies it — and if you want to learn more about that, the Namaste Yoga Center will be happy to accommodate you. The ancient art of yoga is based in mutual regard for teacher and student, and this merchant works to keep that regard intact.
Namaste Yoga Center
2216 Cable St., Ocean Beach
(619) 523-1203

Pet Store
Bone Appetit
You have a cute pet. Bone Appetit has a cute name. It's about time you two got together. You can never have enough supplies on hand for that other family member, and Bone Appetit insists it has what you're looking for. It even stocks a full line of "green," environmentally friendly foods and sundries, the coming thing in pet care circles. Go on, make an acquaintance. You know you want to.
Bone Appetit
4845 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 226-6250

(Left) Jay and Coco bring their people, Karis Stenback and Brad Irving, along to check out what's new at Bone Appetit. (Right) Bone Appetit owner Kelly Pati taking a break with her dog.
Bike Shop

Bernie's Bicycle Shop
The shop is still named after Bernie, but owners Roger and Yasuko Lovett and their staff know everything from installing forks on your mountain bike to repaneling a wheel. The locals say the prices are far and away the best, too, with ironclad guarantees on service. One guy says you're a "traitor" if you don't come to Bernie's for your biking needs.

That's enough right there.

Bernie's Bicycle Shop
1911 Cable St., Ocean Beach
(619) 224-7084

Resale Shop

Girls from the Park
Fun, colorful, young, hip – Girls from the Park resale store features a great selection of gently used clothing, shoes and accessories by all of your favorite designers. The online store offers our unique gift clothing line for girls and women. The store slogan is: "You can take the girl out of the park, but you can't take the park out of the girl."

Girls from the Park
4919 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 225-0043

Surf Shop

South Coast Surf Shop
(See entry under Men's Apparel)

Skate Shop

Ocean Beach Surf & Skate
And here you thought OB Surf and Skate only sold surfboards and skateboards. The fact of the matter is, they do that – but there's so

PHOTO BY Caskey Dean / The Peninsula Beacon
Brittney Mitofsky and Linsey Pierce give clients Robin Hart and Bianca Saad the full treatment.

Thank you for choosing The Closet for Best Women's Apparel & Best Place for a Tux

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4878 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
Also the Reader's Choice in Pacific Beach

Nominate Vote Win

Nominate, vote, win – thank you readers!
We are thrilled to be voted the Best Bank by the readers of the Peninsula Beacon.
Surf camps and clinics; adventure tours; kayaking lessons: Tell the peeps your passion, and they’ll orchestrate something for you accordingly.

Ocean Beach Surf & Skate
4881 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 225-0674
(seephotopage 19)

CD and Music Shop
Cow Records
Music Trader may register as the more popular name, but shoppers say Cow Records sells cheaper CDs and deals with a larger assortment. And to boot, you know you’re in a beach-town record shop when the owner is sweeping the sand out of the doorway, as he often is. Lots of B-movie DVDs are available here too, all for about $5 a crack.

Cow Records
5029 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 523-0236

Body Piercing / Tattoo Shop
Apogee Body Piercing
Apogee Body Piercing is San Diego’s original professional piercing studio. The staff use the latest and most progressive techniques in the piercing industry to facilitate safe physical change. Founded in 1994 as Dr. Jeff’s Body Piercing, Apogee has been bringing the best in professional piercing to southern California – probably because the personnel are so intent on continuing education in both the science and the art.

Apogee Body Piercing
4944-B Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 223-1771
www.apogeepiercing.com

Smoke Shop
The Black
The 1960s were 20th-century America’s defining decade. Anyone who experienced them remembers them like they were last week – and Ocean Beach has more than its share of folks who fall into that camp. That’s why there’s The Black, a hippie-era, tie-dye-heavy smoke shop with an eclectic mix of clothing, gifts and posters that keep the dream alive. If OB has a serious ‘60s contingent, The Black is a serious monument to them.

The Black
5017 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-5498

Fitness Club / Gym
Gold’s Gym
Gold’s has been at its since 1965 – and today, it’s expanded its fitness profile to offer all of the latest equipment and services, including group exercise, personal training, cardiovascular equipment, spinning, Pilates and yoga. Fear not – Gold’s also maintains its core weight lifting tradition. With nearly 3 million members worldwide, Gold’s continues to change lives by helping people achieve their individual potential.

Gold’s Gym
3156 Sports Arena Blvd.,
Point Loma
(619) 226-9500

Place for a Bargain
The Closet
(See entry under Women’s Apparel)

Smoke Shop
The Black
The 1960s were 20th-century America’s defining decade. Anyone who experienced them
remembers them like they were last week – and Ocean beach has more than its share of folks who fall into that camp. That’s why there’s The Black, a hippie-era, tie-dye-heavy smoke shop with an eclectic mix of clothing, gifts and posters that keep the dream alive. If OB has a serious ‘60s contingent, The Black is a serious monument to them.

The Black
5017 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 222-5498
(see photo page 18)

Physician
Dr. Noli Cava
Dr. Cava has been in the medical profession for 15 years. And while that’s not terribly remarkable, his schedule certainly is. He has offices in Ocean Beach and Chula Vista – such is the extent to which he keeps up. And such is the extent to which you’ve responded with your vote of confidence.

Noli Cava, MD
1933 Cable St., Ocean Beach
(619) 221-4490

Dentist
Dr. David DeRosier
If your dental problem can’t wait, Dr. DeRosier wants to know about it – any time of day or night. Just call the office and follow the instructions; the doctor will return your call promptly. Under any conditions, you and the doctor can make sure your teeth last a lifetime. Doing it right the first time, after all, makes all the difference.

David DeRosier, DDS, Inc.
3019 Emerson St., Point Loma
(619) 222-7400
www.drderosier.com

Veterinarian
Gary Rose
If you’re going to be a vet, you’d better love animals. Really, really love animals. Dr. Rose understands that level of attention and dedication, and he practices it from one of the most ideal locations in Ocean Beach. You and your pet haven’t that far to go for the best in veterinary care.

Gary Rose, DVM
4138 Voltaire St., Ocean Beach
(619) 225-9684

Skate Shop
Ocean Beach Surf & Skate
And here you thought OB Surf and Skate only sold surfboards and skateboards. The fact of the matter is, they do that – but there’s so much more inside the package. Surf camps and clinics; adventure tours; kayaking lessons; Tell the peeps your passion, and they’ll orchestrate something for you accordingly.

Ocean Beach Surf & Skate
4881 Newport Ave., Ocean Beach
(619) 225-0674

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Best Florist
in the Beacon’s Reader’s Choice Awards

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Thee Bungalow
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619.224.2684

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880 Harbor Island Dr
619.296.6802

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