

## Just across the bridge: the other Ventnor shopping district

By SUSAN DECOTEAU-FERRIER

VENTNOR — If you are looking for an out of the ordinary shopping experience, some Saturday morning make the trip over the Dorset Avenue Bridge into Ventnor Heights. There you will find an eclectic mix of small businesses. One patron tells Julia Carr, owner of A Door in Time...Treasure Shoppe, "it's like going to Manayunk."

Carr, a collector turned online dealer, turned storeowner, stocks a hodgepodge of both old and new items, most fitting the decorative style known as "shabby chic." Take your time browsing the antique, vintage and retro items. The longer you are there the more you see. You will not want to miss a thing.

If you are looking for a special gift for your grandmother who collects thimbles or for a sentimental friend with a teacup collection, chances are good you will find the perfect present. Perhaps you have been searching for that perfect country quilt for your guestroom. Carr probably has something that fits.

In addition to collectables, household items and small furniture, Carr offers a vast selection of vintage and retro clothing. So, if you are looking for a pillbox hat to add to your collection, peruse the back of Carr's deceptively large shop.

When you are finished at A Door in Time, amble over to the Spindrift Pottery shop. Bootsy, shop owner Sue Van Duyne's Chihuahua, will first greet you.

After making acquaintance with Bootsy, you will find a selection of Van Duyne's one-of-a-kind creations. Her collection includes jewelry and larger decorative and functional items. Most pieces Van

Duyne constructs herself right on the premises, employing a variety of techniques. In addition, because Van Duyne mines her own clay locally, your purchase is not only unique but it is also "a piece of the region."

If you are looking for a truly unusual gift for someone special, you may want to consider enrolling him or her in one-on-one classes. Van Duyne offers five one-hour sessions. Her students have ranged from seven to seventy-two years old. "I've taught men, women, kids and seniors," said Van Duyne of her pottery students.

By the time you have finished perusing the various gift or keepsake items available, lunch should be in order. Stroll next door to Ventnor's newest sub shop, Island Subs, which opened this past Memorial Day. Owner and cook, Dianna Peddicord, reports, "Business has been good since opening... a lot of our business at lunchtime is city workers."

Eat in or take out. It is your choice. Island Subs also offers prompt delivery service and has a staff of "all girl delivery drivers."

Peddicord offers more than your standard sub shop fare. If a "wrap" is more to your liking, she will make any sandwich on the menu in wrap form. Now that the cooler weather is here, Peddicord offers a warm and hearty soup of the day. Do not forget to order the sexy (spicy) fries.

With the holidays just around the corner, you will want to be sure to check out A Door in Time and Spindrift Pottery both located on the street level of the Historic Dorset House Inn. This just may be just the place to find that perfect holiday gift for somebody on your list.

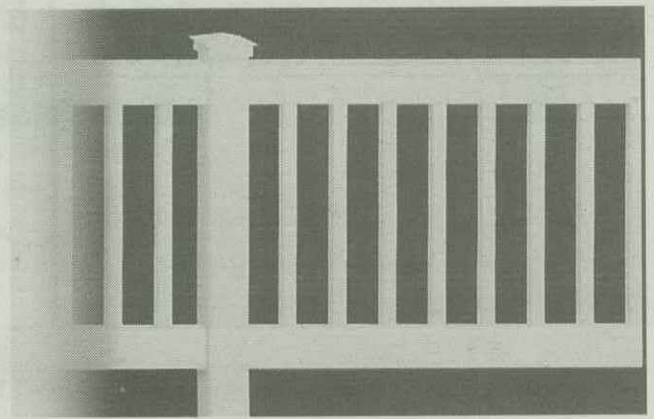
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