

OLD TOWN CHAMBER NEWS

oldtownsandiego.org

January 2023

@VisitOldTownSD

2023 Mormon Battalion Parade

The Old Town San Diego community is excited to announce the annual Mormon Battalion Parade and Community Event, taking place on Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 10am-3pm in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

This meaningful event commemorates the Mormon Battalion, a group of approximately 500 men who served in the United States Army during the Mexican-American War in the mid-1800s. The

Battalion's participation in the war played a significant role in the expansion of the western United States.

The parade will feature a historic reenactment of the battalion's arrival in San Diego and other entertainment, and will culminate in a community event with a Dutch oven cook-off, games, and activities for all ages. The event is free and open to the public.

"We are thrilled to host this annual event honoring the Mormon Battalion," said Brent Top, the event's coordinator and the President of the Mormon Battalion Historic Site. "It is a great opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate the history and contributions of these brave soldiers."

The Mormon Battalion Parade and Community Event is a can't-miss event for San Diego residents and visitors. We hope to see you there!



Free Admission for Locals on Old Town Trolley Tours in January

San Diegans can ring in the new year with a free ride on Old Town Trolley Tours during locals month in January.



The offer began on January 2 and runs through January 31. As part of locals month, it's free admission to all residents of San Diego County at Old Town Trolley Tours, Ghosts and Gravestones Frightseeing Tour and the historic Whaley House Day Tour.

"January is such a great time for locals to take advantage of what San Diego has to offer," says David Thornton, General Manager. "The weather is amazing, but things settle down after the holidays, so it is a wonderful opportunity to get out and see why San Diego is America's Finest City."

Old Town Officially Moves to District 2

As a result of recent redistricting, Old Town San Diego has moved Council Districts. Our community is now a part of Council District 2 represented by Dr. Jen Campbell.

About Dr. Jen Campbell

Before serving on the City Council, Dr. Jen practiced medicine and delivered healthcare for nearly four decades – as a family doctor caring for thousands of patients while also teaching medical students and residents.



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Large Turnout for 64th Annual Las Posadas

The much beloved event “Las Posadas” returned to Old Town San Diego for its 64th year on Friday, December 9. Held in Heritage County Park, Las Posadas tells the story of Mary and Joseph looking for somewhere to stay in Bethlehem through song.

This year we welcomed nearly 200 people to participate!

The OTSD Chamber would like to thank Old Town Trolley Tours and the Mormon Battalion Historic Site for helping to bring this special event to life.



Old Town Food Drive an Outstanding Success

The OTSD Chamber of Commerce owes a debt of gratitude to all of those who donated to the Old Town Food Drive benefitting the Old Town Community Church food pantry. The donations will be able to provide hundreds of healthy meals to families in need.

We would like to especially thank Old Town Academy, Casa de Freds, The Nest Tattoo, the Whaley House, the Mormon Battalion Historic Site, Societe Brewing, La Paloma, and California Bean for hosting the donation boxes and encouraging people to donate!

Holiday Decoration Contest Winners!

Thank you to all of the businesses who participated in the 2022 Holiday Decoration Contest! Fans of Old Town San Diego loved seeing all of your creative designs.

Winners in three categories:
Best Contemporary Décor - Harney Sushi - \$250 Prize
Best Historic Décor - The John-son House - \$250 Prize
People's Choice Award - Ye Olde Soap Shoppe - \$500 Grand Prize

Thank you to Old Town Trolley Tours, Casa de Fred's, and Bazaar del Mundo for sponsoring this exciting contest.



History Selects: A Grave Concern

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Written by Paul G. Chace, a Trustee of the Presidio Heritage Trust of San Diego

Father Junipero Serra's heart carried a grave concern, a personal failure. The simple version

of this grave story was revealed, apparently on his death bed, to his biographer, Father Francisco Palou. However, Serra, a man who wrote a multitude of letters, never, never, wrote of this failure (Tibesar 1955, Beebe and Senkewicz 2015:332). Palou's simple story telling was, "... the ardor and zeal of our Venerable Father overflowed..." (James 1913:83). Why did Serra's heart pour out

this old sadness from decades earlier? Why?

The answer, it is here posed, Serra's failure was laden for him with personal, heavy, emotions. Heretofore, the simple story did not recognize the deep emotional involvements between the two principles, Serra and Naguasajo. Naguasajo was the Captain (Kwaaypaay) of the Native Kosaii

Kumeyaay village where the Spanish in 1769 established Alta California's initial Presidio and where Serra began the first Mission. What really happened? The story becomes a tragic saga.

Keep Reading →



Captain Fitch's Mercantile Closes After 44 Years



It was a sad day for the Old Town San Diego community when it was announced that the beloved local business, "Captain Fitch's Mercantile," would be closing its doors after 44 years of service.

Since opening in 1979, Captain Fitch's Mercantile had become a staple in the community, known for its wide selection of unique wares and books, as well as its knowledgeable and helpful staff. Many locals had been shopping at Fitch's for decades, and the store had become a place where visitors could come together to learn about the past.

So when the announcement was made that the store at 2627 San Diego Avenue would be closing, the community was shocked and saddened. Customers and community members took to social media to express their condolences and share their memories of

shopping at the store.

"I've been coming to Fitch's for as long as I can remember," said one long-time customer. "It's always been my go-to place for a special gift. I'm going to miss it so much."

The owner of the store, Pamela Catania, released a statement thanking the community for its support over the years. "It's been an honor to serve this community for the past 44 years," she said. "We've had so many exciting visitors and it's been a pleasure to help them find the perfect memento of Old Town San Diego. We will truly miss being a part of this community."

The closure of Captain Fitch's Mercantile marks the end of an era, and it will be deeply missed by the community. However, the memories and impact of the store will live on for years to come.

Volunteer at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park!

2023 is a new year, and a new chance to become a California State Parks Volunteer with Old Town San Diego State Historic Park! Volunteer applications open on January 6, 2023. Join them as they bring 19th century San Diego history to life through adobe homes and historical museums. The historic state park gets over 3.5 million visitors annually and they cannot hope to provide the best experience without the help from dedicated volunteers!

What does volunteering at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park look like?

The Living History Volunteers dress in accurate 1800s period attire as they demonstrate the different skills and occupations necessary to thrive in this historic adobe pueblo (town). Living history volunteers are taught San Diego's history and work hard to share their expertise in relevant and meaningful ways.

Applicants must complete at least 3 shifts per month.

Applicants must be willing to complete at least one year of service.

Applicants must pass a live scan background check

If you are interested in learning more about each available opportunity or becoming a volunteer, please visit the Volunteer Public Website (<http://btrr.im/4ymuq>) to learn more about the program and get started with the application process. This link takes you to the scheduling software Better Impact where you can apply. All applications will receive a response, please allow one week for processing.

Learn More About Opportunities →



Applications are then followed up with interviews from the Volunteer Coordination Team. Accepted volunteers are required to attend our Orientation, followed by program specific training.



Secure Bike Racks Installed at Parking Lot C



The City of San Diego has fulfilled a long held request from Old Town merchants to provide secure bike parking for guests and employees.

Secure bike racks can have a range of values for individuals and communities, including promoting the use of bikes as a transportation mode, improving bike security, promoting sustainable transportation, and enhancing the appearance of an area.

The new u-shaped bike racks have been installed at Parking Lot C along Twigg Street which is maintained by the Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

Advertise with the Chamber

Advertising with the Chamber can provide businesses with access to a targeted audience, enhanced credibility, networking opportunities, community support, and cost-effective advertising. All of these benefits can help businesses to attract new customers and grow their businesses.

There are several advertising opportunities available:

- Flyers, Posters, Guides, and Videos in Visitors Center
- www.oldtownsandiego.org
- Special event sponsorships

For more information, contact alex@oldtownsandiego.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Promotions Committee

Tuesday, February 14 - 10am - Café Coyote

Community Planning Group

Wednesday, February 8 - 3:30pm - The Whaley House

Chamber Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 15 - 8:30am - Mormon Battalion

[View Meeting Agendas & Minutes →](#)



Minimum Wage Increase Goes into Effect

Effective January 1, 2023, the City's minimum wage will increase to \$16.30 per hour.

Beginning January 1, 2023, employees who perform at least two (2) hours of work in one work week within the geographic boundaries of the City of San Diego must be paid wages of not less than \$16.30 per hour for all hours worked within the City's geographic boundaries.

San Diego's Earned Sick Leave and Minimum Wage Ordinance, San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 3, Article 9, Division 1, apply to adult AND minor employees who work two (2) or more hours in any work week within the City's geographic boundaries. Note: tips do not count towards payment of the minimum wage.

Employers may not retaliate against employees for asserting any rights provided by this Ordinance. Employees may file a civil lawsuit against their employers for any violation of this Ordinance or may file a complaint with the City of San Diego's Minimum Wage Enforcement Office. The City may take any reasonable steps necessary to investigate possible alleged violations. The City is entitled to all legal and equitable relief to remedy any violation of the Ordinance, including the ability to award penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation, back wages, liquidated damages, reinstatement and other injunctive relief.

[7 Key Steps to Successful Compliance →](#)



If you have questions, need additional information, or believe your employer has violated any provision of this law, please contact your employer, visit the City of San Diego Minimum Wage Enforcement Office website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/compliance/minimum-wage> or contact the City of San Diego's Minimum Wage Program via email at SDMinWage@sandiego.gov.

Get In Touch

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