

OLD TOWN CHAMBER NEWS

oldtownsandiego.org

January 2024

@VisitOldTownSD

A Day of History and Fun with the Mormon Battalion

The Old Town San Diego community is excited to announce the annual Mormon Battalion Parade and Community Event, taking place on Saturday, January 27, 2024 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, 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!

Display Your Flyers and Brochures at the Visitors Center

We're excited to remind you that our Visitors Center at 4010 Twigg Street is at your service! As valued members, you're welcome to display your marketing materials such as flyers, cards, brochures, and coupons, absolutely free-of-charge.

This is a fantastic opportunity to increase your visibility and reach a wider audience. Don't miss out on the chance to showcase what your business has to offer to the vibrant Old Town community and its visitors.

Drop by the Visitors Center soon

or contact staff to arrange pick-up.

We're here to help you shine!



State Senator Jones Visits Old Town



California State Senator Brian Jones recently visited Old Town San Diego to experience its vibrant holiday spirit and acknowledge the contributions of local businesses.

Senator Jones's tour was marked by a series of engagements with local business leaders and

community members. As part of his visit, he took a moment to recognize the Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce for their unwavering dedication to promoting and supporting the local business community. The Chamber plays a pivotal role in maintaining the historic charm of Old Town while ensuring its growth and vitality.

A highlight of Senator Jones's visit was his stop at El Sueño. Jones celebrated the restaurant and its staff for its authentic cuisine, contribution to the local economy, and the spectacular renovation of a long-vacant space.

Creative Fridays at Strenger Studio

Creative Fridays is a monthly meetup for fun, learning, and artistic exploration. Hosted every third Friday of the month at Strenger Studio in Old Town, it is a gathering that warmly welcomes lettering and calligraphy enthusiasts to come together and inspire one another.

Whether you're a returning student, a longtime friend, or a local artist, this is your opportunity to unite with a vibrant community of like-minded individuals. It's a place to share your tips and tricks, learn from others, and nurture your creative spirit.

What to Expect:

- A morning filled with inspiration and creativity.
- A "Try Me" station of assorted supplies for you to experiment with.
- Discover and learn about exciting new tools and techniques.
- An opportunity to mingle with fellow creatives and create new connections.
- As a bonus, we will provide coffee and some treats.

To join us for the next Creative Friday, simply sign up for our newsletter on strengerstudio.com or follow us on Instagram @strengerstudio. Your creative journey awaits, and we're excited to have you be a part of it. Strenger Studio is a husband-wife-owned stationery and calligraphy supply shop – a hidden gem that celebrates both the historical charm of the past and the spark of modern creativity.



Old Town Community Event Calendar

We are proud to introduce the brand-new Old Town San Diego Community Event Calendar, now live on our website, oldtownsandiego.org!

The Old Town San Diego Community Event Calendar is a dynamic and user-friendly platform designed to promote local events, gatherings, and happenings in our historic neighborhood.

Whether you're hosting live music, a cultural celebration, or a special promotion, this calendar is the perfect tool to connect with our community and beyond.

We encourage you to take full advantage of this valuable resource to showcase your events, promote your businesses, and enhance your engagement within Old Town San Diego.

Submit your events to alex@oldtownsandiego.org.

California Expands Paid Sick Leave

Starting January 1, California will increase the mandatory paid sick days for workers from three to five days annually, as enacted by Senate Bill 616. This legislation, proposed by Senator Lena Gonzalez, also strengthens anti-retaliation measures for unionized workers.

The bill's passage marks a compromise for its supporters, including family and women's groups and various unions, who had initially pushed for seven days. In contrast, many industry and commerce associations, such as the California Grocers Association and the California Hotel & Lodging Association, opposed the law, arguing it would strain small businesses still recovering from the pandemic's effects and struggling with inflation.

While there is no federal mandate for paid sick leave, California was one of the first states to adopt such a policy in 2014. Despite this, California now offers less paid sick leave than 15 other states and several of its cities, including San Diego and Los Angeles.

Governor Gavin Newsom, highlighting the importance of worker health for California's future, endorsed the bill, addressing the dilemma many face between earning a wage and caring for their health or family.

Navy Announces Potential Master Developer for 70.3-acre Navy Old Town Campus

The Navy announced the selection of Manchester Financial Group/Edgemoor Infrastructure & Real Estate as the potential master developer for the 70.3-acre Naval Base Point Loma Old Town Campus (OTC). The Navy and Manchester/Edgemoor entered into a period of exclusive negotiations for the potential revitalization of OTC, home

to Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR).

From August 2023 to December 2023, the Navy evaluated proposals received from potential master developers. The Navy selected Manchester/Edgemoor after completion of a comprehensive source selection evaluation process.

The Navy will continue to work with Federal and state agencies to fulfill regulatory requirements and will continue to engage the public in the environmental review process. The Navy expects additional opportunities for public engagement as the project progresses.

Info: navwar-revitalization.com



Kitchens for Good: A Recipe for Success and Social Impact in Old Town

Now operating in Old Town San Diego, Kitchens for Good is a remarkable local nonprofit organization with a clear mission: to transform lives through the culinary arts. Since its inception in 2014, this innovative and compassionate organization has been working tirelessly to make San Diego a place where everyone has access to a quality job. At the heart of their diverse initiatives is a charming bake shop that has become a symbol of hope and empowerment for many. Let's delve into the inspiring story of Kitchens for Good and their dedication to breaking the cycle of poverty and creating equitable communities.

Kitchens for Good was founded on a simple yet profound idea: food has the power to change lives. Recognizing the potential of culinary skills to provide individuals with barriers to employment a chance at a better future, the organization embarked on a journey of empowerment and transformation.

In 2016, Kitchens for Good launched their groundbreaking Culinary Apprenticeship program, the first of its kind to be certified

by the State of California for individuals facing employment challenges. This program has been instrumental in equipping participants with the culinary expertise and job skills they need to secure meaningful employment in the food industry.

Building on the success of their Culinary Apprenticeship program, Kitchens for Good expanded its offerings to include Baking and Hospitality Apprenticeship programs. These comprehensive training programs not only nurture culinary talents but also instill valuable life skills, enabling individuals to break free from the cycle of poverty.

In addition to their apprenticeship programs, Kitchens for Good has established a range of social enterprises aimed at promoting sustainable employment. These enterprises include catering services, event management, and food production, creating job opportunities and contributing to the local economy.

Since its inception, Kitchens for Good has made a remarkable impact, equipping over 700 individuals with culinary, baking,

and hospitality training. These graduates have not only found successful careers but have also played a crucial role in building a brighter future for themselves and their families.

In 2023, Kitchens for Good took another exciting step towards empowering aspiring bakers by leasing a boutique commercial bakery in the historic Old Town San Diego. This dedicated space provides invaluable training to baking apprentices, expanding their capacity to enroll aspiring cooks and food service managers at their Door of Hope campus.

Kitchens for Good stands as a beacon of hope and transformation in the heart of Old Town San Diego. Through their unwavering commitment to the culinary arts and sustainable employment, they have not only changed lives but have also contributed to the creation of a more equitable and just society. With their charming bake shop and inspiring mission, Kitchens for Good continues to make a positive impact in our community, one delicious creation at a time.

More info: kitchensforgood.org

Pipe Replacement Project Update

Construction of Old Town Improv 1 project has been underway since September 25, 2023 and construction will be completed in 4 phases.

The majority of the work is done during the day from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, and the traffic engineering department closely monitors construction affects to traffic at the site and will adjust working hours if congestion is observed.

The portion of work inside the State Park (San Diego Ave from Twiggs St to Mason St (Area 3) started in January 2024.

The Public Information team has set up a project information hotline so that constituents can call and get project updates or ask questions. The hotline number is (619) 512-5905 and was listed in the door hanger notices that were distributed to the community prior to starting construction activities.

For more information on the project please contact Ms. Joey Fernandez, Public Information Officer and Consultant to the City of San Diego - Old Town Improv 1 Project.

Project Helpline: (619) 512-5905
Email: jfernandez@kleinfelder.com



Sign Up for Community Newsletters

Attention Chamber members! Community newsletters provide a convenient and timely way to receive updates on upcoming legislation, economic development initiatives, and community events.



Jen Campbell, City
Council District 2 →



Monica Montgomery
Steppe, County
Supervisor District 4 →



Toni Atkins, State
Senate District 39 →



Chris Ward, State
Assembly District 78 →



Upcoming Meetings

- **Board of Directors** - Wednesday, January 17 - 8:30am - Mormon Battalion Historic Site
- **Design Committee** - Tuesday, February 6 - 10:30am - 2383 San Diego Ave
- **Promotions Committee** - Tuesday, February 13 - 10am - Café Coyote
- **Organization Committee** - Wednesday, February 14 - 11:30am - 2383 San Diego Ave

View Meeting Agendas & Minutes →



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.

Download the Get It Done App & Get Results

Get It Done San Diego is the official app for reporting non-emergency problems to the City of San Diego. App users can report problems like potholes or graffiti and connect directly to the City's work tracking system.

Get It Done can be used to report problems related to City assets, making appointments for Passport services or to schedule time at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Materials drop-off facility. Do not use Get It Done for reporting emergencies or other time-sensitive issues. It can take up to 48 hours to review your report or request for appointment.

Get It Done is available on Apple and Android devices.

Scan to Visit the Official City Website →



Get In Touch

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