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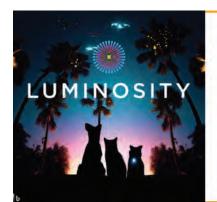
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# OB Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off kicks off summer in San Diego

Artists Alley, beachside beer garden, community mural, three stages of entertainment, and loads of chili will keep the party going all day

BY BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

A sure sign that summer is in full swing, the 43rd annual edition of the OB Street Fair & Chili Cook-Off takes place on Saturday, June 24. One of San Diego's most beloved traditions, the Street Fair is expected to draw upwards of 50,000 people to the area for a full day of fun in the sun. Attendees will have a plethora of activities to choose from, including three stages with music from 18 performers, an Artists Alley, the Chili Cook-Off, a beachside beer garden, a community mural, and more. Mixing art, food, music, and fun, the OB Street Fair is a feast for the senses.

This year's theme is "Where the Sun Sets In San Diego."

"We put out a call for action to the community," said Kristen Keltner, events and program manager for the Ocean Beach MainStreet Association. "Lots of area residents submitted photos of the sunset, and we've used them around Ocean Beach, with that image on this year's logo as well as Tshirts and posters, etc."

Folks who haven't attended the Street Fair in the post-pandemic era will find the same spirit if not the same footprint. The biggest change is the movement of the Seaside Family Fun Zone, at Saratoga Park, giving kids a much more natural play area than its former location in a parking lot. Meanwhile, the music stages are no longer in the middle of side streets,



The annual Ocean Beach Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off Festival offers tons of fun, chili and music for everyone.

instead being placed in business parking lots, and taste tickets for the Chili Cook-Off are available online before the event or in person on the day of.

"The stages have changed slightly due to the Fire Marshall regulations, and we've had to move the vendor booths a little, but the overall footprint is now technically a little bit larger," Keltner said. "In addition to Saratoga Park now being part of the event, two of the stages will be slightly larger and set back in the parking lots, so it is a bit more space and a bigger footprint."

# **LIVE MUSIC**

The event's biggest draw is the

favorites SM Familia, 2023 San Diego Music Awards Artist of the Year Jeff Berkley, and acclaimed Grateful Dead tribute, the Electric Waste Band.

"I'm looking forward to an amazing event," said Ted Wigler, who books the Main Stage and promotes the beer garden, while also booking Winstons. "I love how this day brings everyone in the community together," he said. "People are raring to come out and have a good time."

Wigler has volunteered his services at the Street Fair for the past 22 years. "I'm happy to contribute where I the whole event from the Main Stage.

music, and this year has an excep- can," he said. "It's just part of my love tional lineup, including Latin reggae for the community and at the end of the day, it's a lot of fun."

> What does he consider when putting together the Street Fair's lineup? "We're generally looking at artists who are local and have a fun vibe," Wigler commented. "It helps if they are professional, but really we're trying to be as inclusive as we can with our range of artists and offer something for just about everybody."

> Musician Jefferson Jay will play a dual role at this year's Street Fair, both playing with his band (noon/The 92107 Stage), as well as emceeing

While he enjoys playing music, it's the latter he's most excited about. "As fun as it is to play with the band, I get a thrill out of keeping everybody informed and making sure everybody feels welcome at the OB Street Fair,' he said.

"Many people come in from all other kinds of neighborhoods and places, and I take it as a humble honor that I get to be the voice they hear, from when I will sing the national anthem to kick off events on the Main Stage, to when I say 'Thanks for coming to Ocean Beach and drive safely,' after the headliner finishes. I've been emceeing on the Main Stage since 2013 and it is a great fun time."

Alternative rockers Suede Radio formed during the pandemic and made their OB Street Fair debut last year. "Cheesy as it may be to say, OB is our home and we have been to more than 50 street fairs, collectively," said the band's guitarist, Gary Flick. "Being able to close out one of the stages is an honor that we can't really put into words. OB is the best community in California and having the chance to give a little back in the form of providing a beat for our friends to dance to is a dream for all of us."

#### TASTY TREATS

Of course, there will be much more than music on June 24. Food is also a big part of the day, with dozens of vendors offering up tasty treats.

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# Come out early to taste the Chili entries and meet the constestants

BY BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

The OB Street Fair's signature event, the Chili Cook-Off, takes place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Veterans Plaza, right on the water. For chili lovers in the area, no other food-related happening comes close to the draw of the Cook-Off. The chili tasting sells out every year, in advance.

Nearly 20 chefs and their teams are expected to take part this year in two categories; an amateur and a restaurant division, each providing 10 gallons of their finest chili to the event. Tickets for tasting and judging the various entrant's wares, on consistency, smell, color and taste, are set at \$2 per entry. There is also the option of purchasing a master ticket for \$25, allowing you to sample chili from all the competitors. Tasting tickets are only available online via the Street Fair's website.

For event founder and OBMA board of directors' member Mike Akey, much of the Chili Cook-Off fun is in the contestants themselves. "There are so many great people involved," he said. "Some return year after year, while some people like to go all out with costumes and themed booths."

Competition can be fierce, if good-natured. Past contestants have dressed as pirates or in prehistoric garb, bringing a touch of spectacle to the proceedings. "It all adds to the atmosphere, it draws attention. There's plenty of entertainment down there," he said. "But of course, the chili is always the biggest attraction."

There is one big change to this year's event in the amateur category. "In years past, some entrants went with unusual ingredients. We've had chili made with alligator meat, we've had snake meat," he noted. "This time out, due to new health regulations from the city, you can only use regular meat, like steak, but nothing exotic."

Funds raised at the Chili Cook-Off will go to the OB Clean and Safe program to help pay for civic improvements in the area. "It'll be used for things that are needed by people in Ocean Beach," Akey said. "Things have just gotten so expensive. We've used money raised for things like power washing streets and sidewalks and will be replacing trashcans, as well as painting, among other things, and that's not cheap."

Akey has been involved with the Chili Cook-Off for more than 40 years and still loves the event he helped found. He's justifiably proud of the event's long run and it's providing help to the community.

"It's something I look forward to," he said. "I love doing the judges' booth and helping them out on how to judge a chili contest, part of an afternoon of fun." But when it comes to actually sampling chili on the day of the event, Akey is happy to let others do the heavy lifting. "I only break ties these days," he said.



# **2023 CHILI** COOK-OFF **CONTESTANTS**

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# **Eclectic mix of live music to be Street Fair's soundtrack**

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

The OB Street Fair has many attractions, but nothing brings out the crowd like live music. Even if you don't head to any of the stages, the live sounds will soundtrack the event.

For 2023, 18 bands will take part on three stages, booked by Ted Wigler, who handles the Main Stage while performing the same duties at Winstons, alongside Michael Head, of Cabeza Records, who booked the other two stages. The pair have put together an eclectic bill, with a great mix of local heroes, new talent, and old favorites

What do the promoters look for when booking performers? "We are featuring several artists this year from Ocean Beach, including Travis Oliver, Seawall Prophet, and Tecolote Canyon," said Head. "But it's not a prerequisite to play. We've had bands from all over the country perform here. That said we like to mainly focus on San Diego and all of the great music it has to offer."

While there is much work involved in coordinating musicians and equipment, Head notes all the hard work over the years that has paid off.

"There are a handful of us

behind the scenes, many of whom have been volunteering for many years," he said. "People like my two stage managers, Mark Eppler and Dave Gilbert, have been with me most of the way. I couldn't do it without those two. Both are also local musicians who just love music and care about helping the community.

"We coordinate with our sound and stage folks, making sure the stages have all that they need to make the event run smoothly." Head considers his longevity with the Street Fair to be a major plus. "Now that we've done it for so many years, often working with the same volunteers and crew, it's not necessarily that hard but there are always challenges year to year that need to be overcome," he said. "It's just the nature of doing events in the community."

What does he look forward to most on the day? "There's always this moment when the stages are up and running, the booths are in place, people are filling the streets and you know that it's happening," Head remarked. "You know that all of the hard work pays off and that the event is going to make a lot of people happy that day. It's like a roller coaster and once it gets going,

there's no turning back, and there's a lot of excitement in that. It's like, 'Here we go!'"

The event's Main Stage, located right at the edge of the beach, at the foot of Newport Avenue, in the parking lot adjacent to the beer garden, will kick off with music from highly-rated Led Zeppelin tribute band, Zeptune (11 a.m.).

Other highlights include another tribute band, the Grateful Deadinspired combo Electric Waste Band (3:30 p.m.). The band remains a local institution, maintaining a Monday night residency at Winsons for three decades running. Meanwhile, headlining the event will be Latin reggae favorites, SM Familia (7 p.m.), currently promoting their new, cumbia-inspired single, "Bebe Dame."

A few blocks over, the 92107 Stage, located at Newport and Sunset Cliffs Boulevard in the US Bank parking lot, will feature an opening set from singer-songwriter Amanda Cogan (10:30 a.m.) and rock 'n' roll stalwarts, The Falling Doves (3 p.m.). Topping this stage will be alternative rockers, Suede Radio.

Finally, the Artists Alley Stage, located in old Union Bank parking lot behind Mallorys will include the opener, bluegrass guitarist Travis



Felix Sierra, SM Familia's bassist and band leader, also known as: El Gato.

Oliver (10:30 a.m.), and reggae combo, the Resinators. Closing the stage will be one of the OB Street Fair's most anticipated performers, Jeff Berkley and the Banned. The group won American Album of the Year at the 2023 San Diego Music Awards, with Berkley also taking home a trophy for Artist of the Year.

MAINSTAGE ACT: SM Familia

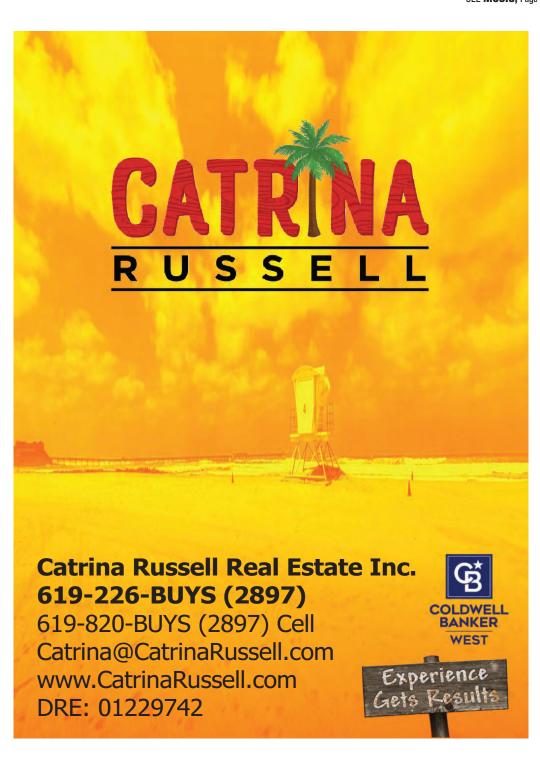
(6:30 p.m, smfamilia.com)

Mixing reggae with Latin influences, SM Familia's rhythmic sounds are the perfect way to close out your OB Street Fair musical experience this year. Formed circa 2015, the band has been twice nominated for "Best World Music Album," at the San Diego Music Awards. The eight-piece group has risen to headline status since their inception, both through backing established reggae stars (Sister Nancy, Eeek-A-Mouse) and playing

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# **MUSIC**

their own acclaimed concerts. SM Familia make their Street Fair debut this year.

"OB has been a second home to us," said Felix Sierra, aka bassist and band leader, El Gato. "We used to do a lot of things there in our early days. It was kind of a headquarters for us for a while as our guitar player had a place and studio there. At the same time, (late DJ) Carlos Culture gave us a lot of support when we played at Winstons. It's going to be cool to come full circle and play at such a prestigious event as the OB Street Fair."

For Sierra, SM Familia is the culmination of a life in music. "I used to be a trumpet player as a youth, and from there I learned to play drums, guitars, sing, etc," Sierra recalled. "I've always played in other musical styles before, but as of about eight years ago, I started venturing off to do the kind of music that I've always listened to, which is reggae, but I wanted to play it with more of a Latin culture approach, including cumbias."

Sierra considers the band hard to pigeonhole. "We're not just a reggae band, we're not just a Latin band," he said. "Our music is difficult to describe. But, since we always have to put some kind of



wording on it, what we like to say is that we're Chicano reggae because if you're from San Diego or a border her last name, so it was a play on town, you're going to know exactly what that means."

"Soul Malady" and the "Familia" musicians he has worked with. and Aurora." "The group I was in at the time was doing a soul/jazz thing and the singer was Aurora Malady," he said.

"Because we were doing soul music, we decided to put it together with words." Malady passed away in 2021. "When putting SM Familia SM Familia's name is a tribute to together, I didn't just want to pull a one of Sierra's earlier combos, with name out of a hat. I felt the most the SM representing that band, appropriate thing was to tag the name with SM in a sort of homage part being how he feels about the to all those musicians from before

The band's most recent album, "The Journey So Far," was issued in

SEE MUSIC, Page 19



# The Seaside Family Fun Zone will keep kids busy

By BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

If there was a prize for the most improved part of the OB Street Fair over the past two years, it would be The Seaside Family Fun Zone. Formerly located in a parking lot near Sunset Cliff Boulevard, the fun zone can now be found at Saratoga Park, adjacent to the Lifeguard parking Lot, north of Veterans Plaza at Saratoga Avenue and Abbott Street. The park is right next to the beach, an ideal spot for the fun zones mix of interactive activities and inflatable attractions.

The fun zone will also have a lot of appeal to parents who may appreciate a moment or two to relax during the day's festivities. Among the area's amenities will be tables and chairs, as well as healthy, kid-friendly food options, and an arts and crafts section for

the vounger set.

While there are no rides in the fun zone, there is plenty to do for active kids. Paper Moon Music, The Artists Outpost, and New Break Church will all provide activities for children, while EMS Attractions will supply several inflatables for kids of all ages to interact with.

Fair attendees can expect to find a traditional bounce house, "The Ultimate Bungee," a trampolinelike ride that has the ability to launch each rider 25 feet in the air. "Coconut Tree Climb," which has participants racing up 30 feet high palm trees in order to hit a buzzer, and the 35 feet tall, pirate-themed, 70 feet long zip line, "The Swashbuckler." The inflatables height makes it a favorite for a quick panoramic photo at the top, with the bonus of slides and a "walk the plank" section.



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# Meet the area's best artisans at Artists' Alley

BY BART MENDOZA | THE BEACON

If there's one thing besides the Chili Cook-Off itself that has become a signature part of the Ocean Beach Street Fair, it's Artists Alley. More than just a collection of vendors, Artist Alley is a curated experience, meant to draw the best artisans and their wares. As such, the focus is on handcrafted items, including clothing, pottery, jewelry, art, and photography.

It's a wonderful opportunity for fairgoers to pick up unique gifts, directly from their creator. You'll find Artists Alley located at Cable Street and Newport Avenue, with 80 artists in residence. Meanwhile, Artists Alley will be the trolley drop-off point from the satellite parking lots.

"We've been coming to Artist's Alley for at least 30 years," said Carl Carrubba, of clothing vendor Rainbow Tie Dyes. He considers OB to be the perfect match for his colorful T-shirts, tapestries and baby clothes. "Ocean Beach is a really hip community and they really like tiedye," he said.

Carrubba considers being part of the street fair to be an important part of summer for his business. "It's a really great event," he said. "Organizers treat the artists really well, they've kept things reasonably priced for us and there are big crowds who appreciate what the artists have to offer. It's a nice time."

After three decades of manning a booth, he notes that selling T-shirts etc. is his second favorite thing about the OB Street Fair. "Having been there for so long, it's great to see some of the same folks each year. People come from all over to attend and you have some that stop by every time. I really enjoy that."

For more information on this year's Artists Alley's vendors, visit.

www.oceanbeachsandiego.com/attractions/annual-events/ob-street-fair-chili-cook/artists-alley



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PHOTO BY THOMAS MELVILLE







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# **LUMINOSITY Presents Spectacular Fourth of July Drone Show in Ocean Beach**

LUMINOSITY, a communitybased organization dedicated to fostering unity through the arts in Ocean Beach, is excited to announce an extraordinary Fourth of July Drone Show that will light up the skies above Ocean Beach and Point Loma. This mesmerizing display of technology and artistry will take place on July 4th, starting at 9:05 pm, and promises to be an unforgettable experience for residents and visitors alike.

In partnership with Peninsula Alliance, a 501(c) non-profit organization, LUMINOSITY has organized the inaugural drone light show as an alternative to the traditional Ocean Beach Fourth of July Fireworks, which had to be suspended due to structural damage to the Ocean Beach Fishing Pier, the previous launching site for the fireworks.

The pet-friendly Fourth of July Drone Light Show will feature an impressive fleet of 300 drones, meticulously choreographed to create stunning formations and patterns in the night sky. The entire show will be synchronized with a soundtrack, accessible to all on the obluminosity.com website. The display will be viewable throughout Ocean Beach and Point Loma with the Newport Avenue Business District being the prime spectator location.

LUMINOSITY has collaborated

with renowned experts in drone entertainment, Skyworx Drone Shows, and Global Drone Network, to bring this first of its kind display to Ocean Beach.

Thanks to the support of community sponsors and individual donations, this event is made possible without any public funding. LUMINOSITY is immensely grateful to the sponsors and donors who have generously contributed to this celebration so far. A special thanks to Starlight Sponsor; IBEW Local

To further support the Fourth of July Drone Show and contribute to future community events, donations can be made through the LUMINOSITY website www.obluminositv.com

Every donation counts and will help LUMINOSITY to create a new tradition for the Ocean Beach com-

Make sure to mark your calendars for July 4th, as the skies above Ocean Beach and Point Loma will come alive with a 3D display of drone artistry. Bring your family and friends to witness the first Fourth of July Drone Light Show in the City of San Diego.

#### **About LUMINOSITY:**

LUMINOSITY is a communitybased organization dedicated to celebrating the spirit of Ocean Beach. Formed to find an alterna-



tive to the traditional Ocean Beach Fourth of July Fireworks, LUMI-NOSITY aims to create unity and inspire joy in the community through innovative experiences. For more information, please visit www.obluminosity.com.

#### **About Peninsula Alliance:**

Peninsula Alliance is a 501(c) non-profit organization committed to supporting the Ocean Beach community through various initiatives and projects. By partnering with local organizations, Peninsula Alliance strives to enhance the quality of life in Ocean Beach and promote community engagement.

# **About Skyworx Drone Shows:**

Skyworx Drone Shows is a leading provider of drone entertainment, specializing in creating breathtaking aerial displays for a



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#### **About Global Drone Network:**

Global Drone Network is a renowned network of drone professionals and experts, dedicated to advancing the drone industry and showcasing the capabilities of aerial technology.





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DERBY CALIFORNIA	502	SAN DIEGO LIFEGUARDS / SAN DIEGO COUNTY TOYOTA DEALERS	
DON NEWTON SUNGLASSES	503	SAN DIEGO LIFEGUARDS / SAN DIEGO COUNTY TOYOTA DEALERS	
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# **MUSIC**

CONTINUED FROM Page 13

2019. With a little luck, fans won't have to wait much longer for a new full-length collection. SM Familia has recently spent time in the studio prepping future releases. A single, "Black + White" was distributed earlier this year, with a new track, a cover of cumbia favorites, Grupo Frontera's "Bebe Dame," due out in time for the Street Fair.

Sierra notes the band curates their sets depending on the show, making each performance from SM Familia a unique experience. "We play all types of shows," he said. "Some are Latin events, some are roots reggae festivals. Our set list changes dynamically between those two things. We kind of get the vibe at each concert, usually the crowds will tell us, so we understand where we should go with our music."

Sierra points out an advantage to playing an event like the OB Street Fair. "We also like to put on a show," he said. "When it's a bigger stage my movements are a little different because I have more space. I use a wireless system and it allows me to interact with the audience on a greater level."

While the size of the venue may vary, Sierra always strives to give the best performance possible. "Whether there are five people in the crowd or five thousand, and I've played for both, we're going to maintain a level of professionalism," he said good-naturedly.

For his part, Sierra is looking forward to taking the stage on June 24. "We have a full 90 minutes and trust me there is not going to be one second of downtime," he remarked. "One of my favorite things is looking out at an audience and seeing the joy on people's faces when I'm playing my instruments," Sierra continued.

"When I'm singing, it's a different thing, sometimes I get into myself. But, say there's a little portion of a song where I'm just playing my bass and I have time to look around. Seeing someone in the crowd reacting to our musicianship and the genuine smiles and love? That's a feeling I can't get anywhere else. You can just feel the sense of connection with an audience. And to think that an instrument brought me to this point is pretty wild, it's a beautiful thing," he said.

# **MUSIC SPOTLIGHT: All Fired Up**

(1:30 p.m. Artist Alley Stage)

Classic rock fans won't want to miss an appearance from Pat Benatar tribute group, All Fired Up, on the Artists Alley



Seawall Prophet

COURTESEY PHOTO

stage. Led by singer Tamara Shoemaker, the group plays note-perfect renditions of all of Benatar's biggest hits, from "Heartbreaker" to "Promises In The Dark."

"We're looking forward to a killer show with lots of audience participation," said Shoemaker. "Our feelings are our audience comes first, we entertain them, we're there just for them." As for her choice of tribute artist, she points out that Pat Benatar has touched many people's lives. "Whether it be over a breakup, that special relationship moment, or, of course, someone remembering growing up in their parent's house and the parents listening to her albums. All of those songs really bring back lots of memories for many, I think. It's so great to see the audience singing along to them! Such a rush."

# **MUSIC SPOTLIGHT: Seawall Prophet**

(4:30 p.m. 92107 Stage, seawallprophet.com)

Appearing on the 92107 Stage, reggae musician Seawall Prophet's (aka Aaron Markland) breezy island sounds are perfect for a summer afternoon at the beach. Recently signed to Pacific Records, the songs on his new EP, "Off the Ledge," are instantly memorable, radio-friendly earworms.

The Ocean Beach native is happy to be a part of this year's OB Street Fair, where he will be joined by AJ Price (bass) and Steve Cunningham (drums). "I grew up in Ocean Beach and live right up the street from the stage that we're performing on,"



Jeff Berkley & The Banned

COURTESEY PHOTO

Markland said.

"I am honored to play in my own backyard and excited to watch all of the other incredible acts perform. This year the 92107 Stage alone is stacked with talent from Pacific Records recording artists to local San Diego icons, so you don't want to miss it."

# MUSIC SPOTLIGHT: Jeff Berkley & The Banned

(6 p.m. Artist Alley Stage, jeffberkley.com)

Jeff Berkley is more than just a musician, he's a cornerstone of San Diego's music community. Over the past few decades, in addition to his own music, and recordings as part of the duo, Berkley Hart, he has cemented his status as one of the area's top producers as well as session players.

Meanwhile, Berkley's group of all-stars is also impressive, featuring Cathryn Beeks (backing vocals), Jason Cox (percussion), Josh Hermsmeier (drums), Ted Stern (pedal steel), Rick Nash (bass), and Josh Weinstein (organ). Their most recent album, "I Can See The Stars," took home the trophy for Best Country or Americana album at the 2023 San Diego Music Awards, with Berkley also winning Artist of the Year, a well-deserved accolade for one of the county's hardest working musician and his band.

How does Berkley feel about being responsible for so much great music onstage and off? "I am really grateful to be able to be in the room when so much magic is created," he said. "I think I'm best at just creating an atmosphere and helping to point people in the right direction. They find it and do it all themselves. I'm just there to cheer them on. I'm proud of the music we create in this town. We all deserve Artist of the Year awards! Let's make this the year of the artist!"



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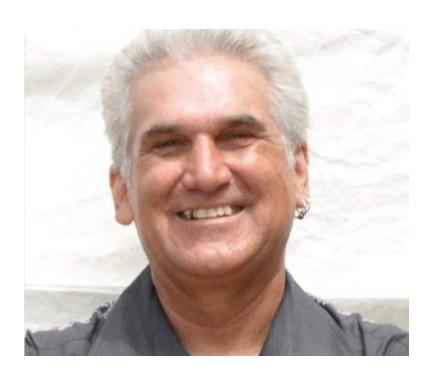
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# **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Dave Gilbert**



The most important ingredient in making a successful Street Fair? Hands down, it's the many volunteers who keep things running smoothly, contributing their time and expertise to make the OB Street Fair one of the premier events in San Diego each year.

One such person is guitarist and OB resident Dave Gilbert, who will be doing double duty in 2023,

both performing with his namesake band (Artists Alley Stage at 3 p.m.), as well as stage managing.

"My wife Liz and I volunteer for various good causes in the OB and Point Loma area," Gilbert said. "It's a great way to give back to our community."

He's been part of the behindthe-scenes crew with the OB Street Fair since 2015. "Dave is a really important part of the day," said one of the event's bookers, Michael Head. "He's there from start to finish and knows the ins and outs of what a musician might need."

Gilbert's duties as stage manager include making sure that the acts get on and off the stage in a timely manner, that the acts get introduced properly, and that the sponsors are thanked, plus equipment troubleshooting.

"I also have to make sure that the limited parking stays on schedule," he said good-naturedly. "For the most part, the band members are pretty good about that, but every now and then someone will abuse the privilege."

Being a longtime OB resident, Gilbert is happy to stay involved with the Street Fair well into the future. He considers it to be near the top of the list of things to look forward to each year. "It's hard to pin it on one thing exactly, but I'd say that it's a major event, really focused on our community and brings some excellent music to our area as well, win/win!" he said.











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# **FAIR**

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

For those foodies out there with a competitive streak, there will be three opportunities to score a prize. First up is the Chili Cook-Off (11 a.m.), with a relatively dignified tasting deciding the winners. Meanwhile, for those who don't mind getting their hands and faces a little dirty, there is the third annual Dirty Birds Wing Eating Contest (1:30 p.m.), and the traditional Hodad's Burger Eating Contest (4:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

At the Chili Cook-Off, both meat and vegetarian options will be available, with a cut-off time of 1:30 p.m., but it's advised you get there early, as the chili is gone fairly quickly. The Chili Cook-Off winners will receive their awards on the Main Stage at 3 p.m. with a top prize of \$350 and bragging rights.

#### **COMMUNITY MURAL**

For those with a more creative disposition, there are also numerous options. One of the most popular annual traditions to be found at the Street Fair is the painting of a com-

munity mural.

Participants purchase a square for \$25, with paint and help provided. The finished art will be sealed and

[ Funds raised at these events go to OB Clean and Safe program, helping to pay for community improvements to the area. ]

placed in the community when completed. Meanwhile, Paper Moon Music, a music instruction studio, will also host a booth offering music lessons and a selection of instruments for potential students to investigate.

Funds raised at these events go to OB Clean and Safe program, helping to pay for community improvements to the area.

# **PARKING**

Traffic is always a consideration at the OB Street Fair, with parking at a premium. Fortunately, there are several options that may help to ease the situation. For bicyclists, beginning at 10 a.m., OBMA will provide a free bike valet area on Bacon Street across the street from The AZ between Newport Ave.

There will also be ADA parking

along Santa Monica Ave.

Meanwhile, those who drive can park their vehicles at the Sunrunner Lot (at the corner of Pacific Highway and Sea World Drive), or the lot near Robb Field at 2244 Bacon St., and grab a free ride to the Street Fair, courtesy of Old Town Trolley. The trolley will run continuously from 9:30 a.m. until 9 p.m., dropping passengers off in the Artist's Alley section.

For Keltner, the big reward for a year's hard work happens as the OB Street Fair opens. "My favorite time at the event is right about 10 a.m. when everybody in the community, locals and visitors alike, start flowing onto Newport Avenue and the first band kicks off. That's my favorite moment," she said. "And then we start thinking about next year."

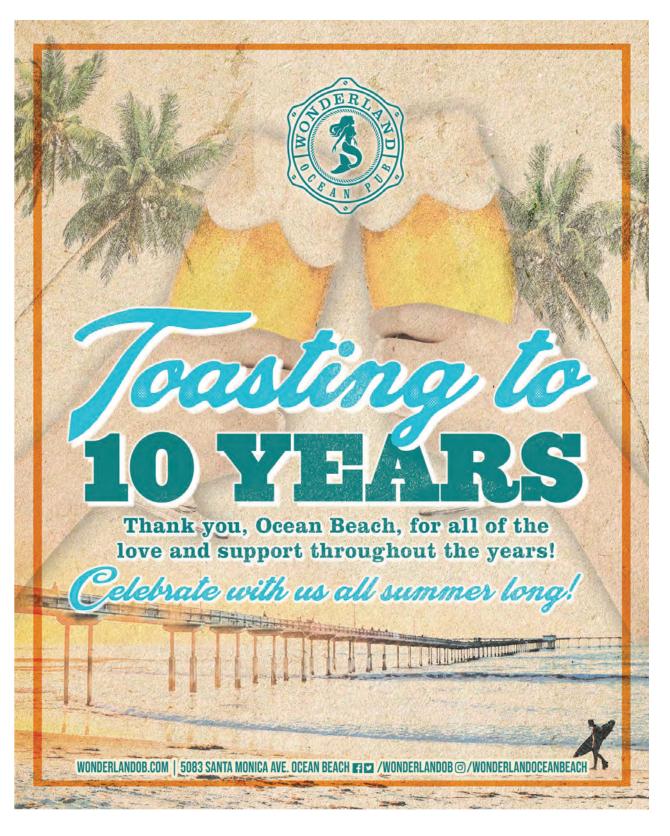






PHOTOS BY THOMAS MELVILLE







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# **2023 MUSIC LINE-UP** (also see back cover for schedule and stage locations)

#### **MAIN STAGE:**

11:00 - 12:00 Zeptune

Beer Garden/OB Pier Parking lot at foot of Newport Ave

**SM Familia** 

12:30 - 1:30 **Half Hour Late** 1:30 - 2:00 **Dirty Birds Wing Eating Contest** Shakedown String Band 2:00 - 3:00 **Chili Cook-Off Winner Announcements** 3:00 - 3:30 3:30 - 4:30 **Electric Waste Band Hodad's Burger Eating Contest** 4:30- 5:00 **Russell Ramo and The B Sections** 5:00 - 6:00

# **92107 STAGE:**

10:30 - 11:30

6:30 - 8:00

Newport & Sunset Cliffs US Bank Parking Lot

Jefferson Jay and the Diggers - Folk Rock 12:00 - 1:00 1:30 - 2:30 **True Stories - Retro-Alternative** 3:00 - 4:00 **Falling Doves - Rock Seawall Prophet - Beach Vibes** 4:30 - 5:30 **Suede Radio - Alternative** 6:00 - 7:00

Amanda Cogan - Acoustic

# **ARTISTS ALLEY STAGE:**

Newport & Cable old Union Bank parking lot behind Mallory's parking lot

10:30 - 11:30 Travis Oliver - Bluegrass **Tecolote Canyon - OB Jam** 12:00 - 1:00 All Fired Up - Rock 1:30 - 2:30 Dave Gilbert Band - Rock 'n Roll 3:00 - 4:00 The Resinators - Reggae 4:30 - 5:30

Jeff Berkley and The Banned - Americana 6:00 - 7:00

# **MAIN STAGE:**

#### **Zeptune (11:00 - 12:00)**

Led Zeppelin tribute band hailing from San Diego, Ca.

#### Half Hour Late (12:30 - 1:30)

Your girlfriend's favorite band.

Dirty Birds Wing Eating Contest (1:30 - 2:00)

# Shakedown String Band (2:00 - 3:00)

Hailing from the laid back shores of Ocean Beach in San Diego, CA, Shakedown String Band is rapidly garnering attention with their contagious blend of Americana, Soul, and Bluegrass.

#### Chili Cook-Off Winners Announcement (3:00 - 3:30)

#### Electric Waste Band (3:30 - 4:30)

The long-established Monday night act at Winston's Beach Club, Electric Waste Band has drawn an adoring crowd of devoted fans each and every week since 1992 — an astounding two decades and counting. Formed way back in 1989, Electric Waste Band has entertained the local deadhead community for many years now, always to rave reviews as they serve up a staggering catalog of over 150 classic Grateful Dead songs. Improvisation is their focal point and each member is well-versed in creating magic on the fly. Every performance is a unique journey, one that pays reverent homage  $\,$ to the past while somehow always sounding new and fresh.

#### Hodad's Burger Eating Contest - Main Stage (4:30 - 5:00)

#### Russell Ramo & The B Sections (5:00 - 6:00)

Russell Ramo and The B Sections team up to bring Ocean Beach Street Fair an All-Star Funk Jam. A funky collaboration of local legends and special guests that you won't want to miss. This supergroup is guaranteed to knock your Sox off, melt your face, and make you wanna dance.

#### SM Familia (6:30 - 8:00)

SM Familia is a collective of colleagues brought together by San Diego's busiest session player, El Gato to create a sound that has not been often heard. Latin Reggae music.

 $\,$  SM started as one of San Diego's premier Roots Reggae backing bands for many legendary Jamaican artists like Sister Nancy, Michael Palmer, Eek A Mouse, and more. During this time, they were finishing singles and honing in on their true-to-roots Latin sound in roots reggae.

This group of seasoned San Diego musicians has been blazing the trail to put more Latin flavor into our American reggae scene. Opening for bands  $\,$ like Cultura Profetica and Residente, it allowed a new audience to be captured by the infectious grooves and strong lyrical content of El Gato. With a smooth style of singing and with the addition of our drummer and his "raggamuffin" style singing, SM Familia brings you one of the most captivating, original, and highest energy shows you can find with this beautiful mixture of cultured music for a joyous, true roots musical entertain-

#### **92107 STAGE:**

# Amanda Cogan - 92107 Stage (10:30 - 11:30)

My music is like being wrapped in a warm blanket while sipping strong

# Jefferson Jay And The Diggers (12:00 - 1:00)

Jefferson Jay is a throwback, full of flavor, still trying to make things better with music and love in the 21st century.



Zeptune



Half Hour Late



Shakedown String Band

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# **2023 MUSIC LINE-UP** (also see back cover for schedule and stage locations)

# True Stories - 92107 Stage (1:30 - 2:30)

Bart Mendoza & True Stories is a classic-styled pop group, founded by three music scene veterans

#### **The Falling Doves (3:00-4:00)**

The Falling Doves are a force of electric energy. Their music is a fusion of stadium rock with garage rock familiarity, a sound that has helped the guys win over the ears and hearts of fans around the globe.

#### **Seawall Prophet (4:30 - 5:30)**

Seawall Prophet // Aaron Markland is an Award-Winning Singer Songwriter and Pacific Records Recording Artist from Ocean Beach California.

#### **Suede Radio (6:00 - 7:00)**

Suede Radio is an original band, based out of Ocean Beach California. we are a 4 piece band that has a multi-genre, blues-based sound that is ready to share our music with the world! Dance a little, think a little, maybe smoke some weed.

#### **ARTIST ALLEY STAGE:**

#### Travis Oliver (10:30-11:30)

Travis is a flatpicking guitarist and singer/songwriter with a specialized focus in traditional roots music including Bluegrass, Country, Folk and modern acoustic music. Travis' performances strategically balance fiery guitar picking, tone filled melodies, heart felt ballads and witty song selections to entertain the listener and keep them wondering what will come next.

#### Tecolote Canyon (12:00 - 1:00)

Born out of the Beyond Bridge Music Festival in October 2021, with Mark Mendenhall on Lead vocals and guitar and Tim Johnson on guitars and vocals, Tecolote Canyon delivers acoustic-based Americana and classic Rock 'n' Roll. Mark and Tim have been active in the music community and have supported events and charities as well as managed a music foundation that has put instruments in classrooms in Ocean Beach and Beyond.

# All Fired Up (1:30 - 2:30)

The best high-energy hard rock tribute to Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo.

#### David Gilbert Band (3:00-4:00)

Singer/Guitarist/Songwriter Dave Gilbert has been performing and recording rock & roll music for more than 40 years. He plays rock & roll hits from the '50s through the '90s along with classic country hits in several groups including the Dave Gilbert Band, West Coast Iron Works, Barnyard Rockers, Clairemonsters, Rhythm Ranchers, and Touchy Subjects, plus plays regularly in a duo the Tim & Dave Show as well as performs a solo act. It's all about everybody having a great time, and that's what we deliver!

# The Resinators (4:30 - 5:30)

The Resinators, a Pacific Northwest band that now resides in San Diego, California are a three-piece powerhouse that offers a unique take on Rock-Reggae, with an eclectic yet cohesive sound. The Resinators' professionalism and incredible live performances have earned them a strong following up and down the West Coast.

# Jeff Berkley And The Banned (6:00-7:00)

Jeff Berkley & The Banned is a San Diego based, all-star band.



The Resinators

Jeff Berkley & The Banned





Electric Waste Band



Amanda Cogen



Jefferson Jay And The Diggers



Suede Radio



SM Familia



Tecolote Canyon



III Fired Up



True Stories



David Gilbert Band



The Falling Doves



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