

# NEWSLETTER

August 2023

#### Mission

The Friends of Ontario Airport is a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization that unites people of all backgrounds into a special group with a common interest in aviation, and in the development and growth of Ontario International Airport (ONT) for the benefit of all persons.

## **Message from the President, Myron Saulpaugh**



Hello Friends,

As we reach the end of summer, it's only appropriate that we do an activity that takes us back to our time as schoolchildren – taking a field trip! I hope to see you all there. We're grateful that the Maloof Garden & Gallery is welcoming us for our annual field trip and guided tour.

And the spirit of welcoming others is alive and well at ONT, too! This has been a record year at ONT so far in terms of passenger traffic, and the busy summer season has seen the airport welcoming people from all over the world. We really mean all over the world – there were more monthly international passengers than ever before in June!

All of this activity means that it is a great time to be a Friend of ONT. It makes me very happy to see that you all share that spirit of being inclusive and welcoming others the way that our airport does. See you at the field trip!

# **Schedule of Events**

Maloof Garden & Gallery Field Trip August 17, 2023 *11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.* 5131 Carnelian St., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701 Members Meeting October 19, 2023 4:00 p.m. ONT Museum Holiday Party December 22, 2023 *More details to follow.* 

# The Friends of ONT Field Trip 2023

Our annual field trip this year will be on Thursday, August 17, at the Maloof Garden & Gallery! It's located at 5131 Carnelian St., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701, and we'll be having a guided tour from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

This is in place of our regular meeting, and we're very excited to see everyone there! Now, for some details.



- Gates will open at around 10:45 a.m. please arrive early so that we can all enjoy the guided tour together!
- On-site parking is limited, but there is also street parking available.
- There is no cost for Friends who have paid their dues for the year.
- Lunch will be provided for those who RSVPed.
- Self-guided tours will be allowed for the remainder of the time.

RSVP is required by August 14th by emailing

friendsofontarioairport@gmail.com or calling Linda Russell at (909) 949-4930. Thank you, and we can't wait to see you there!

# **ONT Setting Passenger Records Yet Again**



The month of June saw ONT smash yet another monthly passenger traffic record, toppling May's own brand-new record. More than 559,000 passengers came through the airport in June -- 8.7% more than in June of 2022. There were also more than 37,000 international passengers, which is a record for ONT as well.

This fed into a strong July 4th weekend for travel. ONT was anticipating more than 100,000 passengers between June 30th and July 5th, which would be 7% higher than the same weekend in 2022. And even with all of this growth, ONT continues to be an easy and convenient option for travelers.

> READ MORE ON JUNE TRAFFIC

# **ONT & Volaris El Salvador Add New International Service**

Anytime ONT can add international service, it's an exciting time! New international service means more people from around the world can visit our great region. This time, it's Volaris El Salvador adding three weekly nonstop routes between ONT and San Salvador's San Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez Airport (SAL).

This is on top of Volaris' current eight weekly flights to Guadalajara, Mexico. These are amazing destinations – we highly recommend booking a flight soon!



OIAA President Alan Wapner joined Cónsul General Manuel Eugenio Flores Tobar and the Volaris El Salvador team to celebrate Volaris' inaugural flight to San Salvador from ONT (July 1, 2023).





# **Evolve by Hudson is Now Open**

The concept store Evolve by Hudson News is now open in both terminals at ONT! This store works like a "store within a store," where brand-name companies can have their own small shops inside of the Evolve store. We love to see this kind of creative approach to shopping here at ONT!





VIEW ALL SHOPPING

# Learn About the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program at ONT

ONT has launched the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Program, to help every traveler feel like this is their airport. By wearing a Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyard or wristband at ONT, passengers can voluntarily share that they have a disability that might not be immediately apparent, and that they might need a little extra help, time, and understanding while at the airport.

Passengers can request the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyards or wristbands by mail ahead of their trip, or in person at the Travelers Aid desks in either terminal. Perhaps best of all, it's completely free. With this program, ONT is really showing that this is everyone's airport!



READ MORE ON NEW PROGRAM

# ONT Connect Shuttles People Between Cucamonga Station and ONT

The public is very interested in more public transportation options, and ONT has been listening. They love to remind people about ONT Connect, which uses shuttle buses to get travelers between ONT and Cucamonga Station.

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) and ONT collaborated to create this route to launch. In partnership with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), So Cal residents and visitors to our region can take the Metrolink to Cucamonga Station, and then connect directly to ONT.



READ MORE ON ONT CONNECT

When you use Metrolink or Omnitrans, this service is also free. We love to see ONT making things accessible for more people.

# ONT CEO Atif Elkadi Shared Insights at SMART Airports & Regions Conference



Ontario International Airport Chief Executive Officer Atif Elkadi was a panelist at the SMART Airports & Regions Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada held July 19-21. His panel was on the subject of "Smart Cities and Airports – How We'll Live Next," and we know that ONT and the Inland Empire are certainly in that category! As Atif guides such a fast-growing airport that's so important to its region, we know that his insights were well received.

# The ONT Community Engagement Team Is Out & About!

Ontario International Airport's Community Engagement team focuses on bringing the airport to you and bringing you to the airport. ONT engages with thousands of community members, organizations, and businesses every year, and is on the front lines of representing ONT in our region, nation, and the globe!

The early summer has been busy for the ONT Community Engagement Team. They're integral in helping set up our meetings and this newsletter, but their main job is raising awareness of ONT. In June, they presented at several Chambers of Commerce in the region. They also helped San Bernardino County Supervisor Curt Hagman's office coordinate a job fair at the airport, hosted a Multi Chamber Mixer in the National Guard Hangar, and are still planning future events. Give them a round of applause for all of their hard work!







## In Case You Missed It...

The ONT Digital Team won two Telly Awards for the "Why Ever You Travel" video! The Telly Awards honor excellence in video and television across all types of screens. Congratulations!







**Photo courtesy of Brightline** 

The SBCTA received a \$25 million grant for the Brightline West project, which will connect Los Angeles with Las Vegas by highspeed rail. Plans to benefit ONT include an underground tunnel that connects the airport to Cucamonga Station, which is along the Brightline route.

> READ MORE ON BRIGHTLINE

ONT sponsored The Hangar at the Orange County Fair and held its own booth on Saturday, August 12th!



# **ONT's Nonstop Routes**



Stay up to date on the full list of nonstop routes! There is so much to see, and it all starts at ONT.

### VIEW NONSTOP ROUTES

REQUEST NONSTOP ROUTES

# **Board of Directors**

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