

On the Road

NEIGHBORHOOD

Sand City, California

» Colorful art scenes so often bloom in the least likely spots. Take Sand City, a teensy town on Monterey Bay once famed for sand mining, a landfill, and little else. Over time, artists and artisans have found this former industrial hinterland a perfect place to live and work. To check out the scene—a refreshing alternative to Cannery Row and Carmel-by-the-Sea—hop off Highway 1 in Seaside. Area code is 831 except as noted.

■ Catch the seventh annual **West End Celebration**, the town's signature event, on Friday and Saturday, August 22 and 23. Revelers pack the streets for a party featuring roving performers, jazz and rock bands, art shows, and open studios. sandcity.org.

■ The olallieberry pie at **Sweet Elena's Bakery & Cafe** draws dessert-lovers from all over. Also try the spinach croissants or stay around for one of Elena Salsedo-Steele's global theme dinners. 465-D Olympia Ave., 393-2063, sweetelenas.com.

■ With spelling bees, cartoon-and-pajama Sundays, and jazz and folk musicians, the **Ol' Factory Café** offers nightlife Sand City style. 1725 Contra Costa St., 394-7336, olfactorycafe.com.

■ In this town, even the **Monterey Mattress Company** doubles as a gallery (montereymattress.com). Yet much art remains hidden in studios and fledgling galleries with odd hours. To find it, visit the Artists Directory at



Sweet! Elena Salsedo-Steele bakes tarts, pies, cakes, cookies, quiches, and more.

sandcity.org, call up an artist—don't be shy—and ask if you can drop by. ■ Stock up on artichoke salsa, blue cheese-stuffed olives, and chocolate-coated pinot noir-soaked cherries at **Gil's Gourmet Gallery**. 577 Ortiz Ave., (800) 438-7480. —DON KNAPP