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Contact Us:
(714) 834-2500
or
visit us online at:
www.ocrecorder.com

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the newsletter for the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department. We'll be bringing you periodic updates on the latest news and information in the world of public records, vital records and personal privacy, as well as more about Orange County history.

Sincerely,

6 MILLIONTH DOCUMENT RECORDED ELECTRONICALLY

Orange County has electronically recorded its 6th millionth property document since 1997, the year the county launched a groundbreaking electronic recording system now available to counties statewide. The landmark document, a grant deed submitted by Fidelity National Title, was electronically recorded at 8:39 a.m. on Feb. 2. Orange County is a recognized national leader in electronic recording. Each year, nearly two-thirds of all property documents recorded locally are transmitted electronically by 150 authorized users—without a single known security breach.



BRANCH OFFICE CELEBRATES SIX YEARS OF SUCCESS



Some 160,000 customers have used the convenient South County branch office since it opened in February, 2006, including nearly 9,000 couples who married there. The branch office is located in the Laguna Hills Civic Center at 24031 El Toro Road. The office is easy to find, just off the Santa Ana (I-5) Freeway and El Toro Road, across the street from the Laguna Hills Mall. The branch office offers ample free parking.

FREE STATE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Homeowners who have lost their jobs, need help reducing mortgage payments or are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure can get help free of charge through the California Housing Finance Agency. The agency's Keep Your Home California program offers assistance for low- and moderate-income homeowners who need to reduce their loan's principal balance and mortgage payments, homeowners who need mortgages reinstated and homeowners relocating after short sales. There is no cost to apply, but state officials have warned of phone scammers attempting to collect fees of up to \$900 for application assistance. The program has helped about 12,000 borrowers, reflecting more than \$200 million in financial aid, state officials said. Californians are encouraged to call (888) 954-5337 or visit www.keepyourhomecalifornia.org. Additional details can be found at the California Housing Finance Agency website at www.calhfa.ca.gov.

KEEP UP WITH THE CLERK-RECORDER DEPARTMENT ON FACEBOOK!



Check us out on Facebook to keep informed of items of interest in the Clerk-Recorder Department and to read our latest press releases. Find out about special events, traffic alerts, holiday closures and other news. Just search for "[Orange County CA Clerk-Recorder Department](#)." to find us. Then become a fan!

157 COUPLES MARRY ON VALENTINE'S DAY...

A near-record 157 couples were married on Valentine's Day in civil ceremonies performed by the Clerk-Recorder Department, almost reaching the previous record of 173 couples who wed on the holiday in 1997. Double the number of ceremony rooms were made available this year to accommodate happy couples at the department's three wedding offices in Orange County. (The photo at right shows the festooned South County branch office.) Every year, Clerk-Recorder Tom Daly makes special accommodations for Valentine's Day. "My staff pulls out all the stops to make sure our happy couples have a truly special experience," Daly said. Last year, 135 couples were married when the holiday fell on a Monday. For palindrome aficionados, this year's date had added significance because the couples' wedding date now reads the same forward or backward: 21412.



...AND 56 MORE COUPLES MARRY ON LEAP DAY!



Celebrating Feb. 29 as their wedding anniversary attracted 56 couples who married on Leap Day in civil ceremonies performed by the Clerk-Recorder Department. Leap Day occurs every four years when a day is added to the calendar. In 2008, 65 couples were married by the department on Leap Day. (A happy couple poses at the North County branch office.) The origin of Leap Year dates to the calendars of ancient Rome and is meant to coordinate the number of days with the Earth's rotation. While each calendar year contains 365 days, it actually takes the Earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds to orbit the sun. So every four years, an extra day is added—Feb. 29—to recalibrate the calendar. With such history and scientific importance, it's no surprise Leap Day is regarded as a special occasion—even if you're not getting married!

FREE ANTI-FRAUD WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

The Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department offers free workshops to community groups about combating real-estate fraud plus ways to thwart identity thieves. Workshops can be tailored to fit your group. For more information or to schedule a workshop, call the Department at (714) 834-2248.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: JANUARY

Name:
Adrienne Garcia

Job Title:
Office Specialist



How long have you been with the Clerk-Recorder? I am now in my fifth year with the department.

What is the best part of your job? The variety of daily tasks keeps each day interesting, yet I must say what I love best is the unity among our staff in Room 106. Working with a positive and friendly group always makes the day enjoyable.

Favorite book? I've recently read "Heaven is for Real" by Todd Burpo, which was very inspirational.

Favorite movie? "The Outsiders," "Pride and Prejudice," "Meet Me in St. Louis."

Please tell us a bit about yourself, where you live, about your family. Anything that may surprise us. I attend classes at night finishing up my Associate degree, working toward my Bachelors degree in Nursing. When I'm not doing homework, I'm usually working out, with family or finding some way to keep myself entertained. My brother is the light of my life and is attending a bible college in Los Angeles. I love life and continue to build a better future.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY

Name:
Brynn Esparza

Job Title:
Administrative Support



How long have you been with the Clerk-Recorder? I have been with the Clerk-Recorder Department for almost three years.

What is the best part of your job? My position with the Administrative Support Unit allows me to work with the various units in the department. I love how I have the opportunity to learn about the different functions of the department.

Favorite book? "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Favorite movie? "Grease" - I have probably seen it 50 times and it never gets old!

Please tell us a bit about yourself, where you live, about your family. Anything that may surprise us. I currently reside in Orange where I was born and raised. I competitively played softball for 10 years and that experience allowed me to travel all over the US. I earned my B.S. from Cal Poly Pomona and joined an intramural softball team. Several of my travel teammates were members of the Latino Business Students' Association and I eventually became the vice president of the organization.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: MARCH

Name:
Lupe Garcia

Job Title:
Senior Document Examiner



How long have you been with the Clerk-Recorder? I have been with the Clerk-Recorder Department for 13 years.

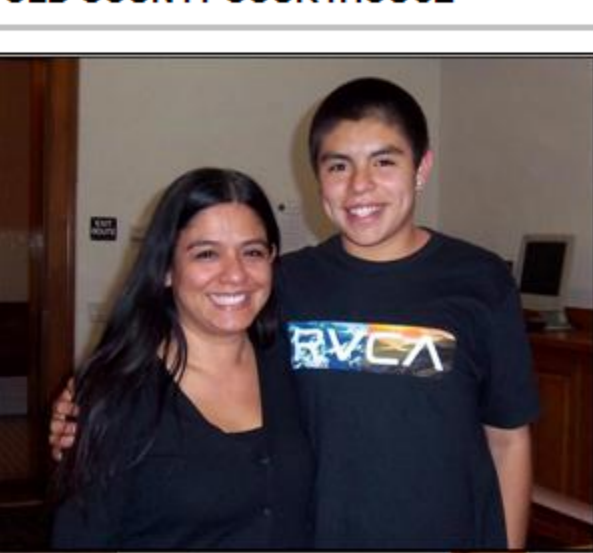
What is the best part of your job? I enjoy the fast pace of electronic recording.

Favorite book? "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee.

Favorite movie? "Sixteen Candles."

Please tell us a bit about yourself, where you live, about your family. Anything that may surprise us. I reside in Santa Ana with my husband Luis and our 4 beautiful children. In my spare time I enjoy reading.

PARENTS AND KIDS ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF SATURDAY "PASSPORT DAY" AT THE OLD COUNTY COURTHOUSE



The Clerk-Recorder Department offered a second Saturday Passport Day in February to accommodate travelers needing passports to enter and re-enter the United States. The first Saturday Passport Day in September 2011 was very popular with families, since both parents must be present to sign the applications for children younger than 16. Brian and Alison Dear of Costa Mesa brought their five children (photo above). Daisy Parker and her son, Johnny Sanchez, (above right), drove from Huntington Beach to apply for passports; Robert and Patricia Bell from Orange (right) came with their four children. Being open on a Saturday, when the office usually is closed, also helped parents who work during the week.