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## 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.

## SOPHIA AND ETHAN MOST 2012 POPULAR BABY NAMES



## Sophia remains winner of baby-name game

The most popular names for babies born in Orange County last year included several repeats and a couple of new names, as Ethan topped the list for boys' names for the first time in recent years and Sophia continued as most popular for girls for the third year running. Many names are perennial favorites, matching the most popular names chosen nationally. Assistant Clerk-Recorder Renee Ramirez said. The department maintains birth certificates for all children born in the county. To read more about it, visit [www.ocrecorder.com](http://www.ocrecorder.com).

## 2012 RECORDING VOLUME MARKS SIX-YEAR HIGH

The volume of real estate documents recorded in Orange County surged in 2012, marking the highest amount since 2006, confirming renewed activity in the local housing market as the economy slowly recovers. Document recordings for 2012 hit 817,537, rising 18% over the 690,613 documents recorded in 2011. The next highest volume of documents was recorded in 2006, when 878,605 transactions were processed. "Document recordings last year reflected growing confidence in the housing market and that's a hopeful trend," said Assistant Clerk-Recorder Renee Ramirez.

## CLERK-RECORDER TOM DALY SWORN IN AS NEW ORANGE COUNTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Dec. 3, 2012, marked Orange County Clerk-Recorder Tom Daly's final official time in office, as he was sworn in at noon that day at the state Capitol to become one of the newest members of the state Assembly. Daly was elected to the 69th Assembly District on Nov. 6. A Democrat holding his first partisan elective office, Daly represents Santa Ana, Anaheim and Garden Grove. A former mayor of Anaheim, Daly was elected Clerk-Recorder in 2002, and re-elected in 2006 and 2010. His county term runs through 2014. Under state rules, the Board of Supervisors must appoint someone to replace Daly until the next regular election for the seat. Other vacant county elected positions include Auditor-Controller and Public Administrator. "I've had the honor of working with Tom for 10 years and we're all going to miss his leadership," said Assistant Clerk-Recorder Renee Ramirez, who will head the dept. until supervisors fill the vacancy. Applications for the office closed Jan. 15. Supervisors have said they hope to appoint a successor sometime in March.

## LOVE BY THE DOZENS SCORES RECORD NUMBER OF MARRIAGES ON 12/12/12

A record-setting 283 couples were married on Dec. 12, 2012—12/12/12—by the Clerk-Recorder Department, beating the old record of 250 couples married in civil wedding ceremonies on another special symmetrical date, 8/8/08. The marriages were performed at the Old County Courthouse in Santa Ana and at the department's two branch offices in Laguna Hills and historic downtown Fullerton. About 28 couples are married on an average weekday. "We won't see these kinds of wedding dates for another hundred years, so we wanted to go all-out," said Assistant Clerk-Recorder Renee Ramirez. "It was a great day to celebrate." Many couples said the consecutive date sequence was magical for its rare occurrence and the hidden meaning of numbers. One represents new beginnings, while two represents union—making Wednesday's triple-digit date an especially good day for joining in matrimony. Others chose the day because it made it easier to remember their anniversary.



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## MARRIAGES' CHRISTINA AGUILAR FEATURED IN "ORANGE COAST" MAGAZINE!



"A self-described "hopeless romantic," Aguilar has been performing weddings since 1999 and is the supervisor of Orange County's marriage license unit." That's how an article in the February issue of Orange Coast magazine begins, introducing a Q and A with the department's Christina Aguilar. The article notes that Valentine's Day is almost always the busiest day in the marriage business but also talks about the record number of couples married on 12-12-12. "It was quite the experience," Christina told writer Laura Bleiberg. "It was like an assembly line. Brides everywhere." Pick up the issue on newsstands now!

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: OCTOBER

Name:

Jorge Ramos

Job Title:

Office Specialist



**How long have you been with the Clerk-Recorder?** I started working in Room 106 at the end on July 2011. Now I work in marriages since March of 2012.

**What is the best part of your job?** At first I was unsure about working in the marriage department since I'm not married, but seeing couples who are genuinely in love and also being a part of such a big event in their life is a pretty good feeling. I would say that by far would be the best thing about this job.

**Favorite book?** My favorite book was recently made into a movie "Life of Pi."

**Favorite movie?** This one is a tough I have plenty of favorite movies but I would have to say "Godfather" is one of the movies that shows the importance of family and shows you morals as the story unfolds.

**Please tell us a bit about yourself, where you live, about your family. Anything that may surprise us.** I was raised in Santa Ana most of my childhood and teenage years, I went to Century High School and never realized how much I enjoyed living in Orange County until I moved away. My mother got sick and I felt it was in the best interest of my mother and younger brother to be around our immediate family, which are all living in the Pacific Northwest. I spent a couple of years up in Washington. It was a learning experience for all of us in appreciating family, friends and helping each other move forward. My mom with time got better and we decided to come back to Anaheim stronger than ever. It's a bonus now to work for the county where I was raised.

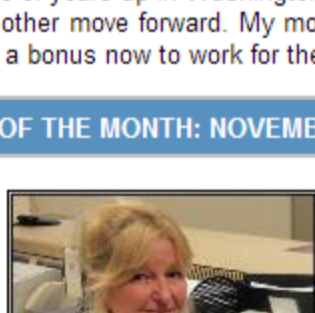
## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: NOVEMBER

Name:

Tanna White

Job Title:

Office Specialist



**How long have you been with the Clerk-Recorder?** I have worked for Orange County 18 yrs. I started in June of 1994.

**What is the best part of your job?** I feel very blessed to work here, working with the public. I love to help people. Also, my co-workers and supervisors are more like family. Everyone is so kind and very helpful when the need arises.

**Favorite book?** My favorite book would be the Bible.

**Favorite movie?** The movie that was one of my favorites was the Blindsight, a true story. If you haven't seen it you should. It is a story about opening up your life to help others in need.

**Please tell us a bit about yourself, where you live, about your family. Anything that may surprise us.** I have lived in Tustin for the last 10 years. I am married to a wonderful man. I have two children and seven grandchildren, nine including my husband's. We travel as much as we can. The thing that might surprise some of you is that I am going to be a grandma in June 2013. My granddaughter Kerisa is expecting. She is my only granddaughter; the rest are boys. She is expecting a girl.

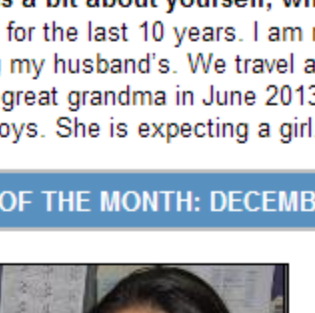
## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: DECEMBER

Name:

Alicia Araujo

Job Title:

Accounting Technician



**How long have you been with the Clerk-Recorder?** 18 years...My 19th year will be this March! (I started when I was 19 years old!)

**What is the best part of your job?** My co-workers...Throughout my years here, I have met & worked with a great group of people. I have learned that any task is easier to get done when you have a good team to work with.

**Favorite book?** All the books from the Twilight Saga...Go Team Edward! L

**Favorite movie?** All the Tyler Perry (Madea) movies

**Please tell us a bit about yourself, where you live, about your family. Anything that may surprise us.** My life before the County consisted of being a phone operator at Target & outdoor vending at Disneyland. That was quite an experience! But in November 1993, I was hired as Extra Help to work in the Support Unit of the Recorder's Office. My job was supposed to last a few months but a position opened up in Accounting and I was hired. That was March 1994 and I have been in Financial Services since. I grew up & currently reside in Santa Ana. I have two daughters, Angel Rose, age 12 & Danielle Ashley, age 9. I enjoy spending my free time with my family. And some of my hobbies are online scrapbooking, making tie blankets and crocheting. I guess you can say I have a crafty side!

## NORTH COUNTY OFFICE SHOWS OFF NEW LOOK

New signage and a sharp new County of Orange logo adorn the outside of the Clerk-Recorder Department's North County branch office in historic downtown Fullerton. The branch office opened in February 2009, including a special pre-opening on a Saturday Valentine's Day to perform wedding ceremonies. The office offers free parking and is convenient for North County residents living in Anaheim, Buena Park, Brea, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia and Yorba Linda. Regular business hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The opening of the North County office followed the opening of a branch in South County at the Laguna Hills Civic Center in 2006. Last year, nearly 30,000 customers were assisted at the North County office. The North County office of the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department is located at 201 N. Harbor Blvd. on the corner of Harbor and Amerige, in the historic Parker building.

