Payroll Manager Honored for Volunteer Efforts

County Payroll Manager Idalia Ow, who keeps our paychecks coming, is finding herself at the receiving end of praise from a national professional group.

Ow has been selected to receive a Citation of Merit from the American Payroll Association (APA) in recognition of her contributions as a volunteer on the organization’s Strategic Payroll Leadership Task Force. As part of this Task Force, Idalia:

- Designs and presents workshops specifically geared to public sector employers at the National Payroll Congress
- Developed curriculum for a government payroll certification
- Prepares articles for membership publications
- Developed seminar/webinar training materials for national APA use

Idalia is also the co-founder of the Central Coast Chapter of the APA (American Payroll Association), with Michelle
Clawson, Payroll manager for Ocean Mist Farms. The two met at a 2012 conference where they discovered both were getting questions from other payroll professionals in the area and there was not a local resource to fill their needs. They formed a local APA chapter in October 2013 and currently have 22 members covering Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties. Ow and Clawson are teaching a Payroll Fundamental course so chapter members can receive payroll certification, which is followed by a six-week intensive payroll ‘boot camp’ program.

**County Employees Save the Planet, One Ride at a Time**

Imagine plugging in to your favorite music or audio book, chatting with friends or browsing through a favorite book or magazine, all on your workday commute.

This scenario is not ‘too good to be true’- it’s a reality for the county employees who participate in the County’s van pool program.

There are three county van pool vehicles (purchased with grant funding) and three routes: to and from the Monterey Peninsula, south Monterey County and Santa Cruz County. The van pools offer a relief from the commute drag, wear and tear on your car and savings at the gas pump, since the monthly cost of participating is about the cost of an average fill up. Van pools, or ride sharing, are also one of the county’s sustainable efforts to help the environment and reduce the use of fossil fuels here at home.

What do riders say about the program?

“I’ve been riding in the vanpool since joining the County seven years ago. It just makes good economic sense to share a ride into work and, of course, it’s better for the environment. The people in the van are friendly and respectful of each

Van pool riders at the Government Center offices prepare to hit the road.
other. For some it’s an opportunity to be social, while others enjoy their quiet time. I am learning Spanish so I sit in the back and study my text book and flash cards.
   -Paul Lewis, Budget and Analysis Division

“The van pool is great as I can read the newspaper, do the daily crossword, Sudoku, check my emails and play Words with Friends. I also enjoy the banter with everyone. Best of all, I save money on gas and help the environment at the same time.”
   –Jane Barr, Housing and Redevelopment

“The van pool program works for me because I live in Soledad which is about 30 miles away from Salinas. It is well coordinated, effective, convenient, saves gas and car maintenance expenses. I also feel good about helping out the environment; I feel I’m doing my part to help our planet.”
   -Daniel Banuelos, DSS

It’s easy to get started with a van pool: check out the route and scheduling information in the text boxes below and to the right, then contact the Public Works reception desk at x4800 for more information or to sign up.

Each van can carry seven to eight riders comfortably and riders include county co-workers as well as employees from the City of Salinas, Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and Superior Court.

The cost per trip for riders is set up as a payroll deduction. If you sign up as a driver (and pass the required DMV tests) your rates are discounted.

Van Pool Route – Monterey Peninsula

7:00 am McDonalds/ PG off Forest
7:05 am FedEx Store, Lighthouse Ave.
7:10 am Franklin/Pacific Streets, Monterey
7:15 am 751 Toyon Drive, Monterey
7:25 am Home Depot /Gas Station, Seaside.
7:45 am Arrive at Gov’t Center
5:10 pm Depart Gov’t Center
5:35 pm Home Depot /Gas Station, Seaside.
5:45 pm 751 Toyon Drive, Monterey
5:50 pm Franklin/Pacific Streets, Monterey
5:55 pm Bus station @Wave/Prescott, New Monterey
6:00 pm McDonalds in PG off of Forest Ave

Van Pool Route – Santa Cruz County

6:55am Park/Ride, State Park Dr., Aptos
7:05 am Park/Ride, Salinas Road/ Hwy 1
7:30 am Gov’t Center
4:30 pm Depart Gov’t Center
5:00 pm Park/Ride, Salinas Road/Hwy 1
5:15 pm Park/Ride, State Park Dr., Aptos
Monterey County’s Cleanup Day event is fast approaching. If you are interested in taking part in this Earth Day-related community beautification program on April 19th, there is still time to sign up.

There are many locations throughout the county where individuals, families, friends, even teams of co-workers (hint, hint) can sign up to help beautify an area in your neighborhood, favorite park, beach or river area. And here is a “parent alert” – your high school son or daughter can earn community service hours by taking part.

Tammy Young, an Abatement Officer with the Sheriff’s Department who recently earned a Congressional Citation for her work in cleaning up a homeless encampment problem along the Pajaro River Levee, is continuing that work by spearheading a cleanup group focused on the Pajaro River. She says anyone who’d like to join her clean up team is welcome.

“I am trying to get enough people to possibly create two teams because there are two locations that need work,” says Young. “If we get a large enough team, maybe we will be able to cover both locations, which are fairly close to each other.”

For more information on the Cleanup Day or to sign up for a team or start your own team at a specific site, contact Gabby Carbajal at x8909.

The Monterey County Cleanup Day is organized by the Monterey County Health Department’s Environmental Health Division, which provides recycling supplies, gloves and disposal vouchers for cleanup crews.