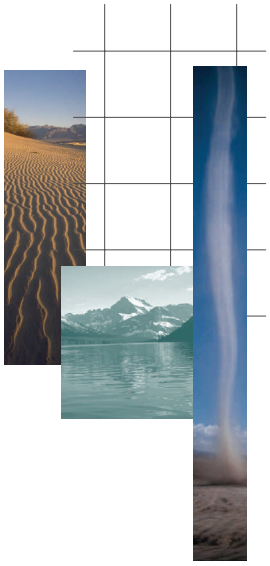
County of Orange
CAP
Commuter Assistance Program

The County Commuter

Commuter Assistance Program

Spring 2006



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Try the Bus Event

Have you tried it yet? The OCTA Annual Bus Pass Program is available to all County of Orange employees. OCTA staff will be here on May 31, 2006 from 11:00 to 1:00 in the Plaza of the Sun (between buildings 10 and 12) to help you determine which routes you can take to work using the OCTA bus. Come by for some cookies and good information!

With the OCTA Annual Bus Pass Program, you'll receive a pass that provides unlimited bus transportation at OCTA's lowest fare available of only $0.75 per boarding, with a maximum of just $45 per month – no matter how many rides are taken. The best part is that the pass is good on all OCTA local bus routes, seven days a week.

To pay for your monthly usage, you must also sign up for the County's Commuter Choice voluntary payroll deduction program. The good news is that you save by paying for the rides with pretax dollars AND we'll give you the first month free! That includes employees who are already riding the bus to work. As soon as you switch to the payroll deduction process and the annual bus pass, we'll pay for the first month!

Click here for a Commuter Choice voluntary payroll deduction authorization form, send an e-mail to rideshare@ocgov.com or call the Message Center at 714/8634-4068 for additional information.

California Bike Commute Week

May 17-21 is Bike Commute Week. Employers throughout the state are teaming up to promote this annual event that is celebrating its 10th year. Join thousands of other bicycle commuters and enjoy a fun and energizing bicycle ride to work.

Bicycling is also a great way to get to work and stay fit at the same time. Not only is bicycling healthy for you, it's healthy for the planet. You may think you don't have time to bicycle to work, but for distances of five miles or less, bicycling may actually take less time than driving. In addition, bicycling is an efficient use of your valuable time. Commuting by bike allows you to skip a trip to the gym and exercise as you travel to work.

This year, OCTA will be coordinating the regional activities. Everyone who fills out a free OCTA Pledge Form, and pledges to ride their bike at least once during Bike Commute Week will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win fabulous prizes!

It's easy to pledge - forms are available at the 30 rideshare display racks located throughout the County, you can pledge on-line at the OCTA Bike to Work web site or by calling 714/560-5573.

Special points of interest:

- On May 18, thousands of commuters will bypass the pumps and get to work by pedal-power in celebration of Bike to Work Week.
- Choose your route wisely. To avoid traffic jams and stop-and-go driving check current traffic conditions before you hit the road at CommuteSmart.info.

Quarterly Rideshare Drawing

We're happy to announce the winners of the new quarterly drawing for rideshare participants! This is a new reward program for County of Orange Commuter Club members! Each quarter, we will draw eight (8) names of current Commuter Club members and they'll win a $25 gift certificate! This quarter's winners are:

- *Lisa Kopelman, Public Defenders Office*
- *Martha Garcia, Treasurer-Tax Collector*
- *Renee Chinchilla, Board of Supervisors*
- *Norman Darvin, Social Services Agency*
- *Phan Thiet, Health Care Agency*
- *Kevin Oxford, Resource & Development*
- *Darlene Tapia, Resource & Development*
- *Angela Berkan, OC Sheriff's Department*

They won a gift certificate redeemable through GiftCertificates.com! All current Commuter Club members are eligible for the drawing, and at GiftCertificates.com, they can select gift certificates from over thirty merchants!

Do you rideshare at least five days a month? Be sure to sign up for the Commuter Club to receive your annual thank you gift and to be eligible for these quarterly drawings. Click here for the Commuter Club application.

Commuter Club Update

Thanks for responding to the brief survey regarding the annual thank you gift for rideshare participants that was sent to all current Commuter Club members. Based on your responses, we will be replacing the Healthy Dining Guide and discount coupons with Starbucks gift certificates! Certificates will be sent to all current members of the Commuter Club later this month.

If you'd like to join the Commuter Club, you must commit to ridesharing at least five times per month, click here for a Commuter Club application.

Did You Know?

- Free on-line bike routing is available at www.bikemetro.com. Just enter your start and ending locations for the best bike route.

Commuter Assistance Program

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The County Commuter Newsletter is published by the Commuter Assistance Program Office managed by the Human Resources Department. Our mission is to distribute commuter information to all County of Orange employees so that they can make informed decisions about how they travel to work. For more information about the Commuter Assistance Program, please go to the web site.