

Finance's First Picnic

Office of Finance has first picnic for employees, families.

Story by Yvonne Liu and Eduardo Garcia, Finance

FINANCE — The Office of Finance held its first department-wide family picnic Aug. 19 at Crystal Springs in Griffith Park.

The Hawaiian Picnic brought close to 200 Finance employees and their families together for a day of fun. While the employees usually provide information to businesses and individuals and enforce the City's tax and fee collection program, on this perfect sunny day, they participated in a water balloon toss, tug of war, best dessert competition, and a balloon stomp. They also enjoyed a performance by two professional Hawaiian dance groups: Tago le Pasefika and Penina O le Pasefika. Prizes included toys, candy, electronics, and tickets to Disneyland and AMC theatres.

The majority of the kids at the picnic went home with at least one prize, a pocketful of candy, and a lot of expended energy. The professional dance group Penina O le Pasefika included former Special Desk Unit supervisor Faith Maulupe. A few lucky audience members, like Director of Finance Antoinette Christovale, had the opportunity to dance the hula with lots of island flavor (see photographs). The "almost better than (censored) cake," a dessert made by Tax Compliance Officer II Audrey Childress, was so good it won the Disneyland prize.

The Office of Finance was created in 2000 as a result of Charter reform efforts. Annually, the Office of Finance collects more than \$2 billion in revenue from various sources including taxes, licenses, fees and permits, which pay for numerous essential municipal services to City residents and businesses. The Office assists other revenue-producing departments in the City by recommending standardized billing and collection procedures based on best practices in an effort to improve the City's collection of outstanding debt.



Hawaiian piñatas.



General Manager Antoinette Christovale, 7 years, dances.



From left: General Manager Antoinette Christovale, 7 years; Jeff Whitmore, 18 years, Club Member; and Tim Rhyne, 3 years.



Assistant General Manager Pam Mooney, 14 years, Club Member, with her husband Mike.



Organizers Eddie Garcia, 6 years (right), and Vanessa Lopez, 9 years.



Children participated in the watermelon-eating contest.



From left: Jeff Whitmore, 18 years, Club Member; June Ulrich, 33 years; Joy Ory, 30 years, Club Member; and Brad Moe, 7 years.



In the three-legged race, from left: Ela Vallejo, 28 years, Club Member; Sharon Williams, 31 years; Veronica Cavanaugh, 6 years; and Jeff Whitmore, 18 years, Club Member.



Carl Sampson, 17 years, Club Member, and his family.



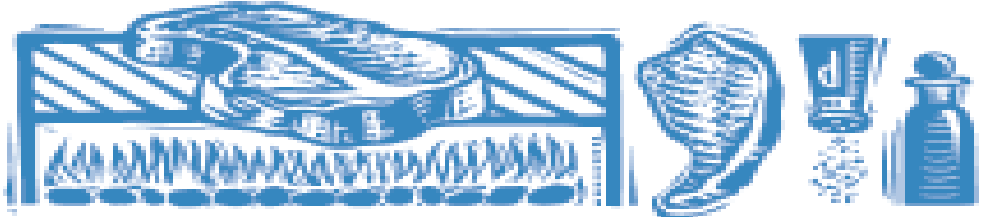
Hawaiian dancers included Sharon Williams, 31 years; June Ulrich, 33 years; Antoinette Christovale, 7 years; Vanessa Lopez, 9 years; Eddie Garcia, 6 years; and Jorge Enciso, 8 years, Club Member.



Vivian Nguyen, 26 years, and Michael Poon, 5 years, Club Member.



From left: Kevin Truong, 1 year, and Vern Lapuz, 20 years, Club Member, playing football.



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