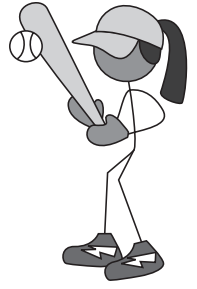




A Day in the Life of My County!



It is a busy day for the Zen family. C.T. Zen, the Dad, has a birthday. "Good morning," he says to his family at the breakfast table. "I am off to the Driver's License Office to renew my driver's license. I sure don't want to have to take the driver's test again! I'm not sure I would even pass the eye test!"

"Then why don't you stop by the Health Department and have your eyes checked?" his wife Sitta Zen suggests. "Get your flu shot while you are there."

"On my birthday?" Mr. Zen asks. "Oops, I almost forgot. I should go by the Tax Office and apply for a homestead exemption."

"What's that, Dad?" asks Zoey Zen. "Are we going to be pioneers or something?"

Dad laughs. "No, we are going to pay a little less property tax."

"Speaking of property," Mrs. Zen says, "I should drop by the Zoning Board to get a permit for the swimming pool we want to build this summer."

"Yeah!" says Zitty Zen, the youngest in the family. "I am going to the Public Library today with my class. We are getting our very first Library Cards. Then I can read books by the pool all summer."

"Aw, that's nothing," says Zack Zen, the oldest. "I am going to the Courthouse to register to vote. This fall I can vote in my first election!"

"Does anyone have any other plans this busy day?" Dad asks.

"I have to call Public Works to check on our trash pickup," says Mom. "And call the Department of Transportation to check on some new bus schedules."

"I am going to the County Recreation Center after school to play soccer," says Zoey.

"Our Scout troop is going to visit the local Fire Department after school," says Zitty.

"Hey!" Zack cries. "Where is Zippy?" Zack looks out the kitchen window and sees that the back gate is open. "Uh, oh, I'd better call the Dogcatcher!"

"Yeah, yeah," says Dad sadly. "But where else are you all going today?"

Zack looks at Zoey. Zoey looks at Zitty. Zitty laughs and winks at his brother and sister. "We know, Dad," he says. "We are going to your birthday party!"