

# County DIGEST



MARCH 1999

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Department of Treasurer and Tax Collector

### Our Role in the County

The Treasurer and Tax Collector is responsible for receiving, investing and disbursing funds to the County as well as to more than 90 schools, colleges and special districts. The department is also responsible for billing and collecting property taxes, regulatory fees under County business and public health licensing ordinances, and a wide variety of debts owed to the County.

In addition, the department serves as Public Administrator. As such, it administers the estates of County residents who die without known heirs and provides trust accounting and property management services for mentally disabled persons who are under the conservatorship of the Public Guardian.

### A Little History

Previously, all of these diverse services were provided by separate departments. The County Treasurer was one of the original County departments created in 1850 followed by the Public Administrator in 1852, the Tax Collector in 1875 and Collections in 1976.

Over the years, there have been many changes -- the most notable being the merger of the Treasurer with the Tax Collector in 1966, the merger of the Department of Collections in 1984 and the consolidation of the Public Administrator into the Treasurer and Tax Collector in 1987.

### Service Enhancements

When Mark J. Saladino was appointed Treasurer and Tax Collector on April 15, 1998, one of his goals was to better serve the County's nearly 10 million citizens.

With that in mind, a Credit Card Payment Processing Service was implemented that allows taxpayers the option of paying their real property taxes with their MasterCard or VISA. Simply call (888) 473-0835 and be sure to have your bill handy.

Another new public service -- a Web site full of information is now up and running and provides a great deal of public information. Everyone is encouraged to check out the site at <http://ttax.co.la.ca.us/main.htm>.

Also in the works is a network of remote payment locations throughout the County. These new innovations will cut back on the peak period traffic congestion at the Hall of Administration for making tax payments.

### Staffing

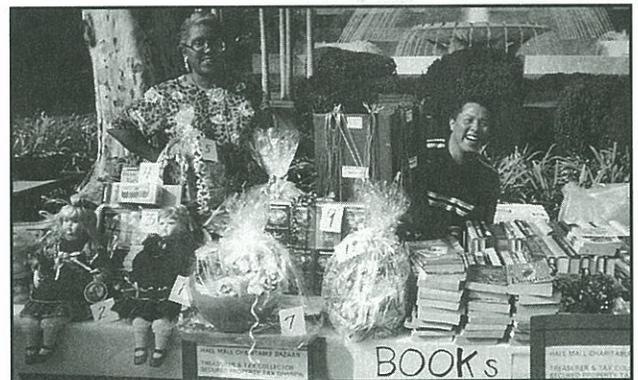
The department's staff numbers over 500 employees and is housed at several different locations. The Tax Collections branch of the department is located on the first floor of the Hall of Administration with the Treasury and Administrative branches on the fourth floor while the Public Administrator branch is located on the ninth and 15th floors of the Hall of Records.

The employees represent a diverse cultural cross-section of Los Angeles. It's great having this sort of multicultural diversity all in one department.

### Tax Time -- Quick Tips

State law prohibits the Tax Collector from excusing penalties on late pay-

ments. So, if you have not received your annual tax bill, then call and request a duplicate at (213) 974-2111. This phone line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also come to our office located on the first floor lobby of the Hall of Administration at 225 North Hill Street or obtain a current year substitute tax bill at any of the Assessor's regional offices.



Employees of the Department of Treasurer and Tax Collector's Secured Property Division are all smiles during a sale that benefited Charitable Giving.

The best (and easiest) way to pay your taxes, of course, is by mail. The envelope containing your tax bill also includes payment stubs and pre-addressed envelopes that ensure prompt handling of your payment. Never send cash. And don't forget, you now have the option of paying by VISA or MasterCard. Simply call (888) 473-0835.

Remember that whether paying in person, by credit card or by mail be sure to have the Assessor's identification number (consisting of map book, page and parcel number) of your property.

# Calendar of Events

## NBC4 Health Fair Expo

April 10, 1999  
Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center  
7601 East Imperial Highway, Downey  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
For more information, call (800) 4-AMIGOS

## Job Fair '99 & Marketplace

April 17, 1999  
First AME Church  
2270 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles  
7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
For more information, call (323) 730-9194  
Sponsored by FAME Renaissance and  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke



## 11th Annual Los Angeles County Chess Tournament

April 22 and every Thursday thereafter  
until May 27, 1999  
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
Public Works Building, Alhambra  
For more information, call (626) 458-7188 or  
(213) 738-2456  
Sponsored by the California Association of  
Professional Employees



## 1999 March of Dimes WalkAmerica

April 24, 1999  
7:00 a.m.  
Join Chairman Don Knabe as he leads the  
Marina del Rey Walk  
Immediately following the Walk, celebrate  
the County's 150th anniversary at a "Beach  
Party"  
For more information, call Craig Hirakawa,  
Countywide Team Leader, at (213) 974-2523  
or your department's team captain

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

# Robert M. Tauson

## *One Tenacious Investigator*



After thirty-five years of County service, Robert M. Tauson is bidding goodbye to the Sheriff's Department but not without leaving an indelible mark as one of the Department's most tenacious investigators. To add to his distinguished career, he was named the February 1999 County Employee of the Month during a ceremony at the Board of Supervisors meeting where the Chairman of the Board presented him with a scroll.

Tauson is a Deputy Sheriff - Bonus II in the Detective Division of the Homicide Bureau. He is responsible for investigating murders, deputy/officer-involved shootings, suicides and non-criminal deaths throughout the County.

His knowledge and expertise in investigations and his willingness to share them with newly assigned personnel have been invaluable in helping solve murder cases. As a matter of fact, he has a 100% murder solve rate which has taken many predators off the street and has contributed to the safety of the County's citizens and visitors.

"Three multiple defendants in high-profile investigations in the past three years with everyone charged, convicted and sent to prison gave the victims' families a sense of relief and a reason to continue living," Tauson said.

In spite of a busy schedule as a homicide investigator, he finds time to participate in Bureau functions, the annual Holiday Toy Drive and on his own time calls victims' families to inform them of the progress of their loved one's case and to find out how they are doing.

"Doing things the right way and getting positive results while others try to defeat my purpose are what keeps me motivated," he added.

While away from investigative duties, Tauson enjoys his other passions: photography and music. An avid photographer, as well as church goer, he volunteers his services at church functions to the delight of the parishioners. Music and photography, he says, aid him in relieving stress.

As his retirement day gets closer, he plans to spend more time on his hobbies, maybe write a book on his experiences as an investigator and start a small business.

No matter what he decides to do, Robert M. Tauson is sure to spend his time wisely and productively as he has during his tenure with Sheriff's Department. Besides, he will be spending his retirement years with his wife, Gloria, of 26 years.

## County DIGEST

Dept. of Human Resources  
500 W. Temple Street, Rm. 375  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-1765  
(213) 613-4789 FAX

[hr.co.la.ca.us](http://hr.co.la.ca.us)

# The VINE to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence

Chairman Don Knabe and other members of the Board were joined by Sheriff Lee Baca, District Attorney Gil Garcetti and a host of local officials and representatives from several victims' rights groups to announce the activation of VINE, the Victim Information and Notification Everyday program.

The program, designed to protect victims of rape, stalking and domestic violence from their attackers, automatically notifies victims when their attacker has been released from jail.

"The development and implementation of an automated victim notification system for the County will provide a desperately needed early warning system for victims," Supervisor Gloria Molina said.



**Chairman Don Knabe speaks during the introduction of VINE with Azusa Police Chief John Broderick, District Attorney Gil Garcetti, Supervisor Gloria Molina, Sheriff Lee Baca and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.**

Prior to an inmate being released, VINE will automatically dial victims who have registered with the database system.

[see VINE on last page](#)

# Anti-Smoking Billboard and Poster Campaign

Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke unveiled on February 17 a billboard and poster advertising campaign designed to prevent minors from smoking. Burke was joined by the County's Department of Health Services and four youngsters who are featured in the advertising campaign.

About 450 merchants throughout the County have agreed to display posters that read: "We care about the health of our community. We do not sell cigarettes or alcohol to minors."

To support these merchants, the County has purchased 158 billboards that read: "Support neighborhood stores that care about our community. They do not sell cigarettes or alcohol to minors."



**Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke poses with the Director of Public Health Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding and the youths who are featured in the advertising campaign.**

Aside from merchants, Chevron has also agreed to put the posters in 100 of its gasoline stations.

[see Anti-Smoking on last page](#)

# March Retirees



Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of Los Angeles County:

**ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL:** Nancy Moomau

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Marie H. Bragg, Bruce H. Cowan, Sheila Klick, Robert B. Leslie, Theresa O. Connell, Thomas A. Riley

**COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:** Alden Kimbrough

**COUNTY COUNSEL:** Sandra Magee

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Jacqueline Hill, Joan C. Manley, Thomas L. Trapp, Louis Grenier III

**FIRE:** Melvin C. Bolding, Thomas W. Detlefsen, Clifford E. Dysart, William R. Garland, John A. Hoffman, Michael F. Kniest, Harold J. Lovegren, William H. Oram, Jr., Harold D. Witt, Richard H. Zell, Margie S. Hix, Richard R. Emerson, Robert B. Leach, James W. Pruitt, David M. Beichner, Jerry D. Reed, Paul V. White

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Annette Collett, Jack V. Daugherty, Thomas C. Day, Ruby L. Fentry, Donnell Frazier, Douglas R. Hamm, Guam O. Lewis, Joe E. Salazar, Betty M. Sanders, Betty L. Slater, Della M. Wyler

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Lonnie J. Bartlett, Ronald J. Mohr, J. C. Pye, Mary E. Ruybal, Stephen W. Saracco, Carolyn J. Underwood

**LACERA:** Diane A. Sandoval

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Robert T. Fintzy

**MUNICIPAL COURTS:** Joel Hoffman

**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM:** Donald B. Cocke, Charles R. Fischer

**OFFICE OF EDUCATION:** Michael C. Merriam

**PROBATION:** Willie I. Mitchell, Walter D. Renzi, Armando Formica

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** Manuel R. Olea, Sharnetta M. O'Neal

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Cleo J. Barnes, Jannis Rawls, Mamie Royal, Linda Mae Madrigal

[see Retirees on last page](#)

# Retirees

continued from previous page

**PUBLIC WORKS:** James G. Anderson, Joe R. Covey, Donald W. Dykier, James F. Erpenbach, Robert Esparza, James A. Fry, Tin Htway, Bobby C. Jeffries, Roger W. McClure, Sally Navarette, James Ong, Robert Ramos, Francois Vaillancourt  
**REGIONAL PLANNING:** John R. Schwarze  
**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Mary H. Cruz, Cruz R. Alvarez  
**SHERIFF:** Margaret C. Beard, Robert F. Dixon, Lynn M. Judes, Henry J. Laporte, Alfred J. Meisel, Thomas W. Overton, Robert P. Pierson, Jr., Joseph H. Postelle, Donnie L. Powell, Richard A. Rector, Don P. Roberts, John S. Strom, Wayne A. Taylor, James E. Townsend, Martin J. Weirich, Barbara A. White, Maria E. Balich, Lorine Brummel, Josie M. Byrd, Charles A. Grijalva, Michael R. Dlugos, Allan G. Etzel, Shirley E. Lamoureux, Eugene C. Peterson, Peter Vasquez, Jr., Stephen R. Keife, Robert M. Tauson  
**SUPERIOR COURTS:** Beverley L. Schauwecker, Judi H. Leff  
**TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR:** George Cosand, Louise Ryan, Roszilua Smith

Congratulations to the following employees who are retiring after serving the people of the County of Los Angeles for more than 25 years:

**ASSESSOR:** Charulata J. Thakkar, Rodolfo M. Villanueva  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Erma Kellum  
**COMMUNITY & SENIORS SERVICES:** Iris Johnson  
**CORONER:** Sally Serros  
**COUNTY COUNSEL:** Beatrice Castro  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Bill Duree  
**FIRE:** David C. Hutchinson, Lloyd L. Leyh, Richard D. Sweeney, Robert D. Turner, Terry L. Butler, Stuart R. Forman, Michael L. Steele  
**HEALTH SERVICES:** Jenny M. Abeyta, Maria B. Bickel, Lilly Bragg, Emma Castro, Raymond Felix, Mary J. Herrera, Robert G. Mena, Peggy A. Morris, Virginia A. Ramirez, Lisa M. Sleeter, Gary K. Wood  
**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Paul C. Huang, Shushyr Huang, Chester B. Wong  
**MENTAL HEALTH:** Lakambini Delgado, Shirley M. Michaels

**MUNICIPAL COURTS:** Alistandra R. Halasz, Dolores M. McClendon  
**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM:** Reta D. Smith  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Jon C. Chambers  
**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Benedicta F. de la Cruz, Irma Grimaldi, Rosemary Moen, Dianne I. Smith  
**PUBLIC WORKS:** Walter S. Anderson, May Y. Fong, Santiago Ibalio, Richard R. Strahan  
**SHERIFF:** Denise M. Roe, Raymond D. Rosenbauer, Harold L. Sansbury, William N. Young, Annie O. Britt, Edith L. Jenson, Eugene R. Kellett, Reba M. Mize, Robert A. Goldsmith, Edward L. Hicks  
**SUPERIOR COURTS:** Ellen Liedtke, Isabelle C. Sokoloff

## Mailing Address Change



If you have changed your mailing address, please notify your Personnel Office immediately.

## Anti-Smoking

continued from previous page

The program is funded by Proposition 9, the tobacco tax initiative. The campaign, spearheaded by Supervisor Burke, is designed to fill a gap in the national tobacco settlement which does not address youth access to cigarettes.

"While the national tobacco settlement is an important first step in compensating governments for the funds spent on treating victims of tobacco-related diseases, we cannot lose sight of the fact that our future depends on preventing another generation from becoming addicted to cigarettes," Burke said.

The annual California Youth Tobacco Purchase Survey has found that 13.1 percent of minors who tried to buy tobacco products last year succeeded.

The posters, available in both English and Spanish, are free to interested retailers. To obtain a poster, merchants should contact the Tobacco Control Program at (213) 351-7786.



## VINE

continued from previous page

The system will keep on calling every 30 minutes for 24 hours until the victim is reached. Victims will also be notified within 15 minutes of a sudden change in an inmate's status.

"This program will empower survivors to stand up for themselves because they will no longer be under the constant suspense of not knowing where their batterer is," Supervisor Knabe said.

The information is available in English and Spanish. Other languages can be programmed into the system.

To reach the VINE program, call (877) VINE-4-LA or (877) 846-3452. To reach the County's domestic violence hotline, call (800) 978-3600.



### Members of the Board

**Don Knabe**  
Chairman  
Fourth District

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Yvonne Brathwaite Burke**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

**Michael J. Henry**  
Director of Personnel

**Sandra A. Hoodye**  
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

**John S. Mina**  
Staff