

# County DIGEST



MARCH 2010

Women's History Month

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

*Editor's Note: March has been designated as Women's History Month and here in the County of Los Angeles, women continue to pave the way and excel in their chosen field of public service. In the next two issues of the County DIGEST, we will highlight ordinary women providing extraordinary leadership, inspiring others to follow their dreams and making way for future leaders to follow in their footsteps of success.*

## Gloria Molina: Chair of the Board of Supervisors

It was President John F. Kennedy's inaugural speech challenging Americans to ask themselves what they could do for their country that piqued young Gloria Molina's political interests. But it was the ensuing public school walkouts—comprised of Chicano students protesting the low quality of their education—combined with the 1970 Chicano Moratorium against the Vietnam War that motivated her to get directly involved.

Molina originally envisioned for herself a glamorous fashion design career. But those dreams were dashed after her father suffered an on-the-job injury, compelling Molina to work full-time as a legal secretary



to help support her nine younger siblings.

During this time, Molina became a devotee of both the Women's Rights and the Chicano Power Movements. A

self-described "loyal follower," Molina was happy to assume behind-the-scenes roles on the ground level for years. By the mid-1970s, while working with future Congressman Esteban Torres to prepare teens for the workforce, Molina concluded that voting Latinos into office was the best way to effect change. So she helped campaign to elect Art Torres and Richard Alatorre to the State Legislature.

But despite these victories, Latinas remained underrepresented. So Molina helped establish and became the first president of *Comisión Femenil Mexicana Nacional*—a Chicana women's rights group which helped stop the practice of non-consensual sterilizations of Spanish-speaking women at L.A. County General Hospital.

While working for then-Assemblyman Art Torres, the Carter White House tapped Molina to work as Deputy Director of the Office of Presidential Personnel and, later, as a liaison to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Afterward, Molina worked for State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

By 1982, Molina was ready to throw her hat in the political ring—and against the Chicano political establishment's chosen candidate. Eastside residents overwhelmingly supported her 1982 Assembly campaign, her 1987 L.A. City Council campaign, and her 1991 L.A. County Board of Supervisors campaign. Each time, she was the first woman and Latina to be elected to the position. And at every level, her political mission remained consistent: To improve the everyday quality of life for the people she represented. Molina's political philosophy was best expressed in a July 2001 feature on her in *Latino Leaders* magazine: "No one can tell us we can't do it anymore. No one can tell a woman she can't run for office. We have patted down the grass for a lot of people."

Molina is married to businessman Ron Martinez. They have one daughter, Valentina. Molina currently divides her time between her family, her position as County supervisor, and her love of quilting for which she has received recognition for original pieces she created.

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# EVENT CALENDAR

## Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes, please visit [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org) or call (626) 821-4623

## Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90036

(323) 857-6000

[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)

### Art

Through May 9 - Renoir, after Impressionism (1890-1919)

Through May 23 - American Stories: Paintings of Everyday Life

Through June 6 - Robin Rhode

### Music

Sundays Live – Every Sunday at 6 p.m.

For more information on LACMA's Music Programs, please call (323) 857-6115

## Music Center

135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

[www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)

## Walt Disney Concert Hall

[www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)

## Los Angeles Philharmonic

[www.laphil.com](http://www.laphil.com)

(323) 850-2000

### April

10 - TSFY: Americas and Americans: A Celebration of Dance

11 - Los Angeles Master Chorale: Soundscape: Monk and Pärt

13 - Green Umbrella: Andriessen's La Commedia

14 - Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra

16-18 - Trpèski Plays Rachmaninoff

17 - TSFY: Americas and Americans: A Celebration of Dance

18 - Organ Recital: Sophie-Veronique Cauchefèr-Choplin

19 - Pat Metheny: The Orchestrion Tour

20 - Emanuel Ax in Recital

22-23 - Americas and Americans: Dudamel Conducts Bernstein

24-25 - Americas and Americans: Golijov's St. Mark Passion

29-30 - Americas and Americans: Dudamel Conducts Estévez

### May

1-2 - Americas and Americans: Dudamel Conducts Estévez

4 - Americas and Americans: Green Umbrella

6-8 - Dudamel Conducts Tchaikovsky

## Center Theatre Group

[www.centertheatregroup.org](http://www.centertheatregroup.org)

## Ahmanson Theatre

April 27-May 16 - Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps

## Mark Taper Forum

Apr 14-May 30 - Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo

May 6-June 6 - The Lieutenant of Inishmore

## Kirk Douglas Theatre

Through April 18 - The Wake by Lisa Kron

May 6-June 6 - Tynan

## Los Angeles Opera

(performances in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion)

[www.losangelesopera.com](http://www.losangelesopera.com)

Through April 25 - Götterdämmerung (The Twilight of the Gods)

April 10-24 - Die Gezeichneten (The Stigmatized)

April 15-June 30 - Ring Festival LA

## Los Angeles Master Chorale

[www.lamc.org](http://www.lamc.org)

## Natural History Museum

900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007

For a list of events, please visit [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org)

or call (213) 763-DINO



## County DIGEST

Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST* may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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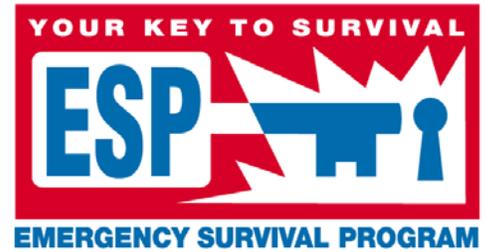
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Visit <http://dhr.lacounty.info>  
for information on employment  
opportunities with the  
County of Los Angeles

## Emergency Survival Guide Is Now Available to L.A. County Residents

In less than a year, Los Angeles County residents have faced earthquakes, floods, wild fires, debris and mud flows, mudslides, winter storms, pandemic flu, and the effects of a tsunami. In coordination with the Board of Supervisors, the Office of Emergency Management has prepared a comprehensive guide to emergency preparedness intended to help the residents of Los Angeles County better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.



The Emergency Survival Guide has 100 color pages of helpful tips and information for residents to prepare for fires, floods, earthquakes, pandemic flu, terrorism, extreme weather, and tsunamis. There is space to record household emergency plans including out-of-state contacts, family evacuation gathering points, and the location of utility shut-offs. The Emergency Survival Guide also includes checklists for gathering emergency supplies that will help individuals, families, pet owners, businesses and communities survive and recover after a major disaster. The Emergency Survival Guide is available online at <http://lacoa.org/PDF/EmergencySurvivalGuide-LowRes.pdf>. Additional information on preparing for disasters is also available online at [www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org).



Residents and business owners, including persons with access and functional needs may also call 211 LA County for emergency preparedness information and other referral services. The toll-free 2-1-1 number is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. 211 LA County services can also be accessed by visiting <http://211la.org>.



County of Los Angeles 2010  
March of Dimes Campaign  
**“County Night at Dodger Stadium”**  
**Dodgers vs. Pittsburgh**  
Friday, April 30, 2010 @ 7:10 p.m.  
Ticket Prices: \$15-\$40

Contact your Departmental  
Human Resources Manager to purchase tickets.

### Supervisor Antonovich To Host Spring “Trail Dusters” Trail Ride



Please join Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich at his Spring Trail Ride on **Sunday, May 16**. The staging area will be at the Hahamongna Watershed Park, 4024 Oak Grove Drive in Pasadena. Check-in and pancake breakfast is at 7:00 a.m., with the trail ride beginning at 9:00 a.m., and will continue through the scenic trails of the City of La Cañada-Flintridge. The day will conclude with a traditional barbecue and live country western music. The cost of the trail ride is \$30 per person, which includes breakfast, lunch and refreshments during the ride (horse rentals are not included). For horse rentals, please call (760) 245-7695. For more information, please call (909) 394-2264.

**Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and  
the County of Los Angeles Present:**  
**The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**“Remembering Our Veterans: Past, Present and Future”**  
Saturday, May 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Arcadia County Park  
405 S. Santa Anita Avenue  
Arcadia, CA 91006  
(909) 394-2264

# RETIREES

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 40 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Cheryl L. Birlew, Irene Garcia, Malinda B. West

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES:** Ernest Pappas, Marilyn B. Sklar

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Barbara K. Bacon

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Thomas L. Bolden, Edwina E. Bryant, Carolyn S. Clark, Lynn M. Heiter, Ruby Shaw

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Teri J. Brandt, Giap T. Nguyen

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Barrington Hunt, Lydia Martinez, Yvonne Rodriguez

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Henrietta Bullard, Kathleen Estes, Eileen M. Kelly, Judith A. Lanay, Marsha E. Ogletree, Sandra J. Pettway

**SHERIFF:** Dana B. Hall, John M. Vargas

**TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:** Shannon K. Brennan

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

**ASSESSOR:** Erlinda M. Chavez, James N. Fedrow, Mary L. Johnson, Sonia S. Laureano, Gordon A. Liu

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Godofredo R. Go, Sanford P. Johnson, Kristen R. Polley

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE:** Cynthia E. Garcia-Uyeno

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Barbara Bean, Irene Lopez, Patricia A. Roche, Karen Whitfield

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES:** Aquilina M. Calvero, Sandra M. Caudillo, Bonnie J. Gipson, Catherine Oliver, Marva Y. Oliver, Sandra Dominguez, Joe C. Quintero

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS:** Pastor Herrera, Jr.

**COUNTY COUNSEL:** Patricia Bruno, Peter Glick, James Kashian

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Jack S. Gonterman, Douglas G. Pattillo, Richard F. Sullivan

**FIRE:** James A. Agalzoff, John P. Bishop, Armando Carrillo, Steve F. Escoto, Jack A. Hayes, Michael D. Klose, Robert C. Lancaster, Robert M. Valdillez, Danal E. Walton

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Hugo A. Almeida, Darlene Anaya, Juan I. Baca, Bettie Bell, Sharon D. Bermudez, James Birkin, David L. Burger, Yolanda K. Canstra, John Charney, Emilia S. Ching, Anthony L. Collins, Diane M. Doggett, Nelly Duke, Rose M. Escobar, Anita Guerrero, Gail Guillory, Sharon Hillard, Phyllis A. Keener, Albert C. Lee, Doris L. Moore, Myrna Moore, Beverly E. Neff, Phyllis M. Paris, Cecilia Provencio, Dolores M. Rivera, Charles J. Sankey, Jr., Rudy A. Tarango, Jean. E. Taylor, Irma J. Torres, Bernice P. Williams-Rol

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Judy Keeler, Steven B. Hill

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Peggy J. Bowers, Edward Butler, Robert D. Knight

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Wanda C. Hammons, Vernon L. Smith

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY:** Nicolas R. Hinton, Ronald McMurray

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Cleophia Bell, Gregory P. Harrington, Alfred Nicholson

**PROBATION:** George E. Carr, Phillip J. Egans, Bennie Falls, Charles R. Rogers, Ricardo M. Torres

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Cristina Bautista, Nancie Bendana, Sonia Casado, Alfred T. Fong, Glen Fujimoto, Laila Gadallah, Sang H. Han, Beryl M. Inouye, Alicia Magbanua, Judith Mylan, Rosa Pinon, Miguelio S. Tandiana, Ermelinda Tumbaga, Deborah Williams,

**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Donna L. Serra

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Mary Alonzo, Angela S. Aragundi-Decker, Frankie R. Brown, Gratis Bryant, Karen Cohen, Bennie J. Franklin, Maxine Jefferson, Patricia Johnson, Hattie B. Smith-Harris, Shuwu H. Tong, Maria A. Velasquez, Edward White, Donna Zatkus

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Sharon Gonterman, Kathy T. Treggs, Jennice E. Williams

**SHERIFF:** Thomas P. Angel, Mary Y. Chu, Eugene Frazier, Jr., Marie L. Hannah, Daba B. Hall, Richard G. Hiles, Kenneth R. Kivler, Jr., David J. Long, Steven D. Maggiora, Criton R. McClendon, Yolanda L. Miranda, Salvador R. Munoz, John P. O'Brien, Edward J. Pacheco, Sherry R. Salcido, Thomas M. Shannon, Russell F. Sprague, Robert M. Stewart, John M. Vargas

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Flora Beaver, Mark A. Nisall, Soledad Portillo

**TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:** Barbara Davis

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Terrell D. Powell

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:** Barbara Harshaw

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES:** Maxine Joe

**FIRE:** Charles E. Childs, John E. Cunningham, James S. Gray, Bob G. Marcia, Robert Riell, Gary W. Tanaka, Louis W. Thomas, John C. Young

**HEALTH SERVICES:** Rosie Boulware, Wanda E. Clark, Emma K. Davis, Teresa D. De Ruyter, Luanna Grana, Robert R. Hernandez, Brenda J. Joiner, Kartidkey Mehta, Barry Peek, Eusebia E. Pentard, Letty Preciado, Fannie A. Preston, Martha Robinet, Yii-Teh Wang, Geraldine Woolfork, Erlinda Yanez

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Susan Bustamante, Carol J. Millare

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Robert C. Fish, Anna M. Pena

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** David O. Lofgren

**PROBATION:** Lynda J. Neal

**PUBLIC HEALTH:** Genelyn P. Andrada, Aida Camacho, Linda Cardenas-Ochoa, Sook Choo-Kim, Marsha Epstein, Rosie Martinez, Aurea T. Santana, Frances A. Watters

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Patsy A. Waggoner

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK:** Teresa V. Baker, Lilia A. Dela Rea

**SHERIFF:** Stephen F. Bouche, Miguel M. Castillo, Herman G. Cortez, Luciano A. Esquivias, Linda M. Hemingway, Leon L. Martin, Steven A. Mihovil, Donald P. Naslund

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Gwendolyn Johnson Bouffard, Michael J. Duffy, Douglas A. Waugh

**TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR:** Rosa L. Green

## Public Health Receives Commendations for H1N1 Response

The Department of Public Health was honored by the Board of Supervisors for “the incredible efforts” during the H1N1 mass vaccination clinics. Prior to the meeting, 41 leaders of the H1N1 effort received certificates on behalf of their programs. During the meeting, Supervisor Don Knabe praised County employees who contributed to making the overall effort “a huge success.”

Accepting the commendation on behalf of the department, Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director and Health Officer, thanked the Board for its strong support and said, “This was an unprecedented mobilization of Public Health that may have equaled or perhaps exceeded what went on during the 1950s in the polio epidemic. I’m very proud of everybody in the Department of Public Health.”



Accepting the Commendation from Supervisor Knabe (second from left) are Jonathan Freedman, Chief Deputy Director (left), Alonzo L. Plough, PhD, MPH, Director, Emergency Preparedness and Response Program (third from left), and Dr. Jonathan Fielding.

## Los Angeles County Census 2010 Web Site

The County of Los Angeles Census Web site is available to educate and motivate residents to take part in the 2010 Census by completing and returning their census questionnaire. By logging onto [www.census.lacounty.gov](http://www.census.lacounty.gov), residents can learn why it’s important to take part in the count. With the slogan “You Count!” and in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, the goal is to increase participation in the 2010 Census and achieve a complete and accurate count. It is estimated that more than 170,000 residents went uncounted in Los Angeles County in the 2000 Census, resulting in the loss of an estimated \$636 million in federal funding.

“The County’s funding for hospitals, clinics, schools, social services, transportation and more is reliant on the Census count which takes place every 10 years,” said Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair of the Board of Supervisors. “The Census survey is important, easy to fill out, and safe – and we want to make every effort to ensure all County residents are counted in 2010.”

Census forms were delivered to households in March, thereafter Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take a count in person. It is estimated the 10-question form should take about 10 minutes to complete. The County is collaborating with other government agencies,

*“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”*

community partners and grassroots neighborhood groups to reach the hard-to-count populations, like recent immigrants and the homeless.

The County has a Complete Count Committee, headed by the Chief Executive Office, comprised of representatives from numerous departments. All departments have submitted plans showing how they will promote the Census effort. The Census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the boundaries of legislative districts. Additionally, more than \$400 billion is distributed to local, state and federal agencies based on the Census count.

The U.S. Constitution requires a population and housing census every 10 years.



## Sylvia Drew Ivie: Chief of Staff to Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

As a member of the 60s generation, Sylvia Drew Ivie was interested from a very early age in issues of

social justice. Drew Ivie attended a Quaker-run high school and worked with the American Friends Service committee as a volunteer. She saw firsthand that communities working together could solve their problems. Many of her friends entered law school after college to join the struggle for legal equality in housing, education, employment and criminal justice. She worked with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare as a law student. A few years later, she went back to head the Office for Civil Rights. After law school, Drew Ivie became interested in health care access and the lack of health parity for minorities and the poor. In the mid '70s, she married an Angeleno and moved to the west coast. A year later with the LA City Attorney's Office, she joined a legal services back-up center specializing in health law for low income clients. At that time, law schools did not teach health law; therefore, the center provided support for neighborhood legal service attorneys needing to know more about Medicaid, Medicare, Hill Burton and other statutory health entitlements.

During this time, Drew Ivie met Mark Ridley-Thomas and was invited to join the board of his organization – the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the local affiliate of Dr. Martin Luther King's organization. There, she served with him for over 10 years. One of the members of the board was Irene Hirano, who later left to become CEO of the Japanese American National Museum. Hirano and the board invited Drew Ivie to take over T.H.E. Clinic, Inc., a primary health care clinic in the Crenshaw District serving African Americans, Latinos, Asians and Pacific Islanders and their families.

In 2004, King/Drew Medical Center was in dire straits and The California Endowment asked Drew Ivie to direct a study of what could be done to improve the situation. She stayed on with the foundation after the hospital was closed so she could focus on disparities in health, particularly in the area of nutrition in minority communities. When Supervisor Ridley-Thomas was elected to the Board of Supervisors in



*“To achieve your goals I offer three suggestions garnered from important women in my life: attend to your educational foundation with great seriousness of purpose (Eleanor Roosevelt); put yourself in the way of people and activities you are drawn toward (my mother); and make a plan, work the plan (Medical Director of T.H.E. Clinic).”*

November 2008, he asked Drew Ivie to join his team. “Everything I’ve done in my career is an extension of my initial desire to pursue greater social justice. I am very grateful for each of the opportunities I have been afforded to work toward that end,” she said.

## Alisa Belinkoff Katz: Chief Deputy to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky



Alisa Belinkoff Katz’s public service career began upon completion of her Coro Foundation Fellowship. The executive director of the foundation knew that then-Los Angeles City Councilmember Zev Yaroslavsky was in need of staff members. He thought Alisa would be a good fit on the Councilmember’s staff. A good fit indeed, as they have been together ever since, a career spanning more than 32 years of public service: first at the City of Los Angeles and now here at the County of Los Angeles for the last fifteen years.

It was the fellowship at the Coro Foundation that began Katz’s interest in a career in public service, and she recommends the fellowship to anyone who has an interest in public affairs. The fellowship broadens a person’s horizons, and teaches the fellows how various organizations

*“For women to achieve their goals I say go for it. I have never felt that being a woman has held me back. Speak up and go for it.”*

## Kathryn Barger Leibrich: Chief Deputy to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

Kathryn Barger Leibrich is Chief Deputy to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and has worked for the Supervisor for 21 years.

During her summer break in college, she applied and was hired as a Student Worker in Supervisor Antonovich's Pasadena field office. She was trained to work as a Case Manager, handling constituent calls. She realized that by the time individuals reached their office, they had exhausted all avenues for assistance, but most importantly, she realized how fulfilling it was to help someone in need. Little did she know that years later, her summer internship would open the door for her to work as a Deputy and land her a permanent job with an elected official.

Prior to being appointed Chief Deputy, Barger Leibrich worked as the Fifth District Policy Deputy in charge of Mental Health, Public Social Services, Children and Families, Health Services and the Los Angeles Homeless Authority. Projects implemented during her tenure include: Mental Evaluation Team (targeting homeless mentally ill), streamlining the Social Security application process for incarcerated mentally ill, expansion of public/private partnerships with community healthcare clinics, school-based mental health services (partnering with school districts) and the Proposition 36 program.

Her passion for public service was ingrained in her at an early age.



*“Follow your dreams and recognize that hard work will pay off. Supervisor Antonovich has provided opportunities to so many in our office. Set a goal, chart your path and move forward...always keeping your focus.”*

Barger Leibrich's father left his private law practice to accept a position as Insurance Commissioner under Governor Ronald Reagan. She realized then that public service was something she would like to pursue, and she did.

Barger Leibrich is on the Board of Union Station Homeless Services in Pasadena, California. She is married to Eric Leibrich, a retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy. A graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, she received her Bachelor's in Communications/Governmental Studies in 1983.

accomplish their public affairs goals and objectives. The internships she participated in provided her experience with a labor organization, a congressional candidate, a local business, a non-profit group, KCBS and the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Through this process she received an excellent introduction to the public arena.

Katz is a second generation County employee; her mother was a Children's Social Worker. So it is no surprise that her passion for public service began early and was further developed while studying for her Bachelor's degree in History from Brandeis University. She studied Colonial American History, but not just dates and presidents; she studied the social history of the time. Social History, the study of the ordinary lives of ordinary people, gave her a strong feel for the mechanisms that keep a society running – which translates perfectly into her current duties as Chief Deputy to one of five elected officials governing the largest county in the United States. As the Chief Deputy to Supervisor Yaroslavsky, she administers an annual budget of \$3.4 million and a staff of 24 employees servicing almost two million constituents in the Third Supervisorial District. Her job includes coordinating policy development for the Supervisor with respect to the delivery of all County services including health, welfare, child welfare, the administration of justice, park and open space preservation, mass transportation, cultural facility development and many others. Katz likes what she does and believes that while working for the County, we have a huge impact on people's lives. “So much of the work we do here concerns basic human needs. We are helping make society tick.”

## Andrea Sheridan Ordin County Counsel

Andrea Sheridan Ordin who has served as a pioneering federal, state and local prosecutor, and as a partner in a national law firm, is now the County Counsel for the County of Los Angeles—the first woman to hold the position. In her capacity, she oversees a staff of more than 250 lawyers who provide a diverse range of legal services to the Board of Supervisors and County departments.



Back in the mid-1970s, then-District Attorney John Van de Kamp named Ordin as the first female Assistant District Attorney, the office's third highest job. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter named Ordin as U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, based in Los Angeles, where she also was the first woman to hold that post and only the third woman in history. She served for four years, supervising all of the office's criminal and civil litigation.

Ordin then returned to state government, this time as Chief Assistant Attorney General, where she oversaw litigation regarding civil rights, antitrust, consumer and environmental litigation. She served in that office until 1990.

"I have enjoyed practicing law in all my roles, but representing the public entities brings with it special responsibilities and unique opportunities, including the opportunity to help shape public policy," Ordin says. "I have been extremely fortunate in my career, meeting many talented men and women in all my public offices who were passionate about their service. I was often in the right place at the right time, but I also learned how important it was to be prepared for the opportunities that were offered, learning as much as possible from each job, and each assignment."

Ordin has been deeply involved in oversight of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). In the wake of the 1992 Los Angeles riots, she was named to the Christopher Commission, which investigated the factors that led to the beating of Rodney King and subsequent uprising.

In the book "Official Negligence," author Lou Cannon credited Ordin with the decision to include blatantly bigoted and sexist police e-mail messages in the Christopher Commission's report to help better capture the department's internal culture and keep "the report from being an overly dry statistical analysis." In 2005, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa appointed Ordin to the Police Commission, the five-member civilian board that oversees LAPD policy and practices, where she served until February 2010.



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*"Women, particularly women who choose to raise children, still face unique challenges in achieving all their goals. We often hear that women "can have it all but not all at the same time." I think that's good advice. As women we may have personal goals, family goals, and career goals, which at times may conflict. It is good to periodically examine what is most important, adjust goals accordingly, and then pursue those goals with intensity. Sometimes our personal goals do come first. After all, it is pretty rare that men or women say at the end of their lives "Gee, I wish I had spent more time at the office."*

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## Wendy L. Watanabe Auditor-Controller

After nine years with the private sector, which included finance, accounting, and information technology experience, Wendy L. Watanabe joined

the Department of Auditor-Controller. Watanabe was going to give it a try to see how government works, figuring that she could always go back to the private sector if it didn't work out. "Twenty one years and three other County departments (Beaches and Harbors, Chief Administrative Office and Sheriff) later, I am still here and having the best time of my working career," she said.

In retrospect, one of the key decisions or experiences that shaped Watanabe's County career has to be when she accepted a job offer from the Chief Administrative Office (CAO, now CEO). She was at Beaches and Harbors, seven miles from home and content. Watanabe knew though, that if she needed to learn about the Countywide budget and gain a broader perspective of County government, she would need to make that jump. Although it was a difficult transition at the time, she looks back on it as the best career decision she ever made. The CAO experience opened many new doors for Watanabe. The Sheriff's Department provided her with excellent training and many learning opportunities, as well.



*"Always be positive, organized, sincere and responsive."*

Watanabe views every experience, skill and knowledge that she gained from every position she has held to be the foundation of her career, which she continues to build on. After 14 years with three departments, returning to the Auditor-Controller was a major milestone in her career. It is as though everything she has learned and gained over the years was specifically intended to prepare her for the many new challenges and tough assignments that the Department of Auditor-Controller faces every day. She is fortunate to not only have had many mentors in her career who guided her with their endless wisdom, but she is now also surrounded by many talented colleagues who hold the highest integrity and work ethic. This is "home," she said.

## Sachi Hamai: Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors



*"Hard work, preparation, commitment and perseverance will provide the foundation for you to find opportunities that will meet your career goals. Also find a mentor and model your behaviors around their ethics and success."*

Women's history month is a great opportunity to look back on the giant strides our society has made toward accepting and embracing the role of women in public and business life. Just 90 years ago, the [Nineteenth Amendment](#) which prohibited state and federal agencies from gender-based restrictions on voting was enacted. Sachi Hamai began her career in the County fresh out of college in an entry-level auditor job. Her management philosophy is to instill a disciplined work ethic in the organization, emphasize the need for staff to focus on the mission of public service, and recognize and reward jobs well done.

"I'm lucky to have grown up in a family that recognized that a woman's place was wherever she wanted to be," Hamai says. "My parents raised my sisters and me to believe that through hard work and integrity, anything was possible. Many of my aunts, female relatives and family friends were hardworking entrepreneurs and professionals."

"I really appreciate that the County has been an employer who has helped me grow, given me tremendous opportunities and challenges, and a chance to make a difference in the workplace. I am cognizant that the opportunities I have had in the County are because of the trailblazing women who came before me and rose through the ranks to management positions. I also realize I owe a lot of my success to my male mentors who were committed to gender equality in the workplace."

# ENRICHING LIVES...

Board of Supervisors and the Commission for Women  
Present the...

## 2009 Educational Scholarship Awardees

### FIRST DISTRICT

*Nayelli Felix*

*(NURSING)*

*Diana Velazquez*

*(NURSING)*

*Erica V. McBride*

*(NURSING)*

*Angelica Bautista\**

*Melissa Nahimana\**

*Rionnisha Bryant\**

The Board of Supervisors and the Commission for Women congratulate the 2009 Educational Scholarship awardees and wish them all the best in their education endeavors and future careers.



### SECOND DISTRICT

*Blanca Escudra*

*Rosalinda Avalos*

*Jessica Estrada*

*Jennifer Madrigal\**

*Susan Melgarejo\**

*Esmeralda Benavides\**

### THIRD DISTRICT

*Angelica Loera*

*Vanessa Victorian*

*Jaynee Mendez*

*Jeena Mendez*

*Jelica Mendez*

*Jasmine Torres*

*Araciel Juarez\**

*(NURSING)*





**FOURTH DISTRICT**  
*Marian Dennis*  
*Kimberly J. Franklin\**  
*(NURSING)*  
*Tarae Graves\**  
*Crystal Horn-Johnson\**  
*Rosanne Rogel\**  
*Marissa Pitts\**  
*Iana Regina Maria Miranda\**



**FIFTH DISTRICT**  
*Miko Brooks*  
*Xiomara Peña*  
*Mattie Johnson*  
*Yosseli Rojas\**  
*Denyel Herrington\**

\*Not pictured

# County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan



Enriching Lives  
 locounty.gov

**County Mission**

- To enrich lives through effective and caring service

**County Values**

Our **philosophy** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our shared values:

- **Accountability** – We accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Can-Do Attitude** – We approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Compassion** – We treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Customer Orientation** – We place the highest priority on meeting our customers' needs with accessible, responsive quality services, and treating them with respect and dignity.
- **Integrity** – We act consistent with our values and the highest ethical standards.
- **Leadership** – We engage, motivate and inspire others to collaboratively achieve common goals through example, vision and commitment.
- **Professionalism** – We perform to a high standard of excellence. We take pride in our employees and invest in their job satisfaction and development.
- **Respect for Diversity** – We value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** – We take the action needed in a timely manner.

**Strategic Plan Goals**

1. **Operational Effectiveness:** Maximize the effectiveness of the County's processes, structure, and operations to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services.
2. **Children, Family and Adult Well-Being:** Enrich lives through integrated, cost-effective and client-centered supportive services.
3. **Community and Municipal Services:** Enrich the lives of Los Angeles County's residents and visitors by providing access to cultural, recreational and lifelong learning facilities programs; ensure quality regional open space, recreational and public works infrastructure services for County residents; and deliver customer oriented municipal services to the County's diverse unincorporated communities.
4. **Health and Mental Health:** Improve health and mental health outcomes and efficient use of scarce resources, by promoting proven service models and prevention principles that are population-based, client-centered and family-focused.
5. **Public Safety:** Ensure that the committed efforts of the public safety partners continue to maintain and improve the safety and security of the people of Los Angeles County.

Gloria Molina      Mark Ridley-Thomas      Zev Yaroslavsky      Don Knabe      Michael D. Antonovich  
 Supervisor, First District      Supervisor, Second District      Supervisor, Third District      Supervisor, Fourth District      Supervisor, Fifth District

## Mixed Outlook for L.A. County Women's Health

Women in all parts of Los Angeles County are getting more obese and their diabetes rates are rising, according to a new report that examines female health patterns and behaviors across the County. Significant numbers of women are failing to get enough exercise—especially those over 40.

Despite those troubling trends, however, the overall mortality rate for women has improved, according to the study, “Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County,” the second of its kind prepared by the Department of Public Health. To access the full report, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/owh/docs/Health-Indicators-2010.pdf>. True to its subtitle, “Highlighting Disparities by Ethnicity and Poverty Level,” the report also calls attention to a series of thought-provoking findings about the state of women’s health in the County.

The most disturbing is the finding that black women are dying far more frequently from many common chronic diseases. White women have a higher incidence of breast cancer, but blacks are more likely to die from it. Black women also smoke more and face higher rates of communicable diseases and exposure to violence. Yet, they report better access to health care, and rate their own health higher than do other groups. Researchers say that poses a quandary that will require more study of the potential health impact of social factors like discrimination and stress.

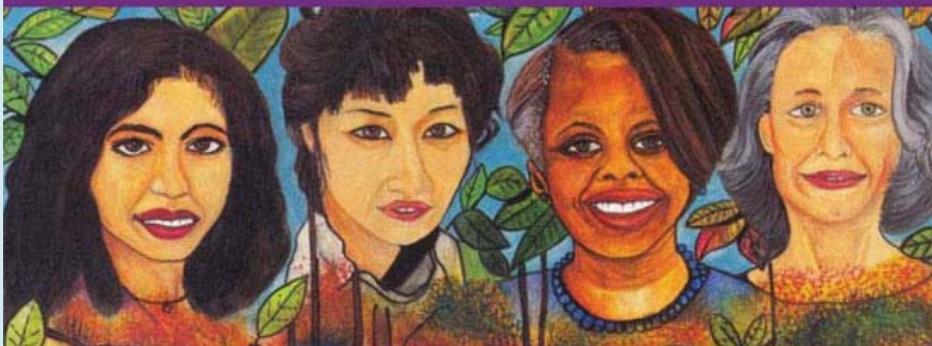
Despite rates of health insurance above the overall rate among women in the County, Asian/Pacific Islander women report low rates of receiving preventive services and having a regular source of care. Although this has not translated to poorer health outcomes, it points to the unique cultural and linguistic barriers that Asian/Pacific Islander women face in accessing health care and serves as a sign of potential worsening disparities in the coming years.

Latinas report the poorest self-rated health status among all ethnic groups. In addition, compared to all other groups, they report poorer access to care with over a third lacking health insurance and forty percent reported difficulty accessing

### Health Indicators for Women in Los Angeles County

Highlighting Disparities by Ethnicity and Poverty Level

A Publication of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Office of Women's Health and Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology



medical care. Factors contributing to this disparity include a high level of poverty and low level of education.

Overall, the leading cause of death among all women remains coronary disease, followed by stroke. “It still startled me to see such high mortality rates for black women,” said Dr. Rita Singhal, Medical Director of the County’s Office of Women’s Health, who spearheaded the study as well as the previous report in 2007. “What are those hidden factors that are contributing to this disparity?”

Singhal also noted that the current report draws from a number of sources, including data collected as part of the County health survey, which was conducted in 2007—“right before the economic downturn.” At the time covered in the report, 21% of women did not have health insurance—a number that is likely to have grown. The correlation with preventive health care was clear: these women were less likely to have had a recent mammogram or Pap test than those with insurance.

Singhal also pointed out that some of the positive findings in the report, including good access to prenatal care and contraceptives, may be eroded because of cuts to government funded health programs. The next survey will draw on data taken this year, and is expected to be published in two to three years.

## Board Approves Funding For \$7.5 Million Library in East Rancho Dominguez

At their March 9 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved funding for a \$7.5 million, 7,000-square-foot library in East Rancho Dominguez that Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and community residents said will meet a growing need in the community and serve as a hub for County services.

Several speakers testified in support of the project. Community leaders indicated that more than 100,000 people now live in the area, but the nearest library of comparable size is in downtown Compton, and called the library “an investment” in young people in the community.



The new library is 40 percent larger than the existing space and will improve accessibility for the disabled. Sheriff’s Department Commander Todd Rogers told the Board that the library builds on the department’s philosophy of prevention over suppression, calling the project “a pathway from crime.”

The Board’s action also authorized the County’s Director of Public Works to execute an agreement with Carde Ten Architects to provide architectural/engineering design, consultant, and construction administration services for the project – for a fee not to exceed \$468,800.

“The new library will also be a significant investment in

East Rancho Dominguez, through its construction, creating almost 200 jobs,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said. “It will bring together families, increase property values and improve the social dynamics of the neighborhood.”

Sinetta Farley, president of the East Rancho Dominguez Block-Watch Organization, joined many residents of the community in attending the Board meeting to express their support for the project.

The new library will provide more public access computers, a dedicated meeting room, group study space, and other amenities. The building will also incorporate sustainable design features that optimize energy and water use efficiency.

## Supervisor Antonovich Joins the Governor and Tours Mudslide Damaged Homes of Paradise Valley

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich points out damaged homes to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as he toured the Paradise Valley neighborhood in La Cañada-Flintridge after the storm. The Supervisor was also joined by La Cañada Mayor Laura Olhasso, Rep. David Dreier (R-San Dimas) and State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino (D-La Cañada-Flintridge).

Supervisor Antonovich met with residents whose homes were impacted and praised first responders and the County Departments of Public Works, Fire and the Sheriff’s for their efforts to preserve life and property. He also reiterated his criticism of the U.S. Forest Service for its failure to extinguish the Station Fire in its initial stages by refusing to

utilize water dropping aircraft before the fire became one of the largest in County history. The Station Fire left thousands of acres of hillside bare and created the hazardous situation of mudslides and debris flows. Supervisor Antonovich also encouraged residents to continue taking precautions to avoid future damage as more rains are expected. For more information of preparedness, visit the County’s CARE Web site at [www.dpwcare.org](http://www.dpwcare.org).



## Supervisor Antonovich Presides Over Dedication of Newly Renovated La Crescenta Library

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich presided over the official dedication ceremony of the new La Crescenta Library. At a cost of nearly \$15 million allocated by Supervisor Antonovich's office, the County library is a 15,000 square-foot, two-story state-of-the-art facility that features separate adult and children's sections with an expanded collection of books and materials, a community meeting room, group study rooms, 20 additional public Internet computers and free WiFi access for laptop users.



Incorporating the late 19th century arts and crafts style of architecture, the library features murals by painter Evan LeGrande Wilson of Crescenta Valley and windows by the Glendale-based stained glass firm R.D. Gibbs & Company.

The La Crescenta Library is part of the County of Los Angeles Public Library. For more information, please call (818) 248-5313 or visit the County Library Web site at [www.colapublib.org](http://www.colapublib.org).

## New Kiosk Systems Make Their Debut at the Department of Human Resources

Recently, the Department of Human Resources (DHR) launched a kiosk system to allow the public to file employment applications electronically. These *Free Standing Kiosks* are equipped with printers to allow printing of job bulletins and scanners to scan documents as attachments to job applications.

Two *Free Standing Kiosks* are located at the following locations:

- Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
  - 500 West Temple Street  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Reception  
Los Angeles, 90012
- Wilshire EISO Office
  - 3333 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 100  
Los Angeles, 90010

Additionally, wall-mounted kiosks are available for the public to view and print job bulletins at both locations.



## Brence Culp: Acting Chief Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Brence Culp is a wife, a mother, and the owner of six chickens, four dogs and two cats. She loves making pottery, gardens vigorously, writes, paints and serves up some mean Saturday morning flapjacks. At the same time, she is an attorney and a savvy public administrator.

Daughter of a Certified Public Accountant and United States Army JAG Captain, Brence Culp, the Acting Chief Deputy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), hails from Columbus, Ohio. Culp's family later settled in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She is an alumna of the University of Chicago, and later graduated from New York University's School of Law. She and her husband, followed by other family members, migrated to Southern California, where she has lived since 1996.



*“Once you know what your goals are – professionally and personally – just focus.”*

As Acting Chief Deputy, CEO, Culp is responsible for assisting the CEO, William T Fujioka, in overseeing a complex organization of approximately 93,059 employees and an annual budget of approximately \$23.6 billion for the most populous County in the United States.

Culp possesses a wealth of experience from the various leadership positions that she has held in both Los Angeles City and County governments for the last 11 years. Before that, she practiced law, taught in public and private schools, ran two small businesses, and founded two education based non-profits. Prior to arriving in the Chief Executive Office, Culp held the position of Chief Financial Officer for the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles.

## Creating Jobs and Business Opportunities in the Santa Clarita Valley

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich met with Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce President/CEO, Larry Mankin; John Shaffery, Chairman of the Board; William “Bill” Kennedy, Immediate Past President and Don Fleming, President of the Santa Clarita Valley Auto Dealers Association to discuss creating jobs and business opportunities in the Santa Clarita Valley.



Supervisor Antonovich allocated \$200 thousand towards the Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corporation, which will be utilized:

- For the “Think SCV” project – which encourages Santa Clarita Valley residents to spend and shop locally
- To provide job training programs
- For marketing of the Santa Clarita Enterprise Zone
- For relocation outreach and assistance for industrial and commercial businesses

“Public-private partnerships such as this will help stimulate enterprise and competition and create new jobs,” said Supervisor Antonovich. “My office will continue to cut the red-tape for businesses to open and grow, accelerate the permitting process through one-stop resource centers and expand small business opportunities through procurement.”

## New Transit Access Passes Available for L.A. County Transit Riders

Effective February 25, the Treasurer and Tax Collector's Cashiering Section commenced selling Transit Access Passes (TAP) for March 2010 Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and Foothill Transit services. TAP is Los Angeles County's new fare collection system that replaces paper passes and frees you up from hauling around exact change. Think of your TAP card as a "transit fare wallet." You must load a pass and/or cash value onto the card in order to board using a TAP card.



The TAP card works on Culver CityBus, Santa Clarita Transit, Norwalk Transit, Foothill Transit, on all Metro bus and rail lines, and on a variety of municipal lines. Over the next two years, most municipal lines will accept TAP as well. TAP can store different types of passes, zone

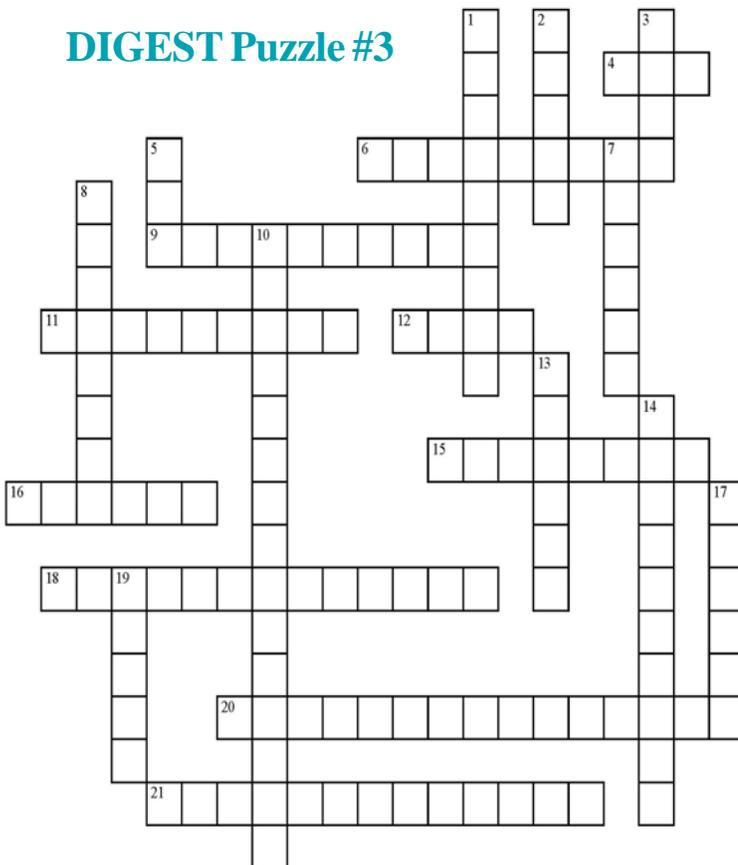
stamps and an account balance to make travel easy for all riders throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

There is a one-time \$2 charge for each TAP card purchased. At this time, the Treasurer and Tax Collector's Cashiering Section will only accept cash payments for the purchase and or loading of MTA and Foothill Transit TAP passes.

Take the leap and join us in the future of improved public transportation and purchase a TAP card. The Cashiering Section is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is located in the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Building, Room 114.

For more information regarding TAP, please visit [www.taptogo.net](http://www.taptogo.net) or call 866-827-8646.

### DIGEST Puzzle #3



#### ACROSS

- 4 - County internship program for qualified military veterans (abbr.)
- 6 - Formerly known as INFO Line of Los Angeles, it has been providing access to information about more than 28,000 health and human service programs since 1981
- 9 - The population of the smallest city in the County of Los Angeles
- 11 - The cost for an Authorized Certified Copy of a birth record
- 12 - Number of years in a Supervisor's term before re-election
- 15 - 2010 Census slogan
- 16 - The smallest populated city in the County of Los Angeles
- 18 - This Web site provides a free, easy and anonymous way to find out if your family can get help from many different health and human services programs ([www.\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_.com](http://www._____.com))
- 20 - Managing Editor of the *County DIGEST* in 1994\*
- 21 - Program allowing the surrender of infants within 3 days of birth

#### DOWN

- 1 - The show *Fantasy Island* was filmed at this County garden
- 2 - Number of times a Supervisor can be re-elected
- 3 - Number of values included in the updated County Strategic Plan
- 5 - U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every X years
- 7 - Public Marriage License Fee (write out \$ amount)
- 8 - County department responsible for establishing a taxable value for all property subject to property taxation
- 10 - Editor-in-Chief of the *County DIGEST* in 1987\*
- 13 - Provides retirement, disability and death benefits to eligible employees and beneficiaries (abbr.)
- 14 - Supervisor with the largest supervisorial district in square miles
- 17 - The number of paid County holidays
- 19 - Part of the County Seal that was removed

\*Answers can be obtained from the *DIGEST* archive Web site

E-mail your answers to [CountyDIGEST@hr.lacounty.gov](mailto:CountyDIGEST@hr.lacounty.gov) for a drawing to have your name and photo be printed in the *County DIGEST*.

# All About US



Employees of the County of Los Angeles

## LA COUNTY STARS!

## January-March Recipients

### January 2010



Workforce Excellence:  
**Health Services'**  
DHS Nursing Competency  
Assessment Committee



#### Team Members:

<i>Vivian Branchick</i>	<i>Lori Saillant</i>
<i>Paula Siler</i>	<i>Mary Miodovski</i>
<i>Robin Watson</i>	<i>Matthew Martin</i>
<i>Beth Rohrbach</i>	<i>Grace Ibanez</i>
<i>Pamela Schunck</i>	<i>Debi Popkins</i>
<i>Cheryl Brink</i>	<i>Deborah Jackson</i>
<i>Tammy Blass</i>	<i>Sharon Robinson</i>
<i>Kimberly Magsayo</i>	<i>Catherine O'Brien</i>
<i>Ruth McFee</i>	<i>Joi Williams</i>



**LA COUNTY STARS!** serves to recognize employee performance reflective of the County's mission statement and values. Under **LA COUNTY STARS!**, Board staff, management and non-management employees, individuals, and teams may be recognized. Board Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Chief Executive Officers, Department Heads, and Chief Deputies are not eligible to be nominated.

For more information, please contact the Department of Human Resources at (213) 738-2175 or go to the Web site at <http://stars.lacounty.gov/>.



February 2010

Service Excellence  
and  
Organizational Effectiveness:  
**Mental Health's**  
Veronica Jones



March 2010

Service Excellence  
and  
Organizational Effectiveness:  
**Public Health's**  
Dr. Elizabeth Bancroft



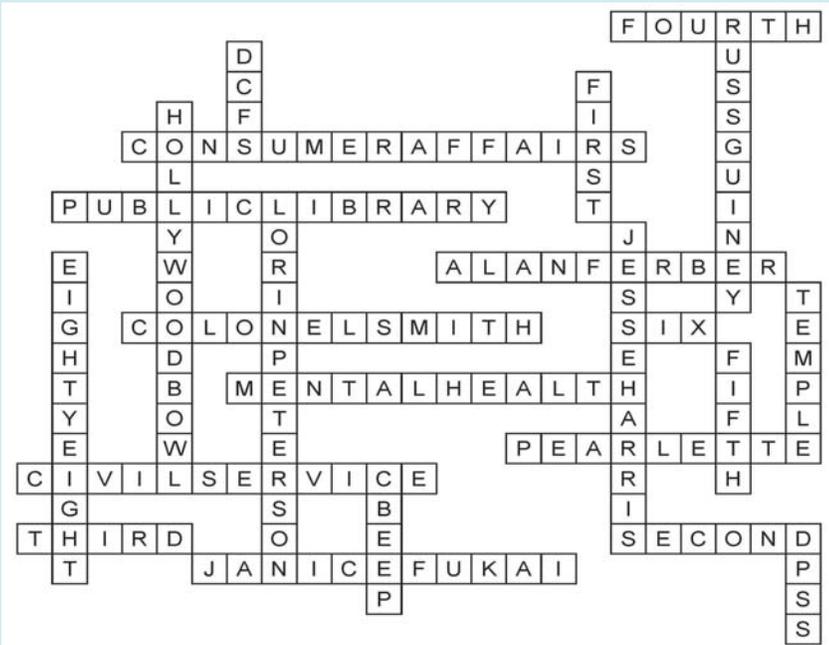
**Fiscal Sustainability:  
Public Works'  
Maintenance District 5 Chip Seal Team**



*Team Members:*

- |                     |                    |                       |                       |                         |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Steve Fromberg      | Kirk P. Mc Gaughey | Arthur Lopez          | Joseph A. Torres      | William Myers           |
| Marc A. Lopez       | Kevin M. Gross     | Samson Tep            | Craig C. Carpenter    | Donna L. Kennison       |
| Roger P. Villasenor | Kevin P. Riley     | Danny W. Hagle        | Whitney W. Cox        | Saul M. Luna            |
| Israel R. Arredondo | Jesse C. Williams  | John J. Huston        | Thomas J. Mariani Jr. | Andrew Harfman          |
| Dusty D. Cariker    | Melchor R. Romero  | Juvenal J. Arroyo     | Dale Brown, Jr.       | Carl W. Robison         |
| Edwardo Vasquez     | Jose Loza          | Oscar M. St Julian II | Thomas J. Ashton      | Jeff Harkins            |
| Jose S. Cenicerros  | Joel Bueno         | Joseph R. Hayworth    | Timothy Brophy        | Sherry Tripoli          |
| Larry A. Dunlop     | Donald McCord      | Brett E. Logan        | Jimmy L. Dollison     | Garo S. Avoyan          |
| Jesus Martinez Jr.  | Shawn M. Levy      | Matt E. Thomas        | John D. Martin        | Octavio G. Buenaventura |
| Edward G. Mckee     | Jerry W. Bailey    | Richard F. Cumplido   | Alicia J. Caracci     | Zhenya Markosyan        |

**Answers to DIGEST Puzzle #2**



The winner of the drawing for the DIGEST puzzle #2 is:  
**Domarina Shamouni**



**Department of  
Auditor-Controller**

# Share It

## Income Tax Refund Advance Loans

*You still can't avoid death and taxes, but you should avoid tax advance loans that come loaded with high interest charges and expensive fees.*

Charlie knows there are two things no one can avoid: death and taxes. This year, however, he knows he is in good health and getting a nice income tax refund. Money is tight and Charlie wants to get his refund as soon as possible. Charlie keeps hearing about companies that offer instant income tax refunds. The ads are everywhere – radio, TV and billboards. The offers are very tempting and an instant tax refund sounds like a great deal.

**Stop, Charlie!** Instant tax refunds are not a great deal. They are expensive loans, known as a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL) that comes loaded with high interest charges and expensive fees. An RAL is a sure way for Charlie to lose a good chunk of his hard-earned refund and he would not be alone. In just one year, America's most vulnerable taxpayers – those with low and moderate incomes – lost about \$800 million from their tax refunds to RALs. These are short-term, expensive loans secured by the taxpayer's expected refund. They usually last 7-14 days until the actual IRS refund repays the loan. That's right, if Charlie waits just one to two weeks, he could get a full refund from the IRS without paying for a costly loan.

"The current economic crisis has left many families barely getting by. Quick money offers are very tempting, but consumers should make every dollar count. Waiting a week or two for their full income tax refunds is a good way to put more money in their pockets," said Rigo Reyes, Acting Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

### How much does it cost to get an RAL?

The price of an RAL usually includes several fees and charges, such as:

- A loan fee ranging from \$34 to \$130, which is usually broken down into a *refund account fee* and a *bank fee*.
- Some tax preparers charge other fees, sometimes called *application, administrative, e-filing, service bureau, transmission, or processing* fees. Add-on fees can range from \$25 to several hundred dollars.
- Some tax preparers also offer *instant* same day RALs for an additional fee generally ranging from \$25 to \$39.

### So what options does Charlie have if he needs his refund now, but does not want to pay the high costs for an RAL?

- Sign up to get his tax refund by direct deposit. It will get to his bank account faster than a refund check by regular mail.
- Use a credit card or savings account to pay for urgent expenses, and then pay the credit card bill or replenish his savings when he gets his tax refund.
- Ask a family member or a friend to loan him money for one or two weeks until he gets his tax refund.
- If he must get an RAL, understand how much the loan is going to cost him, especially add-on fees that can double or triple the costs.

### Where can Charlie file a complaint if he needs help with an RAL?

The Department of Consumer Affairs takes this type of complaint. Charlie can call them at **(800) 593-0822**. He can also visit the Web site at <http://dca.lacounty.gov> for a [Complaint Form](#) and information about [office locations and hours](#) if he wants to come in person. Sorry Charlie, the Department lacks jurisdiction over complaints against death or the IRS.



#### Members of the Board

**Gloria Molina**  
Chair  
First District

**Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Fifth District

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**Lisa M. Garrett**  
Director of Personnel

**John S. Mina**  
Managing Editor

**Martina Abgaryan**  
Editor-in-Chief