

PHONG LA

ALAMEDA COUNTY ASSESSOR



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

Message from Assessor La

Dear County Residents:

As our community faces unprecedented times with Governor Gavin Newsom issuing Executive Order N-33-20, I'd like to extend my assurance that the Assessor's Office is following the recommendations and preventive measures of the California Department of Public Health and the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) to slow the spread of the virus from person-to-person.

Beginning March 17th, the ACPHD, along with five other county Public Health Offices, announced a legal order directing County residents to shelter at home for three weeks. This order limits activity, travel, and business functions to only the most essential needs. For the full order, please visit the Alameda County Public Health website at <https://www.acphd.org/>.

The Assessor's Office takes the health and well-being of our community seriously. In accordance with the order from the ACPHD regarding COVID-19, our public counter will be closed as of March 19th, as our locations cannot accommodate the social distancing guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns relating to property assessments or business personal property, rest assured that our phone lines will remain open during normal business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. We can also be reached by email at AssessorWebResponse@acgov.org.

For the latest information please visit the following websites:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

California Department of Public Health

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>

Alameda County Public Health Department

<https://www.acphd.org/>

I will keep you updated as we gain more information. In addition, our Office has recently received multiple requests to delay property tax payments. **Unfortunately, the Assessor's Office does not have the jurisdiction to delay or adjust property tax payments.** It is the Treasurer-Tax Collector's function to collect property taxes. However, per state law, it is the legislature that has the authority to delay or adjust property tax payments.

Now more than ever we are all leaning on each other. I invite you to continue reading this newsletter, which highlights our past community education and the generous spirit of our own Assessor's staff.

As always, we remain committed to serving the residents of Alameda County.

Sincerely,



Phong La

Assessor's Program of the Month



HOME TRANSFERS BETWEEN PARENT & CHILD/ GRANDPARENT & GRANDCHILD MAY BE EXEMPT

These two transfers of homeownership (also known as Propositions 58 & 193) provide tax relief for property transfers between parents and children, and in some cases, from grandparents to grandchildren. Collectively, they make it easier to keep property in the family. In general, Proposition 58 states that property transfers, from parent to child or child to parent, may be exempt from reassessment. Proposition 193 expands this tax relief to include transfers from grandparents to grandchildren (direct descendant must be deceased in order to qualify for this exclusion).

In both cases, a claim must be filed within three years of the date of transfer to receive the full benefit of the exclusion. In addition to tax relief on the main home, you may claim an exemption on transfers of other property with an assessed value of up to \$1 million. The \$1 million exemption applies separately to each eligible person.

Assessor's Office in the Community

2020 Homeowner's Expo on February 29th, 2020

at EnCompass Elementary in East Oakland.



Assessor La presenting on the programs and services available at the Alameda County Assessor's Office.



The incredible turnout of over 200 attendees at the 2020 Homeowner's Expo!



Assessor's Office Communications Coordinator Mark Williams and Assessor's Representative Theodore Polyzos registering guests and answering any questions before the Expo started.



Assessor's Office Communications Coordinator with Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, District 4. Supervisor Miley delivered remarks during the 2020 Homeowner's Expo.



Alameda County Assessor Phong La and Treasurer-Tax Collector Henry C. Levy speaking with Aeyoung Kim, Staff Attorney from the Housing and Economics Rights Advocates [HERA].

Feature Story

Pam Boyle: A Profile of Compassion



Pam Boyle-Auditor Appraiser III (pictured right) with internment survivors.

One Montana winter morning, when Pam Boyle, was a child, a man with his dog knocked on their back door. This man didn't have a home and was riding the trains behind Pam's home. He was hungry and asked for food. Her parents not only gave food to the man, but also bones to his dog.

Pam remembers this act clearly because her family was poor, and those bones represented the main ingredient to make stew for Pam and her nine siblings. "When people say give 'til it hurts, that's not talking about your wallet. It means to give even when it impacts you," stated Pam.

Pam's witness of her parents' altruism instilled in her a deep concern for the well-being of others. Pam has worked with developmentally disabled adults and latchkey children and has volunteered in domestic violence shelters and sexual assault centers. Pam also

adopted a family, volunteered for interment survivors, ran a no-charge tax clinic for college and high school students, and served in the Peace Corps in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome e Principe. "We go to work, we go to the gym, and we go home. We go to work, we go to the gym, and we go home. Service helps you step outside the world you live in and meet different people, learn new values, and gain incredible knowledge." She continued that you can't save the world, but instead you can work for one child, one person, and that can go very far.

Pam is currently an Auditor-Appraiser III who is in charge of performing audits of books and records of businesses and making appraisals of business personal property and trade fixtures. When asked what she likes best about working at the Assessor's Office, she replied, "the day I walked into the Assessor's Office, I knew this was where I was supposed to be. All languages, all colors, all ages. I get so tired of living in a monochromatic world with monochromatic views just because of where I happen to live. Here, people come from so many backgrounds. Folks who put themselves through college, and folks whose families have been here for generations. New bloomers and late bloomers. Travelers and immigrants, and folks who are born and raised East Bay'ers. These are not people on a stereotypical path. They built their lives. What better environment to be around!"

Pam is indeed an extraordinary human being with a giving heart.



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