



**Darlene Green
Comptroller**

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ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO AUDIT

The United States Department of Transportation and the Ministry of Transportation of the People's Republic of China jointly held the first Transportation Forum in Beijing, China, December 3, 2008. China specifically requested that the this year's forum be held on the Mississippi River.

Comptroller Green Host the US-China Transportation Forum

During the second week of January, Amtrak's platform A and B, at the Gateway Transportation Center, was transformed into a meeting room for two great countries to discuss how to move passengers more efficiently in the 21st Century.

Comptroller Darlene Green hosted the US-China Transportation Forum held January 11, 2012 at the GTC. Some sixty guests gathered to discuss multimodal facilities and take a tour.

Comptroller Green welcomed the delegation by saying, "This facility promotes preserving our global environment by encouraging people to keep their vehicles at home and use bus, rail, or light-rail to get to their destinations."

The U.S. delegation was lead by USDOT Deputy Secretary, John D. Porcari. The Chinese delegation was led by Vice Minister, Xu Zuyuan, who over sees maritime issues for the Ministry of Transportation.

Due to common transportation challenges and a desire to discuss and develop productive solutions, the

American and Chinese governments recognized the need for a high level multimodal transportation dialogue. In the spirit of this commonality, the US-China Transportation Forum was established during the 4th Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) in Annapolis, Maryland. During that meeting both nations signed a Joint Declaration on Transportation Cooperation.

The first Transportation Forum (TF) was held in Beijing, China, December 3, 2008. Both nations agreed to establish working groups to discuss priority areas that include new railway technologies, urban congestion, innovative financing, transport of hazardous goods and disaster assistance coordination.

Encouraged on by the success of these engagements, the 4th TF was hosted in the United States, January 10-12, 2012 in St. Louis, Missouri.

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Comptroller Darlene Green with Vice Minister of Transportation Xu Zuyuan
Photo by Francis Yueh



Jiang Yulin, VM Zuyuan, Dep. Sec. John Porcari, USDOT and Jay Wunderlich, MODOT



Get Ahead On Your Taxes!!! By Dr. Kenneth Stone

One common tip over looked by most taxpayers is the credit for energy savings. Taxpayers can take up to \$500 of their taxes due for installing energy savings devices. Some of the common items are insulation, a new hot water heater, an air conditioner or furnace, new energy efficient windows and doors. Save your receipts and take them to a tax accountant. They can figure out if you qualify for an energy tax credit. Unlike a deduction that will reduce your taxable income and reduce your tax liability at your current tax rate, (i.e., a \$500 deduction will reduce your taxes by \$125 at the 25% tax bracket), credits are wonderful because they reduce a taxpayer's tax bill dollar for dollar.

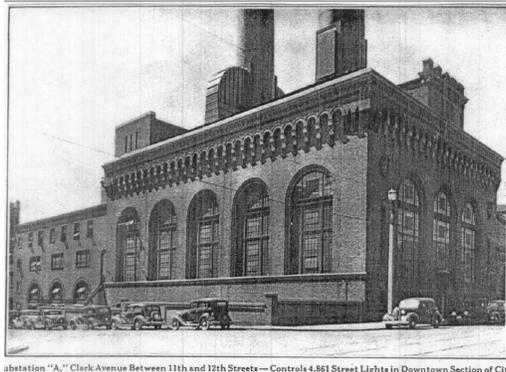
Municipal Garage still taking care of City business after 85 years!

The Municipal Garage, an asset managed by the Comptroller's Office, has served the City of St. Louis well for some 85 years.

Built in 1927-28, after an \$87 million bond issue was ratified in 1923, it was called the Municipal Service Building. In the 1920s, the Muni Garage was a mixed use facility housing a parking garage for city vehicles, a Fire Department, electrical substation for street lighting and the Power House which generated steam heat for twelve municipal buildings. Some of those buildings were the Civil Courts Building, Kiel Opera House, Soldier's Memorial, City Hall, Municipal Courts Building, Children's Building, City Jail, Coroner's Court, the Morgue, Police Headquarters and its garage, the Election Commission Building and the Fire Department.



Photo by Marilyn Maxwell



Photobation "A." Clark Avenue Between 11th and 12th Streets—Controls 4,861 Street Lights in Downtown Section of City

The Power House also supplied steam for the air conditioning system installed in the Kiel Opera House. The Kiel was the second largest municipal auditorium in the nation at that time. The steam jet type installation was the largest cooling system in the United States. This allowed in the 1930s for St. Louis to attract large conventions and entertainment events.

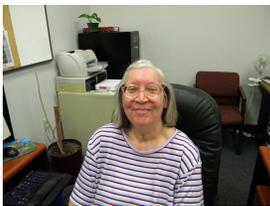
New Employee



Welcome aboard Eric Firebaugh, working for the Telecommunications Section.

Firebaugh moved to the St. Louis from Roanoke, Virginia where he worked for RCI Phone Systems.

Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Eileen Gassel, Account Clerk in the Financial Reporting Section on being named Employee of the Month.

Gassel is retiring this April, after 14 years of service with the City of St. Louis. She says you can blame it on her beautiful grand-daughter Peyton, who she'll be taking care of full-time.

Co-workers say Gassel is a jewel from the era of real work ethics, getting to the office on time, rain, shine, sleet or snow, on public transportation with no compliants. Congratulations!!!

Today, the Municipal Garage is primarily 395 parking spaces for City of St. Louis employees with a waiting list. Some City vehicles are housed, maintained and scheduled out to City employees for official business. All city cars, according to Manager, Judy Armstrong, are registered and licensed through the Muni Garage.

"We really manage about 23 cars plus a snow plow. Most of the other City departments handle their own fleet," says Armstrong.

With six employees to manage and surveying what the building needs in renovations, Armstrong says some of the biggest challenges are getting the fixed assets in order.

Along with her new duties Armstrong is still Executive Assistant II to the Comptroller. She sits on the PSA Committee for the Health Department and the Board of Standardization.

After a year on her new assignment, Armstrong says they are there to service the employees with cars and service as much as they can.

"We have to also walk the garage during the day because the public just comes in and parks here without checking out the fact that this is a City employee parking facility. It can get interesting. But we are fair!"

The Muni Garage staff also delivers mail and picks up items for the Comptroller's Office internally and externally.

The staff is made up of Randall Anderson, Gail Boyce, William Cherry, Valerie Clayton, Keith Vernell and Christopher Reed.

HAPPY BIRTH DAY!

For those born in January



- 1 Candice Gordon
- 2 Cynthia Larson
- 13 Monique Williams
- 20 Christopher Reed
- 22 Cyril Oparaji

40 Years Of Service



Joanna Stoverink, Administrative Assistant I, Asset Management Section is celebrating 40 years of service with the City of St. Louis.

Stoverink began working with the City for the Manpower Planning Office as a Clerk Typist during the term of Mayor Alfonso J. Cervantes. The program is now called SLATE.

Later, at the Kiel Opera House she worked as a Clerk Typist over contracts, events and scheduling before joining the Comptroller's Office as a Clerk Typist II under Deputy Comptroller, John Zakibe.

Stoverink, a huge fan of architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, loves to travel with her husband of 29 years. She recently toured Wright's famous homes in Oak Park, a Chicago, Illinois neighborhood.



Comptroller's Office Remembers

Vanessa Christian Woodall is being remembered by Comptroller Office co-workers with condolences and prayers on her passing. Woodall worked in the Accounts Payable Control Section before leaving City Hall in 2005. Co-workers say they will forever have fond memories of Woodall sharing her culinary talents with her legendary cajun shirmp etouffee recipe and her expert advice as a seamstress. Homegoing visitation is Wednesday, February 1, 2012, from 5 p.m.-8 p.m., at Baucom's Precious Memories. The funeral service is Thursday, February 2, 2012 starting at 10 a.m., at Faith Miracle Temple.

China specifically requested that the next TF be held on the Mississippi River because of their interest in inland waterways and port development.

The Amtrak terminal was decorated with Chinese panels telling a story of sister cities Nanjing, China and St. Louis, Missouri. These beautiful panels were given to St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay last year at a celebration meeting between the two cities. The panels are now housed at the University of Missouri St. Louis. They were loaned to the Comptroller's Office for this occasion.

The US-China Delegates spokesperson expressed to Comptroller Green that the group was highly impressed with the GTC and the efforts of the Comptroller staff in putting the Transportation Forum together.



The Purple Mountain Observatory is the first self-built...



During the recent Dr. Martin Luther King celebrations this past month Keith Vernell, Custodian for the Municipal Garage and Co-Chair for the Employee of the Month Committee expressed to the Comp Times how he felt this holiday effected him to make a change, taking on more of a leadership role.

"This year I was sitting at home and said to myself I really have to do something for Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Day. I really didn't want to just sit at home and watch TV," said Vernell.

He remembered that an establishment he frequents was having King Holiday celebrations. He attended and to his surprise, President of the Board of Aldermen, Lewis Reed came to speak.

"I was really impressed and inspired with what President Reed had to say. He told us that we have to stop letting outsiders determine who our leaders are and that we, as a community, had to take on leadership in our neighborhoods. Reed said the days were over for people to come up to us and ask, "Who is your leader?" He said we are the leadership and that we were responsible for keeping the dream alive," said Vernell.

Vernell says he will never waste the King Holiday at home again. Next year, he will make it a day of service some were in his community.



...less Hall) was built in ... long, 37.85 meters wide ... its roof was totally piled up ...



... is the tomb ... Ming dynasty. It ... in 2003.



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