Darlene Green
Comptroller

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The Comp times

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO AUDIT

"Telecommunications is not like it used be. We are not just the telephone man anymore. We have to actually make sure computers are connected, door bells to offices ring and if card readers in City Hall are giving employees the proper security and access they need." Ray Gant

Telecommunications Keeps the City of St. Louis On Line

Whenever you are having issues with your phone, need to get another service or are about to move your unit to another part of city government, "Who do you call?" Telecommunications! This section of the Comptroller's Office has six employees who are responsible for making sure City of St. Louis employees have phones and connections that are working.

"Telecommunications is not like it used to be. We are not just the telephone man anymore", says Ray Gant, supervisor of Telecommunication Technicians. "We have to actually make sure computers are connected, door bells to offices ring and if the card reader to doors in City Hall are giving employees the proper security and access they need. We work with anything that is low voltage electronics."

Telecommunications is broken down into two units that consist of sales/customer service and technology.

John DiLiberto and Marilyn Maxwell handle the daily duties of taking all the customers calls, placing orders for them and setting up the schedule for the technicians. They split the departments in the City of St. Louis in half in making sure all needs are met.

"We are the face of Telecommunications. We go out to the departments in the City of St. Louis and meet periodically with City managers, secretaries or employees to ask them about their needs. We want to make sure everyone who works for the city is able to communicate," says DiLberto.

Telecommunications will get calls from city employees about a new technology that they think their departments will need. The team which makes up DiLiberto, Gant, Maxwell, Brent Firebaugh, John Woodhouse and Jim Garavaligia, Asset Manager II will do the research on the new devices and advise the client about it's cost.

"A lot of times the departments don't have the budget for this equipment but at least we take the time to find out about it in case they decided to follow through later", says Gant.

When the technicians get the orders they will deligently go out

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Free Tax Preparation Day Update

The Free Tax Preparation Day and the work that the National Association of Black Accountants did this year for the community, speaks volumes to how organization give back to the people who need the help most. The Comptroller's Office along with NABA and First National Bank of St. Louis were able to finish some 30 tax returns on March 7, 2012. During the whole tax season, from January through April, NABA actually completed some 652 returns for free. Dr. Kenneth Stone, Internal Audit Manager and NABA member said, that some $1.3 million was returned to the St. Louis community. NABA has been preparing tax returns for free for residents in the St. Louis region since 1975. Some 30 members of the organization participate annually giving up their Saturday mornings for a good cause.

Comptroller's Office Carlotta Blair meets Robin Thicke

Who is Robin Thicke's Dad and what famous 1980's TV sitcom did he star in?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to meet a celebrity or athlete that you have followed or been a fan of for years? This past month our co-worker, Carlotta Blair's dream of meeting one of her favorite singers became a reality. Carlotta was selected as the Midwest winner of Radio One's contest "Join the Winner's Circle with Robin Thicke."

I sat down with Carlotta and asked her to share her experience of meeting Robin Thicke with us.

COMP TIMES: What is your favorite Robin Thicke song?
BLAIR: "Lost Without You" and "Can You Believe". Most recently I enjoy listening to "Love After War" and another new track called "Dreams".

COMP TIMES: How did you find out about the contest?
BLAIR: I entered online with Foxy 95.5 radio station.

COMP TIMES: What was your reaction when you were told that you won?
BLAIR: I was totally shocked and elated.

COMP TIMES: Who was the first person you called?
BLAIR: My best friend

COMP TIMES: How did you feel when you were standing next to him?
BLAIR: I felt excited and happy. He has a kindred spirit. He is very friendly with a warm personality.

COMP TIMES: Ok let's see if you really know Robin Thicke. Who is his dad and what famous 80's show did he star in?
BLAIR: His father is Alan Thicke, who starred in Growing Pains.

COMP TIMES: Who is Robin Thicke married to?
BLAIR: He is married to actress Paula Patton. They are high school sweethearts.

COMP TIMES: The high school sweetheart part I did not know.

COMP TIMES: What was your favorite moment out of this entire experience?
BLAIR: My favorite moment was when I told him I had met him at his meet and greet in St. Louis and that he gave me another look as if he were really trying to place my face...(lol.) It made me feel good inside. I also enjoyed listening to him talk about his family, his love for writing music and his sincere love for his fans. He is a humble celebrity. He even messed up a verse and admitted it and apologized but said it is hard to remember so many songs and the different versions also, but bear with me. It was nice. He spoke of his feelings of how his marriage is viewed as mixed instead of just a happy marriage.

Go to Youtube/stlcompoffice for the lastest from the Comptroller's Office

AMAC Diverisity Conference Needs You

Lambert-St. Louis International Airport will be hosting the 2012 AMAC/FCC Airport Business Diveristy Conference in St. Louis, June 9th through June 12th. More than 1,000 Airport decision makers, federal aviation administrators, corporate executives and entrepreneurs are expected to attend the conference from across the country. Comptroller Green would like to give even more support for this event with a strong show of volunteers from the Comptroller's Office. Volunteers must work a minimum of four hours and attend a mandatory orientation class. Two classes will be held June 7th and June 8th. Sign up sheets have already been emailed to you to get back to Candice Gordon, Accounting Officer by May 11, 2012. Anyone volunteering during non-work hours will receive compensatory time. The Comptroller thanks you in advance for your support!

HAPPY BIRTH DAY!

For those born in **April**

1 Marice Blair
2 Gail Boyce
2 Olaide Hassan
2 Judith Holstein
4 John Woodhouse
13 Regina Reynolds
14 Sean Hadley
18 Sherese Simmons
22 Ivy Pinkston

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Barnadette Davis, Clerk II on being nominated Comptroller's Employee of the Month for April.

Davis has worked for the City of St. Louis for six years starting out in Public Safety with Corrections.

Davis says she loves to work as the editor for her church's, Mt. Bethel M.B.C. newsletter. She also serves as the church's secretary in the library and resource center.

One of the favorite things she loves to do is sing in the church's glee club.

Co-workers say Davis is a valuable employee who is always in good spirits and will lift yours if you are down. She has excellent customer service skills and is pleasant to work with.

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to each City department and services those needs.

"Sometimes we will get there and we find a client has been dealing with for a long time, static on the phone, low volume or connection problems that they never called about," says Firebaugh.

Gant wanted to make clear that there is a 24 hour hotline to call to let Telecommunications know about emergency problems City of St. Louis employees are having with phone or line connections. It is **314-657-3688.**

"This number is for emergency problems only. We have to put everything in priority meaning there are certain departments that will come first like the Mayor's Office, the Comptroller and President of the Board of Aldermen."

Along with their duties of making sure phone lines are connected, Telecommunications also makes sure training is set up for employees on new phone systems and purchasing equipment. Telecommunication also sends out request for proposals and they make sure all contracts and services go well from AT&T, BPS, and different vendors used by the City

They make sure all systems are flowing well and connecting to the bottomline.

The Telecommunications staff wants all to know that they have a courteous staff and great technicians who want to make sure everything runs smoothly. They will take care of your phone issue as soon as possible for City departments.

In the past year, Telecommunications has run approximately 24,000 feet of cable wire connecting the City of St. Louis to the world.

The Comp Times has been brought to you by the generous staff of the Comptroller's Office of the City of St. Louis. If you have information you want mentioned send it to hadleys@stlouiscity.com

Comptroller Office Special Announcements

Executive Secretary to the Comptroller Chana Morton's, son, John J. William will graduate on Saturday, May 21st from Drury University School of Architecture.

Administrative Assistant I, Carlotta Blair's son, Lamar Glenn celebrates his "sweet" 16th birthday on Friday, April 27th.

Comptroller's Program INC Yourself workshops are adopted by St. Louis Community College

If you have the passion to start your own business or even to buy one, INC Yourself my be for you.

Three free workshops will be offered by St. Louis Community Colleges this May, June and July. After each session, courses will be offered in the fall.

A partnership was formed with the Comptroller's Office and Community Colleges in the first quarter last year to help people during the downturn in the economy. "INC Yourself in the New Year 2011" was introduced to teach people how to employ themselves.

INC Yourself workshops are facilitated by business coach, Sandra Marks of Marks and Associates. They will be held at the Corporate College in North County, Forest Park in west St. Louis City and the Harrison Education Center located in Midtown St. Louis.

To register for these free workshops go to STLCCONED@STLCC.EDU or call 314-984-7777.

The CompTimes

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