



**Darlene Green  
Comptroller**

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**FALL ISSUE  
September-October 2012**

# The Comp times

## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO AUDIT

*"The new back-up facility has its own entrance, restrooms, separate heating and air conditioning. If we were to lose power at the back-up site, it has its own generator." Asset Manager Jim Garavaglia*

## 911 Back-Up Center is Ready

Everyone knows that 9-1-1 is the number you call when you have an emergency, but few know that the first 9-1-1 call was made on February 16, 1968 in Haleyville, Alabama. The first call was not an emergency call, it was actually a friendly call placed by Alabama Speaker of the House Rankin Fite from the Haleyville City Hall to United States Representative Tom Bevill at the city's police station.

Moving forward to 1980 when AT&T was looking to test an enhanced 9-1-1 system, St. Louis was one of two locations selected. Orange County, Florida was the other location selected.

Now 32 years have passed from when St. Louis started using an enhanced 9-1-1 system and technology has evolved. In addition to the main 9-1-1 site, the City has established a "primary" back-up center that has been ready for use for the past 10 years. The "primary" back-up site was located in an AT&T facility in mid-town. Recently, AT&T sold the building where the back-up site was located and moved

both the AT&T functions and the back-up site to a facility just west of the downtown area.

Members of our office have been actively involved in making sure this new facility is fully operational and that the accommodations mirror those of the main site. Jim Garavaglia, Asset Manager, describes the new facility as a vast improvement for the 9-1-1 system.

"The new back-up facility has its own entrance, restrooms, separate heating and air conditioning. If we were to lose power at the back-up site, it has its own generator", Garavaglia said. "It also has enough space to allow the City to create a back-up site for Fire and EMS", he added.

While the primary site is fully functional, the secondary site for Fire and EMS will not be available for another few months. Like all of us in the Comptroller's Office, the Telecommunications Division takes pride in knowing that the little things they do go a long way for all of us in the City of St. Louis.



To learn more about the functions of the Telecommunications Division you can visit their newly constructed website at this link  
<https://sites.google.com/a/stlouis-mo.gov/telecommunications/home?pli=1>

## Good Attendance is Rewarded!

The City of St. Louis is re-instituting the "Attendance Bonus." A bonus of \$150 will be rewarded to employees who use zero hours of sick/medical leave (perfect attendance) beginning October 21, 2012 through October 19, 2013. Employees who use 16 hours or less of their sick/medical leave will receive a \$75.00 bonus. This program was created to reward employees with good attendance and to encourage others to improve their attendance. All bonuses will be paid out during the month of December 2013.



## The Martial Arts Keep Marilyn Moving



The practice of Tai Chi has been a solid part of Marilyn Maxwell's life since her early 20s. This is a martial art form she found helped her with a back injury she suffered from for a long time.

While living in Phoenix, Arizona Maxwell took up Tai Chi after observing people in a park near where she lived.

"My back was feeling better and better and I was enjoying the feeling of relaxation and the excellent full body exercise without over exerting", says Maxwell.

When Maxwell returned to St. Louis she says she started practicing Tai Chi on her own. She found what this martial art form calls a Sifu (teacher), who really helped her move to the next level.

Maxwell soon started competing in the Midwest Chinese Martial Arts Competition in the late 1990's winning a gold and silver medal. She later won medals in Chicago and Dallas.

Maxwell says that Tai Chi is good for everyone because of these great benefits:

- ✚ Balances coordination and reduces falls. This form of exercise strengthens your gait.
- ✚ Arthritis relief. A study from Tufts University says people over 65 with knee osteoarthritis experienced less pain using Tai Chi.

- ✚ Is great physical therapy and rehabilitation.
- ✚ Tai Chi promotes relaxation and can relieve tension and anxiety.
- ✚ Tai Chi can help to control diabetes. According to a study from the University of Florida people with type II diabetes lowered their blood sugar and managed the disease better.

### Employee of the Month October



Ray Gant oversees a crew of two technicians that take care of telecommunications problems all over the city. Ray along with his technicians, program security doors; install phone systems, and provide Information Technology type of support for various departments with regards to the phone systems.

He responds to all after hour emergencies that have to do with the City's phone system. Ray does this all without complaining, he just gets the job done. His co-workers have repeatedly said that "Ray is a great guy, who does a great job."

Congratulations Ray!

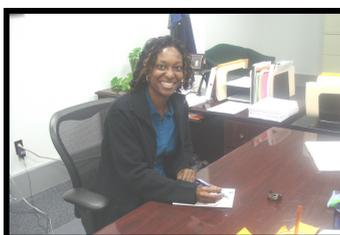
### Jeannie Head Retires!



Jeannie Head, Supervisor of Records Retention retired from the City of St. Louis September 28, 2012 after 30 plus years of service.

Head was given a proclamation from the Comptroller's Office by Jim Garavaglia and a great going away party by family, friends and co-workers. Congratulations Jeannie!

### Meet Our Newest Employee



My name is Michelle Lobster I started with the City of St. Louis on September 24, 2012 with the Records Retention Section. I previously worked in social services under various programs. I'm grateful to be a part of the City of St. Louis and the Comptroller's Office.

**HAPPY BIRTH DAY!**  
For those born in September



- 5 Judy Armstrong
- 6 Mike Cook
- 9 Robin Boyce
- 10 Ryan Coleman
- 11 Angela Johnson
- 16 Elaine Spearman
- 17 Beverly Crawford
- 18 Eunetter Steele
- 18 Shania Woodhouse
- 20 Jim Garavaglia
- 21 Michele Graham
- 27 Craig Frazier

### Employee of the Month September



Marsha Veal is September's recipient of the Employee of the Month award for her tireless efforts in helping homeowners stay in their homes.

Marsha recently received permission to remove a homeowner's lien early, so that an 82 year old woman could get a reverse mortgage to avoid losing her home. "Marsha cares about homeowners in our city. She is always happy to assist in any way." said Eunetter Steele.

Congratulations Marsha!

### The Comp Times

Publisher: Comptroller Darlene Green

Managing Editor: Robin Boyce

Sean Hadley

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Kristine Kiefer

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St. Louis, Mo. 63103

**HAPPY BIRTH DAY!**  
For those born in October



- 3 Sandra Keys
- 3 Marilyn Maxwell
- 9 Emmanuel Kanee
- 10 Joanna Stoverink