



Darlene Green
COMPTROLLER

CompTimes

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO AUDIT

January 2008
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Monthly
Reminder:
2008 Retreat
is Jan. 25
"Clean Slate
In '08"

From the comptroller's desk

Bringing back retreat brings us together

The new year is here and the comptroller's office is starting 2008 off right by bringing back the annual retreat.



Since the last retreat in 2002, many things have changed in our office.

In a sense, this year ushers in a re-birth of the comptroller's office as we make a clean slate in '08. Retirements, promotions and new hires have been the norm as of late. This constant change presents us with the need to refocus on teamwork and moving forward.

To preview the Jan. 25 retreat, there are three speakers that will discuss ways to create a healthier you.

One speaker will focus on your physical health and how nutrition, exercise and stress all contribute to your overall health. Another will talk about your financial health and how to manage your personal finances through investments and debt reduction. The final speaker will discuss life skills related to organizational development.

Each of these speakers are professionals in their respective fields. We are truly fortunate to have them so they can pass their expert knowledge on to us.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the retreat and hope you get as much out of it as possible. I am very happy we are able to have this event again and look forward to continuing this valuable training and teambuilding event in the coming years.

Comptroller's employee of the year



Tim Donovan was selected as the 2007 Comptroller's Office Employee of the Year at the annual holiday party. For his exemplary performance, he received \$100.

Donovan was the May Employee of the Month.

Comptroller's December employee of the month



Congratulations to **Judy Armstrong** for earning the December Employee of the Month Award. Armstrong works for Comptroller Green as an executive assistant I and was nominated for her excellent job performance and her enthusiasm for all her projects.

Armstrong chose eight hours of compensatory time as her EOM reward.

Office News



Spotlight on success

Internal Audit

When Sedrick Blake took over the reigns at internal audit and federal grants in 2006, he wasted no time implementing his auditing and management philosophy. Staff was reorganized, vacant positions filled and a renewed culture of customer service began to take hold.

Today, internal audit is operating more efficiently and effectively than ever. The number of audit reports issued annually has increased, stronger partnerships with city departments have formed and technology is playing a greater role in everything the auditors do. All this change and innovation is accomplishing the primary goal: saving taxpayer dollars.

Blake's first move was to evaluate each auditor and identify their

strengths and weaknesses.

"Each employee did a self-assessment identifying areas in which they felt the department could better utilize their skills and expertise. I spoke with each person and asked them to identify areas in which they believe we could assist them in their professional development," recalled Blake.

This self-assessment led Blake to develop a training regimen that addresses any weaknesses individual auditors may have.

"We set up mandatory in house study halls and closely examined the type of continued professional education training the city pays for, ensuring it correlates with the audit profession, our needs and our goals. Employees are encouraged to be-

come certified internal auditors and training material is consistently updated so that employees can achieve this goal," added Blake.

Going paperless

One of Blake's most innovative plans was bringing internal up to date with 21st century technology. Laptop computers are now standard equipment for all his auditors and the software on those computers is state of the art.

Each auditor's laptop computer has been upgraded in order to utilize the modern software. They use their laptops in the field as they prepare their reports instead of taking traditional notes.

see *Spotlight* page 3

Gloria Carreathers retirement party photos



From the Dec. 21 party.

Left: Ivy Neyland Pinkston, Ruth Brown and Carreathers.

Right: Gilbert Wilson, Ray Gant, Carreathers, Jerome Turner, and Fred Carslick.



Interactive CT

Spotlight on internal audit *from page 2*

“The internal audit section has a paperless process of performing audits, reviewing audits and clearing review notes. There is little to no paper generated as a result of the implementation of the audit software and scanning capabilities,” explained Blake.

Using technology saves time and money. It also makes archiving audit reports easier.

State begins audit

Earlier this month, the Missouri State

Auditor’s Office began their yearlong look at the city’s finances. The audit began with the comptroller’s office and will eventually cover all of city government.

The audit is in response to the St. Louis Green Party’s petition to learn how the city is spending its lead poison prevention funds.

Blake said that internal audit’s role in the state audit is an advisory one.

“Our role is to answer questions and help identify areas of audit concerns,” said Blake.

All of internal audit’s efforts are aimed at building a more professional staff and improving morale. This, Blake said, will make the entire section more efficient and effective in saving and protecting taxpayer dollars.

“Today, the morale of most of the staff is greater than it has been in recent years,” said Blake. “I credit my management team and the professionalism of all our auditors for this dramatic change. I can’t wait to see what the future holds.”

Test your knowledge with the Trivia Challenge

This month: POLITICAL TRIVIA



*Congratulations to
Jeremy Holtzman
for correctly answering
the December
movie trivia questions.*

1. Who was the first mayor of St. Louis?
2. Who was the first woman governor and in what state was she elected?
3. In Presidential Politics, which state traditionally weighs in first on who they would like to see in office?
4. What is the date of the 2008 Missouri Presidential Primary?
5. What governmental entity oversees the St. Louis City Board of Elections?
6. What office did Claire McCaskil hold before being the first woman from Missouri elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006?
7. How many so-called “county” elected offices are there in city government?
8. Who is the current Missouri State Auditor?

Submit your answers to John Farrell at farrellj@stlouiscity.com. The first to reply with the correct answers wins a cool prize!

News & Notes

As the comptroller's office turns...

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Movin' on down?

Roland Comfort and **Marsha Veal** of the comptroller's real estate section have moved. Thier new digs are in Room 1 in the City Hall basement. Thier fourth floor roommates hate to see them go and wish them continued success underground.

Promotions

None to report this month, but the *CompTimes* has learned that we should expect to announce at least one in the February issue.

January Birthdays

Candice Gordon	1
Chris Greenfield	1
Larry Arnowitz	2
Christopher Reed	20
Diane Bjorklund	24

Service Anniversary

Beth Seright	30
Yudora Mason	5

New Hires

Christopher Greenfield was hired as an auditor II in internal audit. Greenfield worked also worked for IA from 2000 to 2002. Welcome aboard, again.



Shalonda Covington's daughter, **Samone**, got her first dog **Missy** this past summer for her 5th Birthday. **Missy** is a 7 month old Yorkshire Terrier. She is spoiled rotten but very friendly.

**December Trivia
Quiz answers**

1. Hank Arron & Babe Ruth
2. Parkinson's Disease
3. New Orleans Saints
4. Archie Griffin
5. Curtis Strange
6. Albert Pujols
7. Tennis, Golf or Croquet
8. None
9. 26