Employees rush to co-worker’s aid

Many of us refer to our co-workers as friends or even family, but it isn’t every day that they become our heroes. That’s exactly how Janetta Cunningham from Information Systems now refers to her co-worker, Joseph Gatiba.

Cunningham, a temporary employee brought in to help cover the Help Desk, has worked in IS since August. She made quick friends with her co-workers and she and Gatiba often walk to their cars together after work.

“We have kind of a routine where he teases me every day about having to put water in my car. ‘When are you gonna get that fixed?’” he would needle her.

A few weeks ago, this routine took an unexpected turn as her Pontiac Sunfire suddenly rolled forward while Cunningham was working on the radiator.

“The car started moving forward, so I jumped up on the retaining wall and the bumper rolled on top of my foot. I started screaming,” she said.

Gatiba heard her cries for help and threw down everything he was carrying to run to her aid and try to push the car back. Public Works employee Greg White also heard the cries and rushed to the scene.

“Greg came out of nowhere and started helping. They tried throwing it into reverse, but that didn’t work. With both of them pushing it, I was finally able to wiggle my foot out.”

Cunningham could hear her foot popping and knew it was a bad break. Gatiba stayed with her until her sister arrived to take her to the hospital. During surgery the following Monday, doctors put two pins into her foot and she is now in a cast for six to eight weeks.

“It’s bad, but I wasn’t thinking about how dangerous it could have been, if the car had jumped into first gear,” Cunningham said. “I was so relieved that Joseph was nearby to hear me. Even though he wasn’t able to move the car at first, it was just good to have someone I know there.”

Gatiba brushes off the extra attention. “Hero!? I’m not a hero. It was the adrenaline at the time.”

Cunningham kept the car, but put it in the shop to have a professional fix the radiator. She will be driving a borrowed car to begin her new job with another company, but she regrets having to leave her friends behind at the City.

“I will really miss it here. I just loved this job and everyone I worked with. I would stay forever if I could.”

Sales Tax check down from estimates

The City of Springfield’s October 2012 one-percent general sales tax check from the Missouri Department of Revenue is down compared to budget. Budgeted revenue for October was $3,519,000 and the actual receipts were $3,152,954. Year-to-date, the budget is $13,685,000, and actual receipts are $12,884,335. On a year-to-date basis, that puts the City down $800,665 or 5.85% below budget.

Looking at the revenues compared to budget estimates, rather than strictly comparing the current month to the same month last year, however, is providing a clearer financial picture of the City’s health, according to City Finance Director Mary Mannix.

“The while the comparison to the prior year is important, our primary concern is actual revenue compared to budget. To enable us to track this information, a monthly budget for sales tax revenue has been developed,” Mannix explained. Sales tax revenue varies each month because retail sales are higher in some months than others.

How’s it done in CO?
Community leaders visit Fort Collins.

Open Enrollment
Enroll for cafeteria plan, dental and others

Do you know?
Get to know Lewis Burgess in the Finance Department.

See SALES TAX on page 3.
Hundreds of students visit City Hall

About 70 volunteers, including 8 City Council members and the Mayor, greeted 3rd grade students and their families at a special event Oct. 11 at City Hall.

“The Treasures of the City,” a treasure hunt for knowledge about city government, is part of the Springfield Public Schools’ Partners in Education (PIE) program, and is a 23-year tradition.

Students studied local municipal government for several weeks as a part of their regular social studies curriculum. Lessons learned in the classroom were complemented by the student field trip with their families, which included a look at police and fire vehicles and a tour of Busch Municipal Building and Historic City Hall.

Students were provided a treasure map and clues that led them around Government Plaza. They gathered stamps and stickers at each stop along their route until they discovered the treasure of the City in the Council Chambers.

With more than 868 total students, siblings, and family members in attendance, PIE Coordinator Claudia Crichton is grateful for the help from City volunteers.

“I want to thank everyone that helped out this year,” Crichton said. “From those who designed the maps and signs, the volunteers who worked that evening, the ones who helped with set-up, and others who made sure all the vehicles were here for the children to see. We couldn’t have a successful event if it wasn’t for all of you!”

Hints from the Help Desk

Filenames that get flagged by antivirus software

Many of you are saving files with multiple periods inside the filename such as Myfile10.01.2012.doc (for example). When multiple periods are used like this, it gets flagged by the antivirus software as a potential problem. Simply substitute the periods with dashes, or run the numbers or characters together, such as Myfile10012012.doc

Office AutoCorrection (Options/Proofing/AutoCorrect Options)

You can make this feature your friend by adding your own custom AutoCorrections to this list. For example, you can use this feature to make entering long names such as department names, product names easier by using an abbreviation in the “Replace” field and the full name in the “With” field. Keep in mind though, that these autocorrections apply to all workbooks and documents.

AutoCorrection Override Trick

If you don’t want to be consistently changing/altering the AutoCorrect list, here’s a trick you can use to override Excel’s AutoCorrect feature.

1) Type the ‘incorrect’ word (e.g. HSA /which is incorrect spelling of “Has”) followed by a space (DON’T PRESS ENTER YET). You’ll notice that when you typed the space, Excel AutoCorrected the ‘incorrect’ word;

2) Before hitting the ENTER key, press CTRL+Z and this will tell Excel to Undo the ‘auto correction’ it just made;

3) NOW you can hit the ENTER key.

One shortcoming with this trick is that you must keep the space following the value you just typed. If you try to remove it, Excel will AutoCorrect the value. So if you need to enter (c) or HSA without a trailing space, you will have to go to the AutoCorrect list and delete the item.
SALES TAX from page 1.

months and some businesses remit sales taxes quarterly rather than monthly.

For the past several years’ sales tax revenue has been reported in terms of comparing the current month to the same month last year and comparing year-to-date revenue to the same period last year.

“This provided some valuable information during the recession and allowed us to measure the decline, and subsequent rebound in local business activity. Actual revenue compared to budget was also tracked, but not as widely reported and discussed,” Mannix said.

In an effort to keep employees and the public informed of the City’s financial condition, actual sales tax revenue is posted on publicly each month. The Finance Department will focus more on how those numbers compare to budget estimates. Other information will be included, since sales tax revenue is only one of the City’s primary revenue sources.

Sales tax revenue makes up 54% of the General Fund budget. Use tax revenue, Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS) and monies from fees, fines and permits are also important sources of revenue. Use tax for the month (sales tax revenue on goods purchased out of state) is 15% above budget, or $270,000. This tax is shared equally between the General Fund and the Transportation Fund. This increase makes up for a portion of the sales tax shortfall. PILOTS are based on utility usage, but is very hard to estimate utility usage. At this time, PILOTS are meeting budget estimates, however, the City will closely monitor PILOTS during the upcoming winter months. Revenue from fees, fines and permits is meeting our budget expectations.

But since sales tax revenue makes up such a large part of the budget, and it’s down 5.85%, or $800,665 below budget, it’s not surprising that total revenue in the General Fund is below budget for the fiscal year to date, Mannix explained.

“I am hopeful that the sales tax revenue will begin to recover in the next few months. Fiscal year was a strong year financially and revenues exceeded expenses,” Mannix said.

According to City Manager Greg Burris, he will be asking City Council to set some of this aside some of this excess revenue to be used for a potential budget shortfall in fiscal year 2013. “I view this as a savings account that can be accessed if revenues do not meet expenses,” he said.
MILESTONES

40 years
Blanche Jones
Administrative Assistant
Parks – 11/16/72

35 years
Karen Chandler
Water Pollution Construction Inspector II
Environmental Services – 11/06/77

25 years
Cindy Jobe
Community Recreation Services Administrator
Parks – 11/07/87
Steve Meyer
Director of Environmental Services
Environmental Services – 11/16/87

20 years
Sandy Werbitzky
Laboratory Analyst
Environmental Services – 11/09/92

15 years
Flo Williams
Workforce Development Specialist
Workforce Development – 11/17/97

10 years
Maria Johnston
Community Recreation Coordinator
Parks – 11/02/02
Patty Armstrong
Administrative Assistant
Public Works – 11/03/02
Ricky Swearengen
Assistant Equipment Technician
Environmental Services – 11/03/02
Mark Stroud
Airport Police Officer
Airport – 11/11/02
Jason Burch
Maintenance Worker
Environmental Services – 11/17/02
Anita Eddy
Administrative Assistant
Public Information – 11/18/02

5 years
Sarah Buhr
Curator of Exhibitions
Art Museum – 11/05/07
Daniel Conlan
Maintenance Worker
Public Works – 11/05/07
David Pilkinton
Equipment Operator II
Public Works – 11/05/07
Sarah Kerner
Assistant City Attorney
Law – 11/11/07
Ruth Gill
Workforce Development Specialist
Workforce Development – 11/15/07
Mike Brothers
Public Health Information Administrator
Health – 11/18/07
David Nokes
Airport Police Supervisor
Airport – 11/26/07
Christine Enrick
Parts & Inventory Control Clerk
Environmental Services – 11/26/07

Welcome
Jonathan Carney
Superintendent of General Services – Parks
Dawne Gardner
Transportation Planner – Public Works
Amanda Becker
Community Recreation Supervisor – Parks
Kevin Cline
Chemist – Environmental Services
Jourdon Springfield
Zoo Keeper – Parks
Jeramee Cooper
Brandon Flood
Joel Grieshaber
Thomas McCoy
Justin Moore
Luke Proffitt
Steven Sharp
Dakota Williams
Firefighters – Fire
Charlotte Cook
Jennifer Ryker
Amanda Zemann
911 Telecommunicators – Emergency Communications
Nancy Turpen
Payroll & Benefits Assistant – Human Resources
Brandi Curl
Health Program Assistant – Health

Promotions
Cheryl Blevins
Cynthia Wyman
Public Health Nurses – Health
Bradley Stulce
Community Recreation Services Administrator – Parks
Mavis Jackson
License Inspector – Finance
Jubal Hicks
Darin Miller
Eric Roepke
Fire Equipment Operators – Fire
Sterling Jones
Randall Stevens
Craftworkers – Public Works

Retirements
Ellis Campbell
Parks Forestry Team Leader
Parks – 17 years
John Drury
Superintendent of Streets
Public Works – 5 years
Everett McGuire
Firefighter
Fire – 19 years
Catherine Smith
Administrative Assistant
Health – 20 years
Debra Suter
Licensing Supervisor
Finance – 35 years
Dana Swearengen
License Inspector
Finance – 30 years

FOR SALE
Upright piano. Needs tuning, but otherwise in great shape. $300 OBO, you move it. Call 425-7842.

2002 Mercury Grand Marquis, Excellent Condition. 92,000 miles. $5,500. If interested call 766-1350.

5 quiet, wooded acres between Greenfield and Stockton lake off HWY H. Electric to site, just need a meter. Corner lot on private gravel road. 5 minutes to Ruark Bluff campsite and boat ramp. Walk to public land access. Great deer hunting. No long term camping, land has covenants. Call Jim at 827-0745 for details and questions. $9,000.00

1955 Chevy Bel-Air, 2 door-post $20,000.00
-rebuilt 327 small block V8, small cam
-newly rebuilt Holley 650 double pumper
-New front wheel cylinders
-New front right wheel bearing
-3 speed automatic transmission
-True dual exhaust (headers & glass packs)
-all original (except motor, steering wheel, interior, and rear end {ford 9 in./4-11 gears})
-4 brand new tires
-front seats need redone
-Has been garaged kept as long as I’ve had it (I’ve had it for 16 years)
For more info call Jim at: 827-0745

42” sheet metal brake model G9949 Grizzly which will bend up to 18 ga. mild steel.
Lists new for over $500, asking $250. Would consider trading for item of equal value. Call 849-5435.

PROPERTY FOR SALE
Attractive ranch style home with partial brick front. Fireplace in large living room, large country kitchen, utility room, two full bathrooms, three bedrooms and computer room. Two car attached garage, large fenced backyard with storage shed and back yard deck. Located in a nice neighborhood at 1238 E. Berkeley, near Mercy Hospital. Call Karla at 350-0991.

SE location so much charm in nicely updated 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom ranch. Notable updates include roof, extensive stone & brick work inside and out, gorgeous hardwood floors, & stone fireplace. Really a nice place for the price $79,900!! For more information call Zach at 207-2535.

GREAT LOCATION, Well-maintained Three bedroom all brick home at 3821 W. Harrison St. adjoining Kay Pointe Subdivision at Orchard Hills Subdivision. Two full baths, two car garage, large fenced yard. Only five minutes to downtown. $104,000. Can be contacted at 863-8615.
Complimentary facial and fall glamour make-overs! Let me create your new every day or glamour look or improve your skin’s appearance with an updated skin care routine featuring Mary Kay products! Contact Karen Herron at 333-1282 or karenherron@marykay.com.

Everyone deserves legal protection. With Legal Shield you have it. Everyone living under your roof is covered. For traffic tickets and accidents, Legal Shield will represent you in court and achieve the best options available to you. It’s included. You, your spouse and teen drivers are all covered. Welcome to peace of mind. Visit www.legalshield.com for more information. For City of Springfield employees it is only $15.95/mo.

Contact John for more information or to sign up. 861-0323.

Stephanie Chase Cleaning Service
“Professional House Cleaning”
License and Insured 299-9034 | stephaniechase18@gmail.com
References upon request.
Diversity@Work

November brings the holiday of Thanksgiving. It’s a time of year when we are reminded of our blessings, and encouraged to express gratitude for all that we have. It’s also a national holiday that embraces all of the many ethnic groups of people that make up the immense diversity of America. In the process of living our lives, we all develop our own personal traditions, which may augment or replace entirely the religious traditions of our heritage. By incorporating what is truly meaningful to us, we take a tradition and make it our own. Thanksgiving is a perfect example.

November is also Native American — or American Indian month. What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S. has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose. The term “American Indian” incorporates hundreds of different tribes and approximately 250 languages. Starting in 1976 as Native American Awareness Week, the period was expanded by Congress and approved by President Bush in August 1990 by designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month. In his proclamation for 1996, President Clinton noted, “Throughout our history, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples have been an integral part of the American character. Against all odds, America’s first peoples have endured, and they remain a vital cultural, political, social, and moral presence.”

It is probably no coincidence that Native American Month falls in the same month as Thanksgiving. Traditionally, we recall that as children we spent the month discussing the history of the pilgrims who came to America to escape religious persecution. Now that Native American month has been established, students also explore the significant contributions made to the pilgrims by Native Americans.
Springfield celebrates two animal-related milestones

Two major animal-related milestones were reached in October, fueled in part by a funding decision made by Springfield City Council. Earlier this month, SAAFhouse completed its 10,000th spay/neuter surgery since opening its doors in 2010. And the Springfield-Greene County Health Department’s Animal Control program will mark one full year in which no adoptable dog has been euthanized.

Animal Control uses SAAFhouse to conduct spay/neuter surgeries. Before stray animals are given to rescue partners, they are “fixed” by SAAF and receive vaccinations and other care at our shelter.

City Council’s decision to allocate a total of about $80,000 during the last two years for these surgeries has made it possible for Animal Control, SAAF and our no-kill rescue partners to form a three-legged stool of programs that tackle pet overpopulation.

This investment has produced tangible results – those 10,000 surgeries have prevented the births of an estimated 60,000 unwanted puppies and kittens, and Animal Control has reduced its euthanasia rate for dogs to about 12 percent during the last year. The rate was above 50 percent just a few years ago.

Habitat for Humanity receives insulation from glass recycling program

To recognize community programs contributing a significant amount to the total glass cullet they use, Owens

Corning donates rolls of fiberglass insulation to community winterization, or Habitat for Humanity building programs. According to Donna Utter, Owens Corning Director of Business Development, the City of Springfield qualified not only because of the growth of the program, but also because of the City’s willingness to open to the public.

The City’s glass recycling centers collects the glass, which is then processed by Ripple Glass and used by two primary manufactures to make new products: Saint Gobain to make new bottles for Boulevard Brewery Company and Owens Corning to make fiberglass insulation.

City opens region’s first CNG station

The City of Springfield has opened the area’s only Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station at its Public Works Operation Center, 1111 W. Chestnut. CNG is a clean burning, high octane fuel that produces 60-90% less pollutants and 30-40% less greenhouse gas emissions than either gasoline or diesel fuels.

The station is open to the general public. The cost is $1.75 per gallon of gasoline equivalent (GGE). A GGE is the same energy content as a gallon of gasoline.

SPD United Way increases by 30%

Springfield Police Department United Way giving levels are up 30% over last year’s totals. This constitutes an additional $6,000 for the cause.

From the SCENE archives

10 years ago – October 2002

The City of Springfield hosted almost 1,500 people at its annual Partners in Education Program, “The Treasures of the City.” Fourth-grade students from across Springfield had studied local municipal government as part of their regular Social Studies curriculum, and lessons learned in the classroom came to life as these students embarked on a treasure hunt for knowledge of City government. They were greeted by a Pirate who told his story of lost treasure. They then solved a series of clues in the form of riddles and deciphered a “treasure map” to find different City departments within the government complex and were rewarded with “treasures” along the way.

20 years ago – October 1992

All signal repair personnel for the City received two days of training on BiTran traffic signal controller and system software operation and maintenance. Randy Casey, Traffic, was instrumental in determining how to use existing intersection traffic detector loops to obtain traffic counts and in calibrating several intersection controllers for this function. To our knowledge, we are the first city to use this function of the BiTran software.
Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams was elected to the position of Vice Chair of the Mid Sized Agencies Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The group represents more than 700 police agencies, serving city populations of 50,000-500,000. The section was created two years ago with 35 initial members, and has now grown to more than 300 members. Chief Williams will serve a 2-3 year term representing cities of more than 150,000.

Springfield-Greene County Health inspector Sarah Limb has been named Environmental Public Health Specialist of the Year by the Missouri Environmental Health Association. This statewide honor is awarded to one professional each year to recognize outstanding contributions to the field. Limb’s duties include inspecting restaurants, pools, lodging and special events. She has worked closely with the staff and managers of restaurants in recent years, which has led to a significant drop in the number and frequency of violations in her territory. Limb is currently working to develop a food safety class for the Spanish-speaking community. She volunteered to go help work on food salvage operations in Joplin following the 2011 tornado. She also serves on the health department’s internal wellness team and sets a good example by exercising, biking and eating healthy.

“Sarah’s work is a great example of how the Springfield-Greene County Health Department provides protection from illness and disease each day in ways that most citizens never even think about – they don’t have to, thanks to the work of dedicated people like Sarah,” said Kevin Gipson, Director of Health.

To: Mayor Bob Stephens, City Council, and City Employee volunteers

I just wanted to take a moment to thank each one of you for doing such a fun event with “Treasures of the City”. My son, Cameron, is a 3rd grader at Sunshine. He talked about this event since it was announced at school (over a week beforehand). He was overjoyed to be able to meet council members and especially Mayor Bob Stephens. He asked to have his martial arts class changed so he was able to attend during his school’s time slot, he even convinced his sister, a sophomore at Central, to attend.

As a family, we had a blast looking at the map and clues and finding all the different departments. The BIGGEST thing in all of this – my son read every clue, checked out every department, listened to every detail he was told. I have not seen my son that engaged in something (other than a toy) for some time. While this is not a big deal for most 3rd graders, Cameron is not like most 3rd graders. My son has Asperger’s. You brought out a part of my son that is not seen by his family and friends much. For that, I wanted to say THANK YOU!

Cameron was absolutely thrilled about finding the treasure (Mayor Stephens) at the end of the treasure hunt and to see the room “where all the action happens”. You missed a night with your families, but made a night for my family (and I’m sure many others) so much fun and memorable. Thank you all again and have a great day!

Melanie Childers

To: Environmental Services Dept.

This year my family and I have had two occasions in which Jeff Coovert and his crew were working on our property.

My entire family was impressed by Jeff’s professionalism, dedication and the relationship that he has with his crew. All of the work that was done for us was completed in exactly the manner we had been told it would. It seems rare these days to have such a positive experience in business. Hat’s off to Jeff Coovert and his crew for two jobs. VERY WELL DONE!

Sincerely,
Susan Lamphear and family

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

I received a text message that a friend was thinking about suicide. Officer Chad Immekas checked on her and was very polite. He made her feel reassured that someone cared, had her contact me and she is now going to seek help. Since I’m so far away, it’s good to know your officers are there and willing to help.

Tiffany Adams
Arkansas

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

I am Grandma of Joseph James Bushong. Unknown to his sleeping mother, he called 911. Officers Chad Alexander and Jason Marcum responded realizing the special needs situation. Unfortunately my daughter has had to deal with many situations like this over the years. The officers were wonderful in the way they handled the situation. We feel certain that these young men had possibly had specified training in dealing with Special Needs aka. Mental deficit and/or illness.

My extreme appreciation to these officers, especially when they led J.J. to believe they had left and didn’t. My daughter and I are convinced that they and the lock on the door saved her life. God Bless you all. Please realize how absolutely vital it is to be educated in how to deal with MR/mental illness.

Janet Trewatha

To: Police Chief Paul Williams

This letter is to express our thanks to Officer Morgan and the other officers who assisted us during the sudden and unexpected death of our son, Kevin Carson. Dealing with Kevin’s death was very difficult, but your officers acted in a professional and efficient manner while also showing kindness and compassion. They were extremely helpful during this difficult time and were excellent examples of police officers at their finest.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth and Tom Carson