



News



GREGORY F.X. DALY

COLLECTOR OF REVENUE

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Collector of Revenue Promotes Convenience *Daly Lauds Ability to Pay Using Additional Methods*

St. Louis, MO, May 2, 2008 – As Gregory F.X. Daly ran for election as Collector of Revenue in the Fall of 2006, he promised to bring the office into the 21st century through the use of new, updated methods and technology. Just over a year into his first term, Daly made good on his vow by introducing new methods to pay one's water bill and their Personal-Property and Real-Estate taxes.

In past years, customers were forced to pay their bills via the U.S. Postal Service, in person at City Hall or six area banks, or online at www.officialpayments.com up until December 31. "While each of these options remains available, many have received recent upgrades that make the entire process as convenient as possible," Collector of Revenue Gregory F.X. Daly says. "No one wants to pay taxes. It is never a good experience, but unfortunately it is a part of the society that we live in. With that said, we want to make that the entire procedure is as pain-free as possible, by being courteous and making sure that you can pay your taxes in a manner that is most convenient to your lifestyle". The Collector of Revenue's Office has added three new facets to its payment systems that have proven to be very popular with customers. These additional services have come to fruition through partnerships with **Official Payments Corp.** and **Royal Banks**.

Using new technology from **OPC**, the Collector's office has made it possible to pay select personal-property and real-estate bills online year-round, as opposed to when the option was no longer available after December 31. They have also made it possible for the office to collect water rates payments online; a feature that was added February 15, 2008. Since January 1, the office has been able to collect an additional **\$934,551.93** through 2,943 corresponding transactions.

The last innovation is part of a collaboration between the Collector of Revenue and **Royal Banks** of St. Louis, and affords the office the ability to accept debit cards. Royal Banks has supplied the office with the necessary hardware and assistance to power this operation. Since this program went into effect on November 7, 2007, the office has processed 3,332 transactions, totaling **\$1,048,682.87**.

These new methods total 6,275 transactions accounting for an additional **\$1,983,234.80** in collections. "Some people are always going to pay on-time by mailing an envelope and enclosing their check and bill stub, and we are OK with that," Daly says. "But what we want to bring attention to, is that people who can't get to our office so easily have additional outlets with which to satisfy their obligations. On the flip-side, those people who don't want to use such methods will experience much shorter lines in our office due to the increased outside activity. I think this is a win-win situation for everyone involved, and that includes the public, OPC, Royal Banks, and our office"

Payments can continue to be made in person with a debit/credit card in Room 106 of City Hall from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Online payments are accepted at all times at www.officialpayments.com.