



Nancy's
Dotings



Happy New Year to All! As we begin a new year during this difficult economic time, I thought it would be good to research cost saving measures and, if helpful, pass them along to you. I spent a little time on the internet and found the following money saving tips that made the most sense to me and hopefully will be beneficial to others as well. If they help you, that is good. If not, then feel free to ignore this unsolicited advice!

List of Ways to Save Money:

- 1. Create a Budget.** The best way to learn how to save on costs is to start with a listing of where you are spending your dollars. Then create your budget. You can do this with a simple hand written budget or prepare a spreadsheet. There are also ready made computer programs that can provide much help. One web site that has this available is: www.budgetworksheets.org
- 2. Start a Savings Plan.** The best way to enjoy financial independence is by setting aside those dollars today that will grow over the years.
- 3. Use the Library.** They have plenty of books, CD's and DVDs. Did you know that you can also request that the library buy certain books? I haven't tried this, but it is an interesting concept.
- 4. Check your withholdings on your payroll check.** Tax refunds are actually

bad investments. It's fun to get a tax refund each year, but you are really just loaning your money to the government for free. If too much is being withheld from your paycheck, adjust the amount and then take the additional money each month and put it into your savings account or invest it. (See number 2 above.)

- 5. Stop smoking.** I recently heard that a pack of cigarettes costs nearly \$6 each. Being a non-smoker myself, I had no idea that this habit was so expensive. I know that "Quitting" is not part of your vocabulary, so let's consider using "Stop Smoking" instead. It will be like getting a raise in your paycheck. This will be tough for a smoker to do, but is definitely worth the effort. Kaiser has help available if needed. Go to www.kp.org for more information.

These are just a few ways to cut back on costs and making your dollars go further. Please take time to do some additional research and perhaps you'll find other suggestions that make more sense for your particular lifestyle. If you have good ideas, let's share.

With the start of a new year, I wish everyone the best life has to offer and want to thank you for your outstanding work in this office. We have every reason to believe that 2011 will be the best ever!

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have! Author Unknown



KUDOS

Several customers have commented about employees' excellent customer service skills and remarkable professionalism. Thank you **Bob Bookwalter, Joy Tirrell, Tony McCurdy, Yvette Saiz, Debbie LaMarine, Marilyn Kirklin, Karen Townsend, Sheryl Duncan, Bridget Gurule, Ed Post, Larissa Ferrel-Nakayama, Gail Warner, Tracey Wise, Dan Nadermann, Sarah Kirkpatrick, Sally Windham, Eric Steffan, Brenda Spangler, Leah Zimmerman, Angie Bartlett, and Cecil Thompson** for going above and beyond for Arapahoe County citizens! Your extra efforts are appreciated!

Employees of the Month

Tressie Landau was awarded the October Employee of the Month because she is reliable, responsible, hard working, and always shows up to work with a smile that is extremely contagious. Tressie goes out of her way to be nice to everyone and doesn't have a rude bone in her body. She is flexible when asked to perform extra duties. One day of every other week she works the renewal line when the renewal line is short-staffed. Tressie is respectful and is such a

wonderful part of the Aurora office. The work day is not complete without her! The November Employee of the Month was given to **Nikki Young**. During **Joan Hulse's** vacation Nikki ran the batching input and titling desk with great efficiency. She never complained or pushed work on someone else. Nikki is always eager and ready to assume duties throughout the office and does so with a positive attitude. She consistently steps up and performs any task assigned to her. Nikki's accuracy rate is excellent and she has minimal rejects from the state. Nikki Young steps up to the plate and hits a home run every time!

The December, 2010 Employee of the Month was **Joanne DiLeo**. Joanne began her career as a Customer Service Clerk in Motor Vehicle. Over the past 27 years she has held many titles, mastering every position held. Ms. DiLeo has a teamwork attitude and has supported the public, employees, other departments, and her own Division with grace and expertise. Joanne was integral to the software/hardware conversions within the Recording Division and has been an excellent trainer to staff. Joanne DiLeo has received numerous customer compliments and has always put our citizens first. After 27 years of excellence of service, Joanne DiLeo is retiring. Her ready smile, great attitude, and wealth of knowledge will be missed. Congratulations Joanne!

The January, 2011 Employee of the Month was **Joy Tirrell**. She is the lead staff member tasked with the responsibility for insuring that ballots are sent to and received from the men and women of our armed forces, as well as other Coloradans who are living and working overseas. Due to her efforts we accepted ballots from more than 50 countries all over the world including Zambia, Kenya, Chile, United Arab Emirates, the Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Thanks to Tressie, Nikki, Joanne, and Joy for your hard work and dedication to excellence of service!



First in Service

The Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder celebrated the grand opening of a new driver's license renewal office at the County's Altura Plaza, 15400 E. 14th Place, Aurora on December 1st. Staff and the community celebrated at an Open House. Altura Plaza is the third driver's license renewal location offered by the Clerk and Recorder's Office in Arapahoe County.

Each location provides driving records, driver's license renewal, Colorado Identification Cards, out-of-state transfers and transfer of permit to a driver's license with the Basic Operating Skills Test form. Other services include: motorcycle endorsements, downgrade of commercial driver's licenses, name and address changes, voter registration, and organ donor registration. Arapahoe County driver's license renewal offices do not issue commercial driver's licenses.

The new office will make it easier for Aurora area residents to renew their driver's license and help alleviate some of the long waiting times at other driver's license locations."

