

FIRST DAY OF TAX SEASON

Tuesday January 17th is the first day of filing season. Traditionally the IRS would open up on a Friday (usually the 2nd Friday of January), this year is different.

OFFICE LOCATION

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money."**14** Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.**15** Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." **James 4:13-15**

Many of you may remember me telling you last year that I planned to stay in that office until the salon grew to the point that they needed more room. As it turned out, after the stylist and massage therapist took positions at another salon, there wasn't enough income to keep the salon going and we had to close. Like the quote from the Bible above, we never know what the future will hold. One thing good that came out of this was the opportunity to take another look at what the best location is for Alpha to Omega Tax Services. After looking at where the majority of our clients live or work (and to be closer to our home so we can be more flexible making appointments) we have determined that our best location would be close to Columbia. We have located space on Meeting Street (sometimes referred to as The West Vista). We have two spaces at 825 Meeting Street West Columbia, so Sharon will once again be helping with keeping the schedule and answering questions. We are just a few doors down from 9th Street, so for many of you the easiest route is turn onto Taylor from Huger, this will change into Jarvis Klapman, exit at 9th street, turn left then turn left at Meeting St. Some of you may go downtown by taking other routes such as 321, 378 or US1. If that is the case your directions to our office would be different.

TAX LAW CHANGES

We have no *last minute* tax law changes to deal with this year. This means that all forms are projected to be ready to file on January 17th, no delays.

The *Standard Deduction* and *Exemption* amounts increased this year, so more will be subtracted from your income before figuring how much your tax is.

The *Making Work Pay* credit has expired. When they first enacted this credit the amount withheld from paychecks was reduced. So, for many people their refund did not increase because of the credit. For these people there should be little change because of this credit ending. Some people may see a reduction in their refund or may end up having a balance due this year. There is no real way to predict *who* will be affected by this change until we actually prepare your return.

NEW RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

The IRS has increased the record keeping requirements dealing with filing status and dependents. To comply with this you **MUST** bring the enclosed form completed with you to your appointment. I will also have to make copies of an unexpired picture ID for you (both spouses on a joint return) and Social Security cards for everyone listed on the return. This means you (both spouses on a joint return), children, grandchildren, and anyone else you are claiming as a dependent. We will be changing our filing system so you will not need to do this every year, we will be able to pull your file and verify your information from the previous year. We will only need to make copies of new Social Security cards and ID's if they have been renewed since your last visit. There may be additional forms to complete when you arrive, but please have the enclosed form filled out and all ID's and Social security cards when you arrive.

FREE TAX RETURN

We have found that our best clients are those that are most like those we already have (YOU). The best way for us to find this type of person is for you to introduce us. We would like to reward you with \$20 for each new client that you refer. But even better than that, if you refer 5 new clients, instead of \$20 each we would like to give you a free tax return. If you have already paid for your return before you get your five, we will refund your preparation fees (if you had your fees withheld from your refund, we will not be able to reimburse the bank fees only the fees paid to us)