Meet this week’s featured employee, Denise Archibald with City Clerk License Services. View her “On the Job” video at https://www.phoenix.gov/phxtv-media/video/1682

Nationwide Retirement Solutions: Don’t put eggs in one basket

You’ve probably heard that when it comes to investing, you should not put all your eggs in one basket. Nationwide Retirement Solutions, the administrator for the city’s 457 and 401(a) plans, says the solution is to spread your 457/401(a) plans account assets among a broad range of investment types – from funds geared to aggressive growth to funds designed for capital preservation.

This strategy is called diversification: It’s the opposite of putting all your eggs in one basket.

To diversify, many investors think in percentages: 10 percent in this class, another 10 percent in a different class, 20 percent in a third, and so on, until 100 percent of assets have been allocated. Diversification can help investors reduce market risk. Rarely do all asset classes move in exactly the same way at the same time. Having assets spread across all classes can help cushion your Plans account against significant losses. Of course, no investment strategy can protect you entirely from investment losses, especially in a down market.

The city’s 457 and 401(a) plans offer an investment menu of options representing asset classes from each of the four major asset classes: risk-based mutual funds, stock-based mutual funds, bonds, and a fixed income fund. The five types of stock funds in the plans in which you can further diversify are international, small-cap, mid cap, large-cap, and specialty.

Decisions about diversification may be affected by your age, tolerance for market risk, future needs for assets in your account, and plans for retirement. To discuss preparing for a more financially secure retirement with diversification, contact a local plan service representative by calling Nationwide’s Phoenix office at 602-266-2733.

Fall training lineup includes wellness and self-improvement classes

September’s training lineup includes wellness, self-improvement and personal finance classes, including:

- Finding Joy and Passion in Your Work (PL1300) – Learn how to find the positive in all that you do; share ideas to increase your team's enthusiasm and commitment; turn challenging situations into positive opportunities.
- Streamline Your Life (WW6130) – Learn how streamlining your life can ease your stress level.
- Doctor Talk: Sleep Apnea (WW6140) – A Cigna Medical Group doctor will talk about sleep apnea to help you breathe easier, rest better and be healthier.
- Healthy Cooking Demo (WW6100) – Topic: “Turn Over a New Leaf.” A professional chef will teach students to use dark leafy greens in two recipes. Enjoy samples.
- Finding Joy and Passion in Your Work (PL1300) - Learn how to find the positive in all that you do; share ideas to increase your team's enthusiasm and commitment; turn challenging situations into positive opportunities.
• Financial Fitness (FM3310) – Students will examine the basic principles of cash management, saving and wealth accumulation. Learn how to locate and maximize discretionary income to create a plan for financial success.

There is also space in these classes:
• AZ Relay Training (EOD062); Powerpoint 2010 Foundation (CT3201), Powerpoint 2010 – Intermediate (CT3202), Excel 2010 Foundation (CT3101); Civil Treatment for Employees (CIV550); Workplace Violence Prevention for Employees (GD4100), Workplace Violence Prevention for Supervisors (SD1617); Improving Your English Pronunciation 1 (LPCEP1); Diversity: As Simple as Respect, Module 2; Seamless Service Philosophy (CSC100); Overview of Dust Control (EP8037); and Lyris List Server (CT3401).

For more information, including the class schedule, or to register, log onto eCHRIS Self Service.

NEWS BRIEFS

The 29th Annual National Hispanic Women’s Conference will be Sept. 25 – 26 at the Phoenix Convention Center – South Building. The two-day conference, presented by the Hispanic Women’s Corporation, will provide leadership and professional development to more than 2,500 participants while raising funds for college scholarships to benefit Latino students. City employees can use their employee development or management-development funds for the conference registration. Register online at hispanicwomen.org/index.php to receive the early registration rate of $125; the rate after Aug. 31 will be $165. For more information, visit the conference website.

The Early Head Start and Head Start programs are recruiting children for the 2014-15 school year. The Early Head Start program is seeking parents with children from birth to 3 years old and pregnant women to participate in this home-based program. Meanwhile, the center-based Head Start program is looking for children 3 or 4 years old. Parents of children with special needs also are encouraged to apply. Families must meet federal income guidelines for family size to be eligible to enroll in these educational programs. For more information, call Early Head Start at 602-495-7050 or Head Start at 602-262-4040 or visit phoenix.gov/headstart.

PEOPLE

The record-breaking monsoon season has kept city employees from Police, Fire, Street Transportation, Parks and Recreation and Public Works busy for a good part of the summer. Phoenix residents have expressed their gratitude on social media, and one Paradise Valley resident went so far as to take this photo of a city crew working in her neighborhood. On this particular day, city crews collected more than 900 tons of mostly green waste and trash in her area. The resident wrote:

“On behalf of myself, my family and my community I would like to extend my greatest thanks and heartfelt gratitude to these men ... and all the others who helped transform the city and our neighborhood in particular after the storm. Their speedy response and unlimited dedication, even after working tirelessly throughout the night into the next day, changed broken homes and broken spirits into renewal and hope. On this day, these men were angels... I just really wanted to acknowledge them as Phoenix's finest.”

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