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New York Announces Tax Filing Extensions for Victims of Tropical Storm Lee

New York State has postponed certain tax filing and payment deadlines for taxpayers in the counties of Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, and Tioga that were declared disaster areas due to Tropical Storm Lee.

Taxpayers adversely affected by the storm do not need to apply for a waiver or an extension to obtain this relief. Go to www.tax.ny.gov/bus/multi/lee_relief.htm for details regarding which taxpayers are considered directly affected by the storm and eligible for this relief.

Deadlines have been postponed for the period beginning on or after September 7, 2011, and ending before October 31, 2011 for:

- ♦ filing returns – including those for personal income tax, corporate taxes and sales tax;
- ♦ paying taxes (*there are exceptions for certain deposits of withholding tax, metropolitan commuter transportation mobility tax, sales tax, prepaid sales tax and excise tax on motor fuel and diesel motor fuel, and petroleum business*

tax) or installment of tax, including installment payments of estimated taxes;

- ♦ filing requests for extensions;
- ♦ filing for credits or refunds;
- ♦ filing for redeterminations of a deficiency, or applications for review of a decision;
- ♦ a credit or refund;
- ♦ assessing tax;
- ♦ giving or making a notice or demand for payment of tax;
- ♦ collecting tax by levy or otherwise;
- ♦ bringing suit by New York State for tax liability;
- ♦ elections; and
- ♦ other acts required or permitted in Tax Law or New York State Tax Regulations.

All deadlines for performance of the above occurring on or after September 7, 2011, and before October 31, 2011 have been postponed to October 31, 2011.

Interest at the appropriate underpayment rate must be paid on tax payments received after October 31, 2011.

Please contact us with questions or for additional information.

Backpack Bonanza Gets School Year off to Positive Start ♦ *TMD again participated in the Backpack Bonanza to support the Syracuse City School District's Franklin Magnet School. Employees donated more than \$600 in books and school supplies for kindergarteners and first graders at the school.*

TIMELY TAX TIPS

Your tax picture can change at any time requiring year-end adjustments. Here are some tax-saving measures to consider:

PAYING YOUR INCOME TAXES

Federal and state governments operate on a pay-as-you-go basis. Now is a good time to check your progress toward getting your taxes paid. You do not want to pay too little. If it looks as if you are going to be subject to an underpayment penalty, you may be able to reduce or eliminate the penalty by increasing your quarterly estimated tax payments.

You do not want to pay too much, either. Why give your money to the government too soon, when you can invest those funds until April 15, 2012? As long as you will not be subject to an underpayment penalty, you should hold on to your cash as long as possible. If you can reduce the amount of tax you are currently paying to the government, consider putting some of that savings into a retirement plan.

FUNDING YOUR RETIREMENT PLANS

Contributing to a tax-qualified retirement plan can reduce your current tax obligations and help you

save for your retirement in a tax-efficient manner. Qualified plans provide tax deferral (or tax avoidance in the case of Roth IRAs) on earnings until distributions are made. To qualify for a tax deduction, your retirement plan generally must be in place before the end of the year.

Exceptions are IRA and Simplified Employee Pension plans, which can be set up through April 15, 2012. Establishing a new retirement plan requires thoughtful decision-making. It is not a good idea to cobble something together at the last minute. Small employers (generally those with 100 or fewer employees) that set up a qualified retirement plan may be eligible for a tax credit up to \$500 per year for three years. The credit is limited to 50 percent of the qualified startup costs.

ESTABLISHING A HEALTH PLAN FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES

If you are not currently providing health coverage for your employees, a tax credit for small businesses may make the cost of purchasing this coverage more affordable.

For tax years 2011 through 2013, the maximum credit is 35 percent of the premiums paid by the employer. To earn the credit, the employer generally must contribute at least 50 percent of



TMD Partners with Skaneateles Festival to Provide Concerts for Kids

TMD recently partnered with the Skaneateles Festival to host an inspiring, interactive musical performance by the world renowned Marcus Roberts Trio. The youth-focused concert, held at the Everson Museum, attracted more than 120 children from the Near Westside.

the total premium. The full credit is available for employers with 10 or fewer full-time equivalent employees and average annual wages less than \$25,000. Partial credits are available on a sliding scale to businesses with fewer than 25 FTEs and average annual wages less than \$50,000.

HIRING NEW EMPLOYEES

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit is available to employers who hire certified members of specified targeted groups. The credit can range up to 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of qualified wages paid during the first year of employment - for a maximum credit of \$2,400 per qualified employee. Under current law, the credit is available only for employees hired by December 31, 2011.

WRITING OFF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Generous tax write-off rules apply to most non-real estate assets acquired and placed in service

during 2011. The expensing election limit under Section 179 is set at \$500,000 if the total amount of qualified asset purchases does not exceed \$2 million. The deduction is available for most business equipment, furniture and off-the-shelf computer software.

There are limits to the Section 179 deduction, including the fact that it cannot cause a net loss. But the 100 percent bonus depreciation election, also available through the end of 2011, has no such no-loss restriction. The key to qualifying for these enhanced deductions is that the qualifying asset must be placed in service by December 31, 2011. Just ordering or paying for the asset is not enough. It must actually be in use in your business by the end of the year.

To learn more about any of the information above, consult your TMD CPA today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RISING STARS

Keeley Hines, CPA was named Manager in the Firm's Audit Department. She is a graduate of Le Moyne College and a member of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. Hines is active in the community and volunteers on the School Commission for Bishop's Academy at Most Holy Rosary.



Drew Donovan, CPA was named Senior Accountant in the Firm's TRAC Department. He is a graduate of Syracuse University. Donovan is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. He serves as Alumni Treasurer for Delta Tau Delta Gamma Omicron Fraternity.



Lisa Kennedy was named Senior Accountant in the Firm's Audit Department. She is a graduate of Le Moyne College.



Brian Kuraszewicz, CPA was named Senior Accountant in the Firm's Audit Department. He is a graduate of the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome.



TMD COUNTS TWO MORE CPAS TO TEAM ♦ Congratulations to **Drew Donovan** and **Brian Kuraszewicz** for earning their CPA licenses. We're proud to honor their hard work and commitment to accounting excellence.

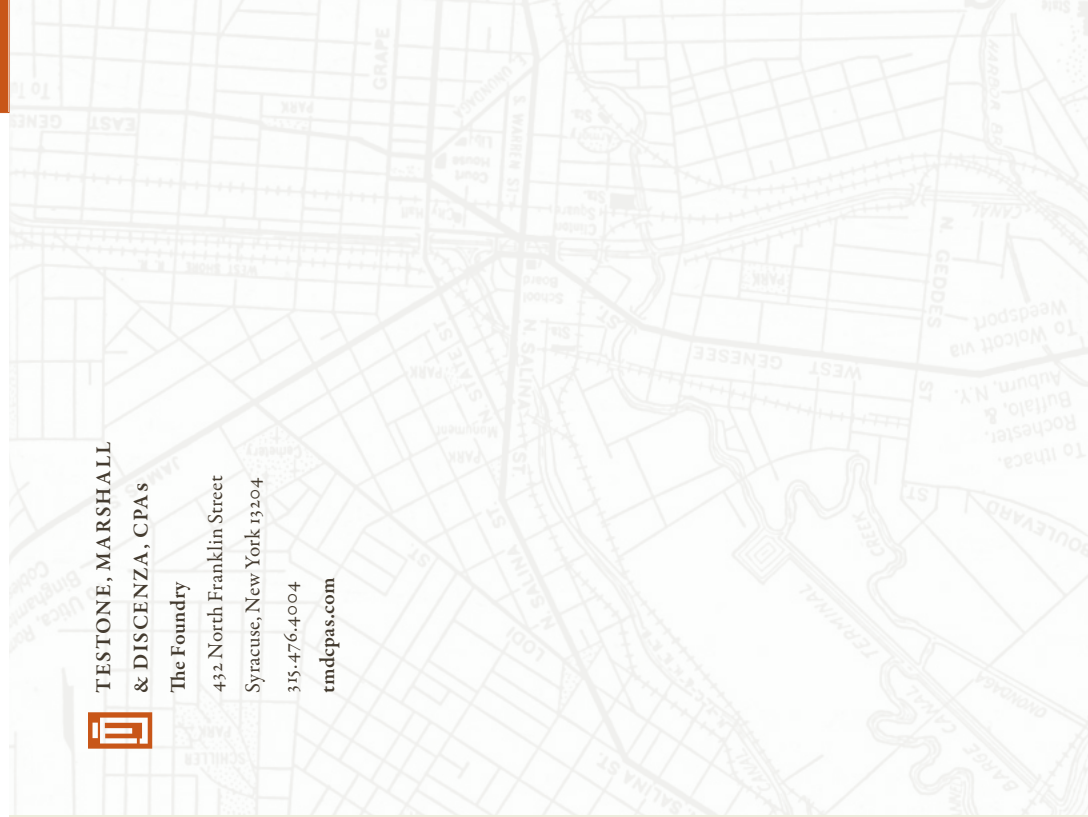
MOYNIHAN APPOINTED TO NYS FAIR ADVISORY BOARD ♦ **David Moynihan, Partner**, was recently named by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the New York State Fair Advisory Board. He will assist with the review of fair operations and provide recommendations to the fair director.

NEW EMPLOYEES JOIN FIRM ♦ *TMD recently welcomed the following professionals to our team:*

Jay Jerose
AUDIT DEPARTMENT
 He received his bachelor's in accounting from SUNY Buffalo and lives in Liverpool.

John Zavaglia
AUDIT DEPARTMENT
 He earned his bachelor's in accounting and M.B.A. from Le Moyne College and lives in East Syracuse.

Michael Cannizzaro
AUDIT DEPARTMENT
 He has a bachelor's in accounting from Cornell University and lives in Syracuse.



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TMD GOES GREEK FOR THE UNITED WAY ♦ Team TMD took home first place with its Syracuse Sizzling Souvlaki at the recent United Way Campaign Kickoff Cookoff. The annual Cookoff is a fun tradition that allows local businesses to compete for the best dish in a number of culinary categories. Hundreds attended and all proceeds raised went towards the 2011 United Way Community Campaign.

SAVE A TREE ♦ If you would prefer to receive your newsletter via email, simply send a blank email that says "Email the TMD News to me" in the subject line to marketing@tmdepas.com.

