

Legislative Report

From Sen. Gene McLaurin: As the legislature has debated various tax reform plans over the past few weeks, I am concerned that what has emerged is not tax reform at all. While we need a fair and balanced approach, I regret we have yet to see that in the various proposals in Raleigh. We need a plan that reflects North Carolina's priority investments to education, a skilled workforce, public safety, and health and human services. Version 5 of the so-called tax reform plan was presented to us in the N.C. Senate this week. And despite the changes made, the Senate, House of Representatives, and Governor's Office have not yet been able to reach a consensus. The same parties have failed to reach consensus on a state budget as well, passing a continuing resolution to keep state government operating beyond July 1. We have been in session since late January and should have passed a budget by now. Thanks to the hundreds of people in the district who have called, emailed, or written to express your views and concerns on tax reform and the state budget. As always, I appreciate your input and your ideas.

With the 2012-2013 school year behind us now, I want to take this opportunity to thank our teachers, teacher assistants, principals, and other school personnel for a job well done. It will be vitally important in the coming weeks for state legislators to pass a balanced state budget that treats our students with dignity, funds our classrooms adequately, and provides support for our students in Kindergarten through Twelfth grade. If our children are going to be college ready and prepared for careers, we must ensure that our schools are funded at a level that reflects our commitment to a sound basic quality education. Just this week, I heard from my son's former 1st grade teacher, who is a dedicated career educator pursuing a master's degree. She is rightly concerned about the lack of funding and support for teachers with master's degrees. I empathize with her as she feels confused and concerned about the lack of commitment in Raleigh. I admire her and all those in education who are furthering their education. I am opposed to cutting this 10% salary supplement and will continue to support restoration of these funds so that every teacher with a master's degree is adequately compensated for their hard work.

Our community colleges are on the frontlines of job creation and successful economic development efforts in our state. Yet, they are faced with looming cuts in the state budget as well. Just this past week, I sat down with President Carol Spaulding, of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College to discuss the challenges they face. With unemployment ranging from 8-15.5% in our district, our community colleges offer low-cost degree programs and short-term training programs. Some say they must be everything to everyone - offering GED programs, associate degrees, retraining for displaced workers, and much needed allied health programs. I want to thank our community college instructors and staff for tirelessly working to make our communities a better place to live and work. With no pay raise in the last four to five years, they have really stepped up to the plate during difficult times. I will continue to work toward adequately funding our community colleges and their staff at a level that allows them provide quality education programs that will help us recruit good paying jobs. NC community colleges have always served as a model for the nation and we don't want to change that. My wife, Donna and I are both proud to have attended NC community colleges.

House Bill 296, the Wildlife Commission Omnibus Bill, passed the Senate this week. This bill makes statutory changes to better control and regulate bear-hunting, since the bear population has been on the rise in recent years. The Wildlife Commission has met with local and statewide stakeholders to work through the various needs of counties who have seen an increase in bear sightings within residential areas. Also included in the bill are provisions to allow more disabled persons to hunt with a friend and to pay less for a permit. In addition, the bill creates the Hunting Heritage Apprenticeship program for youth hunters, a program aimed at encouraging youth to hunt safely with an adult. I was proud to be a part of passing such great legislation to promote and encourage people to hunt safely and become more knowledgeable of our state and county laws.

And finally, I wish everyone a Happy Independence Day! My family and I will be out celebrating with many of you across the district on Thursday and this week-end, so I hope to see you. Please be safe as you are traveling and enjoy this time spent with your families and friends while we all remember the many sacrifices made by our veterans and servicemen and women to guarantee our precious freedoms.

As always, please reach out to me and share your concerns by calling my office at 919-733-5953 or writing to Gene.mclaurin@ncleg.net.

Free Breath Control and Meditation Workshops Offered

Long Life Fitness is offering free breath control and meditation workshops. They will be taught by Leslie Snow, RYT 200, ACSM-CPT. The workshops will be held on Tuesday, July 9 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, July 13, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Wadesboro. You are invited to come to any one or all three.

Everyone can benefit from these workshops, especially people with respiratory dysfunction, those suffering from depression, anxiety and sleeplessness. Breath control, called pranayama in yoga, is considered more important than yoga postures for maintaining health and tranquility.

Meditation is also an important yogic tradition. It helps to quiet the mind and improve focus and concentration. Leslie will teach several methods of breath control and meditation during the workshops.

Bring mats, blankets and pillows for lying and sitting comfortably on the floor, if desired. Chairs are also available.

Leslie Snow is a registered yoga teacher and certified personal trainer. She studied breath control and meditation in Rishikesh, India in February of this year. For more information contact her at 904-534-3141.



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Fun Day & Charity Ride for Johnny Carelock is this Saturday

Johnny Carelock of Ansonville has to have a lung transplant and must raise a minimum of \$10,000 before he can go on the waiting list. To help him achieve this a Fun Day and Biker's Charity Ride fundraiser will be held on Saturday, July 13, with events starting at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to come out for a day of fun that will also be a great benefit to Mr. Carelock. This event will be held at the Old Anson Tech Baseball Field which is across from the Ansonville Fire Department on Highway 52.

The charity ride begins at 11 a.m. The cost is \$10 for single riders and \$15 for double riders. Participating bikers will receive free food and drinks.

There will be lots of fun events for children, and flavored sno cones and cotton candy. DJ Diz will provide great music. Food and beverages will be sold throughout the day.

To purchase tickets or learn more please call Timeka Carelock at 704-826-8926.

Arts Council's July Bach's Lunch Features Local Musicians

Got an hour? How does lunch and entertainment sound? On Wednesday, July 17, from noon to 1 p.m., the summer's second Bach's Lunch will offer a tasty meal accompanied by the music of local residents Matthew Bailey on piano and Barbara Webb on flute. Many of you may have heard them play during the recent production of "The Trip to Bountiful" at the Ansonia Theatre.

The lunch will include a delicious croissant with chicken salad, potato salad, pickle, tomato and lettuce, dessert and tea. Take-outs are available.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Arts Council and Lacy's in Wadesboro, and from Arts Council board members. Please purchase in advance if at all possible.

The final Bach's Lunch of the summer will be Wednesday, August 21, with local guitarist/singer Carson Hill entertaining. All Bach's Lunches are held at the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church, located 208 South Greene Street in Wadesboro. Information is available at 704-694-4950.

National Ice Cream Day at Grace Senior Center

Grace Senior Center will observe National Ice Cream Day on Thursday July 18, from 2 to 3 p.m. Free ice cream will be served to seniors ages 60 and over.

For more information or to register please call 704-694-6616.

Planning Board Meeting Set for July 23

There will be a Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, July 23rd at 6 p.m. in the Ashe Street conference room. The meeting will be held for clarification of the definition of the use of a park in Industrial zoning.

County Planner Josie Lodder said, "Specifically at question is whether a motorcycle park is included in the definition of park."

For more information you can contact Lodder at 704-694-2496 or jlodder@co.anson.nc.us.

Church Sanctuary For Sale or Lease in Rockingham

Highway 1 South at Highway 74 Bypass: Brick construction, large sanctuary seats approx 200. Large classrooms, pastor's study, separate fellowship hall building. Includes pews & pulpit furniture. **Sale \$375,000 Lease \$1,550 per month** Additional home/parsonage next door also available.

Richmond County Land For Sale

Development Potential: Approximately 7.5 acres on Fifth Street in Hamlet. Close to 800 feet frontage on Fifth Street. Located at intersection with Old Cheraw Highway, across from WKDX Radio Station, about 1 mile from Highway 74. **\$25,000**

Development Potential - Investor Price: Approximately 15 acres on Fifth Street in Hamlet. Approximately 575 feet of frontage on Fifth Street, approximately 350 feet frontage on Old Cheraw Highway. Beside WKDX Radio Station in residential area, approximately 1 mile from Highway 74. Sold as one parcel. **\$30,000**

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