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THROUGH THE LENS



Pastor Ivy provides the Senate prayer.



Team Taylor hard at work during budget process.

4th Senate District LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF JUNE 22 — JUNE 26

Welcome to my Legislative Update!

I'm State Senator Lena C. Taylor and this is my legislative update. If you do not wish to receive my weekly update, please let me know at sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov.

-Breaking Records!-

As a Senator I have many passions and goals. Education is so important to me and I make sure that I provide opportunities to the students of Wisconsin every day. This summer my office broke a record by recruiting over 15 interns/volunteers. It gives me hope to see so many students educating themselves above and beyond their studies.

My office generally provides opportunities to between 12-16 interns during the semester and about 7-9 during the summer. Every semester and summer, this total increases. Unfortunately, my office is not getting any larger. Please know that opportunities exist within the community and from your home as well, not just from the office. If you want to get involved, please contact my office at 414-342-7176.

-Lose the Training Wheels!-

I am always so happy to see great physical opportunities for the children of Wisconsin with special needs. The Lose the Training Wheels Bike Camp runs from June 29 through July 03, 2009 and enables children with autism, Down syndrome, and other disabilities to learn to ride a two-wheel bike.

Volunteers work with children one-on-one, one hour each of the five days to teach them to ride a two-wheel bike. This is a great opportunity to get your child with special needs out in a social atmosphere and having fun. For more information on how to volunteer or register, please call 414-327-3729. The event is located at Nicolet High School—6701 N. Nicolet Rd., Glendale WI 53217.

-Community Brainstorming Meeting-

Saturday, June 27, 2009 Community Brainstorming will be meeting at Saint Matthews C.M.E. Church for the presentation of "It's in Your Hands, the 2010 Census Count: What is the Impact of a Census Undercount in Communities?" Panelists include: Mayor Tom Barrett, City of Milwaukee, Shirley A. Ellis, Senior Advisor, Office of Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Brian Vigue, Intergovernmental Relations DOA, State of Wisconsin. Also on the panel are County Supervisors, John Thomas, 18th District and Peggy West, 12th District, Milwaukee County.

Community Brainstorming was formed in 1986 for the purpose of "brainstorming" about an array of problems, issues, and concerns regarding the African-American community in the Milwaukee metropolitan area. Meetings take place every fourth Saturday of the month. Breakfast runs from 8-9am and the program is from 9-11am.

MANNERS MOMENT



Dana World-Patterson
Visions Etiquette Training
visionsetiquettetraining.com

“Respect is the foundation of every social relationship. Respect makes all the difference during introductions and well into the relationships that come from them.

Respect yourself, respect others; this is an ideal to live by.”

FROM THE BAR

Homestead

(n) Homestead is the residential unit used by a family, which has been declared as the main dwelling place of that family by the head of the house hold in writing to the County Recorder or Recorder of Deeds. A homestead is exempted from bankruptcy proceedings and judgment creditors.

-Joblessness in Milwaukee, Looking to Solutions-

Thursday, June 18, 2009 the Social Development Commission and the Bridge of Hope Anti-Racism Committee held a public hearing in the crisis of Black Joblessness. Noted speakers were Dr. Lenard Wells and Dr. Marc Levine who have both done noted research on the problem of unemployment for black men. Dozens of Milwaukee residents testified on this crisis that is within our community

Problems that many residents identified within the employment sector include discrimination, lack of opportunity and livable wages and challenges that ex-offenders face when seeking work upon release. Comments were made that those with criminal records feel they often have limitations on finding good jobs which puts them at risk for re-offending.

The information gathered will be used by the Bridge of Hope and SDC for reporting purposes and advocacy within the community.

-Budget Nears Completion-

The 2009-2011 biennial State Budget is near done. The State Senate approved the conference committee report late Thursday and sent it over to the Assembly. The Assembly is expected to pass the budget Friday evening. The conference report is unamendable compromise between the two houses of the Legislature to reconcile the differences in the budget.

The budget that will be sent to the Governor includes some good things. Choice Schools will be held accountable but not regulated out of existence due to the compromises I was able to broker. Our corrections system will experience a major set of reforms to better control our prison population and avoid prison building. This budget also provides for a dedicated funding source for 911 centers so that emergency help will always be available when you need it.

This budget has not been easy. A 6.6 billion deficit is not an attractive obstacle to overcome. However, I applaud my colleagues and the Governor for working through this process with great concern and passion for Wisconsin and it's families.

-What Happened to Parks?!-

As many of you know, Milwaukee County taxpayers approved a referendum in November of 2008 calling for a one percent sales tax to provide dedicated funding for transit, parks, culture, and EMS services and to provide property tax relief. As the Legislature debated the RTA proposals and other transit concerns, we took up the question of granting Milwaukee County the sales tax authority at the same time.

In the Finance Committee, my colleagues and I recognized the need for the one percent funding and authored a plan to provide that authority to the county. As the Assembly passed the budget, they stripped the parks funding from the plan. The Senate restored the parks funding and disentangled much of the Milwaukee County funding from the RTA discussion.

Unfortunately, the leadership in the Legislature adopted a conference committee report that ignored the will of the people with regards to parks funding. In addition, the conference report has serious issues about ownership of Milwaukee County busses. While the .5 sales tax authority will be helpful, there are concerns, and we lost out on parks. I am disappointed, but pledge to continue the conversation to get this funding.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT



Dan Hansfield

Interning in Senator Taylor's office has been an exciting and educational experience this summer. I will be graduating from the UW-Madison School of Business this December. When not working with the Senator to serve her constituents, I enjoy spending time on Lake Mendota. I am looking forward to continuing to develop my understanding of the Wisconsin legislative process by working with the Senator and her excellent staff this summer.

PASTOR'S PULPIT

"I just want to do God's will. And he's allowed me to go to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land! I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

-Digital Television Conversion Update-

If you have an analog television and have heard about the transition to digital television programming, I bring you news that may just make your life a little bit simpler.

The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources is reaching out to assist residents of Wisconsin with digital television programming. Although the deadline for the transition has been pushed back from February to June 12, they said it is important for consumers to be ready. With funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the agency plans to provide one-to-one assistance to elder persons, minorities or those who have a language or cultural barrier.

Seven counties participating in the program include Bayfield, Calumet, Florence, LaCrosse, Marathon/Wood, Sauk and Sheboygan. Residents in the participating counties can contact their local Aging or Disability Resource centers in order to purchase a converter box or to receive help with installing the box.

The Digital-to-Analog Converter Box coupon is available for viewers with an analog television. Every U.S. household is eligible to receive up to two coupons at participating consumer electronics retailers. The boxes sell from \$40 to \$70.

-Free Community Workshops-

As a mother and a Senator I felt the need to share this very important opportunity. There are free workshops aimed to protect your kids from lead poisoning and to provide them with information about better nutrition. Make sure you don't miss this event!

The first workshop is on Monday, June 8th, 12:30-1:30pm. You will learn about risks associated with lead and effective ways to prevent lead poisoning. Another workshop is scheduled on Wednesday, June 17th, 1:30-2:30pm. At this workshop you will learn about healthy eating for your family.

Both events will take place at La Causa Family Resource Center: 804 W. Greenfield Ave., Milwaukee. Registration is required, so call 414-647-5971 and ask for Nikki to sign up for the upcoming workshops. The workshops are open to everyone.

-Miss Black Wisconsin 2009-



Miss Black Wisconsin USA 2009, Nzingha Thompson, is making a positive impact in Wisconsin communities. Currently, she's conducting various self-esteem and empowerment workshops in Milwaukee area schools. Recently, she's visited and conducted several workshops at Benjamin Franklin School and the Young Leaders Academy Charter School. Ronn Johnson, Executive Principal of the Young Leaders Academy Charter school shared the following sentiments, "Nzingha's workshops were right on time for our girls. She was able to instill positive values and uplift them". The Girl's Place Self-Esteem and Empowerment workshops include: CROWNS, VISIONS-MY DREAM, MY FUTURE and WHO AM I-monologue. For more information about Girl's Place workshops or to schedule a workshop, please contact Nzingha Thompson, Miss Black Wisconsin USA 2009 via email at: missblackwi@gmail.com.

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Community Events

Be the Match—Marrowthon

What: An opportunity to become a registered bone marrow donor. A chance to save a life!

When: June 8-22nd

Where: On-line at www.bethematch.org
Promo code: 1DMGTYK

Or call 1-866-702-HOPE

Milwaukee Trolley Loop

What: Get around downtown Milwaukee this summer on the free trolley loop

When: June 03–Sep 05
Wed-Sat 11:00 am-10:00 pm

For info:

Contact 414-562-RIDE

If an organization you belong to has an event you feel should be included in the Community Events section please [e-mail](mailto:) me.

Do you have a computer? **Do you need help with food, prescriptions, or other services?** Use www.access.wi.gov to see if you and your family are eligible for a variety of state-sponsored services designed to assist citizens in procuring essential resources.

Useful Resources

Child Support Enforcement
414-278-5160

Elderlink
414-289-6874

Governor Doyle
414-227-4344

Employment Ways to Work Program
414-906-2820

Senior Care Insurance
1-800-657-208

Senior Law
(414) 278-1222
(414) 278-7722

Energy Assistance
414-906-2800

Rent Assistance
414-286-5678

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups Prescription Drug Assistance
1-866-456-8211

Food Assistance
414-733-0211

Bureau of Child Welfare
414-220-SAFE

W-2
1-800-722-2295

City of Wauwatosa
414-479-8900

Badger Care Insurance
1-800-362-3002

Milwaukee Common Council
414-286-2221

City of Glendale
414-228-1700

Milwaukee County Economic Support
414-289-6000

Congresswoman Gwen Moore
414-297-1140

SENATE CONTACTS
Sergeant-at-Arms Office
608-266-1801

Wisconsin Foreclosure Hotline
414-278-1240
Medicaid
1-800-291-2002

Senator Russ Feingold
414-276-7282

Human Resources
608-264-8471

Senator Herb Kohl
414-297-4451

Senate Chief Clerk's Office
608-266-2517