

There are flowers enough in the summertime, More flowers than I can remember - But none with the purple, gold, and red, That dye the flowers of September!

Mary Howitt (1799-1888)

September's name comes from the Latin word septem, meaning "seven." This month had originally been the seventh month of the early Roman calendar.

September Calendar

- September 4 - the first Monday of the month is Labor Day
- September 11 - is Patriot Day, held in honor and remembrance of those who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.
- September 11 - is also Grandparents Day this year. Honor your grandparents today - and every day!
- September 17 - is Constitution Day. This day celebrates the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, which occurred on September 17, 1787.
- September 19 - Full Harvest Moon
- September 21 - is recognized as the annual International Day of Peace.
- September 23 - marks the start of fall! This year's Autumnal Equinox occurs at 2:50 A.M. EDT on Saturday, September 23. On this date, there are approximately equal hours of daylight and darkness.

September's birthstone is the sapphire Sapphires were thought to encourage divine wisdom and protection. They symbolized purity, truth, trust, and loyalty. The sapphire, along with the related ruby, are the second-hardest natural gemstones, with only the diamond being harder.

September's birth flowers are the aster and the morning glory. The aster signifies powerful love, and the China aster expresses variety or afterthought in the language of flowers. The morning glory symbolizes affection.

Funny, Random & Weird Holidays

- September 7 Thursday - Salami Day
- September 8 Friday - Pardon Day
- September 9 Saturday - Teddy Bear Day
- September 10 Sunday - Swap Ideas Day & Hug Your Hound Day
- September 11 Monday - Make Your Bed Day
- September 12 Tuesday - Chocolate Milkshake Day
- September 13 Wednesday - Positive Thinking Day & Roald Dahl Day

Food Truck Fridays in Albemarle Features Live Music

Albemarle Parks and Recreation invites you to join them for Food Truck Fridays each month at City Lake Park, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Enjoy great food from a variety of food trucks and free live music. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Don't forget to bring a blanket or a lawn chair!

City Lake Park is located at 815 Concord Road in Albemarle.

- On Friday, September 8 the band is Too Much Sylvia. They play a variety of music, including their own beach music compositions.
- On Friday, October 6 the band is New Local.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Lisa Kiser at lkiser@albemarlenc.gov or 704-984-9564.

Grace Senior Center One-Day Trip to Fuller's Bar-B-Q for Lunch September 28

Date changed since previous article

Grace Senior Center invites all seniors to join them for a fun trip to Fuller's Bar-B-Q in Fayetteville on Thursday, September 28. Fullers is famous for their delicious pit cooked BBQ. They have won multiple awards, including the People's Choice Award "Best of the Best" and Southern Living Food Awards.

Here's how Fullers describes it: "Since 1986 we've been mastering the art of pit cooking to bring you the best BBQ in town. Our slow-smoked meats are cooked low and slow, resulting in mouthwatering flavors and tender, juicy cuts. Come taste the difference that over three decades of experience makes."

The restaurant features a lunch buffet. Their menu includes BBQ (of course!), steak, chicken, seafood, vegetables, sandwiches and homemade desserts.

For the trip, the Grace Senior Center charter bus will load at the Food Lion parking lot, with a departure time of 9 a.m. The total cost of the trip is \$46.91, which includes transportation and lunch.

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

You Decide: Is There a Winner in the Debate Over Taxes?

By Mike Walden: Few public policy issues create more debate than taxes. That's because taxes are linked to several complementary issues that are also controversial. When you talk about taxes, you don't get one debate; you get several debates. Among them are questions about fairness, income distribution, simplicity, economic growth and funding of public programs.

North Carolina is an ideal state to examine questions about taxes. With the divided government we've frequently had at the state level in recent years - meaning the General Assembly is controlled by one party with the governor from the other party - debates about taxes are typical. So let me delve into the multiple issues tied to taxes and let you make the decisions about winners and losers.

The debate over fairness in the tax system is one of the most contentious. The fairness issue is most readily seen in the question about tax rates, especially tax rates on income. Should all households pay the same tax rate on a dollar of income, regardless of their total income? Those who agree would call this a "flat" or "fair" tax rate. Or should households with more income pay a higher tax rate than those with lower income? Supporters call this a "progressive" tax system.

Currently, North Carolina has a flat personal income tax - meaning the same rate for all households regardless of their income. The federal government has a progressive income tax system, with higher tax rates applied to brackets of higher income. Of course, there's a continuous discussion of the range of income brackets and the level of tax rates.

There's a direct link between the question of tax rates and the issue of income distribution. Some advocate using the tax system as a way of redistributing income, or transferring income from higher-income households to lower-income households. One simple way of doing this is to tax the income of upper-income households at higher rates and to tax the income of lower-income households at lower rates. Automatically, this makes higher-income households pay more tax per dollar of income than lower-income households. Advocates of spreading income more equally across households would applaud this tactic, while opponents counter that the tactic punishes accomplishment.

The question of simplicity in the tax system is part of the discussion about tax rates. But there's more to the issue, mainly revolving around the idea of deductions. Deductions are offsets to income occurring when taxpayers spend their money a certain way. For federal and North Carolina income taxes, all taxpaying households can take a standard deduction based on the number of people in the household. But most other deductions, both for businesses and households, are based on specific kinds of spending. One of the largest household deductions is for the interest a homebuyer pays on a mortgage. Renters receive nothing comparable. Another example is the federal tax credit - worth more than a deduction - that buyers of electric vehicles can take. These offsets to taxes have been questioned on two points. First, they complicate the tax system, often making taxes - especially income taxes - hard to understand. And if something is not easily understood, it can create attitudes that the system is manipulated to favor certain groups.

Second, the tax offsets can seem unfair, since they only come with the catch that the household or business spends money in a certain way. The broader question is whether the government should be giving tax favors to people who make certain kinds of expenditures. But in response, supporters of the deductions and credits say they are justified if people are motivated to make expenditures that help broader public purposes.

Economists have long recognized that taxes can impact the economic activities of both businesses and households. Taxes can hinder the economy by taking away funds that could be used for business expansion, investment in the private sector or simply personal spending that can make households happy. If tax rates are very high, they can also reduce the motivation for a person to work or a business to expand.

Yet at the same time, taxes are needed to fund the functions of government, such as public safety, transportation, international protection provided by the military and the court system. There can be a healthy debate about the degree of need for these functions, but collecting tax revenues is the only alternative to borrowing if some level of government programs is to be provided.

Interestingly, economic research has long shown that higher tax rates are not necessarily the way to provide more funding for government programs. Research by some economists has shown that raising tax rates may deter enough work and investment to result in lower tax revenues. Reducing tax rates may do the opposite - encourage enough additional work and investment so as to increase growth in the economy and generate larger tax revenues. There are ongoing efforts by researchers to find the best tax rate that provides the most tax revenue.

Taxes are both controversial and complicated. Hopefully, I've exposed and explained the areas of disagreement. And since I've addressed many issues, I've left you with multiple "you decides"!

Mike Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

Church

THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE SPONSORS

SEPT. 13-15 & 17

Women's Conference

At Johnson Chapel Holiness Church. Wed-Pastor Sylvia McLendon, Thu-Rev. Christine Hall, Fri-Pastor Bernice Johnson, all at 7pm. Sun-Elder Garrie Gaddy 11:45am. All are invited.

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16

Fish Dinner & Fish Sandwich Sale

11am at Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church, 378 Pleasant Hill Church Rd. (Hwy 109 S), Wadesboro. \$12 plates include fish, baked beans, cole slaw, hush puppies or bread and cake. Sandwiches are \$5. Info 704-380-7142.

SEPTEMBER 16

Yard Sale & Bake Sale

7am-1pm at First Presbyterian Church of Wadesboro, located at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. Lots of items, something for everyone!

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20

Fall Revival

At First Baptist Church, 722 Sikes Ave in Wadesboro with Pastor Tobias Wall of Saron Missionary Baptist Church, Polkton at 7pm nightly. All are welcome!

SEPTEMBER 24

Homecoming

At Victory Baptist Church in Lilesville. Worship service 11am with Dr. Jim Ritter, followed by lunch. Everyone is invited for worship, lunch & fellowship.

Special Program Chalktalks.net evangelist and chalk artists Dwight Haynes and his wife Ann at Mt. Beulah Baptist Church, 3373 Country Club Rd in Wadesboro. They will minister through music, chalk art and preaching.

SEPTEMBER 30

Free Household Items & Paper Goods at Community Outreach Tent Meeting hosted by Lamb of God Church in the Wadesboro IGA parking lot, 805 Camden Rd, 9am as long as supplies last. Info 843-623-3777.

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Events

SEPTEMBER 9

Class of 1973 Reunion Meeting, 3pm at Lady Bug Restaurant. Finalizing plans for 50th Class Reunion. All classmates are invited. Info Brenda S. Rorie 704-695-5196.

SEPTEMBER 17

Parker Family Reunion Descendants & family connections of Tom & Elizabeth Curlee Parker will meet at New Home Baptist Church, Peachland. Registration & social hour 11am-12 noon, or you can attend worship service at New Home. Business meeting 12:15pm. Questions & information Hugh Parker 704-219-7878.

SEPTEMBER 19

Board of Commissioners Meet 6pm in Board Room, Suite 209, in Government Center, 101 S Greene St in uptown Wadesboro. Now there are two regular monthly meetings. Meetings are available online at youtube.com, search for Anson Commissioners. To appear, sign up prior to meeting. Info 704-994-3201.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous

Regular meetings on Mondays at 7pm and Wednesdays at 12 noon. AA welcomes all who are seeking help, as well those wanting to help another person. The AA building is located at 2177 Country Club Rd. in Wadesboro, across from the Anson EMS building. For info call Michael 704-475-7466.

Fish Dinner and Fish Sandwich Sale on September 16

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy delicious fish on Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16, starting at 11 a.m. each day. Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church is hosting this event, and they will be selling fish dinners and fish sandwiches.

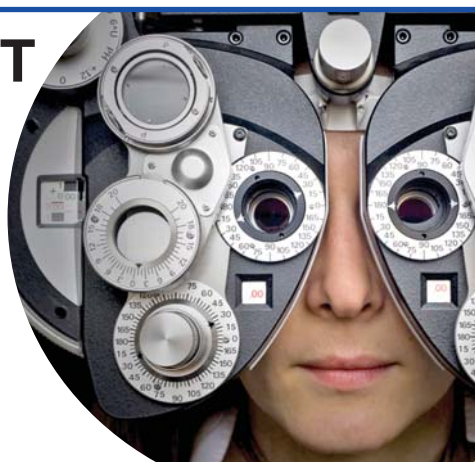
The fish plates include fish, baked beans, cole slaw, hush puppies or bread and cake, for only \$12. Fish sandwiches are \$5.

Pleasant Hill is located at 378 Pleasant Hill Church Road (Highway 109 South), Wadesboro. For information call James Ratliff at 704-380-7142 or Robert Moore at 704-475-2967.

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