



Stephan Lyons waits for the bus at the Campbell Transportation Center.

WSTA
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inter-governmental Transportation Advisory Committee.

"The proposed 30-percent rate hike would represent a very heavy additional burden on a lot of the families in Winston-Salem who can afford the least to take that type of hit," he said.

Besse said that those with low incomes would be hit twice: once by the fare increase and again with the property tax increase that they would either pay directly on their own properties or indirectly through higher rents.

He also argues that the WSTA, whose web site boasts of its "low, low price of \$1 a ride," is already in line with what most large cities are charging. High Point, Raleigh, Durham, Fayetteville and Asheville charge \$1. Greensboro currently charges \$1.30 and will go up to \$1.50 next month. Charlotte's bus fare is \$1.75.

Besse - who said that city buses are vital because so many people depend on them to get to work and other places - said he supports the proposed 4.2-cent property tax



Delancy McKoy

increase, but wouldn't want to increase taxes more than that to avoid the fare price hike. Instead, he is looking for fat to trim in other parts of the budget in hopes of avoiding the increase.



Rowe

Delancy McKoy was waiting for a WSTA bus last Thursday afternoon. He says he uses both WSTA and Piedmont Authority of Regional Transit (PART) buses as an affordable way to get to his job at a Taco Bell in High Point. Because of limited bus availability, he drives to work on weekends, which he

says can be expensive with the current price of gas. He said he'd have to do the math to see if it would still be cheaper to take the bus if the fare went up.

"That would hurt," said McKoy, a father of two. "Every little penny hurts."

Brenita Howard, who does not own a car and uses the bus at least once a day to get to class at Salem College and to shop at Walmart, said she is thankful that riding the bus is cheaper than driving. Howard said she would still feel a fare increase.

"You know it's going to be stressful on the budget," she said.

Stephan Lyons, who takes the bus two to three times a week to get to work, said that an increase in price would not hurt his wallet too much.

"It ain't too much difference. I don't think," said Lyons.

Besse encourages residents who are concerned about the proposed rate increase to call or email their City Council representatives and to attend a budget public hearing at City Hall, 101 N. Main St., at 7 p.m. on June 18. The Council is also expected to vote on the budget that evening. City law dictates that the City Council must adopt a budget by June 30. The budget would then go into effect on July 1.

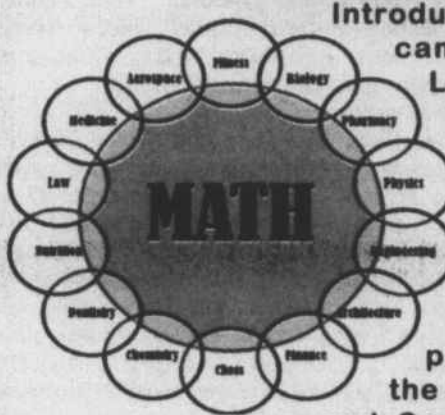
'Remembering Veterans'



Submitted Photo

American Legion Post 128 Auxiliary Unit held services entitled "Remembering Veterans" at New Evergreen Cemetery on Memorial Day. Among those who attended the ceremony were (from left) Athea Allen, Margie Pitts, Evelyn Funches, Commander William McDonald, Auxiliary President Betty McDonald, Tarsha Shore, Phyllis Smith and James Arradondo.

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will be held from 9am-3pm at the Glade Street YWCA. With the registration fee, participants will receive a daily catered lunch and snack, all costs associated with field trips, a camp T-shirt and participation in a year-round program on one Saturday per month from September 2012 to May 2013. All applications and supporting materials are due no later than June 15, 2012. Any questions should be directed to Dr. Tracey Keck-Staley at (336)287-0552 or traceykstaley@gmail.com.

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Department of Public Health