

TAX MATTERS

**FEBRUARY 28, 2011, Issue #11-02, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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1. GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE:

Vigo County - The Employed

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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

FEBRUARY 7, 2010 (#11-01)

- **HELP1 SPONSORS NEEDED**
 - The Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting and 75th Birthday Celebration to be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 is rapidly approaching. Special invitations will be mailed to over 900 addresses.
- **SPECIAL WORKSHOP**
 - At the Annual Meeting, Guest Speaker Dr. Larry DeBoer will also be doing a one-hour special workshop after the Annual Meeting. The topic will be "Recession and Indiana Local Governments."
- **CALCULATING YOUR 2011 PROPERTY TAX BILL**
 - Again, if you cannot match your calculations to the "[tax calculator](#)" found on the DLGF website, please feel free to call the TA office at 235.1361 or send e-mail to taxtopics@aol.com and we will investigate your bill.
- **A TALE OF TWO TOWNSHIPS – REVISITED**
 - Here is a comparison of two homestead properties located in different townships in Vigo County:
<http://www.taxtopics.org/Harrison%20Honey%20Creek%20Comparison.pdf>.
- **2011 BUSINESS OUTLOOK**
 - For this report, click here: http://www.indianabusinesscouncil.com/report_2011-business-outlook.asp

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) organization supported by membership dues. Any citizen or group of citizens in Vigo County may be a member. Current members are encouraged to promote membership in the organization by giving the attached application to a potential member. [See the TA application and dues structure.](#) This is NOT an invoice for your dues.

1. GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE:

Vigo County - The Employed

The community of Terre Haute has been recognized by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce as Community of the Year for Indiana for 2010. Many words of praise have been written and said about this award and the accomplishments contributing to it. The real credit can not be given to any specific organization or person. The credit goes to all Vigo County working people. None of the great things we all see happening in the city and county would be occurring if the County Council had not approved on a 4 to 3 vote to assess a 1.25% local gross income tax on wages and salaries (March 18, 2003). This local gross income tax is comprised of two components known as CAGIT and CEDIT. As of December 31, 2011, these two tax assessments will amount to over 164 million dollars returned to Vigo County by the State of Indiana, serving as a collection agency. These are payroll taxes that are sent to the state of Indiana by employers having been deducted from the earned wages. At this time, the state is experiencing difficulties determining the correct amount to distribute to all counties. A few years ago, Vigo County was shorted approximately 4 million dollars which was eventually corrected. The state has currently determined that too much money is being distributed in 2011, and therefore, future payments will be less for most counties. Vigo County now has to plan for this possible new short fall. At this same meeting, on March 18, 2003, on a 6 to 1 vote, the County Council approved a wheel tax of 15 dollars per auto per year for most automobiles.

The credit for being Community of the Year belongs to all the people employed in Vigo County who pay \$125 per \$10,000 earned each year. See the [attached chart and news release](#) for more details. It should also be noted that the Taxpayers Association of Vigo County supported the adoption for these new taxes.

2. TAX DOLLARS AND NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This was a topic of discussion by the Taxpayers Association Board of Directors at their regular meeting held on January 18, 2011. At that time the amount of information available concerning the pros and cons of the question would dwarf what we are hearing today. It was concluded at the meeting that I should bring this question to the membership.

The question is:

Should tax dollars be used to pay educational expenses for students attending K-12 schools in the state of Indiana that are not public schools?

Responses to this question will be summarized and I will not disclose personal names of responders. Your board of directors will be asked to establish a position on this very important issue at the board meeting to be held on March 15, 2011.

3. THE BRIDGES OF VIGO COUNTY

Did you know that there are 186 bridges in Vigo County? These bridges are inspected from time to time, and as a result of a recent inspection, there is a need to replace or repair several of the county bridges. Eighteen of the county bridges were judged in need of replacement at a rate of three per year for years 2010 through 2015. In addition to these 18, 9 were rated at needing rehabilitation, no bridges were cited with a need of widening, 175 are in need of repair, and none were rated for elimination.

So, who pays the bill for all of the replacement and repair? The county taxpayer contributes to the Cumulative Bridge Fund at a 2011 rate of \$0.0268. The budget for this fund is \$904,522. At times, the federal government also contributes in situations such as the flood of 2008. Even bridges located on city property must be supported by the county if their span is over twenty feet.

The three bridges to be replaced in 2011 are the Pottsville Road - Coal Creek bridge with an estimate of \$1,360,000, the Devonald Avenue - Gundy Ditch bridge with an estimate of \$516,000, and the Elliott Place – Prairie Creek bridge with an estimate of \$400,000.

For more details on this subject, please call the Taxpayers Association office (812.235.1361).

4. THE EAGLE IS ROOSTING

The Eagle has been roosting this past year in the trophy case at Terre Haute North Vigo, and as a result of this year's Taxation and Government contest sponsored by the Taxpayers Association, it shall remain there for yet another year. The winning team representing North, not only managed to win first for their school, but three members of the North team won individual honors as well.

Individual winners were:

1 st place	John Hensle (11 th grade)
2 nd place	Brenden Longfellow (12 th grade)
3 rd place (tie)	Jared Wells (9 th grade) and Steve Brandenburg (11 th grade)

John, Brenden, and Jared are North students, and Steve is a Washington student.

5. PUBLIC MEETINGS

The purpose of this calendar is to encourage taxpayers to attend public meetings. Taxpaying persons working at your business or living in your neighborhood should be encouraged to attend a meeting of their choice at least once per year. The date and time for the meetings listed below are always subject to change. Organizations that are underlined have a web page that can be accessed by clicking on their respective hyperlinks. The contact person is also listed. You should call the appropriate office and confirm the date and time if you plan to attend.

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Tue. Mar. 1	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 1	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Mar. 1	4:30 pm	<u>Honey Creek Conservancy District</u>	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Mar. 2	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Mar. 2	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Mar. 3	6:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Mar. 7	6:30 pm	<u>Riley Town Board</u>	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Mar. 8	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 8	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Mar. 8	7:00 pm	<u>Seelyville Town Board</u>	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Mar. 9	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Mar. 9	2:00 pm	<u>E-911 Advisory Board</u>	County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room	Greg 462-3226 ext. 320
Wed. Mar. 9	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Mar. 10	6:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Sat. Mar. 12	10:00 am	LEGISLATIVE CRACKERBARREL	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Mon. Mar. 14	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Mar. 14	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Mar. 14	6:00 pm	<u>West Terre Haute Town Board</u>	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Mar. 14	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Mar. 15	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 15	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Mar. 16	9:30 am	<u>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</u>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Mar. 16	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Wed. Mar. 16	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Thur. Mar. 17	2:00 pm	<u>Tree Advisory Board</u>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Mar. 21	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Mar. 22	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Mar. 23	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Mar. 23	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Mon. Mar. 28	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Mon. Mar. 28	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Mar. 28	5:30 pm	Terre Haute Housing Authority	2001 N. 19 th Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Mar. 28	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Mar. 29	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367

END

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