

## **TAX MATTERS**

**APRIL 16, 2009, Issue #09-15, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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- 1. COMPETITION THIS SATURDAY**
- 2. THOMPSON DITCH CITY STUDY**
- 3. BOARD OF HEALTH INFO**
- 4. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

### **REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS**

**APRIL 9, 2009 (#09-14)**

- **WHERE'S MY TAX STATEMENT?**
  - Where does Vigo County stand in the property tax timeline? To view an Indiana township map, color-coded to support the timeline, visit [http://www.in.gov/dlqf/files/2009\\_Cert\\_Status.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dlqf/files/2009_Cert_Status.pdf)
- **DO THE MATH**
  - An alternative idea to the bailout and its mathematical flaws

**APRIL 2, 2009 (#09-13)**

- **A MAJOR CONCERN**
  - It appears that we have serious problems with state-level offices.
- **SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS WANTED**
  - The Taxpayers web site is very close to going public. Prior to doing so, we would like a few people to test the site and let us know what does and does not work.

**MARCH 26, 2009 (#09-12)**

- **UNION HOSPITAL TOUR**
  - There will be a tour for Taxpayers Association members of the new Union Hospital building on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-4:30 pm. RSVP by April 13<sup>th</sup> so Tom Woodason will know how many hardhats and safety glasses to provide.
- **TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING – APRIL 21, 2009 AT 12:00 NOON**
  - RSVP by Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>
- **VCSC FACILITY MASTER PLAN**
  - Several downloaded Adobe PDF documents dealing with the Vigo County School Corporation Facility Master Plan can be found at <http://www.schmidt-arch.com/owners/VigoCounty.html>.
- **LET'S GO FOR THE GOOD MONEY**
  - The differences among “good money,” “neutral money” and “bad money”

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit organization supported by membership dues. Any citizen or group of citizens in Vigo County may be a member.

## 1. COMPETITION THIS SATURDAY

# FIRST ANNUAL

## TAXATION & GOVERNMENT COMPETITION Vigo County High Schools

APRIL 18, 2009  
Terre Haute, Indiana

The traveling trophy, ***THE EAGLE***, is sponsored by:

Indiana State University  
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology  
Ivy Tech Community College  
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Other financial and in-kind support has been provided by the following:

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Bryan, C.H. Garmong & Sons, Champion Awards  
City of Terre Haute, Susan Clements, Guille Cox, John Hilderbrand  
Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Old National Bank, Regional Hospital  
Bernard & Shirley Ridens, Terre Haute Savings Bank, Carolyn Toops  
The Vigo County Commissioners Golf Fund,  
James R. Wiesneth Law Office  
Wright, Shagley & Lowery, P.C.

The test was developed with the help of the following people.

Bernard Ridens  
Shirley Ridens  
Susan Clements  
Randall Allen  
Will Frankel

John McDonnall  
Tom Taylor  
Sharon Taylor  
Matt Hoxworth  
Susan Throckmorton

## 2. THOMPSON DITCH CITY STUDY

Since the 2008 flood, two studies have been completed concerning the combined function of the ditch and Honey Creek. One study was done by Christopher B. Burke for the Honey Creek-Vigo Conservancy District and reported in TAX MATTERS February 19, 2009 Issue #09-07.

A second study was done for the city by BANNING Engineering and released this week. This study will be the main topic of discussion next Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM at the

Mayor's Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, Board of Sanitary Commissioners meeting. You are encouraged to attend this meeting. The report gives the following twelve recommendations to reduce property damage during flooding conditions of southern Vigo County.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Encourage development in the watershed to employ stormwater quantity retention and discharge techniques that utilize the natural infiltration capacity of the Unconfined Wabash River Aquifer as appropriate.
- Implement a drainage impact area with more stringent stormwater quantity discharge rates for the Thompson Ditch Watershed.
- Work with the Honey Creek Conservancy District to remove the existing spoil banks and replace them with properly constructed levees west of Erie Canal Road.
- Review the performance of the spoil banks near Margaret Avenue and College Avenue. Replacing the spoil banks at these locations with levees may be appropriate.
- Review the use of flapgates and surface water inlets along the ditch, and install or remove as appropriate.
- Perform a detailed study and develop a plan for implementation of flood storage mitigation along Thompson Ditch. This is crucial to reduce impacts of direct discharge along the upstream reaches of the ditch.
- Perform a detailed study of the potential diversions of Thompson Ditch to the Wabash River.
- Review potential upgrades to internal drainage systems. Localized flooding of homes and businesses could potentially be addressed by upgrading or installing drainage infrastructure within neighborhoods affected. Impacts of these upgrades on the overall Thompson Ditch capacity should be studied and evaluated before implementation of the upgrades.
- Perform regular maintenance of the ditch to keep the geometry and profile of the ditch near the record profile. An aggressive maintenance program should be implemented to maintain capacity of critical portions of the ditch.
- Evaluate the level of protection of the Honey Creek Levee system. Upgrade as necessary.
- Acquire access easement rights from the outlet of Hulman Lake Dam to the point at least 900' downstream of the primary outlet.
- Upgrade the Hulman Lake Dam spillway configuration to IDNR High Hazard requirements.

An interesting piece of associated history I found researching on the Internet is the following:

Another [Chronicler](#) says, "On Wednesday, June 19th (1541), the governor entered Pacaha ("...we saw the town on a plain, well palisaded and with a moat of water around it, dug by hand"). He lodged in the town where the chief lived, which was very large, enclosed, and furnished with towers; and in the towers and stockade many loopholes (to shoot arrows through; like a frontier fort). An abundance of old and new corn was found in the town and fields... large towns (spaced) at a league and half a league (2.6 to 1.3

miles apart) were found (scattered across that plain), all enclosed. Where the governor lodged there was a large marsh (possibly the pond at the head of Thompson Ditch; more below) which came near to the enclosure and entered through a ditch round about the town so that but little of the town remained to enclose. A channel had been made from the marsh to the large (Wabash) river through which fish entered..."

A good part of Terre Haute is drained by Thompson Ditch today, which the State of Indiana cleaned and reopened in 1886. It drains Terre Haute's south and east sides into Honey Creek and the Wabash River, 7 miles from its head at a beautiful pond. "That pond had many very good fish of different kinds..." says one of the Chroniclers. Odds are, the State of Indiana simply reopened Pacaha's Canal.

From: <http://www.floridahistory.com/indiana.html>

### 3. BOARD OF HEALTH INFO

The latest quarterly meeting of the Vigo County Board of Health occurred Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. The board passes along important information during the meeting concerning their operations and health statistics. Here is an example of the health-related statistics that is shared every quarter:

#### QUARTERLY VECTOR CONTROL REPORT

January, February, and March 2009

##### ***Calls/Inquires***

Lost Animals	2	Starving Animals	
Stray Animals	0	Critter Control Referrals	
Mosquitoes		Snake & Woodchucks Call	
Dead Animals	169	Animal Cruelty	1

##### ***Complaints***

Rodents	1	City Code Enforcement	9
Tires		Stagnant Water	1
Trash		Bat Questions	2
Bees & Hornets			

##### ***Dead Animals***

Animals from city to Landfill	338
Animals from County to Landfill	89
Animals from Terre Haute Humane Shelter to Landfill	60
<b>Total Animals to Landfill</b>	<b>487</b>

#### **VITAL STATISTICS 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009**

	<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>
<b>BIRTHS REPORTED</b>			
<b>IN-WEDLOCK</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>OUT-OF-WEDLOCK</b>	<b><u>104</u></b>	<b><u>77</u></b>	<b><u>79</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>STILLBIRTHS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>AFFIDAVIT FORMS PROCESSED</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ADOPTION FORMS PROCESSED</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>PARENTAGE FORMS PROCESSED</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>DEATHS REPORTED</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED</b>	<b>1,772</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>1,940</b>
<b>BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED FREE</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>SEARCHES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CASH RECEIVED FOR GHF</b>	<b>\$8,821</b>	<b>\$8,754</b>	<b>\$9,935</b>
<b>CASH RECEIVED FOR CORONER'S TRAINING AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$1,561</b>	<b>\$1,379</b>	<b>\$1,477</b>

Also discussed during the last meeting was the Board of Health's 2008 Annual Report. It is found on the Board of Health's web site ([www.vigocounty.org/health](http://www.vigocounty.org/health)), split up in three parts due to its size.

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

[Part 3](#)

## 4. 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Mon. Apr. 20	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Apr. 20	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Apr. 21	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Apr. 21	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u> (Special Presentation on Thompson Ditch study)	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
<b>Tue. Apr. 21</b>	<b>12:00 noon</b>	<b>TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING</b> (IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION)	<b>Idle Creek Banquet Center</b>	<b>Bernard 235-1361</b>
Wed. Apr. 22	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Apr. 22	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Apr. 22	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Mon. Apr. 27	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Apr. 27	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Apr. 27	5:30 pm	<b>Terre Haute Housing Authority</b>	2001 N. 19 <sup>th</sup> Street	
Mon. Apr. 27	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Apr. 28	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Apr. 28	4:30 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Mon. May 4	6:30 pm	<u>Local Emergency Planning Committee</u>	Library – Main Branch	Jon 232-5411
Mon. May 4	6:30 pm	<b>Riley Town Board</b>	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. May 5	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. May 5	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. May 5	4:30 pm	<b>Honey Creek Conservancy District</b>	3241 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. May 6	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. May 6	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. May 7	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375

**END**

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