

TAX MATTERS

**MAY 7, 2009, Issue #09-18, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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- 1. HOW TO FIGHT PROPERTY TAXES**
- 2. SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS WANTED**
- 3. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT**
- 4. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

APRIL 30, 2009 (#09-17)

- **ANOTHER REVERSE AUCTION**
 - ~~/~~ The Board of Public Works and Safety was asked to approve specifications for the purchase of three F-150 trucks (or equivalent), two F-350 pickup trucks (or equivalent) and one F-750 pickup truck (or equivalent) for wastewater utility purposes. The auction would take place May 14.
- **UCLA REPORT ON NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**
 - ~~/~~ A new report from the Civil Rights Project at UCLA finds that some of the basic assumptions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) are not working and may well be making things worse.
- **GOOD, BETTER, BEST – NEVER LET IT REST**
 - ~~/~~ The TA Annual Meeting held last week at Idle Creek Banquet Center was the best attended over the past five years.

APRIL 23, 2009 (#09-16)

- **PROPOSED VIGO COUNTY TAX RATES**
 - ~~/~~ The estimated tax assessment for 2008 PAY 2009 figures were published by the Tribune-Star on Apr. 23. However, the print was impossible to read. Thus, the table provided represents an improved version comparing PAY 08 and projected PAY 09 figures.
- **SOUTH VIGO WINS THE FLYING EAGLE FOR 2009**
 - ~~/~~ The winners of the 2009 Taxation and Government Competition
- **WHY CAPITALISM?**
 - ~~/~~ In a time when the concept of Socialism is being brought forward by news agencies across the nation regarding health care and stimulus packages, Allan H. Meltzer delivered the lecture “Why Capitalism?”, the eighth lecture in the 2008-2009 Bradley Lecture Series.
- **MAKING THE WORST OF A BAD SITUATION – NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**
 - ~~/~~ According to a recent article in the New York Times, provisions for education in the stimulus bill may indicate the Obama Administration’s position on the overhaul of NCLB.

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. HOW TO FIGHT PROPERTY TAXES

The National Taxpayers Union (NTU) is a organization founded in 1969 for taxpayers “interested in reducing taxes, government waste and spending.” The NTU released a guide named “How to Fight Property Taxes: A Homeowner’s Guide to Appealing an Unfair Property Tax Assessment.” The following is an outline of this publication. This publication is available to order from the NTU’s web site for \$8.95. This is a very informative guide on unfair tax assessments and what you can do to appeal them. Although it is billed as a homeowner guide, the principles apply to businesses too.

Introduction

How the Property Tax Works

- I. Facts About Property Taxes
- II. How the Property Tax Assessment System Works
- III. Don’t Be Fooled by the Assessment Process

Is Your Assessment Fair?

- I. Don’t Forget About Property Tax Breaks
- II. Check for Obvious Errors
- III. How to Use Assessment Comparables
- IV. Is the Assessor’s Appraisal Too High?

Property Tax Breaks by State (chart)

Appealing An Unfair Assessment

- I. Preliminary Negotiations with the Assessor
- II. Meet the Appeal Deadline!
- III. Preparing Your Argument
- IV. How to Argue Your Case

Further Appeals

Conclusion

2. SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Taxpayers web site is planning on going public July 1st. Prior to doing so, we would like a few people to test the site and let us know what does and does not work. If you can give us a few minutes of your time reviewing our site, please email us and I will give you the specific address.

3. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We could learn a lot from crayons... Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

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.

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Thur. May 7	6:30 pm	<u>City Council – Special Call / Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. May 11	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. May 11	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. May 11	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. May 12	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. May 12	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. May 13	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. May 13	4:00 pm	<u>Air Pollution Control Department</u>	103 S. 3 rd St.	George 462-3433
Wed. May 13	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. May 13	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. May 14	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety – Reverse Auction on Pickup Truck Purchase</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Thur. May 14	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. May 18	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. May 18	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. May 19	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. May 19	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. May 20	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. May 20	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. May 21	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Tue. May 26	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. May 26	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Tue. May 26	4:30 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. May 27	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Wed. May 27	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. May 27	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. May 27	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524

END

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