

TAX MATTERS

**JULY 2, 2009, Issue #09-26, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

7 S Meadows Shopping Center
phone (812) 235-1361 TAXTOPICS@AOL.COM fax (812) 234-0568
www.taxtopics.org

- 1. TAX STATEMENTS**
- 2. CITY PLANNER AT NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP MEETING**
- 3. BE AWARE OF STATE FIREWORKS LAWS**
- 4. JOE LEGAL VS. JOSE ILLEGAL**
- 5. PUBLIC MEETINGS**
- 6. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JUNE 26, 2009 (#09-25)

- **TA WEB SITE UNVEILED TO MEMBERSHIP**
 - www.taxtopics.org
- **CIRCUIT BREAKER CHART**
 - **2008 PAY 2009 Vigo County Circuit Breaker Report, provided by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Nearly \$5.4 million of circuit breaker credit has been given to property owners this year.**

JUNE 17, 2009 (#09-24)

- **PAY 2009 TAX INFORMATION**
 - **Certified PAY 2009 tax schedule, plus another chart comparing the rates to last year's.**
- **TAX WORKSHOP – ARE YOU INTERESTED?**
 - **As a result of the previous week's suggestion that we sponsor a workshop on trending, we received several positive responses and no negatives. We will continue to plan said event and need to know if you are interested.**
- **PARKS DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE**
 - **No animals or personal fireworks permitted at 4th of July celebration at Fairbanks Park.**

JUNE 11, 2009 (#09-23)

- **TRENDING**
 - **Trending has been practiced since 2002, but not understood by most taxpayers simply because they didn't care or realize how important trending is.**
- **AS THE TASSEL TURNS**
 - **The original number of students enrolled as Freshmen in the fall of 2005 was 1340. Some have moved into the county, some have moved away, but the bottom line is that approximately 346 students failed to graduate.**

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. TAX STATEMENTS

It was reported by the media that tax statements would be mailed by **June 30th**. However, due to computer glitches, the mailing date is now projected to be **July 10th**. Meanwhile, you can still look up what your taxes will be at Vigo County's Beacon site. You can go there by going to the Taxpayers Association web site (www.taxtopics.org) and click on the Beacon link.

2. CITY PLANNER AT NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP MEETING

The latest Terre Haute Neighborhood Partnership Steering Committee met June 23, 2009. City Planner Pat Martin spoke in this meeting. From the minutes of this meeting, here are his report and his response to question from the THNP:

City Government Report: City Planner, Pat Martin

- Brown Boulevard – the pedestrian bridge over Lost Creek is ready to go. A crane will drop the auto bridge in place next month.
- Margaret Avenue – Land acquisition is proceeding. Bids will be opened in September with construction starting February or March 2010.
- Extension of Blakely Avenue – Bids will be opened in September
- Extension of the National Road Trail – Construction will start on Twigg rest area in a couple weeks.
- Collett Park path is nearing completion – expected at the end of June. This will primarily benefit children who walk to school at Ouabache Elementary.
- “Safe Routes to School” grants have been applied for in amount of \$250,000. This will benefit Sugar Grove and DeVaney Elementary Schools. The city should receive word on these grants in September or October.
- The Redevelopment Commission will receive about \$3.5 million this year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Details will be forthcoming. The funds will primarily benefit low to moderate income neighborhoods by providing infrastructure improvements and homes.
- Routine infrastructure maintenance, such as paving and sidewalk repair/replacement continues.
- The “New City Park” at Maple Avenue and North 3rd Street will be a fishing park with a trail running around the lake. The city is planning an ecologically sustainable park which will require minimal maintenance. The city still needs clearance for the environmental cleanup related to a past landfill on the site. There will be about 40 parking spaces using porous paving. This new city park will be named by a contest among school children.

- A new trail head facility is planned for the National Road Trail near the Heritage Trail Apartments at 25th Street and Elm. There is about 17 acres at this location that abuts Lost Creek. The “trail head” will have no automobile access; will have wildflowers and natural ecology restoration and facilities for botany research.
- Marshall Rector asked about the status of the Collett Park Pavilion. Pat said city staff has issues with the architect that they are working out. There is \$100,000 for restoration, with work hopefully to begin this August.
- The lift station at 500 Maple Avenue will be screened from the road, but thought must be given as to how this is done. Screening can also shield vandals from view. Marshall Rector asked, will there be a security alarm? Pat said, yes, they’ve discussed this. They’ve also discussed having a webcam that would allow people from all over the US to keep an eye on what’s happening. This worked in Eugene, Oregon.
- Twelve Points park – Rich Curtis asked. “Where’s our fourth bronze plaque?” Pat said he didn’t know about that, but the flag poles have been ordered. They’re not in yet.
- The Terre Haute Coke and Carbon site – the city gave the Vigo County Commissioners a purchase order so all the parcels will be owned by the city. The city has been doing environmental assessment and remediation.
- Martha Taha said there is still a problem of flood waters down South 41 near McDonalds. Also Fairbanks Park seems to have a problem with storm drainage. Water rushes down from 1st Street. Pat said part of the problem is that the land is saturated and with high humidity it isn’t evaporating. He also said there are not enough storm drains on 1st Street so there isn’t enough capacity south of Ohio. This issue has been discussed among city staff. The city is under state mandate to limit storm water going into the river. They need to have it percolate into the ground or send it into settling lagoons. As to the problems on south U.S. 41, that is outside the city limits.
- The U.S. 41 and I-70 interchange is wrapping up construction. In mid-July there will be a meeting with the contractor. All work is expected to be completed by September or October. Work is on schedule.
- Martha Taha asked if the city has an earthquake warning system? Pat said that’s hard to do. Scientists haven’t developed a good way yet to predict earthquakes.
- Martha Taha asked if the Modesitt law office building will be rebuilt after the recent fire, and when would that happen. Pat said he didn’t know. He thought the insurance companies had to review the building first.
- Steve Hills said, “On Hulman, between the two railroad tracks on the south side, there’s a ‘for sale’ sign. Who owns that property?” Pat said the city bought the property where a tavern used to be, but there’s some private property behind; that’s what’s for sale.
- Annetta Sweatt asked if there is a 5 to 10 year plan for the Coke and Carbon property. Pat said the city doesn’t have one yet. In general they are planning commercial and light industrial uses. There will be no residential uses. There was too much contamination of the

soil. Accessibility of the property via streets and the railroad provides an asset for light manufacturing.

- What is the status of federal stimulus money? Cliff Lambert can tell you that. Pat said he doesn't know. Steve Hills said he understood it was to go to residential improvements.

3. BE AWARE OF STATE FIREWORKS LAWS

With the fireworks season in full swing, Indiana citizens and retailers are being reminded of the state law governing the use and sale of fireworks. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Fire & Building Safety division urges Hoosiers to play it safe when using fireworks this summer.

In March of 2006, Governor Mitch Daniels signed a law that will help fund important public safety programs around the state, such as firefighter training, through the collection of a 5-percent safety fee on the sale of all fireworks. The law also includes requirements regarding where and when consumers can set off fireworks, as well as requirements for structures where fireworks are sold.

"Hoosiers need to remember that restrictions are in place regarding the use of fireworks, as well as the possible penalties for violations," said Jim Greeson, State Fire Marshal. "We want to stress the personal responsibility of each fireworks consumer. Obey our laws, follow directions for safe use and apply common sense."

Fireworks law provisions:

- Fireworks may be used only on the user's property; or on the property of someone who has consented to the use of fireworks; or at a special discharge location.
- Fireworks can be purchased only by persons 18 years of age or older and children may possess or use any kind of firework only when an adult is present.
- Penalties for violating the fireworks law can range from a Class A misdemeanor up to a Class C felony in the case of the reckless or intentional use of fireworks that results in a person's death.
- On Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Labor Day and New Year's Eve, fireworks may be discharged from 9 a.m. to midnight. Any other day of the year fireworks may be discharged from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Local laws may further affect fireworks use.

The IDHS Fire & Building Safety Division recommends Hoosiers check the fireworks they purchase to ensure they contain the following information:

- Class "C"
- Consumer Fireworks
- 1.4 g

"If you find a package that you cannot read because it is in a foreign language, it says Class 'B' fireworks, or 1.3 g, we strongly encourage you to call the Consumer Product Safety Commission hotline (800-638-2772)," Greeson added.

If you would like more information on fireworks or the IDHS Building Safety Division, please visit www.in.gov/dhs.

Source: http://www.in.gov/portal/news_events/39380.htm

4. JOE LEGAL VS. JOSE ILLEGAL

Here is an example of why hiring illegal aliens is not economically productive for the State of California. You have 2 families - "Joe Legal" and "Jose Illegal". Both families have 2 parents, 2 children and live in California.

"Joe Legal" works in construction, has a Social Security Number and makes \$25.00 per hour with payroll taxes deducted.

"Jose Illegal" also works in construction, has "NO" Social Security Number and gets paid \$15.00 cash "under the table".

Joe Legal = \$25.00 per hour x 40 hours = \$1000.00 per week, \$52,000 per year. Now take 30% away (\$15,600) for State Federal Tax. Joe Legal now has \$36,400.00

Jose Illegal = \$15.00 per hour x 40 hours = \$600.00 per week, \$31,200.00 per year. Jose Illegal pays no taxes. Jose Illegal now has \$31,200.00

Joe Legal pays Medical and Dental Insurance with limited coverage @ \$1000.00 per month = \$12,000.00 per year.
Joe Legal now has \$24,400.00.

Jose Illegal has full Medical and Dental coverage through the state and local clinics at a cost of \$0.00 per year. Jose Illegal still has \$31,200.00

Joe Legal makes too much money is not eligible for Food Stamps or welfare. Joe Legal pays for food @ \$1,000.00 per month = \$12,000.00 per year. Joe Legal now has \$12,400.00

Jose Illegal has no documented income and is eligible for Food Stamps and Welfare. Jose Illegal still has \$31,200.00

Joe Legal pays rent of \$1,000.00 per month = \$12,000.00 per year. Joe Legal now has only \$400.00 left.

Jose Illegal receives a \$500 per month Federal rent subsidy.
Jose Illegal pays rent \$500.00 per month = \$6,000.00 per year. Jose Illegal still has \$25,200.00

Joe Legal now works overtime on Saturdays or gets a part time job after work.

Jose Illegal has nights and weekends off to enjoy with his family.

Joe Legal's and Jose Illegal's children both attend the same school. Joe Legal pays for his children's lunches while Jose Illegal's children get a government sponsored lunch.

Jose Illegal's children have an after school ESL program. Joe Legal's children go home. Joe Legal and Jose Illegal both enjoy the same Police and Fire Services, but Joe paid for them and Jose did not pay.

Don't vote/support any politician that supports illegal aliens.

It's PAST time to take a stand for America and Americans!

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.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Public Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact Info</i>
Mon. Jul. 6	4:30 pm	Animal Control Board	City Hall – 1 st Floor	
Mon. Jul. 6	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Jul. 7	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367

Tue.	Jul. 7	10:00 am	City Board of Sanitary Commissioners	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally	235-5458
Tue.	Jul. 7	4:30 pm	Honey Creek Conservancy District	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig	232-4311
Wed.	Jul. 8	2:00 pm	E-911 Advisory Board	County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room	Greg	462-3226 ext. 320
Wed.	Jul. 8	4:15 pm	City Park Board – General Meeting	Deming Park	Eddie	232-2727
Wed.	Jul. 8	7:00 pm	Airport Authority	Airport	Kara	877-2524
Thur.	Jul. 9	7:00 pm	City Council – Regular Meeting	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle	232-3375
Mon.	Jul. 13	2:00 pm	Board of Public Works and Safety	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin	232-4767
Mon.	Jul. 13	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody	533-2034
Mon.	Jul. 13	7:00 pm	Vigo County School Board	VCSC Board Room	Judy	462-4216
Tue.	Jul. 14	9:00 am	County Commissioners	County Annex	Judy	462-3367
Tue.	Jul. 14	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara	877-2665
Wed.	Jul. 15	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet	800-387-3380
Wed.	Jul. 15	10:00 am	County Board of Zoning Appeals	County Annex	Judy	462-3367
Wed.	Jul. 15	4:00 pm	City Redevelopment Commission	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny	232-0018
Wed.	Jul. 15	5:00 pm	Vigo County Board of Health	County Annex	Louise	462-3428
Thur.	Jul. 16	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer	232-4028
Mon.	Jul. 20	5:30 pm	Human Relations Commission	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff	232-0110
Mon.	Jul. 20	7:00 pm	Vigo County Public Library	Library – Main Branch	Nancy	232-1113
Tue.	Jul. 21	9:00 am	County Commissioners	County Annex	Judy	462-3367
Tue.	Jul. 21	10:00 am	City Board of Sanitary Commissioners	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally	235-5458
Tue.	Jul. 21	12:00 noon	Taxpayers Association Board Meeting	Thompson Thrift	Bernard	235-1361
Wed.	Jul. 22	4:30 pm	City Park Board – Business Meeting	Deming Park	Eddie	232-2727
Wed.	Jul. 22	5:30 pm	Information Technology Advisory Board	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad	244-2316
Wed.	Jul. 22	7:00 pm	Airport Authority	Airport	Kara	877-2524

6. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Freedom is not free!

Remember : Half the people you know are below average.

END

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