

TAX MATTERS

**JULY 30, 2009, Issue #09-30, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JULY 23, 2009 (#09-29)

- **AIRPORT REPORT**
 - The Treasurer Form TS-1A is a generic state form used for every county. Since Vigo is one of the few counties with an airport, this was the reason the airport was classified as an item of many possibilities called "Special Districts."
- **CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION**
 - An outline of a proposed city ordinance to establish a historic preservation commission and historic preservation districts
- **FAQ – LARGEST TAXPAYERS**
 - Ten largest taxpayers located within Vigo County

JULY 15, 2009 (#09-28)

- **AIRPORT TAX – WHERE IS IT?**
 - Now that tax statements have been mailed for Vigo County properties, questions are abundant. Although the airport is not shown on table three (property tax distribution amounts applicable), tax deductions for the airport are hidden in the line named Special District.
- **TRENDING WORKSHOP DATE**
 - We have made arrangements for a guest presenter from the DLGF (department of local government finance) to be in Terre Haute on Wednesday, August 12 at 2:00 P.M. This is initially for members only.
- **PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTIONS**
 - From the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance:
www.in.gov/dlgf/2344.htm
- **STRATEGIES FOR GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY: WHERE DID OUR TAXES GO?**
 - By Gary Malone of Umbaugh Footnotes

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. 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. TRENDING WORKSHOP LETTER FROM TOM WOODASON

Taxpayers Association Offers Property Tax Workshop

In July, property owners received in the mail a Special Message to Property Owners, which was prescribed by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, on how your property tax bill is calculated. Do you understand this information? Do you feel as though your property was assessed fairly and equitably? Are you confused with the new theory used called “trending”? Would you like to know more about this process?

The Taxpayers Association of Vigo County is offering a Property Tax Workshop on understanding the current property tax law as it applies to you. This workshop will take place **August 12th, at the First Financial Bank Conference Center, located at 4353 S. 7th Street, in Terre Haute, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm** and will include a question and answer period. Two hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) will be offered. The presenter will be David Schwab, Assistant Director of the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, who has written a paper entitled “An Overview of the Indiana Trending Process”.

Priority seating will be given first to members free of charge, then to the public at a cost of \$50 per person. Please contact Bernard Ridens, Executive Director at (812) 235-1361 or taxtopics@aol.com to reserve your space, or to just find out more about the Taxpayers Association of Vigo County.

Tom Woodason, President
Taxpayers Association of Vigo Co., Inc.

(Note the venue change to the First Financial Bank Conference Center)

2. OVERVIEW OF THE INDIANA TRENDING PROCESS

The presenter of the trending workshop is David Schwab, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance’s Assistant Director of Information Technology. He has provided for us a 22-page document on the Indiana trending process. It is attached to today’s Tax Matters e-mail.

3. CITIES AND TOWNS BULLETIN

As we build the [Taxpayers Association web site](#), we add web sites to our links page that we think is beneficial to the taxpayer. One organization we are linking to our site is the State Board of Accounts.

Periodically, the State Board of Accounts publishes the *Cities and Towns Bulletin and Uniform Compliance Guidelines*. Their last publication from June 2009 details this year’s laws enacted by the General Assembly that are related to cities, towns and municipally owned utilities. One law, Public Law 8 – House Enrolled Act 1331, “requires cities to provide each active member of their police department with body armor for the torso beginning January 1, 2010.” This entire 22-page document can be found at http://www.in.gov/sboa/files/ctb2009_006.pdf.

4. FEDERAL LINK

Another site we are linking from taxtopics.org is www.usa.gov. It is the U.S. government's portal for allowing the public to search for official government information and services. It is administered by the U.S. General Services Administration's Office of Citizen Services and Communications.

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. Aug. 3	4:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Drainage Board</u>	County Annex	David 898-2685
Mon. Aug. 3	4:30 pm	Animal Control Board	City Hall – 1 st Floor	
Mon. Aug. 3	5:30 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library – Special Meeting</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Mon. Aug. 3	6:30 pm	<u>Local Emergency Planning Committee</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Jon 232-5411
Mon. Aug. 3	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Aug. 4	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 4	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Aug. 4	4:30 pm	Honey Creek Conservancy District	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Aug. 5	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Aug. 5	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Aug. 5	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Aug. 10	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Aug. 10	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Aug. 10	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Aug. 11	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 11	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Aug. 11	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Aug. 12	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Aug. 12	2:00 pm	Property Assessment Trending Workshop	First Financial Conference Center (4353 S. 7th St.)	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Aug. 12	4:00 pm	<u>Air Pollution Control Department</u>	103 S. 3 rd St.	George 462-3433
Wed. Aug. 12	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Aug. 12	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Aug. 13	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Aug. 17	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Aug. 17	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Aug. 18	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367

Tue. Aug. 18	10:00 am	City Board of Sanitary Commissioners	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally	235-5458
Wed. Aug. 19	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet	800-387-3380
Wed. Aug. 19	4:00 pm	City Redevelopment Commission	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny	232-0018
Thur. Aug. 20	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer	232-4028

6. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*But make no mistake:
The weeds will win;
Nature bats last.
- Robert M. Pyle*

END

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