



A Publication of the Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc. Spring 2012

**All references in this publication can be found on our website:*

www.taxtopics.org.

2011 PROPERTY TAX REPORT

The Indiana Legislative Services Agency produced reports on every county detailing the changes in property tax bills and the distribution of tax levies. Included in this edition of *Tax Topics* is their property tax report for Vigo County, which describes changes in the county between 2010 and 2011 and its comparison to changes since 2007.

SR 641 BYPASS PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

On February 21, 2012, the Indiana Department of Transportation held an informational meeting on the upcoming construction of Phases III and IV of the State Road 641 Terre Haute Bypass Project. The following shows the FAQ's that were passed out during the meeting as well as links to maps and the PowerPoint presentation of the project.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE S.R. 641 TERRE HAUTE BYPASS PROJECT

Question 1: What are the limits of PHASE III?

Answer 1: PHASE III extends from just northeast of Feree Road to east of Riley Road

Question 2: What are the limits of PHASE IV?

Answer 2: PHASE IV begins east of Riley Road to the I-70 interchange

Question 3: What is the status of PHASE III?

Answer 3: A construction contract was just recently awarded for PHASE III to Walsh Construction.

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Question 4: When will construction begin for PHASE III?

Answer 4: Clearing for both Phases III and IV has begun under a separate contract. Roadway construction on Phase III is anticipated to begin summer of 2012 and continue until spring of 2014. Travel lanes are anticipated to open to traffic from McDaniel Road to Riley Road by the end of 2013.

Question 5: What is the status of Phase IV?

Answer 5: Phase IV will be let for construction contractor bidding fall of 2012

Question 6: When will construction begin for Phase IV?

Answer 6: Clearing for both Phases III and IV has begun under a separate contract. Roadway construction on Phase IV is anticipated to begin in spring of 2013 and continue until fall of 2014.

Question 7: What is the purpose of Phases III & IV of the S.R. 641 Project?

Answer 7: Completion of phases III & IV will complete the bypass around the southern portion of Terre Haute reducing congestion and providing a primary link to the local and state road networks.

Question 8: Will I have access to my property during construction?

Answer 8: Access to all businesses and residences will be maintained during construction.

Question 9: How do I access properties between Moyer Road and I-70 during construction?

Answer 9: This depends on the phase of construction. Access to Moyer Road at S.R. 46 will be maintained during construction until the new Tucker Street (LSR 46) is constructed. Once this local service road is constructed, access will be via the new Riley Road interchange at S.R. 46 with alternate routes from the new Riley Road and/or the new Tucker Street.

Question 10: What will my new address change to?

Answer 10: The following changes are anticipated. Properties fronting existing S.R. 46 between Moyer Road and I-70 are anticipated to change to Tucker Street. Riley Road addresses between the Little Honey Creek Bridge and Tucker Street will change from Riley Road to Riley Court.

Question 11: What is the purpose and need for the SR 641 Bypass? How was the Purpose and Need Statement developed?

Answer 11: As previously detailed in the approved Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the need for the project is evidenced by the congestion on US 41. The Bypass would allow local and through travelers to bypass US 41 and eliminate three miles of vehicle travel from the existing 9.2 mile route between US 41 and I-70. Eleven stop lights inhibit travel time along US 41. Congestion would be reduced by constructing the Bypass around Terre Haute. Some common elements of the Purpose and Need include traffic statistics, existing roadway conditions and accident data.

INDOT's 641 Bypass Project Information Site - <http://www.in.gov/indot/projects/2388.htm>

Public Meeting Power Point Presentation -

http://www.in.gov/indot/projects/files/PI_SR641TerreHaute_022112.pdf

2011 TAXPAYERS ANNUAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE

The 2011 Annual Report has been completed and made available on our web site, www.taxtopics.org, as of August 31, 2011. This is the earliest the report has been completed in the past eight years. Paper copies have been mailed or delivered to members. If you have not received a copy, please call the Taxpayers office. As of January 2012, the report is under construction and being updated as new and current information is known. Non-members may purchase a paper copy by calling the Taxpayers Association office at 812-235-1361.

GETTING A BETTER VIEW OF HOW OUR TAX DOLLARS ARE USED

If there is sufficient interest, the Taxpayers Association will arrange for members to visit (field trip) units of government where tax dollars and/or user fees are expended such as the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The plan would be to visit a given unit during even numbered months. An opportunity to visit a place of business or manufacturing would also be possible. The visits would take place on weekdays during mid-morning or mid-afternoon and last no less than an hour and no more than two hours.

Some of the places we may visit are:

Terre Haute Waste Water Treatment Plant

The Airport

School Corporation Ancillary Building (school bus maintenance)

Terre Haute Fire and Police departments

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Vigo County Jail

Vigo County Highway Department

Republic Landfill

You name it!

Field trips to area industries would be subject to the industries volunteering to invite us.

At this time Tredegar, a new member, has extended us an invitation.

TAXPAYERS MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Special work of the Taxpayers Association board members is paying off.

Here is a list of new members supporting the mission of the Taxpayers Association as of August 1, 2011.

Please consider doing business with these new members. **Can you suggest a potential member?**

S & G Excavating

M & R Cycles

Morgan Feeds

Coldwell Banker Troy Helman Realtors

B & S Plumbing

Tredegar

Culp Ventures

TAKING ADVANTAGE of YOUR LIBRARY TAX --- KINDLES & NOOKS

The typical Vigo County homestead property taxpayer pays between \$60 and \$95 per year in taxes for a property with an assessed value of \$150,000. The exact amount depends on where you live. Here is an opportunity to acquire a significant return for your Library tax dollars. The Library board heard a report by Bonnie McNair, Information Services and Technology Services (ISTS) Manager, at their regular meeting held Monday, October 17, 2011 about the use of the Kindle 3s and the Nook. Here is a summary of her report.

In February of 2011, we applied for a LSTA grant (Library Services and Technology Act) which are federal funds distributed from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to states for the purpose of increasing the use of technology in libraries. The Indiana State Library informed the Vigo County Public Library that we were awarded slightly over \$9800 later in the spring. We used these funds to purchase 20 Kindles and 20 nook Colors plus accessories.

The Amazon Kindle 3s and the Barnes & Noble nook Colors are available for holds as of this morning, October 18. You simply search for Kindle or nook Color and then place a hold or call (812) 232-1113 ext. 2241 or 2241.

Users will not need a computer to use them as they are already preloaded with over 20 titles. You just need a valid VCPL library card and be 18 years and older. The checkout period is 14 days and a limit of one per adult card.

Some of the titles are only available in electronic format (Mile 81 by Stephen King, Lee Child's Second Son, Leaving Home by Jodi Picoult). Others are enhanced versions (What We Saw by CBS News) which includes over 2 hours of video which takes advantage of the nook Color's ability to play video. The material ranges from Toddler Interactive Picture Books to YA Social Issues to Inspirational Suspense to Legal Thrillers to Horror & Humor to Biography to Contemporary Romance to Steampunk to Historical Narrative – something for everyone's reading appetite. Some titles are on both the nook Color and the Kindle (Hunger Games, The Help, The Night Circus) while the more interactive offerings are on the nook Color. The Kindle has more bestseller authors: Nicholas Sparks, J.D. Robb, Jodi Picoult.

For individuals which already have an eReader and also have a valid VCPL card, then they can download eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMusic and eVideos through our virtual branch (idm.lib.overdrive.com). We have around 2000 eBooks available for Kindles and over 2200 which are for all compatible eReaders.

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NANTWORKS LLC

NantWorks/Indiana Economic Development Corporation Press Release

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (Jan. 10, 2012) - California-based NantWorks, LLC, announced plans today to locate a new pharmaceutical manufacturing plant here, creating up to 234 new jobs by 2016.

The pharmaceutical company plans to invest \$85.5 million to redevelop the former Pfizer facility on approximately 210 acres on the south side of Terre Haute. The new manufacturing plant, which is expected to be operational in 2015, will produce critical care injectable and oncological drugs.

"With the strength of our life sciences industry and a first-class work force, it's no surprise that innovative companies from high-tax, business-hostile states continue to choose Indiana as the home for new investment," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "With its established executive leadership and groundbreaking pharmaceutical research, NantWorks has all the right ingredients to flourish in the Hoosier State."

Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, chairman and chief executive officer of NantWorks, has previously developed two pharmaceutical companies addressing the unmet needs of critically ill patients. His injectable drug company APP was the nation's only safe source of heparin during a supply crisis in 2008 and his biopharmaceutical company Abraxis Bioscience developed the world's first protein nanoparticle cancer drug for breast cancer. Soon-Shiong sold these companies in 2008 and 2010, raising several billion dollars to pursue his vision of personalized medicine.

"As a country, we need to develop and enhance our capabilities to manufacture injectable and next generation drugs in America," said Soon-Shiong. "This plant is a sign of NantWorks' commitment to that objective. I am delighted to share in the vision of Governor Daniels and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and I am excited to be getting back into the injectable biopharmaceutical industry."

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation offered NantWorks, LLC up to \$2,000,000 in conditional tax credits and up to \$100,000 in training grants based on the company's job creation plans. These tax credits are performance-based, meaning until Hoosiers are hired, the company is not eligible to claim incentives. Vigo County will consider additional property tax abatement at the request of the Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation.

"NantWorks' proposed acquisition and subsequent redevelopment of the former Pfizer property exceeds our greatest expectations for the property," said Mike Ciolli, president of the Vigo County Board of Commissioners. "We couldn't be more thrilled."

About NantWorks

NantWorks, LLC is a company founded and led by Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong. Its core mission is to converge a wide range of technologies to transform scientific research and healthcare. It is building an integrated evidence-based, genomically-informed, personalized approach to the delivery of care and the development of next generation diagnostics and therapeutics. For more information, see www.nantworks.com.

Here is some additional information provided to us by the Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation:

Profile of NantWorks founder Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong:

<http://www.forbes.com/profile/patrick-soon-shiong/>

The company's proposal in pdf format:

<http://www.terrehauteedc.com/news/pdf/NantWorks-Transmittal-Letter.pdf>

2012 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS NEEDED

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19th, 2012, at 12:00 noon. It will be held at the Idle Creek Banquet Center. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Dottie King, President of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. You are invited to be a sponsor of this event. Sponsor names and or logos will be published and shown on the program for the event. Your sponsorship will help to defray meal costs for all attending and special guests. We plan to have at least 70 persons attend this event.

HAVE YOU TAKEN A LOOK AT OUR WEB SITE?

Just a reminder that if you want to read old Taxpayers Association publications or tax-related information, go to our www.taxtopics.org web site.

TAX RELATED ERRORS MADE BY THE STATE of INDIANA

In the January issue of *Tax Matters*, I requested input concerning financial errors made by the state:

At this time, I have an important question.

Please understand that your response will be kept confidential and anonymous.

Have you had any problems with the State of Indiana concerning state taxes, (business and or personal) during the past 10 years whereby the state was in error? Or, have you had problems with local property assessments and appeals?

The reason for this request is related to the \$320 million recently found by state officials. We are aware of many serious errors that have been made by the state whereby interest and penalties have been charged to corporations and individuals incorrectly.

The Taxpayers Association was the victim of a mistake with worrisome letters being mailed by the state on March 11, 2010 and apologies sent on March 15, 2010. We have now heard that this happened to many taxpayers. We are also aware of many other types of errors and plan to ask legislators to address this issue at the Cracker Barrel on Saturday.

One has to wonder if anything is correct. Remember the four million EDIT dollars that Vigo County was shorted a few years back? Please respond to this ASAP.

The response to my request was good and very alarming.

This problem was presented to our area legislators at the February 11 Cracker Barrel by me as was noted in the Sunday, February 12 issue of the *Tribune-Star*. Since then, I have learned some interesting facts about how state revenues are deposited. A few of these facts are from the FISCAL YEAR 2011 report (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011):

1. The Indiana Treasurer of State, Richard Mourdock, is required by law to submit an annual report of the business transactions for Indiana's General Fund and all other funds managed by his office.
2. As part of the investment program, the Treasurer maintains deposits in the form of certificates of deposit and repurchase agreements in 200 banks, savings and loans, and credit unions across Indiana.
3. The average daily balance for these deposits is: \$6,782,407,640.00
4. The interest earned for this report period was: \$232,158,548.00

This 20-page report can be found at
<http://www.in.gov/tos/files/20111026113043006.pdf>.

2012 HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION – YOUR SPECIAL SUPPORT IS REQUESTED

Once again, the Taxpayers Association will encourage educational taxation, government and citizenship insight by sponsoring a competition involving our local high schools. This year, teams of five students will represent their high school and take a test on taxation, government and citizenship. Top scores from individual students will be given cash awards, and a team cash award will be given to the winning school. All students will receive a participation certificate. The media will be notified before and after the contest, and co-sponsors will be given credit. The budget for this competition includes special taxation and government handbooks provided to each school, cash awards, and certificates. It is hoped that several members will contribute to this worthy cause with a cash contribution over and beyond regular dues. We project the budget for this competition to be about \$1,300. Last year, we awarded the first place student \$300, second place \$200 and third place \$100. We also awarded \$400 to the winning school, which was Terre Haute North Vigo.

Table of Contents of Tax Matters Issues 11-07 through 12-02

Just in case you wish to refer to a previous issue of Tax Matters and need some help locating a particular topic, you may refer to the table below. Many of the topics are also included in an issue of Tax Topics. This issue of Tax Topics includes Tax Matters through February 2012 and this table does the same. The next issue will continue from this point.

Topic	Issue	Topic	Issue
Annual Report	11-07	Tax Legislation Preview	12-01
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Indiana Inheritance Tax	11-07	High School Competition	12-02
State Transparency	11-08	Crackerbarrel	12-02
Tax Errors	12-01, 12-02	Three Economic Misconceptions	12-02
NantWorks	12-01	2010 U.S. Census Map	12-02