

TAX MATTERS

FEBRUARY 5, 2009, Issue #09-05, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
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1. TERRE HAUTE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS – ANNUAL REPORT
2. WE DO NOT HAVE IT AS BAD AS SOME OTHER HOOSIERS
3. GO FIGURE
4. PUBLIC MEETINGS

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JANUARY 29, 2009 (#09-04)

- STATE LEGISLATURE INFO
 - The state legislature web site has a large wealth of information to research what goes on in the State Capitol. The site is found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.
- VIGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT – 2008

JANUARY 22, 2009 (#09-03)

- CAPS – TAKE IT TO A REFERENDUM – NOT A GOOD IDEA!
 - There has been discussion by several legislators concerning taking the property tax caps issue to a statewide referendum. This is not a good idea! Serious issues are involved in this action.

JANUARY 15, 2009 (#09-02)

- MORE ON TENTH GRADE MATH TEST
 - Bill 1072 (found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2009/IN/IN1072.1.html>), if passed, will reveal how many millions are wasted on testing
- GOVERNOR DANIELS' STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

JANUARY 8, 2009 (#09-01)

- PROPERTY TAX CAPS?
 - The 2009 Assembly will be considering the governor's proposed property tax caps. Serious questions must be answered before the issue is placed on the 2010 General Election ballot as a public question
- ISTEP TESTING
 - The testing methods currently used are not the best. One size does not fit all and never will. The actual Indiana tenth-grade mathematics graduation qualifying exam: http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/docs/AppliedSkills/2008-Fall/04498_AS-MATH-Released_v03.pdf

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. TERRE HAUTE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS – ANNUAL REPORT

Mayor Duke Bennett presented the following information at the State of the City 2009 Update. The information given below is taken directly from the slides shown in his address.

TERRE HAUTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Re-Established Street Crimes Unit
- Re-Established the School Safety Specialist
- Re-Established the Hostage Negotiation Team
- Re-Established Bike Patrol
- Added a 4th K-9 Dog Unit
- Added a Medic position to SRT team
- Created a Serious Accident Investigator position
- CID Restructured
- Increased Required Officer Training

EQUIPMENT CHANGES

- 30 new squad cars
 - Received
- SRT transport vehicle
 - THFD ambulance
- Taser Units
 - 25 units in Service
 - 30 Additional Units Received/Officer training in progress

2008 YEAR END UNIFORM DIVISION

- 55,405 Calls for Service
- 21,396 Reports Taken
- 8,891 Total Arrests
 - 3,177 Traffic Arrests
 - 2,839 Misdemeanor Arrests
 - 1,530 Warrant Arrests
 - 1,345 Felony Arrests
- 3,057 Parking Citations

2008 PROPERTY CRIMES

Burglary, Theft and Auto Theft

- Reports
 - 2007 4,948
 - 2008 5,017

1.38% Increase in reporting

– Arrests		
2007	490	
2008	600	

18.33% Increase in arrests

VIOLENT CRIME – 2008 TOTALS

Homicide, Robbery, Assaults and Rape

– Reports		
2007	1,626	
2008	1,620	

0.37% Decrease in reporting

– Arrests		
2007	448	
2008	513	

12.67% Increase in arrests

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION (CID) SUMMARY

Investigations 2007	4,557
Investigations 2008	5,873

22.4% Increase in assignments

Recovered Property 2007	\$511,185
Recovered Property 2008	\$939,269

45.58% Increase in recovered property

TASER STATISTICS

2008 TOTALS

- Drawn 36 times July-Nov 2008
- Used 12 times
- 36% Decrease in officer use of force
- Significant Decrease in Physical Confrontation and Resisting Arrest Incidents

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- 2008 Calls for Service 14,067
- Citations Issued 5,715
- Vacant Lots mowed 1,054

2009 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Mobile dispatch installed in all squad cars

- Upgrade communications system/Linked with State
- Upgrade records management system
- Expand bike patrol to six officers
- Expansion of DNA evidence collection/submission in burglary cases
- Expansions in technologies for property crimes investigations

TERRE HAUTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE AND EMS DISPATCHES*

	2007	2008	% Change
Fire Runs	1,336	1,345	.7%
Fire w/EMS Runs	3,202	3,762	15%
EMS Runs	6,717	7,122	5.7%
EMS Runs w/Transport	5,097	5,553	8.2%

*From Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st of each year

FIRE OPERATIONS

- New Fire Engine and Ambulance in Service
- New Diesel Exhaust Systems in Fire Stations (Completed)
- Reviewed and Updated Computer Automated Dispatch System
- Reviewed and Updated Standard Operating Guidelines

EMS DIVISION

- Partnership with Lifeline Air Ambulance Service
- Community CPR Program
- EMT Training in:
 - PHTLS
 - Autism
 - Smart Triage
- Large Scale Disaster Training with
 - Federal Prison
 - Local Hospitals
 - Private Ambulance Services
 - Local Emergency Management Agency
- Local EMS protocols completed
- Computers upgraded for ambulances

IPI DIVISION

- 124 Working Fires Investigated in 2008

- 53 fires ruled as Arson
- 21 Arson Fires Cleared by 8 Arrests
- 32 Active Criminal Investigations

TRAINING FACILITY - REGION 7 EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING ACADEMY

- Fire Suppression and Live Burn Training
- \$50,000 Grant for Swede Flashover Chamber
- Finalized \$100,000 Grant for Propane Burn Prop
- Confined Space Training Prop Lumber Donated by Cross Tabernacle Church

2009 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- New PPE (Fire Gear) for all Firefighters
- New Support/Rescue Truck
- New Fire hose for Fire Apparatus
- 8 Firefighters in Paramedic Training

2. WE DO NOT HAVE IT AS BAD AS SOME OTHER HOOSIERS

We may think we have it bad, but our fellow Hoosier area, Elkhart-Goshen has it much worse by far. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, this area posted the largest jobless rate increase in the nation in 2008. Cutbacks in the RV Industry sent Elkhart's unemployment rate to 15.3%, the highest in the state, and 4th in the nation. Elkhart-Goshen recorded the nation's largest jobless rate increase from December 2007, at 10.6%. They also had one of the largest over-the-year decreases in employment at -6.1%. Gary, Indiana also ranked in the unemployment increase category with an increase of 3.7%.

3. GO FIGURE

A review of the Vigo County Sheriff's Department 2008 report (sent to you last week) and the Terre Haute Police Department report this week reveal that alarming numbers of people are in various kinds of trouble with the law. Due to the economy, these numbers will grow even faster in the near future. This is a heavy hit on the city and county budgets. These problems are social and clearly correlated with education. Many of these incarcerated people are school dropouts. They have dropped out of school for many reasons, but one reason that we can do something about is to fix impossible expectations. Specifically, these people cannot, will not, and never will understand the basic concepts of algebra, which is a requirement for graduation from an Indiana public high school.

If our lawmakers will simply recognize that one size does not fit all and get serious about determining and developing the aptitude of each child, we may then keep some of these people out of our jails and prisons.

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. Feb. 5	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Feb. 9	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Feb. 9	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Feb. 9	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Feb. 10	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Feb. 10	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Feb. 10	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Feb. 11	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Feb. 11	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Feb. 11	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Feb. 12	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Sat. Feb. 14	10:00 am	LEGISLATIVE CRACKERBARREL	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Mon. Feb. 16	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Feb. 16	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Feb. 17	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Feb. 17	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Feb. 17	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Feb. 18	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Feb. 18	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. Feb. 19	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Feb. 23	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Feb. 23	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Feb. 23	5:30 pm	Terre Haute Housing Authority	2001 N. 19 th Street	
Mon. Feb. 23	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Feb. 24	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Feb. 25	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Feb. 25	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Feb. 25	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524

END

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