

TAX MATTERS

**JULY 9, 2009, Issue #09-27, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
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- 1. YOUR OPINION, PLEASE – COUNTY SERVICES?**
- 2. THE TRANSITION**
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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JULY 2, 2009 (#09-26)

- **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.
- **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.

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.

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. YOUR OPINION, PLEASE – COUNTY SERVICES?

As most Vigo County budgets for 2010 are being reduced due to lower revenue, it is obvious that some services must be reduced or eliminated. The Taxpayers Association can and should provide input to Vigo County budget builders concerning services we could or could do without.

If you will provide me with suggestions of services we could do without, I will investigate the most popular suggestion. Names of persons making suggestions will not be disclosed. Here is an example: Vigo County taxpayers pay for mowing weeds (and tall grass) on properties that owners have neglected to maintain. The cost of this mowing is added to the owner's tax statement, but not always collected because the properties are in tax default. For the period beginning May 15, 2009, and ending July 1, 2009, the county paid private contractors \$13,420 for mowing 58 parcels. These parcels were mowed for health and safety reasons because the foliage was over two feet high. Some parcels have been mowed multiple times. Should this practice be stopped?

2. THE TRANSITION

As you probably notice on your phone bill, a small surcharge is added for usage of our E-911 service. E-911 service was implemented on wireless phones after landlines. After the surcharges are collected by Verizon (for landlines) and the Indiana State Auditor (for wireless services), the money is then disbursed to Vigo County's E-911 service. The following is the amount of receipts (per month) that E-911 received from landline and wireless surcharges. From this data, you can figure the trend of more cell phones and fewer conventional house phones.

	Verizon (Landline)	State Auditor (Wireless)
2007	\$24,576.61	\$21,278.36
2008	\$20,094.47	\$28,428.45
2009 (so far)	\$17,504.03	\$28,881.05

3. A PIECE OF U.S. HISTORY

The following paragraph is taken from the Wikipedia article on the Stamp Act of 1765, an effort from the British Parliament to tax the American colonies. Due to the colonies being taxed without representation in Parliament, the law backfired, and it started the chain of events that eventually led to the American Revolution.

The Stamp Act of 1765 (short title *Duties in American Colonies Act 1765*; 5 George III, c.12) was a tax imposed by the British Parliament on the colonies of British America. The act required that many printed materials in the colonies carry a tax stamp. The purpose of the tax was to help pay for troops stationed in North America following the British victory in the Seven Years' War (French and Indian War). The British government felt that the colonies were the primary beneficiaries of this military presence, and should pay at least a portion of the expense.

Read the complete article here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_Act_1765

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. Jul. 9	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Jul. 13	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	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	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jul. 14	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	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	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jul. 15	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Wed. Jul. 15	5:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Board of Health</u>	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	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Jul. 20	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Jul. 21	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jul. 21	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Jul. 21	12:00 noon	<u>Taxpayers Association Board Meeting</u>	Thompson Thrift (901 Wabash, 3rd Floor)	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Jul. 22	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Jul. 22	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Jul. 22	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Mon. Jul. 27	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jul. 27	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Jul. 27	5:30 pm	Terre Haute Housing Authority	2001 N. 19 th Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Jul. 27	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jul. 28	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Jul. 28	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361

5. SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A clear conscience is usually a sign of a bad memory.

END

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