

TAX MATTERS

**JUNE 26, 2008, Issue #08-26, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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

1. I HAVE A PROPOSAL

2. BALL STATE REPORTS 2008 AS 2nd MOST EXPENSIVE INDIANA FLOOD YEAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JUNE 19, 2008 (#08-25)

- **MODERN MAN IS A SLOW LEARNER**
 - The recent flood has shown us where we need to make major improvements. Culverts must be built larger, and in many cases, changed to bridges. Major creeks and ditches must be maintained and void of logjams. Waterways must be monitored for beaver dams.
- **INDIANA APARTMENT ASSOCIATION TAX UPDATE**
 - Publication of the Indiana Apartment Association dealing with property tax adjustments related to natural disasters

JUNE 12, 2008 (#08-24)

- **WATER – WATER – EVERYWHERE**
 - Do you feel that the infrastructure in place in Vigo County contributed to the inability of some of the water to flow correctly and prevent the flooding?

JUNE 5, 2008 (#08-23)

- **NOTICE ON DLGF MEETING**
 - Public budget meeting held Friday, June 27, at the County Annex

MAY 29, 2008 (#08-22)

- **FAQ on 2008 PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS**
 - When will property tax statements for 2008 be mailed?
- **WABASH VALLEY NONPROFIT TRAINING SERIES**
 - Workshops for our members involved in non-profit organizations

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. I HAVE A PROPOSAL

Save your flood-related receipts

Since several Indiana counties, including Vigo, have been declared disaster areas by President Bush, I suggest that sales tax for all purchases made as a consequence of the flood damage be rebated within 12 months as reported on 2008 tax returns. Such taxes, if paid, are simply an unfair windfall that other people in the state would benefit from. People and businesses that lost vehicles don't even have a trade-in and thus, will actually be paying taxes a second time for the lost equity on said vehicles. The details of this can be worked out during the first week of the 2009 legislative session. Meanwhile, we need to know if there is support for such an idea.

Although a lot of damage was beyond prevention, a lot of it was actually caused by poorly planned state projects. Example: I took the attached photo on Saturday, June 7 of the flood water flowing over the newly constructed State Road 63 bypass of Dead Man's Curve. The new road was built with a small culvert instead of a bridge and served as a dam holding back millions of gallons of water and causing unnecessary damage up-land. This water comes from about 3,000 up-land acres. I personally attended the public hearings held at Terre Haute South regarding this project and suggested to those in charge that this could happen. This is my neighborhood and it explains my passion concerning this issue.



Bernard Ridens

2. BALL STATE REPORTS 2008 AS 2nd MOST EXPENSIVE INDIANA FLOOD YEAR

A recent report through Ball State University indicates that 2008 is the 2nd most expensive flood year for Indiana. The 2003 flood caused about \$270 million in damage with the 2008 estimate at \$126 million. Michael Hicks of Ball State and Mark Burton of the University of Tennessee concentrated on the White River, the Wabash River, and other drainage areas.

Preliminary Flood Damage Estimates:

| Damage Category | White River | Wabash River |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Damages to Residential Structures | \$11,693,000 | \$ 5,534,000 |
| Damages to Residential Contents | \$ 8,278,000 | \$ 3,920,000 |
| Damages to Commercial Structures | \$ 8,363,000 | \$ 4,150,000 |
| Damages to Commercial Equipment | \$11,039,000 | \$ 5,478,000 |
| Commercial Revenue Losses | \$ 775,000 | \$ 384,000 |
| Cleanup/Restoration Public Facilities | \$ 573,000 | \$ 284,000 |
| Damages to Railroad Properties | \$ 1,746,000 | \$ 866,000 |
| Road and Bridge Damage | \$ 9,820,000 | \$ 4,873,000 |
| Damages to Airports | \$ 840,000 | \$ 417,000 |
| Sewer System Damages | \$ 2,129,000 | \$ 1,056,000 |
| Damages to Electric Utilities | \$ 689,000 | \$ 341,000 |
| Other Utility Damages | \$ 626,000 | \$ 310,000 |
| Other Public Infrastructure | \$17,286,000 | \$ 8,578,000 |
| Crop Damage | \$14,209,000 | \$ 2,601,000 |
| Total | \$88,074,000 | \$38,799,000 |

END

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The purpose of this calendar of events 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. The contact person is also listed. You should call the appropriate office and confirm the date and time if you plan to attend.

- Fri. Jun. 27, 9:00 am: **Dept. of Local Gov. Finance Hearings** County Annex
Bernard 235-1361
- Fri. Jun. 27, 5:30 pm: **Information Technology Advisory Board** City Hall – 1st Floor
Brad 244-2316
- Tue. Jul. 1, 9:00 am: **County Commissioners** County Annex
Judy 462-3367
- Tue. Jul. 1, 10:00 am: **City Board of Sanitary Commissioners** City Hall Mayor's
Sally 235-5458 Conf. Room
- Tue. Jul. 1, 4:30 pm: **Honey Creek Conservancy District** 3241 S. 3rd Place
Craig 232-4311
- Wed. Jul. 2, 9:00 am: **City Board of Zoning Appeals** City Hall – 1st Floor
Bernard 235-1361 Conf. Room
- Wed. Jul. 2, 7:00 pm: **County Area Planning Commission** County Annex
Vickie 462-3354
- Mon. Jul. 7, 6:30 pm: **Riley Town Board** Riley Town Hall
Wanda 894-2410
- Tue. Jul. 8, 9:00 am: **County Commissioners** County Annex
Judy 462-3367
- Tue. Jul. 8, 4:15 pm: **Vigo County Redevelopment Commission** County Annex
Amanda 234-2524
- Tue. Jul. 8, 7:00 pm: **Seelyville Town Board** Seelyville Water Office
Tamara 877-2665
- Wed. Jul. 9, 10:00 am: **Area Board of Zoning Appeals** County Annex
Bernard 235-1361
- Wed. Jul. 9, 2:00 pm: **E-911 Advisory Board** County Jail Sheriff's
Greg E. 462-3226 ext. 320 Training Room
- Wed. Jul. 9, 4:30 pm: **City Park Board – General Meeting** Deming Park
Eddie 232-2727
- Wed. Jul. 9, 7:00 pm: **Airport Authority** Airport
Kara 877-2524
- Thur. Jul. 10, 7:00 pm: **City Council – Sunshine Meeting** City Hall – Courtroom
Michelle 232-3375
- **Tue. Jul. 15, 12:00 noon: Taxpayers Association Board Meeting** **TBA (I need a**
Bernard 235-1361 **volunteer to host)**