

## TAX MATTERS

AUGUST 14, 2008, Issue #08-33, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.

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### 1. ASSESSED VALUE UP, ASSESSED VALUE DOWN

### 2. TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES TO POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

### 3. CITY PARKS SURVEY

### 4. PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

##### AUGUST 7, 2008 (#08-32)

- FLOOD NOTES AND TAXES
  - The many properties damaged or totally destroyed in the flood will reduce the total assessed value of the county and if spending remains constant, taxes will be higher for all property owners
- INDIANA CHAMBER LETTER TO GOVERNOR CANDIDATES CONCERNING HOOSIER LOTTERY

##### JULY 31, 2008 (#08-31)

- RATES ARE IN AND PUBLISHED
  - The rates for 2007 payable 2008 are now available - <http://members.aol.com/taxtopics/tax2008.xls>
- BAD NEWS – GOOD NEWS
  - Assessment Up – Trending; Taxes Down – HB 1001 Increases Homestead Credit

##### JULY 24, 2008 (#08-30)

- INDIANA'S CREDIT RATING HITS HISTORIC MARK
  - Indiana has received a “AAA” issuer credit rating from Standard and Poor's Rating Services for the first time in history
- COMPUTERS AND SUPER COMPUTERS
  - IU and Purdue's supercomputer will be useful to foster technology development and job growth in the state

##### JULY 17, 2008 (#08-29)

- ANOTHER FLOOD PHOTO AND IDEA
  - Should the long-range plan for EDIT dollars be re-evaluated and moved towards channeling Thompson Ditch directly to the Wabash?

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. ASSESSED VALUE UP, ASSESSED VALUE DOWN

The assessed valuation of Vigo County has grown the past two years. This is good for property taxpayers. The higher the valuation, the smaller amount we must pay to meet the levy. Unfortunately, due to several conditions – property moved from the tax roll to not-for-profit status, assessed values being lowered due to flooding, and industries moving out or closing – the AV is projected to be much lower for 2009.

The following historical chart is a review of Vigo County assessed valuations, and was included in a budget presentation by Donna Wilson, Chief Financial Officer of the Vigo County School Corporation. Her figure of \$3.2 billion for 2009 was based on information provided by the Department of Local Government Finance.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2004	\$ 3,598,749,540	1.46%
2005	\$ 3,677,987,330	2.20%
2006	\$ 3,613,955,389	-1.74%
2007	\$ 3,950,640,713	9.32%
2008	\$ 4,017,089,889	1.68%
Projected 2009	\$ 3,213,671,911	-20.00%

## 2. TAXPAYER SUBSIDIES TO POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

This month, the Democratic and Republican Parties will hold their conventions in Denver and Minneapolis, respectively. At least \$66 million of operating expenses in these conventions will be on the taxpayers' tab. Is it really necessary?

Full article from the Taxpayers for Common Sense here -

[http://www.taxpayer.net/search\\_by\\_category.php?action=view&proj\\_id=1203&category=Wastebasket&type=Project](http://www.taxpayer.net/search_by_category.php?action=view&proj_id=1203&category=Wastebasket&type=Project)

### 3. CITY PARKS SURVEY

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department has extended their deadline for returning their survey. Filling out this survey will help the parks department in formulating a master plan for the future of our city parks! The PDF version of this survey is located here - <http://members.aol.com/taxtopics/parksurvey.pdf>

Terre Haute Parks Recreation  
**Five Year Park and Recreation Master Plan  
Public Information Survey**

***This survey is intended to obtain community input about the City's park system. Please check, circle or fill in the most appropriate answer that describes your opinion.***

**How often do you and your family visit a park in Terre Haute?**

Daily  
Weekly  
Monthly  
Several Times a Year  
Yearly  
Never

**What is Your Age?**

Under 25  
26 - 45  
46 - 64  
Over 65

**How close do you live to the nearest park?**

Less than 5 blocks  
5-10 blocks  
1-2 miles  
Over 2 miles

**How many years have you lived in Terre Haute?**

Less than 1 year  
1-10 years  
11-20 years  
More than 20 years

**How do you or your family find out about park programs or events?**

Newspapers  
TV/Radio  
Brochures/Fliers  
Posted Signs  
Word of Mouth  
Internet  
Direct Mailing



**What park activities do you or your family participate in?**

Reading  
Golf  
Swimming  
Biking  
Playgrounds  
Nature Activities  
Concerts  
Festivals  
Picnicking  
Walking/Hiking  
Swim Lessons  
Tennis Lessons  
Softball  
Kickball  
Tennis Lessons  
Special Events (i.e. Easter Egg hunt/Haunted Halloween)

**If offered, what park activities/facilities would you or your family utilize?**

Soccer  
Football  
Pickle Ball  
Pre-School  
Photography Lessons  
Others?

**What new recreational activities should the Agency consider offering?**

**Do you feel there are enough indoor recreation facilities in Terre Haute?**

Yes  
No

**Do you feel that additional trails are needed in Terre Haute?**

Yes  
No

**Do you feel safe when you visit parks in Terre Haute?**

Yes  
No

**Overall, do you feel that the parks in Terre Haute are well maintained?**

Yes  
No

**Should underutilized facilities be replaced with new facilities that are in demand?**

Yes

No

**Does Terre Haute need a water park or aquatics center?**

Yes

No

**Would you be in favor of a bond issue to develop major park facilities?**

Yes

No

**Would you support increased user fees to improve activities you participate in?**

Yes

No

**Would you consider increased fees for seasonal and/or daily fees at the golf courses?**

Yes

No

**If you had \$100.00 to allocate for Parks and Recreation items, how would you divide the money (use a dollar amount):**

A. Improvements to and maintenance of existing facilities \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. Improvements to the existing swimming pool \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C. Construction of a Dog Park \$ \_\_\_\_\_

D. Land acquisition and development of additional multi-use trails to connect parks and the community \$ \_\_\_\_\_

E. A new swimming pool complex that would include amenities such as a splash pad, lazy river, etc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

F. Construction of additional athletic fields for softball, baseball, soccer \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Terre Haute Parks Recreation Department

P.O. Box 8030

Terre Haute, IN 47808

fax: 812-234-7636

You may also turn your form in at the Main Office in Fairbanks Park, the Torner Community Center in Deming Park, and the Native American Museum or Nature Center in Dobbs Park

## 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. The contact person is also listed. You should call the appropriate office and confirm the date and time if you plan to attend.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Mon. Aug. 18	7:00 pm	<b>Vigo County Public Library</b>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Aug. 19	9:00 am	<b>County Commissioners</b>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 19	10:00 am	<b>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</b>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Aug. 20	9:30 am	<b>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</b>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Thur. Aug. 21	1:30 pm	<b>Tree Advisory Board</b>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Fri. Aug. 22	5:30 pm	<b>Information Technology Advisory Board</b>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Brad 244-2316
Mon. Aug. 25	2:00 pm	<b>Board of Public Works and Safety</b>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Aug. 25	4:00 pm	<b>County Park Board</b>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Aug. 25	7:00 pm	<b>Vigo County School Board</b>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Aug. 26	9:00 am	<b>County Commissioners</b>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Aug. 26	5:00 pm	<b>County Council</b>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Aug. 27	4:30 pm	<b>City Park Board – Business Meeting</b>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Aug. 27	7:00 pm	<b>Airport Authority</b>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Tue. Sep. 2	9:00 am	<b>County Commissioners</b>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Sep. 2	10:00 am	<b>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</b>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Sep. 2	4:30 pm	<b>Honey Creek Conservancy District</b>	3241 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Craig 232-4311
Tue. Sep. 2	6:30 pm	<b>Riley Town Board</b>	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Wed. Sep. 3	9:00 am	<b>City Board of Zoning Appeals</b>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Room	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Sep. 3	7:00 pm	<b>County Area Planning Commission</b>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Sep. 4	7:00 pm	<b>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</b>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Tue. Sep. 16	12:00 pm	<b>Taxpayers Association Board Meeting</b>	TBA	Bernard 235-1361

**END**

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