

TAX MATTERS

**JULY 3, 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. INDIANA WATERWAY PERMITS MANUAL**
- 2. I-69 WILL BE BUILT, REGARDLESS**
- 3. HONEY CREEK-VIGO CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**
- 4. RIVERSCAPE IDEA WORKSHOP**
- 5. SOME RAINFALL NUMBERS**

UPCOMING EVENTS

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JUNE 26, 2008 (#08-26)

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

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?**

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. INDIANA WATERWAY PERMITS MANUAL

Question: Who is responsible for the cleanup or prevention of creek logjams such as those known and reported before the June 7, 2008 flood?

Answer: As of this report, the most popular answer given by authorities is “the landowner.” AND except for emergency conditions, he and she must acquire a permit, and, of course, know how to fix the problem and have access to the appropriate equipment to do so. If you want more detailed understanding of this concept, read this 82-page document provided by the Indiana Department of Transportation:

<http://www.in.gov/indot/files/WaterwayManual.pdf>

2. I-69 WILL BE BUILT, REGARDLESS

Invitation-Only Groundbreaking Set for I-69 Segment

By Bryan Corbin
<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2008/jul/03/invitation-only-groundbreaking-set-for-i-69/>
Thursday, July 3, 2008

The long-awaited groundbreaking on the first segment of Interstate 69 from Evansville to Indianapolis is scheduled for the week of July 13.

The event will be private and invitation only.

Officials are being tight-lipped about some details, including the date and location. Mainly that's because of security concerns, after threats were posted on the Internet by the radical environmental group Roadblock Earth First, which opposes the interstate's construction.

Two Earth First protesters who spent one month in a treetop encampment at the interstate construction site were arrested for trespassing June 20. More recently, protesters believed connected with Roadblock Earth First smashed a window at the Evansville office of I-69 project manager, Bernardin, Lochmueller & Associates. The same protest group has taken credit for vandalism at other project-related sites.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be the culmination of a long effort to design and fund the interstate extension and plot its route. Touted by supporters as a potential economic engine for Southwestern Indiana, I-69 has been debated for years.

A number of political leaders and dignitaries have been invited to the private groundbreaking, organized by Hoosier Voices for I-69, a group that has lobbied for the interstate's construction. Security will be tight, officials said.

"It is our chance to recognize the hundreds of our fellow citizens who have worked diligently for years to make this road a reality," Hoosier Voices for I-69 executive director Steve Schaefer said in a statement. "We will have a limited number of tickets to the event and distribution of those tickets will be controlled."

The first portion of I-69 to be built will be 1.77 miles along the Indiana 57 corridor, from the existing Interstate 64 to Indiana 68 in Gibson County. Gohmann Asphalt Co. was the winning bidder on that segment at \$25.23 million, and crews have been clearing ground along the interstate's path.

That is the first piece of Section 1, a 13-mile segment from Evansville to Oakland City. A total of six sections stretching 142 miles will be built sequentially, from south to north, over a period of about a decade.

Overall funding for the stretch of I-69 from Evansville to the Crane warfare center comes through the Major Moves program, the 2006 lease of the northern Indiana toll road to a foreign consortium. The \$3.85 billion lease payment the state received is being used to fund highway and infrastructure projects.

Funding for the rest of I-69, from Crane to Indianapolis, would come through traditional federal gasoline tax revenue, unless some other funding source were identified.

3. HONEY CREEK-VIGO CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The Honey Creek-Vigo Conservancy District announces a public meeting at **7 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, 2008**, at the Vigo County Annex (Council Chambers) to hear public statements. The venue of the District's regular board meetings is inadequate to accommodate numerous citizens for a public meeting. **No action is anticipated at the July 15 meeting; rather, this meeting is scheduled to permit citizens input and comment regarding ongoing flood protection activity in the District.**

Representatives of the District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be in attendance.

Members of the public are encouraged to address comments or questions in advance to the District's email address: hcvcd@hotmail.com. Advance questions will permit District and NRCS representatives an opportunity to research specific inquiries, if possible.

4. RIVERSCAPE IDEA WORKSHOP

DATE: June 30, 2008

TO: Wabash Valley Leaders

RE: Exciting opportunity for you to help us transform the riverfront

Thanks to the vision and hard work of some enthusiastic community members, the Vigo County Area Planning Department is working with HTNB Corporation to create a plan to transform the riverfront in Vigo County. It's a year-long process that will result in some very exciting plans for our riverfront...plans that should help us procure the funding we need to make these ideas become realities.

We've dubbed the project Riverscape, and we believe that a transformation of our riverfront can actually transform our whole community.

We need your ideas!

What would your ideal riverfront look like? Would it have biking trails? Would it be an upscale shopping area? Are you hoping for recreation? What about a bird sanctuary? Would you like to be able to live on the riverfront?

Please join us, roll up your sleeves, and share your dreams for the community:

Riverscape Idea Workshop

Wednesday, July 9, 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

HNTB, 422 Wabash Avenue

You may come at anytime throughout the day. Better yet, if you and your group would like to reserve an hour for yourselves, contact Andy Theisz at 234-8597 to arrange a time.

We look forward to your input as we all work together to transform our community!

5. SOME RAINFALL NUMBERS

One acre-inch of water equals 27,154 gallons.

A square mile-inch of water equals 17,378,560 gallons.

Ten square mile-inches of water equals 173,785,600 gallons.

Ten square miles, ten inches deep of water equals 1,737,856,000 gallons.

To give you some perspective, this water would fill **193,095** gasoline tanker trucks!

(Vigo County is 403 square miles. Go figure.)

END

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TAX MATTERS

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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.

- 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, 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
- Mon. Jul. 14, 2:00 pm: **Board of Public Works and Safety** City Hall – 1st Floor
Robin 232-4767
- Mon. Jul. 14, 6:00 pm: **West Terre Haute Town Board** 500 W. Nat'l, WTH
Melody 533-2034
- Mon. Jul. 14, 7:00 pm: **Vigo County School Board** VCSC Board Room
Judy 462-4216
- Tue. Jul. 15, 9:00 am: **County Commissioners** County Annex
Judy 462-3367
- Tue. Jul. 15, 10:00 am: **City Board of Sanitary Commissioners** City Hall – 3rd Floor
Sally 235-5458
- **Tue. Jul. 15, 12:00 noon: Taxpayers Association Board Meeting** **Library – Main Branch**
Bernard 235-1361 (Bring your lunch)
- Tue. Jul. 15, 7:00 pm: **Honey Creek Conservancy District** County Annex
Craig 232-4311
- Wed. Jul. 16, 9:30 am: **Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District** 109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN
Janet 800-387-3380
- Wed. Jul. 16, 2:00 pm: **E-911 Advisory Board** County Jail Sheriff's
Greg E. 462-3226 ext. 320 Training Room
- Wed. Jul. 16, 4:00 pm: **City Redevelopment Commission** City Hall – 1st Floor
Phenny 232-0018
- Wed. Jul. 16, 5:00 pm: **Vigo County Board of Health** County Annex
Louise 462-3428
- Thur. Jul. 17, 1:30 pm: **Tree Advisory Board** City Hall Mayor's
Jennifer 232-4028 Conf. Room
- Thur. Jul. 17, 7:00 pm: **City Council – Regular Meeting** City Hall – Courtroom
Michelle 232-3375