

## **TAX MATTERS**

**APRIL 30, 2009, Issue #09-17, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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

- 1. WRAP-UP CRACKERBARREL – MAY 2**
- 2. ANOTHER REVERSE AUCTION**
- 3. UCLA REPORT ON NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**
- 4. GOOD, BETTER, BEST – NEVER LET IT REST**
- 5. THE EAGLE WILL ROOST IN SOUTH VIGO TROPHY CASE**
- 6. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

### **REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS**

**APRIL 23, 2009 (#09-16)**

- **PROPOSED VIGO COUNTY TAX RATES**
  - The estimated tax assessment for 2008 PAY 2009 figures were published by the Tribune-Star on Apr. 23. However, the print was impossible to read. Thus, the table provided represents an improved version comparing PAY 08 and projected PAY 09 figures.
- **SOUTH VIGO WINS THE FLYING EAGLE FOR 2009**
  - The winners of the 2009 Taxation and Government Competition
- **WHY CAPITALISM?**
  - In a time when the concept of Socialism is being brought forward by news agencies across the nation regarding health care and stimulus packages, Allan H. Meltzer delivered the lecture “Why Capitalism?”, the eighth lecture in the 2008-2009 Bradley Lecture Series.
- **MAKING THE WORST OF A BAD SITUATION – NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**
  - According to a recent article in the New York Times, provisions for education in the stimulus bill may indicate the Obama Administration’s position on the overhaul of NCLB.

**APRIL 16, 2009 (#09-15)**

- **THOMPSON DITCH CITY STUDY**
  - A second flood study was done for the city by BANNING Engineering. The report gives twelve recommendations to reduce property damage during flooding conditions of southern Vigo County.
- **BOARD OF HEALTH INFO**
  - Links to the annual report and vital statistics

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. WRAP-UP CRACKERBARREL – MAY 2**

Since the legislative session has officially closed, a special wrap-up Crackerbarrel Session has been scheduled for Saturday, May 2 from 10:00 – 12 Noon at the Vigo County Public Library. This session will give the legislators a chance to comment on actions taken by the 2009 General Assembly. The comment session will be followed by a question and answer period.

The Assembly adjourned without passing a new state budget, forcing legislators to return for a special session to come up with an acceptable agreement. (If the legislature remains in session on Saturday, May 2, the Crackerbarrel will be cancelled.)

## **2. ANOTHER REVERSE AUCTION**

The Board of Public Works and Safety was asked to approve specifications for the purchase of three F-150 trucks (or equivalent), two F-350 pickup trucks (or equivalent) and one F-750 pickup truck (or equivalent) for wastewater utility purposes. These trucks will be purchased using reverse auction. This reverse auction will take place Thursday, May 14 at 2:00 PM.

## **3. UCLA REPORT ON NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

A new report from the Civil Rights Project at UCLA finds that some of the basic assumptions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) are not working and may well be making things worse. Researchers Gail Sunderman and Heinrich Mintrop find that NCLB is failing on three fronts. First, there is little evidence that high stakes accountability under NCLB works. It has not improved student achievement, and the sanctions have had limited effects in producing real progress. The law also is not very good at accurately identifying schools in danger of failing and far outstrips the ability of states to intervene effectively in the schools it sanctions. Third, the law has failed to connect in a meaningful way to the educators who must implement it – they do not see the accountability goals as realistic, and consider the sanctions to be misguided and counterproductive. The most important finding is the damage NCLB is doing to public education. Under NCLB, the system “works” when schools operate within only a basic skills framework and with low test vigor.

UCLA Press Release:

<http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/news/pressreleases/pressrelease20090422-nclb.html>

## **4. GOOD, BETTER, BEST – NEVER LET IT REST**

The TA Annual Meeting held last week at Idle Creek Banquet Center was the best attended over the past five years. There were over seventy in attendance, and all seemed to be interested in the presentation by our speaker, Dr. Dan Bradley, President of Indiana State University. He focused on the upcoming challenges to ISU in terms of curriculum, enrollment, and facilities.

In addition to this presentation, Tom Woodason ran the annual meeting, electing Joe Kenworthy and Charles Beckwith to three-year terms on the TA board. Bernard Ridens presented awards to contest winners, and a drawing resulted in several

receiving excellent door prizes. The door prizes were contributed by Bob Baesler (Baesler's Market), Ron Vencel (JR Scripts), Amy Hobson (SONY-DADC), George Azar (Saratoga Restaurant), Ryan Baker (Idle Creek), and Staples. Thanks again to each of these sponsors for supporting our organization.

Our goal for next year – bigger and better!

## 5. THE EAGLE WILL ROOST IN SOUTH VIGO TROPHY CASE

At the TA annual meeting, Bernard presented the new trophy, THE EAGLE, to the students who won the Taxation and Government Contest. The traveling trophy will be awarded annually to the winning area high school team with the highest score. This year the trophy was awarded to Terre Haute South Vigo High School. Bernard awarded money to the students with the highest points. They were Thomas Nicholas (\$250), Erin Balderson (\$125), Paul DeGrothy (\$75) and Krysta Williams (\$50). Jim Mann, South Vigo teacher-sponsor, received \$100 for classroom supplies. Washington Alternative received \$50. The trophy was purchased by four local colleges: Ivy Tech Community College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and Indiana State University.

The test was developed with the help of Bernard Ridens, Shirley Ridens, Susan Clements, Randall Allen, Will Frankel, John McDonnall, Tom Taylor, Sharon Taylor, Matt Hoxworth, and Susan Throckmorton.

Other financial and in-kind support for the project was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bryan, C.H. Garmong & Sons, Champion Awards, City of Terre Haute, Susan Clements, Guille Cox, John Hilderbrand, Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Old National Bank, Regional Hospital, Bernard and Shirley Ridens, Terre Haute Savings Bank, Carolyn Toops, The Vigo County Commissioners Golf Fund, James R. Wiesneth Law Office, and Wright, Shagley, and Lowery, P.C. Contributions and pledges have been made to support next year's contest.

## 6. 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Sat. May 2	10:00 am	<b>Special Legislative Crackerbarrel (unless state legislature has session)</b>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Mon. May 4	6:30 pm	<u><b>Local Emergency Planning Committee</b></u>	Library – Main Branch	Jon 232-5411
Mon. May 4	6:30 pm	<b>Riley Town Board</b>	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. May 5	9:00 am	<u><b>County Commissioners</b></u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. May 5	10:00 am	<u><b>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</b></u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. May 5	4:30 pm	<b>Honey Creek Conservancy District</b>	3241 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. May 6	9:00 am	<u><b>City Board of Zoning Appeals</b></u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. May 6	7:00 pm	<u><b>County Area Planning Commission</b></u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354

Thur.	May 7	7:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u></a>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle	232-3375
Mon.	May 11	2:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u></a>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin	232-4767
Mon.	May 11	6:00 pm	<b>West Terre Haute Town Board</b>	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody	533-2034
Mon.	May 11	7:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>Vigo County School Board</u></a>	VCSC Board Room	Judy	462-4216
Tue.	May 12	9:00 am	<a href="#"><u>County Commissioners</u></a>	County Annex	Judy	462-3367
Tue.	May 12	4:15 pm	<a href="#"><u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u></a>	County Annex	Amanda	234-2524
Tue.	May 12	7:00 pm	<b>Seelyville Town Board</b>	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara	877-2665
Wed.	May 13	10:00 am	<a href="#"><u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u></a>	County Annex	Judy	462-3367
Wed.	May 13	4:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>Air Pollution Control Department</u></a>	103 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	George	462-3433
Wed.	May 13	4:30 pm	<a href="#"><u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u></a>	Deming Park	Eddie	232-2727
Wed.	May 13	7:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>Airport Authority</u></a>	Airport	Kara	877-2524
Thur.	May 14	2:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>Board of Public Works and Safety – Reverse Auction on Pickup Truck Purchase</u></a>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin	232-4767
Thur.	May 14	7:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u></a>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle	232-3375
Mon.	May 18	5:30 pm	<a href="#"><u>Human Relations Commission</u></a>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff	232-0110
Mon.	May 18	7:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>Vigo County Public Library</u></a>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy	232-1113
Tue.	May 19	9:00 am	<a href="#"><u>County Commissioners</u></a>	County Annex	Judy	462-3367
Tue.	May 19	10:00 am	<a href="#"><u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u></a>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally	235-5458
Wed.	May 20	9:30 am	<b>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</b>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet	800-387-3380
Wed.	May 20	4:00 pm	<a href="#"><u>City Redevelopment Commission</u></a>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Phenny	232-0018
Thur.	May 21	2:00 pm	<b>Tree Advisory Board</b>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer	232-4028

**END**

*Disclaimer: This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is strictly prohibited. Erroneous transmission or receipt of the information contained herein shall not constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege. If you have received this document by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message.*