



**John C. Ackerman**

Tazewell County Board

*Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service*

October 4th, 2009

**\*\*\* Press Release \*\*\***

**[Illinois Route 8 Phase Three Construction / Medians Addition](#)**

Today I want to announce along with the Sunnyland Business Association and with the City of East Peoria and the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) approval an addition to the current construction plan for Illinois Route 8 Phase Three Center Lane Medians of the eastern edge of East Peoria. This phase of construction starts at Sunrise and ends at Summit Road.

The current plan is that the medians get landscaped with grass and a few trees as they were before. They will be smaller than the previous medians, many will be relocated, and all will feature a new pedestrian crosswalk for added safety but the total number of medians will only slightly change.

This new proposal is to do additional landscaping of three of the medians (one at each end and one in the center). These three medians would still have the trees that IDOT would plant but instead of seeding for grass, Knockout Roses would be planted by volunteers. Knockout Roses are fairly maintenance free and as such are widely used on current IDOT landscaping jobs (see I-74 for an example).

The benefits of this project would be increased eye appeal to the overall project, which we feel would add to the increase in community pride. This also provides us with an excellent opportunity to honor a long time community volunteer that will be moving soon.

Leo Ruemmler of 2255 Washington Road has been a very active member in Sunnyland Christian Church, the Sunnyland Business Association, the Washington Share Program, and many other worthy programs that benefit this part of town. For many years, he volunteered to mow at his cost the medians and an abandoned cemetery along Route 8 that up till the time he started doing this was a major eyesore. He is also a very active member of the Greater Peoria Rose Society and an avid rose grower. Not too long ago, he gave a yearly tour of his beautiful award-winning rose garden in his backyard to thousands of Tri-County residents as well as visitors from throughout the state and nation. He has recently decided it was time to retire to Riverview in East Peoria, and as such the community is losing a premier rose garden and community supporter.

With this strong community service in mind, we are dedicating this portion to him in recognition of his tireless efforts of many years to better the community and also his excellent example of volunteerism.

No additional public funds will be used on this addition to the project. Donations in recognition of Leo Ruemmler's years of service and volunteerism will be sought from the community. Anyone interested in contributing can send the donation to "Leo Ruemmler Recognition", 2257 Washington Road, Washington, Illinois, 61571. All funding received will be used for this effort.

As always, I consider it an honor and a privilege to represent you on the Tazewell County Board and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**John C. Ackerman**  
[www.JohnCAckerman.com](http://www.JohnCAckerman.com)

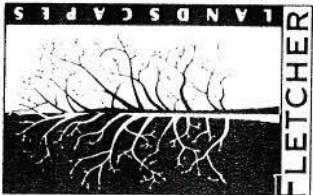
Client \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date Sept '09 Scale 1"=12'

Designer A. Fletcher

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# ILLINOIS ROUTE 8

## Median Landscape Proposal

