

**John C. Ackerman**

Tazewell County Board

*Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service*

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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

**[Website Update: 6 Months Old and 2000 Visits](#)**

September 21<sup>st</sup> is a mile marker for my website as it will be 6 months old and has already received its 2000<sup>th</sup> visit. As of this morning, the website had received 2064 visits since it was made public on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The success of this website is in a large part due to those of you that have been utilizing it as an information resource for Tazewell County. With these two landmark events, I wanted to take a second to review the current website and mention the foreseen future of the website.

When I released the website, I questioned would people really utilize the site and how strong the need was for this level of transparency of County Board information. The answer has been yes over 2000 visits in such a short amount of time and the usage of the site increases each month. While the site has had visits from 11 other countries, 37 states other than Illinois and the District of Columbia, the majority of visits, over 70%, come from the Tri-County Area with the top ten cities being: Peoria, East Peoria, Pekin, Groveland, Morton, Bloomington, the City of Chicago, Washington, Metamora and Mossville.

The site has become a leading source of information concerning the Tazewell County Board with the monthly County Board Meeting Agendas, Information Packets and County Board Meeting Recaps being available only at this site, the only posting of the Tazewell County Budget, and the only posting of the Tazewell County Comprehensive Plan as well as many other documents of interest. Much of the information available on the website is currently not available on any other website. The monthly posting of the County Board Meeting Packet gives the citizens of Tazewell County all of the information the County Board Members are using to make their decisions, offering a monthly insight into every decision and vote. The monthly County Board Recap, written by me after each meeting, gives the citizens a look at every vote their board members are making and is currently the most convenient electronic record of the board votes. As far as something less opinionated, I also post the minutes of the County Board meetings after they have been finalized so that the citizens of the county can see the official action taken. This is currently the only website offering this information.

The Events Tab has rapidly grown to be a listing of major events and meetings in Tazewell County. Everything from County Board Meetings and Committee Meetings to Family Movie Nights, Municipality Festivals, and other such events are currently posted and regularly updated. After the event, the Photo Gallery tab offers a glimpse of what the event was like.

Maybe the fastest growing aspect of the website is the Newsletter. I have been using this as a means to email individuals of upcoming events, upcoming candidate forums, press releases, new updates, and other timely information concerning Tazewell County and all of my political efforts. Many local news reports have been generated from this newsletter such as the usage of the Stimulus Road Funding in Tazewell County, the Copper Road Grant, the Mackinaw Veterans Memorial effort, the Rail Splitter Wind Farm dedication and the Tazewell County Tremont Facility Storm Shelters concern to name a few. The Newsletter feature has become a quick, reliable method of communicating timely and accurate news updates, position updates, and press releases to the citizens of Tazewell County. If you are not currently receiving the newsletter, just sign up on the Home Tab by entering your name and email address.

All of this progress would not have happened if it were not for the outpouring of request for this information to be made more readily available. In the near future, this and more may be available on the Tazewell County Website, which is currently being updated and refreshed. Until then, and even after the release of this updated County website, I will continue to make this and more information accessible to the citizens of Tazewell County.

Increased communication and better transparency of government were two of the positions I campaigned on for Tazewell County Board and this website is just one way I am working to fulfill these commitments. If you are looking for something that is not currently available on the website, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will see what I can do.

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.

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