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COUNTY CHECKBOOK NOW SEARCHABLE ONLINE

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Carlinville - Macoupin County taxpayers have an easy, new way of seeing how their tax dollars are being spent. County Clerk Pete Duncan recently announced his office has placed the County's checkbook online for the first time. This newest open government tool can be found at www.macoupincheckbook.com.

Users of MacoupinCheckbook can quickly sort through available data based on department head, budget, vendor information, what money is being spent on and payment date. Nearly all County payments can be viewed on the site down to individual transactions.

Budget, expense and vendor data will be updated on a monthly basis after each County Board meeting when bills are approved for payment. Available data goes back to September 1, 2005, when the County moved to its current financial software. The checkbook is all open data, meaning it is searchable and can be downloaded.

While all the information included on MacoupinCheckbook was previously available by request on paper printouts, County Clerk Pete Duncan said placing a decade's worth of payment data online demonstrates his and his staff's commitment to open government. "By allowing any taxpayer in Macoupin County 24/7 access to see for themselves the County's checkbook, the accountability of County government is strengthened, the door to budget decisions is opened, and public awareness of all the County's services is increased. It's another great example of how my office is utilizing technology to provide better, smarter government."

MacoupinCheckbook.com is just the latest in open government initiatives launched by Duncan and the County Clerk's staff. Just last year, MacoupinBudget.com, a budget visualization tool showing how tax payer dollars were spent over the last twenty years, and MacoupinMinutes.com, a portal with decades worth of County Board agendas, minutes and subscription signups for agenda email notifications, were started.

Anyone with questions on the checkbook is encouraged to contact the County Clerk's office at (217) 854-3214 ext. 707 or email at pete.duncan@macoupincountyil.gov.

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