

For Immediate Release: Sept. 14, 2007
Contact: Nora Feuquay,
Macoupin County Economic Development
217-854-7727 or nora.feuquay@macoupincountyil.gov

County Approves First Tourism Grant

Carlinville- The first Macoupin County Tourism Grant was approved by the County Board at its September meeting. The \$3,000 grant was awarded to the Carlinville Christmas Market for marketing the December event.

The grant program, recently funded through the county's hotel/motel tax, was created to assist groups and non-profit organizations in the county with funding for marketing to improve tourism in Macoupin County, said Nora Feuquay, coordinator of Macoupin County Economic Development.

"In its 18th year, the Carlinville Christmas Market, is one of our largest and most successful events in the county," said Macoupin County Board Chairman Andrew Manar. "It draws people from out of our area who spend money not only at the Market, but at other businesses in our county. It is a good fit for our Tourism Grant."

Lea Hudson, chairman of the Carlinville Christmas Market Foundation, thanked county board members for the grant at the September meeting.

"The grant money will be well spent to promote the Christmas Market to a wide audience, which in turn will help bring attention to Macoupin County as a whole," said Hudson.

The 18th Annual Carlinville Christmas Market will be held on the town square December 7, 8 & 9. For more information go to www.CarlinvilleChristmasMarket.com or call 217-854-3552.

Guidelines and applications for the grant program are on the tourism section of the county's website, www.macoupincountyil.gov, or can be obtained by contacting Feuquay at 217-854-7727 or nora.feuquay@macoupincountyil.gov. Applications should be sent to Feuquay either via email or to 21480 B. IL Route 4 Carlinville, IL 62626.

Feuquay said that since the program was just recently funded the guideline stating that applications should be made at least six months prior to the event will be suspended for the October 1 and January 1 submission dates.

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