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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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McHenry County Improves Transparency Rating

WOODSTOCK, IL – McHenry County Government recently obtained the “Sunny Award”, an A+ rating on transparency, from the Sunshine Review organization (www.sunshinereview.org). The Sunshine Review organization evaluates and rates state and local government transparency on a public body’s website through a ten point checklist. The ten point checklist in which McHenry County met all of the criteria include: Budgets, Open Meeting Laws, Elected Officials, Administrative Officials, Building Permits and Zoning, Audits, Contracts, Lobbying, Public Records, and Taxes. In fact, McHenry County is one of only five Illinois Counties that have an A rating (McHenry County: A+; DuPage County: A+; Madison County: A+; Lake County: A-; and Will County: A-).

“We are proud to achieve this rating for our transparency efforts. We have always strived to make information available to the public,” stated McHenry County Board Chairman Ken Koehler.

Over the past year, McHenry County has taken a number of steps to make its information more accessible. The County has:

- Substantially increased its usage of social media;
- Introduced an e-Newsletter;
- County departments have greatly increased their web utilization in posting information;
- Created a Freedom of Information Request Portal that includes Departmental FOIA Officers, online and downloadable FOIA requests forms, and on-line links to frequently requested information; and
- Developed a transparency page or “Information Access Portal” that places frequently requested information in one easy to find location.

Additionally, McHenry County is currently moving forward with codification of the County Code into not only a traditional book but also into an electronic format that will allow the Code to be searched and viewed on the website. Finally, the County is evaluating the usage of webstreaming for public meetings.

McHenry County is proud to receive this recognition and continues to strive to be a leader in transparency in its operations. For more information on McHenry County transparency efforts, please contact Adam Lehmann at 815-334-0409 or aflehmann@co.mchenry.il.us.

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“McHenry County government is dedicated to providing the highest quality services for the health, safety, and welfare of the County’s residents and communities. We foster representative and transparent government to ensure social, economic and environmental justice.”