



MORRIS

ILLINOIS

READY
FOR
SUMMER
FUN!



Morris Cruise Night - Downtown Morris
Every 2nd Saturday (May-October)

3 French Hens Country Market
Every 2nd Saturday (May-November)



Morris Municipal Services Building

700 N. Division St. • Morris IL 60450

Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM • Monday – Friday

Phone: (815) 942-0103

Email: cityhall@morrisil.org

City Meetings

The Morris City Council meets twice monthly. Committee meetings are held on an as needed basis.

All are held in the Community Room
700 N. Division St., Morris, IL 60450

June

5th Morris City Council 6:00PM

19th Morris City Council 6:00PM

July

3rd Morris City Council 6:00PM

17th Morris City Council 6:00PM

August

7th Morris City Council 6:00PM

21st Morris City Council 6:00PM

Closed for the following Holidays:

Tuesday, July 4th - Independence Day

Monday, September 4th - Labor Day

City Directory

Mayor's Office

815-942-5438

City Clerk

815-942-4026

City Treasurer

815-942-4108

Building & Zoning

815-942-1855

Business Development

815-941-3685

Morris Fire & Ambulance Non-Emergency

815-942-2830

Morris Police Non-Emergency

815-942-2131

Public Works Department

815-942-5063

Water Department Billing/Questions

815-942-4026

Water Department Maintenance

815-942-2205

Morris Municipal Airport

815-942-1600

Morris Swimming Pool

815-942-2919

Your Local Aldermen

Herb Wyeth

First Ward

hwyeth@morrisil.org

Jake Duvick

First Ward

jduvick@morrisil.org

Julian Houston

Second Ward

jhouston@morrisil.org

Dean Tambling

Second Ward

dtambling@morrisil.org

Derrick Wren

Third Ward

dwren@morrisil.org

Alex Clubb

Third Ward

aclubb@morrisil.org

Jim Black

Fourth Ward

jblack@morrisil.org

Sarah Mettelle

Fourth Ward

smettelle@morrisil.org





Message from Mayor Chris Brown

The City of Morris sits at an exciting crossroads. As I write this letter, a new water tower is under construction, a new fire department building has broken ground, and the preliminary work

on a new housing development is under way. Along with the housing development, one of the most exciting and significant additions to our city in its history will soon break ground. After years of hard work, fundraising, and planning, the new Morris YMCA will be breaking ground in just a matter of days. These projects will serve our community for decades and promise to take our community into a promising, bright future.

The excitement does not end with these projects. Truly, they serve as a beginning and a foundation for more to come. As we look to the west side of Morris and see the promising beginnings of a new subdivision and YMCA, do not forget to focus your gaze on our city parks. They too, will soon be the focus of a transformational change that will make them the crown jewels in our parks system. With the recently adopted City of Morris Parks Master Plan, we have what will serve as a blueprint for future upgrades and improvements to our parks. Goodwill Park and McKinley Park have been selected as the parks most in need of attention. Our plan calls for Goodwill to be completed this year and thanks to a \$600,000 OSLAD Grant that was recently awarded to the City of Morris, West Side Park will be upgraded next year with new ball fields, skate park, pickleball courts, playground, and many other exciting features which will marry

it perfectly with the YMCA development next year. The improvements to West Side Park must be done next year due to the parameters and requirements placed on the grant which is through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Following the completion at West Side Park, McKinley Park will be the next on our list for a complete remodel. Our current plans call for a new basketball court, pickleball courts, batting cages, pavilion, and playground equipment.

Improving our parks and our residents' quality of life is and will continue to be a top priority in our administration. The future of our outdoor spaces and facilities will be unrecognizable after our work is completed.

As a city, we closed out our fiscal year and entered a new one on May 1st. I want to express my appreciation and say thank you to our City Clerk, Lori Werden, for her countless hours spent on our budget for fiscal year 2023/2024. As we closed out the fiscal year and entered into a new year, the General Fund revenues were \$2.5 million above budget estimates, and our expenses were \$1.5 million under budget estimates. Let me say that again, revenues were above budget and expenses were below budget. Combined, it is a \$4 million swing in the right direction. The total of all fund balances was estimated to be about \$10.5 million, at year end, but the reality is that all fund balances were over \$27 million for the end of the fiscal year. I am happy to report that our city continues to sit

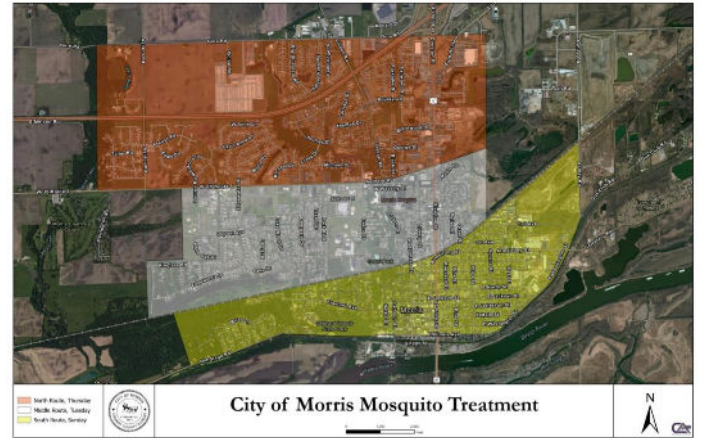
in a healthy and strong financial position. I would like to thank our city council and all our employees that helped make that happen.



PUBLIC WORKS POINTERS

Mosquito Abatement

With the arrival of summer, we welcome warm weather, swimming, cookouts, and unfortunately, mosquitos. The Morris Public Works Department does have a mosquito spraying schedule to help with eliminating as many of our pesky summer visitors as possible. When spraying becomes necessary, the schedule is broken into three sections: south, middle, and north. The south portion is comprised of the area south of the railroad tracks and extending west to include Hatcher's Woods. This area is sprayed on Sunday nights. The middle route is the area north of the railroad tracks to West Route 6. The middle route is sprayed on Tuesday nights. Finally, the north route is everything north of West Route 6 to Gore Road. This route is fogged on Thursday nights. If there is a chance for rain or windy conditions, the scheduled person will usually fog the night before or after the regularly scheduled evening. Any changes to the schedule through the summer will be added to the City of Morris website and Facebook page. Have a safe and happy summer!



Community Shred Event



The City of Morris has partnered with ProShred for a community wide paper shredding event on Saturday, June 10th from 9:00am – 11:00pm at Morris City Hall. Customer service

professionals will put documents into secure containers which are then mechanically lifted and dumped into the shredder in a virtually touch-free process. A closed circuit monitor then shows the destruction of the documents. There is a 2-bank box limit and there is no charge to residents.

Water Bill Changes

Your City of Morris water bill has a new look to it. Residents are used to getting their “postcard” water bill in their mailbox. Your new water bill will be delivered to you in a standard #10 envelope with the city’s return address on it. Inside the envelope, you will find a trifold letter with your billing information and water usage on it. Also, please be advised that effective July 1, 2023, all credit card payments on water bills will be charged a 2% service fee. This will not impact any water bills set up on autopay. All autopay transactions will remain free of charge.



Plan Your Party in a Park!

You can reserve the City of Morris Park shelters for private use now! Reservations are accepted on a first come, first served basis and are available from May 1, 2023, through October 15, 2023. Fees are \$25 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. You can find the application online under the “How Do I” tab at morrisil.org.



FIRE SAFETY TIPS

It is summer and that means it's time for time around the outdoor firepit with friends and family. The best way to enjoy an outdoor campfire starts with keeping everybody safe. A fire of any kind demands serious attention to safety.



*Tracey Steffes
Fire Chief / Marshall*

One of the most important decisions to make about fire pit safety is determining where to place a fire pit. Choose a level spot, especially with portable fire pits or fire bowls. Ideally, a fire pit should be at least 10 feet away from any structures — 20 feet is even better. This includes your house, shed, fence and neighboring yards.

Check the area around and above your fire pit. You don't want any plants within 10 feet of the fire pit area. Trim overhanging branches that could become a fire risk, especially with stray sparks from a wood-burning fire pit. Surround your fire pit with non-combustible materials, like crushed stone, brick, or sand. It's best to remove any vegetation, even lawn.

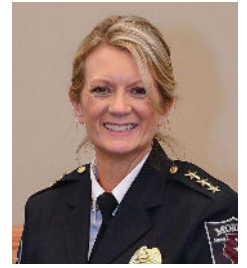
Here are some additional safety tips to follow regarding fire pit safety:

- Check wind direction before lighting a fire.
- Don't use flammable fluids (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.) to light or relight fires.
- Don't wear flammable clothing (like nylon) or any loose-fitting clothing.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the fire.
- Avoid using soft woods like pine or cedar because they can pop and throw sparks.
- Keep a fire extinguisher, garden hose or bucket of water nearby.
- Keep chairs a safe distance from the fire.
- Never leave a fire unattended.

The Morris Fire Protection and Ambulance District wishes you and happy and safe summer season.

CHIEF CHAT

As we approach the summer travel season, make sure to include the Morris Police Department in your vacation plans and follow some simple summer travel crime prevention tips to protect your home and belongings. Did you know you can put your home on extra patrol while you're gone? It's easy! If you live in the city limits, Call Katie at 815-941-5233 and request to have your residence placed on house check. She will need your address, the dates you will be gone, and emergency contact information.



*Alicia Steffes
Police Chief*

In addition, please follow these simple rules to help protect yourself and your home from becoming the target of burglars.

- Stop your mail and have your family or friends retrieve it for you.
- Set a light on a timer inside your home to create the appearance of activity inside.
- Exterior motion sensor light can aid in deterring crime.
- Consider installing a camera system before leaving if you don't have one already.
- Avoid hiding spare keys outside of your home. Instead, leave them with a neighbor, friend, or family member.
- Let your neighbors know you're away.
- Do not post your vacation plans on social media. The wrong person might see your vacation post and decide that while you're away, your home is prime for plundering! Post your vacation photos after you safely arrive home.

Enjoy your summer and stay safe!

happy
SUMMER!



Morris City Pool

Opening Day Sat., May 27

www.MorrisCityPool.org 815-942-2919

Safe, Clean Fun!

Goold Park (across from MCHS), 300 Northern Ave., Morris, IL

Open Swim

No Re-Admittance. No Coolers. No Outside Food. Cash Only.

Hours of Operation (Closed June 1 & 2 due to school)

Mon-Fri: Noon-4:00 & 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sat, Sun, & Holidays: Noon-6:00 p.m.

Admissions

City Resident Child \$ 1.00

City Resident Adult \$ 3.00

Non-Resident Child \$8.00

Non-Resident Adult \$8.00

Resident Seniors (65 & up) \$1.00

Non-Resident Seniors (65 & up) \$3.00

*Season Passes

(valid during Open Swim times only)

City Res. \$50 Individual / \$150 Family

NonRes. \$75 Individual / \$225 Family

Adult Swim Only

During Open Swim Breaks (10 min. before every hour)
and/or 4:30-6:00 M-F \$2 (June 5th-Aug. 11th)

Pool Parties

Please See Our Parties Page at www.MorrisCityPool.org

A.M. - Daily: exclusive use of the pool from 11:00 a.m. until noon. After noon, you may continue to use the pool until the pool closes. Plans start at \$120.

P.M. - Weekends: exclusive use of pool from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays. P.M. plans start at \$240.

P.M. - Weekdays: exclusive use of the pool from 8:30-10:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.

*You may arrive ½ hour earlier for setup. No glass.
Please see the party calendar on our website for availability.*

Outside food & coolers may not be brought in unless a pool party is officially reserved (paperwork completed, deposit paid, and manager officially approved). Bags are subject to inspection.

Swim Lessons

10 Scheduled Lessons - 5 kids max per class

(Others schedule 6 lessons with 10 kids per class for same price)

*American Red Cross Swim Lessons

(Ages 5 and up)

Session I M-F, June 12th-June 23rd

Session II: M-F, July 10th -July 21st

½ hour lessons - same time each day

1st lesson begins at 9:30 a.m., last begins at 11:00 a.m.

10 Scheduled Lessons: Residents \$75 /Nonres \$80

*Little Fins

(preschool/ages 3-5 * 6 scheduled ½ hour lessons - 5:00 & 5:30)

Session I: M, W, F June 12th-June 23rd

Session II: M, W, F, July 10th -July 21st

Costs: Residents \$55/Nonres \$65

*Parent & Me

(6 mo.-2 years of age * 6 scheduled ½ hour lessons - 5:00 & 5:30)

Session I: Tues and Thurs June 13th-June 29th

Session II: Tues and Thurs July 11th-July 27th

Costs: Residents \$40/Nonres \$50

Water Aerobics

Dates/Times to Be Announced

Drop in - Only \$3

*Junior Guard

(Ages 10-15; Includes whistle, lanyard, program shirt)

June 26-30th; 5:15-5:45 p.m.

Costs: \$40 City Resident/\$50 NonResident

Contact Us! Follow Us!

eMail: MorrisCityPool@gmail.com

Phone: 815-942-2919

Website: MorrisCityPool.org

Facebook: Morris City Pool Unofficial

Text @mcp-public to 81010 to receive **text updates**

Concession Stand

8 Swim Lanes

Fenced-in Splash Pad

Beach Entry

3 Slides

2 Diving Boards

2 Basketball Hoops



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORRIS HONORS SARATOGA VOLLEYBALL TEAM

The Morris City Council honored the Saratoga Hawks 8th Grade Volleyball team on their 8-3A state runner-up finish at their April 17th meeting. The Hawks finished with a record of 24 wins and only 4 losses. Congratulations on your incredible season!



Summer Courthouse Concert Series Schedule

The Summer Courthouse Concert Series is back for 2023! This year's lineup has some exciting new acts mixed with some of our annual favorites. Performances are held on the Grundy County Courthouse lawn on select Thursdays, and showtimes are 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. In case of inclement weather, performances are moved to the Morris Community High School Auditorium. This year's list of performers and dates are as follows:

- June 1st** – The Neverly Brothers
American rockabilly & British invasion rock & roll
- June 15th** – Jenna Jane – Singer/songwriter
straight from Nashville, TN, the music capital of the world
- June 29th** – The Rockin' Fendershirts
Favorite rock & roll oldies
- July 13th** – The Sting Rays – 50's, 60's, & 70's rock & roll
- July 27th** – River Road Trio – Local acoustic trio featuring Jonelle Carter, Terry Carter, and Kyle Ripsch
- August 10th** – South of Disorder- Jimmy Buffet tribute bringing the island vibes
- August 24th** – The Del Bergeson Orchestra
One of the top big bands in the Chicagoland area

We look forward to seeing you at the City of Morris Summer Concert Series!

CITY COUNCIL HONORS DUANE WOLFE



The City of Morris would like to thank Duane Wolfe for his 20 years of service on the city council as 4th ward alderman. His leadership was essential in providing sound fiscal leadership and improvements throughout our community. Mayor Brown honored and

thanked Alderman Wolfe for his commitment to Morris at his final council meeting on May 1st.

MORRIS H.S. POMS RECOGNIZED

The Morris High School Varsity Poms were recognized at the March 20th city council meeting. They had an incredible season in which they won their 10th consecutive conference and sectional championships and finished second in the IHSA 1A State Championship! Congrats on a wonderful season and for representing the City of Morris and making us so proud!



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

"The ultimate resource in economic development is people. It is people, not capital or raw materials that develop an economy." This sentiment from author Peter Drucker aptly tells the story for the City of Morris. Our community has a history of partnering with dedicated people whose ideas and energy shaped our traditions and continue to foster new opportunities.

Partnerships are prospering with nonprofit organizations hosting a long list of festivals and events in Goold Park and Downtown, as well as with our restaurant and retail community, who creatively promote their products and provide experiences that solidify Morris as a destination. Business partners like the Grundy County Chamber and the Grundy Economic Development Council collaborate with the City to provide a soft landing and resources for businesses of all sizes looking to invest in Morris. Engaged residents partner daily- from sharing happenings and positive experience on social media, maintaining their properties with pride, and supporting local businesses. The main ingredient in Drucker's recipe for economic prosperity is in abundant supply here.

The people behind many of our spring and summer events are now recognized on the City website. From 5ks and shopping festivities to races at the Grundy County Speedway and more, there is a list of more than 100 events on the scrolling calendar at www.morrisil.org/visitmorris. Click the event name to be directed to the host's website or social media page for full details and ways to get involved.

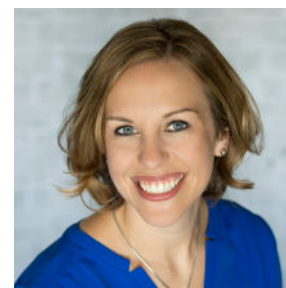
Speaking of events, the 3 French Hens Market has returned to Downtown Morris! The monthly market kicked off Mothers Day weekend in the parking lot between

the 400 block of Liberty and Wauponsee Streets. Adjacent streets were closed while intersections remained open. The Morris Retail Association is especially pleased to welcome the market to its new location, as it brings thousands of shoppers to our community on the second Saturday of each month from May through October.

After the June market wraps, we welcome the first Morris Cruise Night of the season! Remarkably, this group is in its 21st year and continues to be operated entirely by volunteers. We appreciate the cooperation of car show enthusiasts, market patrons, and nearby residents and businesses to welcome both great events Downtown on the second Saturday from June through October.

Keeping in the theme of great people, the City's Business & Community Development Commission recently hosted a real estate forum. The comprehensive plan, redevelopment of Route 47, and Route 6 expansion were among the topics discussed with 30 agents attending. The City is working to connect property owners and potential buyers with tools to make our shared vision a reality. To that end, we hosted a webinar where the Illinois Department of Natural Resources provided information on the Historic Preservation Tax Credit. Twenty property owners in the Downtown historic district attended.

"There's more to Morris" continues to resonate as our tagline because of the many people who are so committed and dedicated to seeing our community prosper.



*Julie Wilkinson
Business Development
Director*

Special Events



Visit us online at morrisil.org and follow us on social media to see more info and updates on these and future events!

June

- | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| 1st | Concert on the Courthouse Lawn | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring The Neverly Brothers</i> | |
| 3rd | fForest Fest | Goold Park |
| 10th | Morris Cruise Night | Downtown Morris |
| 10th | 3 French Hens Market | Downtown Morris |
| 10-11th | Dulcimer Festival | Goold Park |
| 15th | Concert on the Courthouse Lawn | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring Jenna Jane</i> | |
| 17th | Rhythm & BBQ Festival | Goold Park |
| 23rd | Movie in the Park | Goold Park |
| 25th | Rock the Block | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring Nashville Electric Company</i> | |
| 29th | Concert on the Courthouse Lawn | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring The Rockin' Fendershirts</i> | |

July

- | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------------|
| 1st | Grundy PADS Liberty 5K | Downtown Morris |
| 3rd | Fireworks Extravaganza | Grundy Co. Fairgrounds |
| 8th | Morris Cruise Night | Downtown Morris |
| 8th | 3 French Hens Market | Downtown Morris |
| 13th | Concert on the Courthouse Lawn | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring The Sting Rays</i> | |
| 15th | I&M Canal Day Camp | Canal Port Park |
| | <i>Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the I&M Canal</i> | |
| 23rd | Rock the Block | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring Generations Band</i> | |
| 27th | Concert on the Courthouse Lawn | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring River Road Trio</i> | |
| 28th | Movie in the Park | Goold Park |
| 29th | Downtown Sidewalk Sales | Downtown Morris |

August

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| 1st | National Night Out | Goold Park |
| 10th | Concert on the Courthouse Lawn | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring South of Disorder (Jimmy Buffet Tribute)</i> | |
| 11th | The Green Room Improv Group | Goold Park |
| | <i>Hosted by Morris Area Public Library</i> | |
| 12th | Morris Cruise Night | Downtown Morris |
| 12th | 3 French Hens Market | Downtown Morris |
| 19th | Liberty Arts Festival | Downtown Morris |
| 19th | Grundy Co. Health Dept. Anybody 5K | School Drive |
| 24th | Concert on the Courthouse Lawn | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring The Del Bergeson Orchestra</i> | |
| 25th | Movie in the Park | Goold Park |
| 27th | Rock the Block | Downtown Morris |
| | <i>Featuring Cadillac Groove</i> | |

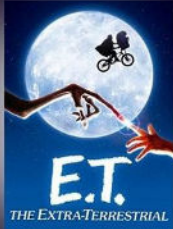
SHOP, DINE, SUPPORT LOCAL

Look no further than Morris. Check out our extensive business directory!

www.morrisil.org/business-directory



PRESENTED BY MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY & THE CITY OF MORRIS



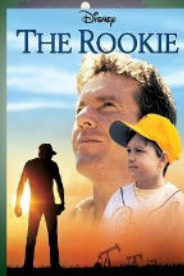
MAY 26

JUNE 23

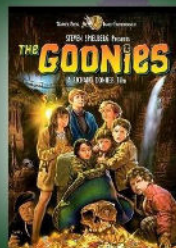


FREE
Summer Movies
in the Park

*Fourth Friday of
the Month - 8pm*



JULY 28



AUGUST 25



SEPTEMBER 22

HELD AT GOOLD PARK - 308 NORTHERN AVE, MORRIS, IL 60450



AROUND THE TOWN

CITY PURCHASES NEW STREET SWEEPER

The City of Morris recently took delivery of a new street sweeper. Thank you to Bucher Municipal and McCann Industries for helping the city double their street cleaning abilities.

This much needed addition to the public works fleet will provide cost effective, efficient road sweeping. Keep your eyes open and give them a wave as they make their way through your neighborhood this summer!



CITY OF MORRIS AWARDED OSLAD GRANT



West Side Park will be receiving major improvements soon with the help of a \$600,000 OSLAD Grant recently awarded through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Morris submitted their application in September and was notified of their award in March. The proposed improvements include adding a ballfield, new skate park, pickleball courts, new playground equipment, and additional shade and picnic areas. The work is tentatively scheduled to begin next year.

WELCOME OFFICER HERNANDEZ

Congratulations to the newest member of the Morris Police Department. Officer Josealejandro "Alex" Hernandez graduated from the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy at the College of DuPage on Friday, April 28th. Officer Hernandez completed 16 long weeks of training and he is ready to get to work! Alex grew up in Yorkville, has experience in corrections, and is fluent in Spanish. We are honored and excited to have him on our team. Welcome to the City of Morris Family! Pictured with Officer Hernandez is Morris Police Chief Alicia Steffes.



Service Anniversaries

Jeff Reeder

Ordinance
Officer

20 years

Anna Stansberry

School Crossing
Guard

15 Years

Deborah Miller

School Crossing
Guard

15 years

Debra Matteson

School Crossing
Guard

15 Years

Cody Hosbach

Public Works

10 Years

Scott Evans

Morris Police
Department

10 Years

Diana Smego

Administration

5 Years





"There's More to Morris"

MORRIS
ILLINOIS

The City of Morris thanks our school Special Resource Officers for keeping our kids safe this school year!



Officer Scott Evans
Morris Community
High School



Officer Justin Martin
Morris Elementary School
District #54



**Officer Mark
Vanderploeg and Niko**
Saratoga School #60C



Officer Derek Zumbahlen
Rivers Edge Academy
& Premier Academy