



MORRIS

ILLINOIS



Morris Cruise Night - Downtown Morris
Every 2nd Saturday (June-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

September

- 5th Morris City Council 6:00PM
- 18th Morris City Council 6:00PM

October

- 2nd Morris City Council 6:00PM
- 16th Morris City Council 6:00PM

November

- 6th Morris City Council 6:00PM
- 20st Morris City Council 6:00PM

Closed for the following Holidays:

- Labor Day** Monday, September 4th
- Veterans Day** November 11th (observed on Friday, November 10th)
- Thanksgiving** Thursday, November 23rd & Friday the 24th.

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

Julian Houston
Second Ward
jhouston@morrisil.org

Carrie Hall
Third Ward
chall@morrisil.org

Jim Black
Fourth Ward
jblack@morrisil.org

Jake Duvick
First Ward
jduvick@morrisil.org

Dean Tambling
Second Ward
dtambling@morrisil.org

Alex Clubb
Third Ward
aclubb@morrisil.org

Sarah Mettille
Fourth Ward
smettille@morrisil.org





Message from Mayor Chris Brown

In the summer newsletter, I spoke to you about the exciting new developments that are happening across our city. The groundbreaking was held for the new YMCA, a new water tower is nearing completion, and Goodwill Park will soon be under construction with major renovations on the way. I was so excited to discuss the transformational change we are experiencing at the State of the City Address in June. In addition to these exciting projects, I was so pleased to also report on the financial health of our city. I know we are still early in our administration, but I feel it is imperative that we set the tone early for responsible spending and budget awareness. Continuing to come in above budget with revenues and below budget for spending is vital for us as we move towards the future.

Revenues are surging for our city due to the fact that we are now becoming a destination for visitors. We have known for a long time as residents that Morris is a great place to live, but now I think we're all realizing it's also a great place to visit for the day or weekend. This is not happening by accident. It has been my belief since day one that increasing our events and enhancing our existing events would not only improve the quality of life for Morris' residents, but it would also expand the foundation of sales tax revenue that is the life blood of any community.

Because of the increase in revenue and controlled, strategic spending, I am proud to report we were able to lower the tax levy once again to the historic low rate of .6193. This is down from .6568 a year ago and .6656 two years ago. Our approach of boosting and expanding our sales tax base helps to ease the tax burden placed on our residents. We will

continue to focus on opportunities to expand our sales tax revenue so we can continue to lower the amount of taxes placed on property owners in Morris.

Lastly, I'd like to take just a moment to shine a light of appreciation on the people that work together to make the Grundy County Corn Festival the biggest and best event of the year. First, I must tip my cap to the Corn Festival Committee and their volunteers that work all year round and dedicate their time during the festival to make sure we all have an enjoyable, fun time. I would also like to thank our city staff for their efforts as well. The Morris Public Works Department are there for the set up and they are there for the clean-up long after the fun-loving crowds have gone home for the weekend. We get to wake up, go downtown and question whether or not a festival actually took place. Finally, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the Morris Police Department for keeping everyone safe throughout the weekend. Not only do they provide an in-person presence to ensure everyone's safety, but they also work countless hours behind the scenes planning and preparing for every case scenario imaginable. Like all of our successes at the City of Morris, it is truly a team effort that makes the Corn Festival the success that it is. Thank you to all the women and men that play a part in making it happen. I'll see you there!



PUBLIC WORKS POINTERS

Free Leaf Bag Pickup • Saturday, October 7th

The City of Morris will be distributing free leaf bags to residents in Upper Gould Park on Saturday, October 7th from 8:00am to 12:00pm or until supplies last. There is a 10-bag limit per household. In case of rain, the giveaway will be held at Morris Public Works which is located at 319 W. River Road.



Yard Waste Pickup with Republic Services

Republic Services will continue to pick up unlimited leaf and yard waste with your regular garbage collection through the last full week of November (November 19th – 25th). Yard waste should be placed in an approved lawn and leaf bag or the garbage container which has the “Yard Waste Only” sticker. Any changes to this schedule will be posted on the City of Morris Facebook page.



City Continues to Exchange Water Meters

The City of Morris would like to make residents aware of their ongoing water meter exchange program. Meters are exchanged at no cost to residents and service calls typically are completed in less than twenty minutes.



With the new smart meters, residents can download an app for their mobile devices which allows

them to monitor their water usage. Use of this type of technology can make the detection of a water leak much easier and can potentially save customers costs related to water usage caused by leaks. If you would like to schedule a meter replacement, please call the City of Morris Water Department at 815-942-4026.



There's Still Time to Plan Your Party in the Park

The last day you can reserve a City of Morris Park Shelter is October 15th. If you don't have your party now, you'll have to wait until next spring! 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

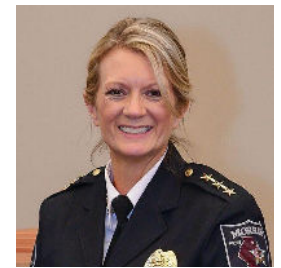
National Fire Prevention Week is October 8th – 14th. One simple thing you can do to keep you and your family safe is keeping up to date with your smoke detectors. Regularly check and maintain your smoke detectors. Smoke detectors are your first line of defense against fires, providing early warning and precious time to escape. Test your smoke detectors monthly to ensure they are functioning correctly. Replace batteries at least once a year, or as soon as you hear the low-battery warning beep. Additionally, remember to replace smoke detectors every 10 years to ensure optimal performance. Having properly functioning smoke detectors throughout your home significantly increases the chances of early fire detection and helps save lives. Remember, fire safety is a shared responsibility, and being proactive about maintaining your smoke detectors is a simple yet vital step to safeguarding yourself, your loved ones, and your home.



*Tracey Steffes
Fire Chief/Marshall*

CHIEF CHAT

In the past two years the Morris Police Department has hired 10 new officers! That makes us a very young department! But with all the talk about our new guys, I want to make sure we recognize the experience within the department also. In 2023, three of our officers hit their 25th Anniversary. Deputy Chief Chad Skelton, our most senior officer, started on March 3, 1998. Officer Scott Ator began his career on February 12, 1998. Detective Curt Kneller joined the department on September 9, 1998. Congratulations to all three of them for their distinguished service!



*Alicia Steffes
Police Chief*



Deputy Chief Chad Skelton



Officer Scott Ator



Detective Curt Kneller

Corn Festival

As in years past... alcohol and pets are not allowed on the downtown streets during Corn Festival. Please bring your pets down any other time when a major event is not happening and enjoy all our town has to offer.

Also, with the large crowds expected during Corn Fest, please remember to "Say something, if you see something." A lot of unusual things happen during the festival, but you know what is normal and what is not. Please don't hesitate to call us and report anything that seems out of the ordinary. We would rather investigate it and find nothing, than have something happen that could have been prevented.



2023 Festival Schedule

September 27-October 1



SATURDAY

- Craft Show & Fleamarket
- Morris Hospital 5k Run
- Pickleball Tournament
- Cornhole Bags Tournament
- Crackerbox Derby
- Beer Tent
- Bands on Both Stages



WEDNESDAY

- Queen Coronation and Parade
- Water Fights
- Kids Show
- Petting Zoo & Pony Rides
- Talent Show



THURSDAY

- Petting Zoo & Pony Rides
- Spotlight on Grundy County Dancers
- Musical Bingo
- Frankfort Brass Band



FRIDAY

- Art & Photo Shows
- Kids Show
- Beer Tent
- Bands on Both Stages



MORRIS CITY COUNCIL HONORS TRACK CHAMPIONS

Malachi Congo secured the first-place victory in the 3A 7th Grade Boys Shot Put event at the state level, with a remarkable throw of 42 feet, 2.5 inches, improving upon his 7th place finish as a 6th grader. Aniston Caputo clinched the first-place victory in the 3A 7th Grade Girls Discus Throw event, achieving an astounding distance of 85 feet, 11 inches, despite competing against older competitors. Their dedication, hard work, and positive character traits set a remarkable example for their peers.

Congratulations to Malachi and Aniston on their outstanding victories!



MCHS STUDENTS AWARDED MAYOR BROWN COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS



Three senior students from Morris Community High School were recently awarded scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 during the annual State of the City Address. The Mayor Brown Community Scholarship was given to those who demonstrate leadership in the classroom, a penchant for volunteerism and plans on furthering their education at a college or trade school. We would like to recognize recipients Justin Newman, Joy Dudley and Luna Valderrama for their commitment to community as well as our scholarship contributors from the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce and the following local Edward Jones Representatives

for making this opportunity possible: Kristine Bennington, Austin and Jim Feeney, J.R. Hock, Mike Pfaff, Grant Whybark and Mike Wright.

DERRICK WREN RECOGNITION

The City of Morris would like to thank Derrick Wren for his passion and dedication to our community. Wren tendered his resignation to Mayor Brown and the City Council in July. He served the 3rd ward as alderman since 2017 and has been a proponent of strategic growth and controlled development. His passion and unconditional commitment are sincerely appreciated, and we wish him the best as he moves on from his position.



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Economic development encompasses the way our community feels to those living in it and those who visit. It's partnering to reach a mutual goal. It's supporting our neighbors through good times and challenges, being loyal to our businesses, and encouraging bold vision and progress. And we are doing it all very well here in Morris.

Through the hard work of many nonprofit organizations, the summer welcomed tens of thousands to Goold Park to enjoy music in the bandshell, movies under the stars, swimming at the City pool, and much more. In June, Fforest Fest brought nationally known bands, vintage vendors, and a food truck rally, followed by the 33rd annual Dulcimer Fest- a weekend of hammered instrument workshops and performances. A week later, 31 Midwestern competitors arrived with their rigs to compete in the 2nd Annual Rhythm and BBQ Fest. In August, the Morris Police Department and Grundy County Health Department brought the community together for the first National Night Out in 20 years. The Morris Area Public Library partnered to turn the park into a free movie theater one Friday a month, utilizing the City's new outdoor projector.

Downtown Morris remained the place to be on the second Saturday of the month. The 3 French Hens Country Market returned Downtown in May, with a new location nestled in the heart of our small business community. Shoppers and vendors are raving about the move, and our retail community has seen incredible sales. As the market concludes, Morris Cruise Night takes to the streets. Volunteers have welcomed an average of 856 show cars while raising thousands for local charities. Although Downtown is normally quiet on Sundays, the



Morris Retail Association's Rock the Block series filled the streets with music, dancing, food trucks, and shopping.

The 9th annual Liberty Arts Festival elevated art in all its forms. The free event drew 45 Illinois artists to demonstrate their craft along with 6 live music, dance and drum performances, a Children's Village where kids could play and create, a show by the Morris Watercolor Guild, art exhibits at the Grundy Area Historical Museum, and Sip 'N Shop with 20 Downtown businesses participating. On event comment cards, visitors praised our hospitality, community spirit, and appreciation for art here in Morris.



As we turn to fall, the Morris Beer Fest will bring thousands to enjoy Goold Park and the whole city will come alive as friends gather and visitors experience the 74th Grundy County Corn Festival. The Morris Retail Association invites you to its new Witches Night Out shopping event October 20th, followed by the family-friendly Boo Fest on the 21st. After the turkey is put away, we'll drape the streets in garland and welcome Santa to kick off our beloved Home for the Holidays November 24th- 26th.

Events do so much more than ring the registers for a day or two; they set the tone for those looking to live, work, and invest in our community. In our work with new businesses - from industrial development at the Brisbin Road interchange to new retail and services eyeing our Downtown - quality of life is always a differentiating factor and a reason many choose to put their flag in the ground in Morris.

To all those promoting, supporting, investing in, and volunteering for the betterment of our city, we see you and we thank you. With your partnership, the best is yet to come!



*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!

September

September 27th - October 1st
74th Annual Grundy County Corn Festival

9th	Morris Cruise Night	Downtown Morris
9th	3 French Hens Market	Downtown Morris
16th	Morris Beer Festival	Goold Park
22nd	Movie in the Park	Goold Park

October

7th	Scout Flea Market	True North
14-15th	Morris Lions Club Car Show	Grundy Co. Fairgrounds
14th	Morris Cruise Night	Downtown Morris
14th	3 French Hens Market	Downtown Morris
20th	Witches Night Out	Downtown Morris
21st	Downtown Boo Fest	Downtown Morris
26th	Trick or Treating with Downtown Merchants	Downtown Morris

November

10-11th	3 French Hens Holiday Market	Jennifer's Garden
25th	Small Business Saturday	Downtown Morris
24-26th	Home for the Holidays	Downtown Morris

Festival of trees, lighted parade, house/window walk, and carriage rides!

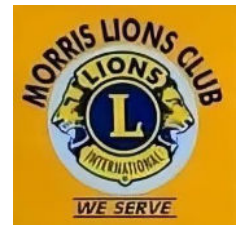
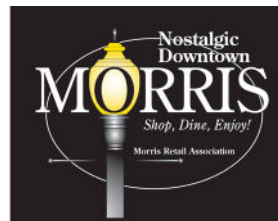
December

1st	Midnight in Morris	Downtown Morris
10th	Winterfest Market	Downtown Morris
16th	Holiday in the Park	Goold Park

SHOP, DINE, SUPPORT LOCAL

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

www.morrisil.org/business-directory



FOOTBALL VARSITY

Date	Event/Opponent
08/25/2023	Coal City
09/01/2023	Joliet West
09/08/2023	Kaneland
09/15/2023	Woodstock North
09/22/2023	Lasalle Peru – Homecoming
09/29/2023	Richmond-Button
10/06/2023	Woodstock
10/13/2023	Ottawa
10/20/2023	Sycamore
10/27/2023	IHSA Playoffs

SOCCER BOYS VARSITY

Date	Event/Opponent
08/21/2023	Morris Grade School Night
08/21/2023	Manteno
08/24/2023	War On 34
08/26/2023	War On 34
08/28/2023	Ottawa
08/30/2023	Rochelle
09/05/2023	Joliet Catholic
09/06/2023	Lasalle Peru
09/11/2023	Sycamore
09/13/2023	Kaneland
09/16/2023	Coal City
09/18/2023	Ottawa
09/21/2023	Rochelle
09/25/2023	Lasalle-Peru
09/27/2023	Sycamore
09/30/2023	Indian Creek
10/02/2023	Kaneland
10/04/2023	Streator
10/14/2023	IHSA Regionals
10/18/2023	IHSA Regionals
10/24/2023	IHSA Sectional

SWIMMING GIRLS VARSITY

Date	Event/Opponent
08/31/2023	Joliet West
09/06/2023	Lasalle-Peru
09/07/2023	Pontiac
09/12/2023	Plainfield Co-op
09/16/2023	Lasalle H.S. Pentathlon
09/21/2023	West Aurora
09/30/2023	IMS A Invite
10/03/2023	Lasalle Peru & Bloomington Central Catholic
10/10/2023	Riverside-Brookfield
10/17/2023	Kankakee
10/21/2023	Independent Conference Meet
11/04/2023	IHSA Sectionals
11/10/2023	IHSA State Finals
11/10/2023	IHSA State Finals
11/11/2023	IHSA State Finals

CROSS COUNTRY GIRLS VARSITY

H/A	Date	Event/Opponent
A	08/23/2023	Early Bird Invite
H	08/30/2023	Irish Conditioner – Bishop McNamara
A	09/01/2023	Twilight In The Woods Invite – Seneca
A	09/09/2023	First To The Finish Invite
H	09/16/2023	Eddington Invitational
H	09/20/2023	Sandwich
H	09/26/2023	* El Paso – Gridley Invite
A	10/04/2023	* Knights Handicap Meet
H	10/07/2023	Pc Invite
TBA	10/14/2023	18 Conference Meet
	10/21/2023	IHSA Regionals
	10/28/2023	IHSA Sectional
	11/04/2023	IHSA State Championship

TENNIS GIRLS VARSITY

H/A	Date	Event/Opponent
H	08/18/2023	Ottawa Night Lite Invite
A	08/19/2023	Lincoln Way Central Quad
A	08/22/2023	Minooka
A	08/24/2023	Coal City
H	08/29/2023	Lasalle Peru
A	09/02/2023	Joliet West Quad
H	09/05/2023	Rochelle
H	09/09/2023	Lincoln-way East Invite
H	09/12/2023	Sycamore
H	09/14/2023	Streator
A	09/16/2023	Coal City Quad
H	09/19/2023	Ottawa
A	09/20/2023	Lincoln Way Central
A	09/23/2023	Lemont Invitational
H	09/25/2023	Pontiac
A	09/26/2023	Kaneland
A	09/28/2023	Mendota
A	10/02/2023	Princeton
	10/07/2023	18 Varsity Tournament
	10/10/2023	Joliet Catholic
	10/13/2023	IHSA Sectionals
	10/19/2023	IHSA State

GOLF BOYS VARSITY

H/A	Date	Event/Opponent
H	08/10/2023	Vs Sandwich Golf Invite
A	08/14/2023	Vs Plainfield North Invite
A	08/16/2023	Vs Rochelle & Plainfield South
A	08/17/2023	Vs Lasalle-Peru Invite
A	08/22/2023	Vs Panther Scramble – Oswego
H	08/28/2023	Vs Seneca & Coal City
A	08/30/2023	Vs Ottawa A
A	09/06/2023	Vs Lasalle Peru & Plano
A	09/07/2023	Vs Dwight & Lexington
A	09/11/2023	Vs Ottawa Invite
A	09/12/2023	Vs Ottawa & Lockport
A	09/14/2023	Vs Sycamore
A	09/18/2023	Vs Minooka Invitational A
H	09/19/2023	Vs Kaneland
A	09/21/2023	Vs Dwight Invite – 2 Man Scramble
A	09/23/2023	Vs Ryder Cup Tournament
A	09/25/2023	Vs 18 Conference Tournament
A	09/27/2023	Vs IHSA Regional
A	10/02/2023	Vs IHSA Sectional
A	10/06/2023	Vs IHSA State

CROSS COUNTRY BOYS VARSITY

H/A	Date	Event/Opponent
H	08/23/2023	Early Bird Invite
A	08/30/2023	Irish Conditioner – Bishop Mac
A	09/01/2023	Twilight In The Woods Invite – Seneca
A	09/09/2023	First To The Finish Invite
A	09/16/2023	Eddington Invitational
A	09/20/2023	Sandwich
A	09/26/2023	* El Paso – Gridley Invite
A	10/04/2023	* Knights Handicap Meet
A	10/07/2023	Pc Invite
H	10/14/2023	18 Conference Meet
TBA	10/21/2023	IHSA Regionals
A	10/28/2023	IHSA Sectional
A	11/04/2023	IHSA State Championship

VOLEYBALL GIRLS VARSITY

H/A	Date	Event/Opponent
H	08/17/2023	Maroon Vs White Scrimmage
H	08/21/2023	Manteno
A	08/22/2023	Pontiac
H	08/24/2023	Coal City
A	08/26/2023	Wilmington Invite
A	08/28/2023	Tinley Park (Andrew)
A	08/31/2023	Bradley Bourbonnais
A	09/05/2023	Sycamore
A	09/07/2023	Lasalle Peru
A	09/11/2023	Seneca
A	09/12/2023	Ottawa
H	09/14/2023	Sandwich
H	09/18/2023	IMS A
A	09/19/2023	Kaneland
H	09/21/2023	Rochelle
A	09/25/2023	Plainfield South
A	09/26/2023	Plano
H	09/28/2023	Sycamore
H	10/02/2023	Crossroads Academy
A	10/03/2023	Lasalle Peru
A	10/05/2023	Ottawa
A	10/12/2023	Kaneland
A	10/14/2023	Moldenhauer Classic
A	10/17/2023	Rochelle
A	10/21/2023	Mahomet-Seymour Invitational
A	10/24/2023	IHSA Regionals
A	10/26/2023	IHSA Regional Championship
A	10/31/2023	IHSA Sectionals
A	11/04/2023	I Super-Sectionals
A	11/10/2023	IHSA State



NEW PICNIC TABLES

The city of Morris has recently installed brand new picnic tables near the MORRIS letters on Route 47 and Chapin Street. This addition aims to create a more inviting environment for residents and visitors to spend time on outdoor activities and enjoy the food trucks parked on the plaza. The introduction of these picnic tables wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our hardworking Public Works team. We extend our deepest gratitude to the entire department for their unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life in our community.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



What's better than Christmas in the County seat? Start the season of good cheer off right with an old-fashioned holiday feeling. Home for the Holidays returns Nov. 24 – 26, showcasing our community and encouraging shopping in our downtown historic district. Be sure to catch the festival of trees, lighted parade, house/window walk, carriage rides and much more. Volunteer and sponsor inquiries can be directed to jwilkinson@morrisil.org or (815) 941-3685. To stay apprised of events and announcements, follow Home for the Holidays Morris, IL on Facebook.

ALUMNI MAKE GREAT COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Alumni from the Morris Community High School class of 1982 have made a significant contribution to their community by donating funds for the installation of a new water bottle filling station in Chapin Park. Following their recent reunion, the class of 1982 collected donations aimed at enhancing various projects across the city of Morris. The class of 1982 deserves immense gratitude for their generous gift and invaluable partnership with the community. Their contribution has not gone unnoticed and will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the residents of Morris.



YMCA GROUNDBREAKING

The Greater Joliet Area YMCA held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Morris Hospital YMCA. Located at 2200 W. Dupont Avenue on land adjacent to Morris Grade School. This



historic day celebrated the amazing work of the Morris Community YMCA, their partners at the Morris Hospital and Healthcare Centers and generous donors. Construction has begun and it is anticipated that the new YMCA will open its doors to the community in early 2025. The new building will consist of a kid's youth activity center, two community rooms, an indoor walking track and much more.



"There's More to Morris"

MORRIS
ILLINOIS

Crossing Guard Recognition

With the a new school year approaching, Mayor Brown and Morris Police Chief Alicia Steffes recognized the City's crossing guard staff at a council meeting this summer.

Chief Steffes remarked that rain or shine, their friendly faces are always there, watching over our children to ensure they travel to and from school safely. Nearly every guard has served for decades; Ann Stansberry was recognized for a remarkable 42 years on the job!

We thank this special team for their incredible commitment to our community.



Pictured left to right are: Chief Steffes, Mayor Brown, Randy Hauge, Deborah Miller, Karen Johnson, Garry Matteson, Debra Matteson, Ann Stansberry, Jill Lunde, Judy Claypool and Robert Wittkofski. Recently retired guard John "Leroy" Claypool was also in the audience.

LAST CHANCE TO CATCH A MOVIE IN GOULD PARK!

The inaugural season of Movies in the Park will be airing their final movie of the season, Encanto, on Friday, September 22nd. The City of Morris would like to thank the Morris Area Public Library for their partnership on this fun, new addition to our community! We hope the community enjoyed this exciting offering and we look forward to seeing you at Encanto.

