



# 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

### June

3rd Morris City Council 6:00PM

17th Morris City Council 6:00PM

### July

1st Morris City Council 6:00PM

15th Morris City Council 6:00PM

### August

5th Morris City Council 6:00PM

19th Morris City Council 6:00PM

## Closed for the following Holidays:

*Independence Day* Thursday, July 4th

*Labor Day* Monday, September 2nd

## 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

hwyth@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*

Morris is truly a four-season destination for visitors with a little something for everyone throughout the year. But there is nothing better, in my opinion, than summertime in our city with all

its festivals and events for both visitors and residents to enjoy. We have such diverse offerings in the upcoming season that it truly reminds you that there is more to Morris!

These events don't happen without a huge investment from organizers, volunteers, and community leaders. Not only are dollars invested, but also time spent in countless hours of planning, public outreach, setup, event management, and clean up. I'm sure that I am missing some tasks along the way there, but I want to let everybody know these events require a lot of work and planning to come to fruition. I am so appreciative of these organizations and individuals that bring so much to our community.

All these events and happenings around our town bring visitors to our community, which helps build our city's tax base and breathes life into our local businesses. Events help bring first-time visitors to Morris which introduces them to our people, businesses, downtown, and parks. We are confident that many of these folks not only will come back to see us again, but they will bring more visitors with them. Experiencing what Morris has to offer helps set us apart from other destinations around the state and I am proud of all we have to provide to our guests and residents.

By the time this newsletter is published, our community will have already hosted the Rough Road 100 bike race, Morris Women's



Club Superhero 5K, Morris Retail Association's Girls Night Out, and the first 3 French Hens Market of the season! June only gets better with three consecutive weeks of festivals in Goold Park, with fForest Fest and the Morris Rhythm & BBQ Fest both coming back for their third straight year. In between them we have the Gebhard Woods Dulcimer & Traditional Music Festival which has been hosting their amazing event since 1988! Also happening in Goold Park is the second season of Movies in the Park, thanks to our partnership with the Morris Area Public Library. We will be featuring new favorites and time-honored classics such as Up, Wizard of Oz, Mary Poppins, and Encanto.

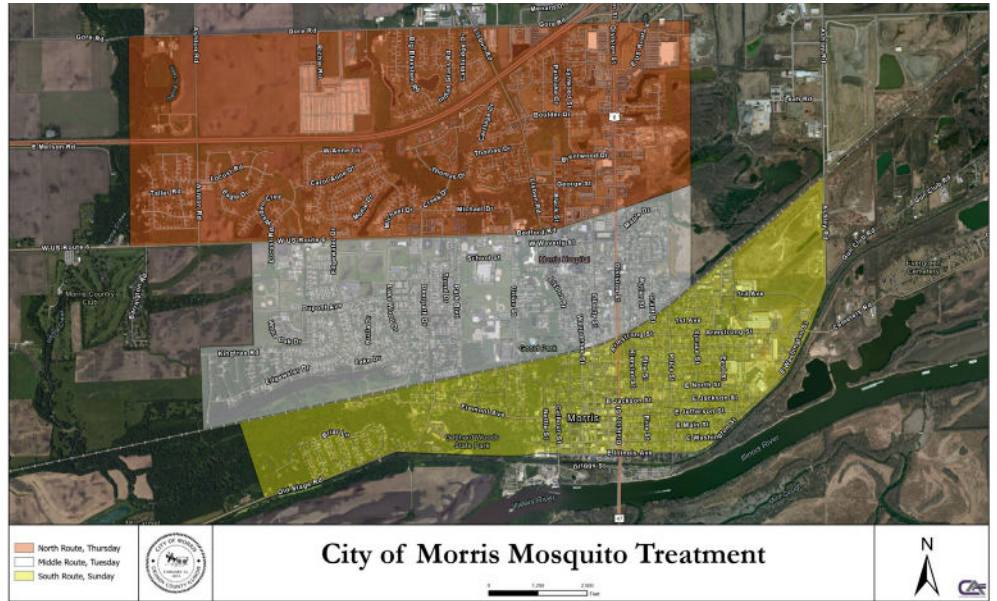
On top of the offerings in Goold Park, Downtown Morris will be hopping all summer long with Morris Cruise Night, 3 French Hens Market, Concerts on the Courthouse Lawn, and Rock the Block will be back again for concerts in June, July, and August. The list doesn't stop there, shopping events, the Liberty Arts Festival, Anybody 5K, and numerous library events also will be offered for all to enjoy. It is just astonishing that we can host such an amazing array of events in our community and I tip my cap and offer my sincere appreciation to all those involved working to bring joy and happiness into our lives. Thank you for all you do to make Morris such a wonderful place to visit and call home.





## PUBLIC WORKS POINTERS

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. Spraying began earlier this year than years past due to warm temperatures and greater than normal precipitation. 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 Thursday nights. Finally, the north route is everything north of West Route 6 to Gore Road. This route is fogged on Tuesday nights. If there is a chance of rain or windy conditions, the fogging will take place the night before or after. Any changes to the schedule through the summer will be added to the City of Morris website and Facebook page.



North Route, Thursday  
Middle Route, Tuesday  
South Route, Sunday

## FISCAL FOCUS

As we enter a new fiscal year, I am pleased to report to you on the financial health of our city. Morris continues to find itself in a strong financial position. I can say this with confidence, and I appreciate the hard work of this administration and our city council members who took the time to sit down with me and go through this budget line by line to make sure we are all on the same page and focused on continued financial responsibility. With all that said, I was proud to put forth the first city budget with a surplus since 2011/2012. The words “budget surplus” are music to the ears of any budget director. But once again, it comes from a team effort by the entire city administration led by Mayor Brown. Our sales tax revenues have increased by 35% since 2021 and overall, our revenues across the board have increased almost 44% since 2021. Coupled with controlled spending I am also pleased to announce that Morris had an estimated \$29.7 million across all funds as of April 20th, 2024, and approximately \$6.1 million in the general fund. Those numbers represent a 21% increase across all funds and a whopping 49% increase in the general fund respectively.



Lori Werden  
City Clerk

## E-Recycling Dates

The City of Morris will be hosting two more e-recycling events with their recycling partner First America Recycling on Friday, August 2nd and Friday, November 1st. They will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 1000 E.

Armstrong Street. Items accepted include cables, wiring, television, batteries, cameras, camcorders, cell phones, iPods, iPads, computers monitors, dvd/vcr players, microwaves, printers, fax machines, scanners, handheld appliances, and game systems. White goods such as stoves, refrigerators, washers, and dryers are not accepted. There is a \$25 fee for CRT (deep back) tv's and monitors. For any questions regarding this event or items accepted, please contact First America Recycling at 815-941-9888.



## CHIEF CHAT

The role of the Morris Police Department is not unlike other departments across the country. It is to enforce the law, prevent crime, provide emergency response, and provide support services. Our officers take a great deal of pride in serving and protecting the citizens of Morris. They also take great joy in being a part of this community and giving back to it in so many ways that I have a hard time keeping track of it. I want to thank them for taking the extra time from their busy schedules and supporting events and organizations that mean so much to all of us. Developing and maintaining partnerships within our community is such an important part of what we do and who we are. Here is a list of some of the events and organizations we have been a part of and what those events supported throughout the past 12 months.



*Alicia Steffes*  
Police Chief

- **MPD vs. MCHS Faculty Volleyball Game**  
MCHS Prom Fest Committee
- **Polar Plunge** – Special Olympics
- **National Night Out**
- **Drug Abuse Resistance Education or D.A.R.E.** – Local schools
- **Craft with a Cop** - Community
- **8th Grade Career Fair** - Community
- **Annual Steak Fry at Corn Festival** – Justice Assistance Board
- **Grundy County Triad-Grundy County Health Department/Senior Services**
- **Cop on a Rooftop** – Special Olympics
- **Morris Rhythm & BBQ Festival** – Jason Clearwater Fund
- **Pickleball Tournament** - Special Connections
- Various **scouting events**
- **4-H Fundraisers**
- **Coaching** and **Sponsoring** various community **sports teams**
- Dozens of **local school events**

In addition to these events, we even had two of our school resource officers that coached basketball and wrestling at Morris Community High School! I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our MPD team and tell them that I am so proud of their efforts in giving back to our incredible community. I hope you are proud of them as well. Please enjoy a photo collage on the back of this newsletter of some of the events we have attended this past year.

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

There is nothing like outdoor grilling. It is one of my favorite ways to cook food and I'm sure that I am not the only person I know with that opinion. But, before we head into the backyard and start the grilling season, we need to think about fire safety and the proper way to set up and use our grills. A grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries and can also start fires. Follow these simple tips and you will be on your way to a safe grilling season.



*Tracey Steffes*  
Fire Chief/Marshall

### SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

### CHARCOAL GRILLS

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

# Have a Fun & Safe Summer!





## OPENING DAY 2024 SATURDAY, MAY 25

Goold Park (Across from MCHS)  
300 Northern Avenue, Morris, IL

www.MorrisCityPool.org  
815-942-2919

CONCESSION STAND  
8 SWIM LANES  
FENCED-IN SPLASH PAD  
BEACH ENTRY  
3 SLIDES  
2 DIVING BOARDS  
2 BASKETBALL HOOPS

### OPEN SWIM

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

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

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](http://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 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays. **P.M. plans start at \$240.**

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

You may arrive 1/2 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 (paper work completed, deposit paid, and manager officially approved). Bags are subject to inspection.

### SWIM LESSONS

#### AMERICAN RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS

(Ages 5 and up)

**Session I:** M-F, June 10th-June 21st

**Session II:** M-F, July 8th -July 19th

10 Scheduled 1/2 hour lessons - same time each day  
1st lesson begins at 9:30 a.m., last begins at 11:00 am.

**Costs:** Residents \$75 /Nonres \$80

5 kids max per class

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

#### LITTLE FINS

(preschool/ages 3-5)

6 scheduled 1/2 hour lessons - 5:00 & 5:30

**Session I:** M, W, F June 10th-June 21st

**Session II:** M, W, F, July 8th -July 19th

**Costs:** Residents \$55/Nonres \$65

#### PARENT & ME

(6 mo.-2 years of age)

(6 scheduled 1/2 hour lessons - 5:00 & 5:30)

**Session I:** Tues and Thurs June 11th-June 27th

**Session II:** Tues and Thurs July 9thth-July 25th

**Costs:** Residents \$40/Nonres \$50

### WATER AEROBICS

Mondays and Wednesdays

Times & dates to be announced

Drop in - Only \$3

### JUNIOR GUARD

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

Monday-Friday, June 24th-28th

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

### CONTACT US! FOLLOW US!

**Email:** [MorrisCityPool@gmail.com](mailto:MorrisCityPool@gmail.com) **Phone:** 815-942-2919

**Website:** [MorrisCityPool.org](http://MorrisCityPool.org)

**Facebook:** Morris City Pool Unofficial

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





## **AL SIRON HONORED FOR RETIREMENT**

City of Morris Water and Sewer Foreman Al Siron was recognized and honored at the February 20th city council meeting on the occasion of his retirement. For 39+ years, Mr. Siron dedicated himself to supplying the City of Morris with clean water, which is vital to our health and to our economy. We wish him the very best. Dalton Gordon was recently promoted to fill the vacancy created by Al's retirement. Listen to episode 13 of the More to Morris Podcast for a great interview with Al and Dalton.



## **FIRST FEMALE EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNIZED**



Mayor Brown and the Morris City Council honored Elise West at the March 4th council meeting. Ms. West is the first female Eagle Scout in the history of Morris. Her Eagle Scout Project involved her making gear drying equipment for the Morris Fire Protection and Ambulance District. By helping to dry their protective gear after they wash it, it in turn encourages fire fighters to wash their safety gear more frequently. Cleaning their gear more

regularly removes many cancer-causing elements which are detrimental to their health. We salute Elise West for her dedication and for helping to protect those that protect us each and every day! Congrats on your Eagle Scout rank and for making history!



## **MORRIS VARSITY POMS CELEBRATED**

There was lots of fun at the March 18th city council meeting. Mayor Brown and the City Council welcomed and congratulated the Morris Varsity Poms on their IHSA runner-up finish at the state finals, held January 26th and 27th at the Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington. Just one week later, Morris went on to compete in the Universal Dance Association National Competition in Orlando, Florida and finished 9th in the nation! We are getting used to celebrating this amazing team year after year. Morris is proud of you!



## VISITORS EMBRACE EVENTS, BUSINESS BENEFITS

“We saw what’s happening and want to be here” is a recurring theme when a business talks about choosing Morris. From larger companies that have expanded- like job producer Costco, whose Morris location is now tied for the top hot dog packaging facility in their nationwide fleet- to small businesses like the new Liberty Street Jewelers located Downtown, the sentiment is the same. Morris’ culture has been cultivated for decades. Now it’s coming into its own and garnering attention from outsiders.

One source of economic excitement is our 60+ special events. Cruise nights, concerts, festivals, races, themed shopping nights, and community events offer reasons for everyone to enjoy Morris. Spring kicked off with the Rough Road 100 gravel bike race, drawing 737 cyclists to our community. They hailed from eight states and cities spanning from Wilmette to Effingham. These visitors filled Morris hotels and also purchased gas, dined in our restaurants, and shopped in our stores on their quest to ride rural Grundy and LaSalle County roads. The event raised funds for We Care of Grundy County, impacting our community’s most vulnerable residents as a result. Photos from the Morris event have made their way to national publications.



The Morris Retail Association’s Girls Night Out/ Cinco de Mayo event drew ladies (and gents) from surrounding towns to shop, dine, and enjoy Downtown. It kicked off an intense event season for retailers, which will include the popular 3 French Hens Market on the second Saturday of the month from May through October. The market returned to Downtown Morris last year after a hiatus, finding a perfect home in the parking lots behind 402 Liberty Street.

As outlined in the Mayor’s letter, summer will welcome a full line up of events in Goold Park hosted by nonprofit organizations, each benefitting worthy local causes. With its picturesque 22-acre setting and large bandshell, the park will host an estimated 25,000 residents and visitors for a variety of public and private events throughout the summer and fall. From 5ks and races at the Grundy County Speedway, to free Concerts on the Courthouse Lawn, you can find a list of special events [www.morissil.org/visitmorris](http://www.morissil.org/visitmorris). We have now circulated more than 10,000 of our four-panel special event rack cards locally, and in hotels and travel destinations throughout Northern Illinois.

While the energy in Morris is apparent anecdotally, the proof is in the numbers. The City’s fiscal year ‘23 closed strong on all fronts and reflected a 35% increase in sales tax revenue since 2021- even as businesses and households continue to recover from the pandemic.

“There’s more to Morris” is not just a marketing tagline, but a fitting manta for our City. There is more heart, more pride, and more dedication in our community. We welcome those with like minds to be a part of it.



*Julie Wilkinson  
Business Development  
Director*



# Special Events



Visit us online at [morrisil.org](http://morrisil.org) and follow us on social media to see more info and updates on these and future events!

- Bike Race**
- 5K Race**
- Shopping**
- Live Music**
- Car Show**
- Free Movie**
- Pool Event**
- Community Event**

*\*Denotes a race is part of the Run 4 Grundy series*

## June

- |       |                                       |                 |                                     |                                  |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1st   | <b>fForest Fest</b>                   | Goold Park      | 15th                                | <b>Rhythm &amp; BBQ Festival</b> | Goold Park                            |
| 8th   | <b>3 French Hens Market</b>           | Downtown Morris | 21st                                | <b>Kindling Market</b>           | True North                            |
| 8th   | <b>Morris Cruise Night</b>            | Downtown Morris | 21st                                | <b>Movie in the Park: Up</b>     | Goold Park                            |
| 8-9th | <b>Dulcimer Festival</b>              | Goold Park      | 23rd                                | <b>Rock the Block</b>            | Downtown Morris                       |
| 13th  | <b>Concert on the Courthouse Lawn</b> | Downtown Morris | <i>Featuring Next Thing Smokin'</i> |                                  |                                       |
|       | <i>Featuring The Neverly Brothers</i> |                 |                                     | 27th                             | <b>Concert on the Courthouse Lawn</b> |
|       |                                       |                 | <i>Featuring Flatbed Fords</i>      |                                  |                                       |

## July

- |      |                                       |                        |                                 |  |                 |
|------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 3rd  | <b>Fireworks Extravaganza</b>         | Grundy Co. Fairgrounds | 19th                            | <b>Kindling Market</b>                 | True North      |
| 11th | <b>Concert on the Courthouse Lawn</b> | Downtown Morris        | 19th                            | <b>Movie in the Park: Wizard of Oz</b> | Goold Park      |
|      | <i>Featuring Cadillac Groove</i>      |                        | 25th                            | <b>Concert on the Courthouse Lawn</b>  | Downtown Morris |
| 13th | <b>3 French Hens Market</b>           | Downtown Morris        | <i>Featuring The Sting Rays</i> |  |                 |
| 13th | <b>Morris Cruise Night</b>            | Downtown Morris        | 28th                            | <b>Rock the Block</b>                  | Downtown Morris |
|      |                                       |                        | <i>Featuring Snapshot</i>       |  |                 |

## August

- |      |   |                 |   |  |                 |
|------|---|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| 1st  | <b>Concert on the Courthouse Lawn</b>     | Downtown Morris | 16th                                    | <b>Morris Area Public Library's Barbershop in the Park</b> | Goold Park      |
|      | <i>Featuring The Rockin' Fendershirts</i> |                 | 16th                                    | <b>Movie in the Park: Mary Poppins</b>                     | Goold Park      |
| 3rd  | <b>Sidewalk Sales</b>                     | Downtown Morris | 17th                                    | <b>Anybody 5K*</b>   | School Drive    |
| 6th  | <b>National Night Out</b>                 | Goold Park      | 17th                                    | <b>10th Annual Liberty Arts Festival</b>                   | Downtown Morris |
| 10th | <b>3 French Hens Market</b>               | Downtown Morris | <i>Includes the popular Sip N Shop!</i> |  |                 |
| 10th | <b>Morris Cruise Night</b>                | Downtown Morris | 25th                                    | <b>Rock the Block</b>                                      | Downtown Morris |
| 15th | <b>Concert on the Courthouse Lawn</b>     | Downtown Morris | <i>Featuring Libido Funk Circus</i>     |  |                 |
| 16th | <b>Kindling Market</b>                    |                 | True North                              |  |                 |



PRESENTED BY  
THE CITY OF MORRIS & MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

# SUMMER 2024 MOVIES IN THE PARK

at **GOULD PARK**  
308 NORTHERN AVE, MORRIS, IL 60450



June 21



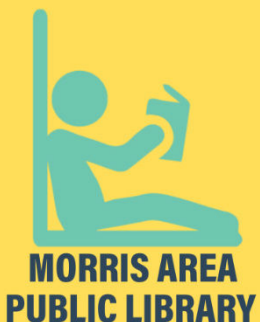
July 19



August 16



September 20



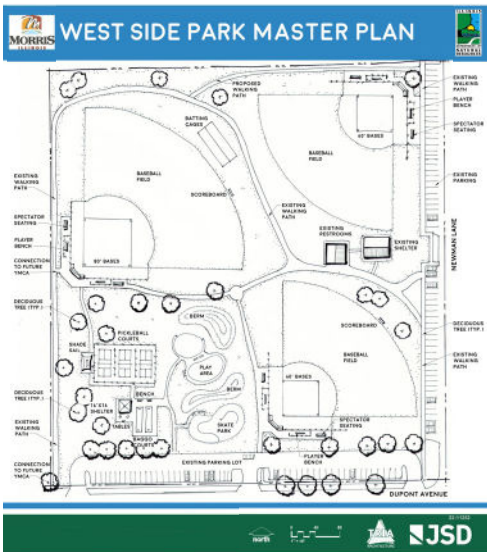


## GRUNDY MOVES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Grundy Moves Transportation Plan is now available online. This first of its kind Multimodal transportation plan for Grundy County evaluates existing and future needs of the county transportation network. The Purpose of the plan is to identify potential transportation improvement projects and investment priorities that address transportation needs while maintaining the quality-of-life Grundy County residents continue to enjoy. This study was led by the Grundy County Economic Development Council (GEDC) with additional support from the villages of Mazon, Minooka, Channahon, Coal City, Diamond, Dwight, the City of Morris, and the Illinois Department of Transportation. To review the plan, please visit: <https://morrisil.org/multimodal-transportation-master-plan/>.



## WEST SIDE PARK GROUNDBREAKING



The City of Morris announced the closure of West Side Park on Monday, March 18, 2024, to make way for major improvements and upgrades to the current facility. In March 2023, Morris was awarded \$600,000 from the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program, which is administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Along with matching funds from the City of Morris, West Side Park will see a number of new additions and upgrades added to the existing space it occupies.

Once completed, West Side Park will feature an additional ball diamond, pickleball courts, new playground equipment, bean bag courts, a picnic pavilion, and a completely redesigned skate park. Construction will continue through the rest of the year and should be completed in early

2025. For more information regarding the City of Morris parks system and to learn more about facilities and offerings, please view the City of Morris 2022 Parks Master Plan at <https://morrisil.org/parks-recreation/>.



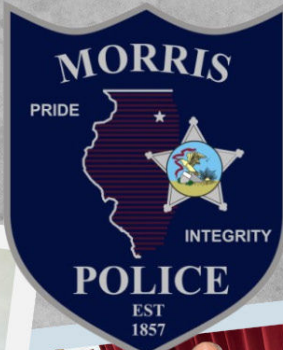
## KIWANIS PARK BASEBALL FIELDS

As work continues on Goodwill Park and West Side Park, the City of Morris is happy to announce that our youngest baseball and softball players will be playing this summer at the new temporary fields located at Kiwanis Park. A big thank you goes out to our public works crews that were able to reuse the fencing from West Side Park and get these fields built and ready for the summer season.





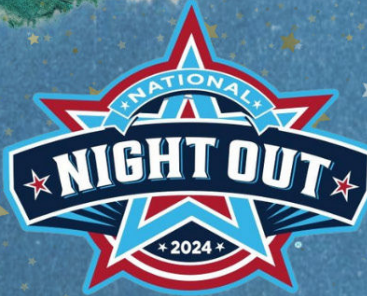
thank you



M P D!



SEE YOU AT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!



TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH GOULD PARK MORRIS, IL



MORRIS ILLINOIS