



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

March

3rd Morris City Council 6:00PM

17th Morris City Council 6:00PM

April

7th Morris City Council 6:00PM

21st Morris City Council 6:00PM

May

1st Morris City Council 10:00AM
(Annual Re-organization Meeting)

19th Morris City Council 6:00PM

Closed for the following Holidays:

Easter Friday, April 18th

Memorial Day Monday, May 26th

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

Jake Duvick

First Ward

jduvick@morrisil.org

Julian Houston

Second Ward

jhouston@morrisil.org

Dean Tambling

Second Ward

dtambling@morrisil.org

Carrie Hall

Third Ward

chall@morrisil.org

Alex Clubb

Third Ward

aclubb@morrisil.org

Jim Black

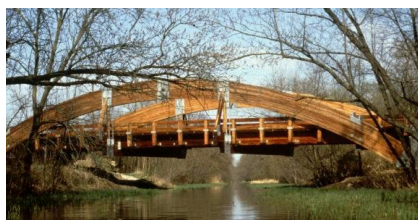
Fourth Ward

jblack@morrisil.org

Sarah Mettille

Fourth Ward

smettille@morrisil.org





Message from Mayor Chris Brown

Our downtown district is the heart of our community where history, culture, commerce, and connections come together. As your Mayor, I believe that fostering a thriving downtown is

essential to the overall vitality and future success of our city.

A vibrant downtown is more than just a hub for shopping and dining; it serves as a gathering place where we celebrate our unique identity, support local businesses, and promote community engagement. The success of our downtown area affects everyone—from entrepreneurs launching new businesses to residents seeking a lively, accessible place to enjoy.

A strong downtown district leads to job creation, increased tourism, and more opportunities for innovation. It attracts investment, supports the arts and culture, and provides space for events that bring people together. Speaking of events, our bustling downtown hosted 35+ events in 2024. Furthermore, a thriving downtown enhances property values and promotes a sense of pride among residents.

I think that is what the owners of the future McBride's Morris saw in our community. I am

so excited to have their unbelievably successful brand added to our growing list of new businesses in Morris. This is exactly the type of dining and entertainment establishment that people said they wanted in our area when they took the survey for the Enhance Downtown Morris plan in 2020.

They say a rising tide lifts all boats, and I believe this to be true about our downtown with all the wonderful additions and expansion of businesses we have seen recently. From additions like Keg Grove and Field Day to expansions by Montage and Oleanders, Morris finds itself in a very exciting position for its future.

A thriving downtown doesn't happen by chance. It requires continued investment in infrastructure, collaboration with local businesses, and creative solutions to ensure it remains accessible and inclusive to all. I'm committed to working with our partners, community leaders, and you, the residents, in cultivating a downtown area that we can continue to be proud of, one that is even more dynamic, sustainable, and prosperous.

Together, let's invest in our downtown, support local businesses, and build a downtown district that reflects the vibrant spirit of our community. Our downtown is not just a place, it's the foundation for a prosperous and bright future.



PUBLIC WORKS POINTERS

City of Morris' Annual "Spring Clean Up" Week of May 19th – 23th

Residents can dispose of an unlimited number of unwanted items by placing them at the curb on their normal garbage collection day.



**Excludes hazardous waste (paint, chemicals, tires, etc.) appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, clothes washers and dryers, water heaters, and all electronics. Please call 815-942-5063 if you have any questions.*

Leaf and Yard Waste Pickup to Resume

Springtime is here and that means it's time for yardwork. As we head outdoors to begin the process of cleaning up our yards, here are some helpful tips for you. The City of Morris' waste hauler, Republic Services, will resume picking up of an unlimited amount of leaf and yard waste the week beginning on April 7th.

Yard waste should be put into an approved lawn and leaf bag or the garbage container which has the "Yard Waste Only" sticker displayed on the front of the container. This service will run through the last full week of November. Branches outside of the container must be bundled to a length less than 48" and should weigh no more than 40 pounds.



BUILDING AND ZONING CORNER

As the grip of winter breaks and the weather starts to warm up, many local residents will be hiring contractors to replace their roofs. Before you start the work, remember to obtain the necessary roofing permit from the Building and Zoning Department. The cost of the permit is only \$50 and can be obtained by a city-registered contractor or



the homeowner. All city-registered contractors are required to provide evidence of bonding and insurance, which serves as protection for you as a homeowner before anybody begins work on your property. Bonded roofers have money set aside to compensate customers if any accidents or damages occur during the roofing project. Having proper insurance protects you from being held personally responsible for paying the costs of damage to your property, an injury on the job, and any subsequent worker's compensation claims. You can obtain your roofing permit online, under our documents tab at morrisil.org or by visiting the building and zoning office in person. If you have any questions regarding home projects or need help verifying your contractor is registered with the City of Morris, please call Building and Zoning Officer Bill Martin at 815-942-1855.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Melted snow, budding trees, longer days: they're all signs that the warmer months are nearing. For many of us, these seasonal hallmarks are reminders to start spring cleaning in and around our homes.

As people power up their lawnmowers, rake up debris, touch up chipped paint, and take on myriad projects to get their homes and yards ready for the months ahead, following are some key practices and supporting recommendations to help minimize the risk of fires and associated hazards.



Tracey Steffes
Fire Chief/Marshall

Properly use and store gasoline

- Use gasoline only as motor fuel, never as a cleaner or to break down grease.
- Only store gasoline in a container that is sold for that purpose and never bring it indoors, even in small amounts. Never store gasoline containers in a basement or in the occupied space of a building. Keep them in a detached garage or an outdoor shed and make sure the container is tightly capped when not in use.

Carefully dispose of rags with paint and stain

The oils commonly used in oil-based paint and stains release heat as they dry. The heat can become trapped, and if it builds up it could cause a fire.

- Never leave cleaning rags in a pile. When you're finished using the rags, take them outside to dry, keeping them well away from the home and other structures. Hang rags outside or spread them on the ground and weigh them down so that they don't blow away.
- Put dried rags in a metal container, making sure the container is tightly covered. Fill the container with a water and detergent solution, which will break down the oils. Keep those containers in a cool place out of direct sunlight and away from other heat sources. Check with your town for information on how to properly dispose of them.

Clean out your clothes dryer

- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe for your dryer is not restricted and that the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. This includes making sure the outdoor vent flap is not covered by snow.
- Move things that can burn, such as boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, away from the dryer. Clothes that have come in contact with flammable substances like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

One last thing to think about, as we "spring" forward and move our clocks ahead by one hour, don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and other home safety devices. Having a working smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector can mean the difference between life and death.

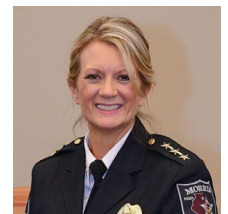
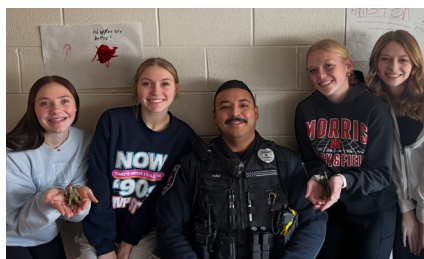
CHIEF CHAT

One of Mayor Brown's top priorities when entering office was to supply a School Resource Officer (SRO) for each of the Morris public schools. Three years later, we continue to appreciate the relationship we (as police department) share with each of our schools. In addition to providing security, the SROs have countless stories about opportunities they have had to interact with students.

In January of this year, Officer Mike Pena began his assignment as the SRO at Morris Elementary School. After being there only a couple weeks, he was called to the bus line during dismissal time. A 5th grader refused to get on the bus without speaking with Officer Pena first. Officer Pena arrived, and the student handed him 2 Army men figurines. He just wanted Officer Pena to have them. The figurines now have a special place in Officer Pena's office.

The role of a SRO is to work within a school network to ensure the safety of students/staff and prevent crime. We want our officers in the school to be visible, accessible, and approachable so that students feel they have another adult they can trust and talk to if they need help, are a victim of a crime or have concerns about potentially harmful behavior. We love simple stories like this that reinforce and exemplify that connection.

As our SRO program evolves, the Morris Police Department and Morris public schools are looking at ways to continue to increase school safety. We are currently in the process of integrating school surveillance cameras into our Flock system, allowing dispatchers and officers real time access to school cameras in the case of an emergency.



Alicia Steffes
Police Chief

School safety remains a top priority for the Morris Police Department, and we appreciate the working relationship with our schools.

2025 Morris Recycling and Trash Collection Calendar

Reminder that mattresses and box springs must be wrapped for safe handling and pick up.
Seasonal Yard Waste services will be from April 1st through November 29th, 2025.

■ Holidays ■ Recycling ■ Trash



Items that can always be placed in your recycling cart include:



Please contact Republic Services at **815.723.3200** or visit RepublicServices.com for more information.



Items that can NEVER be placed in your recycling cart include:



JOE SCHMITZ HONORED WITH STREET NAMING

Operation St. Nick President, Joe Schmitz spoke at the Morris City Council Meeting held on Monday, November 4th after the city council unanimously approved renaming Locust Road from Route 6 to Dupont Avenue to Joe Schmitz Drive.

Joe has been a respected local business professional for decades and also founded Operation St. Nick. In the 43 years of

Operation St. Nick, the organization has raised \$2,878,164 to help families in need. This year's radio auction raised a record \$234,000 to help bring joy to those who need it most. Funds from the auction are used for children's presents, groceries, and utility bills. Thanks, Joe, for being such an inspiration to all of us!



CALEB MITCHELL AND CURTIS KNELLER SWORN IN AS SERGEANTS

Officers Caleb Mitchell and Curtis Kneller were sworn in as Sergeants at the regular meeting of the Morris City Council on Monday, November 18, 2025. Mayor Brown performed the honor of swearing them into their new roles after Police Chief Alicia Steffes introduced the two newest promoted sergeants. Congratulations Caleb and Curtis!

MCBRIDE'S PUB & GRILLE COMING TO MORRIS

The Morris Judiciary & License Committee approved a business license application which will pave the way for a new restaurant to open at 423 Liberty Street in the spring of 2025. Tracy Sary applied for the license. She will own the bar with husband Brent. This will be their fourth location when it opens. They also have locations in Plainfield, Joliet, and Aurora. We would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to McBride's! We look forward to your grand opening.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE DATES FOR 2025

- Morris Municipal Services Facility** • Friday, May 16th
700 N. Division St. • Friday, August 8th
Morris, IL 60450 • Friday, October 17th
10AM - 3PM



BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ARE SET UP TO THRIVE IN '25



Julie Wilkinson
Business Development
Director

Looking back on the many wins and gains of 2024, it was an incredible year for the City of Morris. From finances to festivals and services to safety, partnerships and collaboration are the key to progress.

Following completion of the first comprehensive parks plan- created with input from 1,000 surveys, 21 public meetings, and multiple focus groups- two parks were renovated in 2024. Goodwill Park now serves east side residents with new fencing and bleachers at the ballfields, ADA accessible grounds and playground equipment, and a pavilion. West Side Park reconstruction followed. This new park features an additional ball diamond, pickleball courts, new playground equipment, bean bag courts, a picnic pavilion, and a redesigned skate park. The work was funded in part by a \$600,000 State of Illinois OSLAD Grant.

One of the biggest wins for our community in 2024 was ten years in the making. The new Morris Hospital YMCA opened in December, with more than 5,000 memberships. It features a gymnasium, eight-lane pool, community spaces, a demonstration kitchen, children's areas, and a fitness center. Remarkably, the \$18M project was funded by contributions from businesses, individuals, and foundations. Morris Hospital provides rehabilitation services, orthopedics and cardiology office visits, and wellness programs inside. The new Y is also a job creator with eight full-time and 150 part-time staff.

Grand Oaks, a housing development to bring single-family homes and duplexes around the new YMCA over the next several years, was announced last summer. Additionally, IDOT released plans for the widening of West Route 6 from Route 47 to Lakewood Drive and eventually Saratoga Road. The City worked with IDOT to help ensure quality of life was prioritized in the plans, including pedestrian and bike paths, and additional stoplights at key intersections. Coupled with the announcement of a Do It Center hardware store along the corridor, we believe West Route 6 is poised to flourish.

As the future unfolds, we pay homage to the contributions of giants like Joe Schmitz, longtime

businessman and community leader. In November, Mayor Brown and the City Council approved naming Locust Road from Route 6 to DuPont Avenue, "Joe Schmitz Drive" in honor of his lifetime of impact.

Supporting a healthy fiscal future, we welcomed the first industrial user to the Brisbin Road area. GE has opened its \$100M appliance manufacturing facility this spring, bringing 150 jobs at full production. The city received a \$2M grant for the widening of Brisbin Road to ensure the safe flow of goods and people as this area grows.

Record sales tax numbers were again reported by City Clerk Lori Werden's Office, with tourism as a driver. Morris is home to more than 60 annual events, festivals, concerts, and races on city streets and in parks. Visitors spend their dollars in stores and restaurants, purchase gas and stay in our hotels.

Morris was one of two Illinois cities featured on the National League of Cities centennial year tour. The organization recognized Morris' exemplary local government with a proclamation and video shoot.

In 2024, we embraced new small businesses Downtown, including Keg Grove Brewing Company in the former fire station. McBride's bought a historic building on Liberty Street where they will open a pub and restaurant this April. SOCU invested in a beautiful new bank on Route 47 and Popeye's Chicken built across the street. Many businesses expanded, and commercial vacancy rates remain low. We are working to bring new restaurants or other sales tax generators in the second former fire station building and former YMCA, both on Wauponsee Street.

The secret to success in Morris is influenced by access to infrastructure and geography. But it is the people that will always set us apart. By building on this success and continuing to work together, the best is yet to come in 2025!



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!

March

- 8th International Women's Day Shopping Event Downtown Morris

April

- 5th Rough Road 100 Bike Race Downtown Morris
- 12th Chamber Family Fest Shabbona School
- 12th Morris Women's Club Superhero Run Downtown Morris

May

- 2nd Girls Night Out "Talk Derby to Me" Downtown Morris
- 10th 3 French Hens Market Downtown Morris
- 24th Opening Day at the City of Morris Pool Goold Park
- 29th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn Ft. Wayne Messmer Combo Downtown Morris

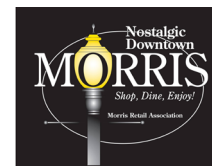
June

- 7th fForest Fest Goold Park
- 12th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn Ft. the Neverly Brothers Downtown Morris
- 14th 3 French Hens Market Downtown Morris
- 14th Morris Cruise Night Downtown Morris
- 14th Dulcimer Festival Goold Park
- 21st Rythm & BBQ Fesitval Goold Park
- 26th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn Ft. Cadillac Groove Downtown Morris
- 28th Rock the Park Ft. High Anxiety Goold Park

SHOP, DINE, SUPPORT LOCAL

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

www.morrisil.org/business-directory



BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Date	Event/Opponent	Location
2/26/2025	Lincoln Way East Invite	Olivet Nazarene University
3/6/2025	Morris Indoor Invite	Lewis University
3/13/2025	Pontiac Invite	Shirk Center - Bloomington
3/15/2025	Bradley Bourbonnais Invite	Olivet Nazarene University
3/29/2025	Illinois Top Times Meet	Illinois Wesleyan University
4/3/2025	Coal City & Newark	Home
4/8/2025	Rochelle	Home
4/12/2025	LaSalle Peru Invite	Away
4/15/2025	Kaneland	Away
4/18/2025	Seneca Invitational	Away
4/22/2025	Ottawa	Home
4/25/2025	Titanomachy Meet	El Paso Gridley
4/29/2025	Sycamore & LaSalle Peru	Sycamore
5/2/2025	Morris Friday Night Relays	Home
5/5/2025	Black Diamond Classic	Coal City
5/12/2025	Pontiac & Seneca	Pontiac
5/15/2025	18 Conference Meet	Rochelle
5/22/2025	IHSA Sectionals	N/A
5/29/2025	IHSA State	Eastern Illinois University
5/30/2025	IHSA State	Eastern Illinois University

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Date	Event/Opponent	Location
2/26/2025	Lincoln Way East Invite	Olivet Nazarene University
3/6/2025	Morris Indoor Invite	Lewis University
3/13/2025	Normal West Indoor	Illinois Wesleyan University
3/15/2025	Bradley Bourbonnais Invite	Olivet Nazarene University
3/29/2025	Illinois Top Times Meet	Illinois Wesleyan University
4/3/2025	Coal City & Newark	Home
4/8/2025	Rochelle	Home
4/12/2025	LaSalle Peru Invite	Away
4/15/2025	Kaneland	Away
4/18/2025	Seneca Invitational	Away
4/22/2025	Ottawa	Home
4/25/2025	Titanomachy Meet	El Paso Gridley
4/29/2025	Sycamore & LaSalle Peru	Sycamore
5/2/2025	Morris Friday Night Relays	Home
5/5/2025	Black Diamond Classic	Coal City
5/9/2025	18 Conference Meet	Morris
5/15/2025	IHSA Sectionals	N/A
5/22/2025	IHSA State	Eastern Illinois University
5/23/2025	IHSA State	Eastern Illinois University

BOYS VARSITY BASEBALL

Date	Event/Opponent	H/A
3/17/2025	Bolingbrook	Home
3/19/2025	Bradley Bourbonnais	Home
3/21/2025	Metro East - O'Fallon	Away
3/22/2025	Metro East - Triad	Away
3/25/2025	Minooka	Away
3/26/2025	Herscher	Away
3/28/2025	Jacksonville Jamboree	Away
3/29/2025	Jacksonville Jamboree	Away
3/30/2025	Jacksonville Jamboree	Away
4/2/2025	Plainfield South	Home
4/3/2025	Wilmington	Away
4/5/2025	Pontiac	Away
4/11/2025	Washington	Home
4/12/2025	Yorkville	Away
4/14/2025	LaSalle Peru	Away
4/16/2025	LaSalle Peru	Home
4/17/2025	LaSalle Peru	Away
4/19/2025	Coal City	Away
4/21/2025	Ottawa	Home
4/23/2025	Ottawa	Away
4/24/2025	Ottawa	Home
4/25/2025	Lockport	Away
4/28/2025	Rochelle	Home
4/30/2025	Rochelle	Away
5/1/2025	Rochelle	Home
5/5/2025	Kaneland	Home
5/7/2025	Kaneland	Away
5/8/2025	Kaneland	Home
5/9/2025	Oswego	Home
5/12/2025	Sycamore	Away
5/14/2025	Sycamore	Home
5/15/2025	Sycamore	Away
5/19/2025	Streator	Away
5/20/2025	Andrew (Tinley Park)	Away
5/22/2025	East Moline United	Home

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

Date	Event/Opponent	H/A
3/17/2025	Plainfield Central	Home
3/19/2025	Joliet Catholic	Away
4/3/2025	Wilmington	Home
4/4/2025	Peotone	Away
4/5/2025	Coal City	Home
4/7/2025	LaSalle Peru	Away
4/9/2025	Sandwich	Home
4/10/2025	Somonauk	Away
4/12/2025	Bradley	Away
4/16/2025	Ottawa	Away
4/17/2025	Manteno	Home
4/19/2025	Streator	Home
4/21/2025	Rochelle	Home
4/22/2025	Newark	Away
4/23/2025	Kaneland	Home
4/25/2025	Herscher	Home
4/28/2025	Sycamore	Away
4/30/2025	LaSalle Peru	Home
5/1/2025	Serena	Away
5/2/2025	Dwight	Away
5/5/2025	Ottawa	Home
5/7/2025	Rochelle	Away
5/8/2025	Braidwood Reed Custer	Home
5/10/2025	Seneca & Herscher	Away
5/12/2025	Kaneland	Home
5/14/2025	Sycamore	Home
5/20/2025	Plano	Away
5/22/2025	Plainfield South	Away

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

Date	Event/Opponent	H/A
3/17/2025	Manteno	Home
3/19/2025	Herscher	Away
3/22/2025	Joliet Catholic	Away
3/31/2025	Streator	Home
4/2/2025	Coal City	Home
4/7/2025	LaSalle Peru	Away
4/9/2025	Ottawa	Away
4/12/2025	Princeton Invite	Away
4/14/2025	Rochelle	Home
4/16/2025	Kaneland	Home
4/21/2025	Sycamore	Away
4/23/2025	LaSalle Peru	Home
4/28/2025	Ottawa	Home
4/30/2025	Rochelle	Away
5/5/2025	Kaneland	Away
5/7/2025	Sycamore	Home
5/9/2025	Reed Center	Away
5/12/2025	IC Catholic	Home
5/20/2025	IHSA Regionals	

BOYS VARSITY TENNIS

Date	Event/Opponent	H/A
4/1/2025	Joliet Catholic	Home
4/4/2025	Streator	Away
4/8/2025	LaSalle Peru	Away
4/9/2025	Minooka	Away
4/12/2025	Cary Grove Invite	Away
4/15/2025	Ottawa	Away
4/17/2025	Pontiac	Away
4/22/2025	Rochelle	Home
4/24/2025	Lisle	Away
4/26/2025	Plainfield North Quad	Away
4/29/2025	Kaneland	Home
5/3/2025	Lincoln Way East Invite	Away
5/6/2025	Sycamore	Away
5/8/2025	Coal City	Away
5/9/2025	Tom Pitchford Invite	Away
5/10/2025	Tom Pitchford Invite	Away
5/15/2025	Princeton	Away
5/17/2025	18 Varsity Tournament	Away
5/24/2025	IHSA Sectional	Away
5/29/2025	IHSA State	Away

Go Morris!



ROUGH ROAD 100 REGISTRATION OPEN

The Rough Road 100 is back in Morris on Saturday, April 5, 2025. Registration is open now and closes on April 1, 2025. Styled as a spring classic bike race/ride the course is friendly to nearly every style of bike and bike rider. The course presents riders with a fantastic opportunity to try something new. The race begins and ends in Downtown Morris with an official start time at 8:00 am.

For more information on this exciting event, please visit their website at <https://www.roughroad100.com>.



MOVIES IN THE PARK TO RETURN FOR 2025

Community Affairs Director Stan Knudson and Morris Area Public Library Director Resa Mai are pleased to announce they will once again be partnering to bring Movies in the Park back for another fun-filled season this summer. Movies are shown on Select Friday nights on the big screen at the band shell in Goold Park. A full schedule will be provided in the next City of Morris newsletter. You

can also find information about Movies in the Park and other great events hosted by the City of Morris and the Morris Area Public Library by visiting morrisil.org or morrislibrary.com. See you at the movies!



PARK RESERVATIONS OPEN APRIL 7TH

You can start reserving City of Morris Park shelters for private use on Monday, April 7, 2024. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Shelters are available from May 1, 2025, through October 15, 2025. Fees are \$25 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. You can find a complete set of park reservation rules under the "How Do I?" tab at morrisil.org. Applications are available at the City Clerk's window in the Morris Municipal Services Building or online under the "Documents" tab at morrisil.org.





IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025



ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DATES

- March 21, 2025
- July 18th, 2025
- October 17, 2025



FREE PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Morris City Hall

9 AM - 11 AM



CITY OF MORRIS SPRING CLEANING WEEK

May 19 - 23, 2025

Residents can dispose of an unlimited number of unwanted items by placing them at the curb on their normal garbage collection day.



PARK RESERVATIONS OPEN

Applications will be accepted starting April 7, 2025 for park pavilion reservations.

FOR MORE GREAT
INFORMATION

For more details and updates about these events and other great things happening in Morris, please visit our website or follow us on social media,
www.morrisil.org



MORRIS
ILLINOIS