



# MORRIS

## ILLINOIS

Meet  
Me  
in  
Morris!



**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*

16th Morris City Council 6:00PM

### *July*

7th Morris City Council 6:00PM

21st Morris City Council 6:00PM

### *August*

4th Morris City Council 6:00PM

18th Morris City Council 6:00PM

## **Closed for the following Holidays:**

**Independence Day** Friday, July 4th

**Labor Day** Monday, September 1st

## *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**

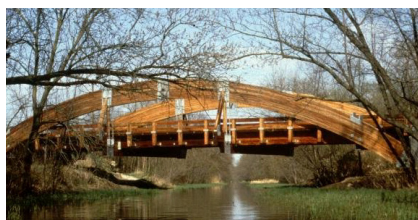
#### **Fourth Ward**

jblack@morrisil.org

### **Sarah Mettille**

#### **Fourth Ward**

smettille@morrisil.org





## **Message from Mayor Chris Brown**

The City of Morris and our administration had the pleasure of hosting a recent roundtable discussion with the Illinois Manufacturers' Association to discuss area growth strategies that impact labor, workforce challenges, including transportation,

energy, infrastructure, housing initiatives, vocational efforts, and grants.

Held on April 23rd at our very own Morris Municipal Airport, the roundtable brought together city leaders, local manufacturers, representatives from the IMA, vocational educators, state elected officials, and local union leadership for a candid, productive conversation about the challenges and opportunities facing the manufacturing sector in our area. From workforce development and supply chain resilience to sustainable practices and innovation, the dialogue covered a broad spectrum of topics critical to the current and future vitality of our local economy.

Our list of presenters that helped lead our conversations was nothing short of amazing and their vast experience was evident from start to finish. We were so humbled and fortunate to have these esteemed partners take the time out of their busy schedules to join us in our discussion. Our "headliner", if you will, was none other than Christy George, the President & CEO of Intersect Illinois. Intersect Illinois is the state's primary economic development organization, established in 2016 to attract new businesses, create jobs, and drive investment across Illinois. Other presenters included, Tim Butler, President of the Illinois Railroad Association; Nancy Norton, President & CEO of the Grundy Economic Development Council; Christina Van Yperen, President & CEO of the Grundy Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Dan Valdez, Manager of Maintenance & Reliability at LyondellBasell; and Paola Velasquez, Director of Organizational Culture at the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center.

This collaboration offered a valuable platform for all parties represented to voice their needs and share their firsthand insights from their professional perspectives and for us, as city leaders, to listen and respond with purpose. I believe that we could see several initiatives created out of these discussions, including plans to enhance vocational training partnerships with local schools and community colleges, identifying infrastructure upgrades needed to facilitate industrial corridors, and the importance of continuing to foster relationships at all levels to help Morris and our surrounding communities continue to grow and modernize in a constantly evolving marketplace.

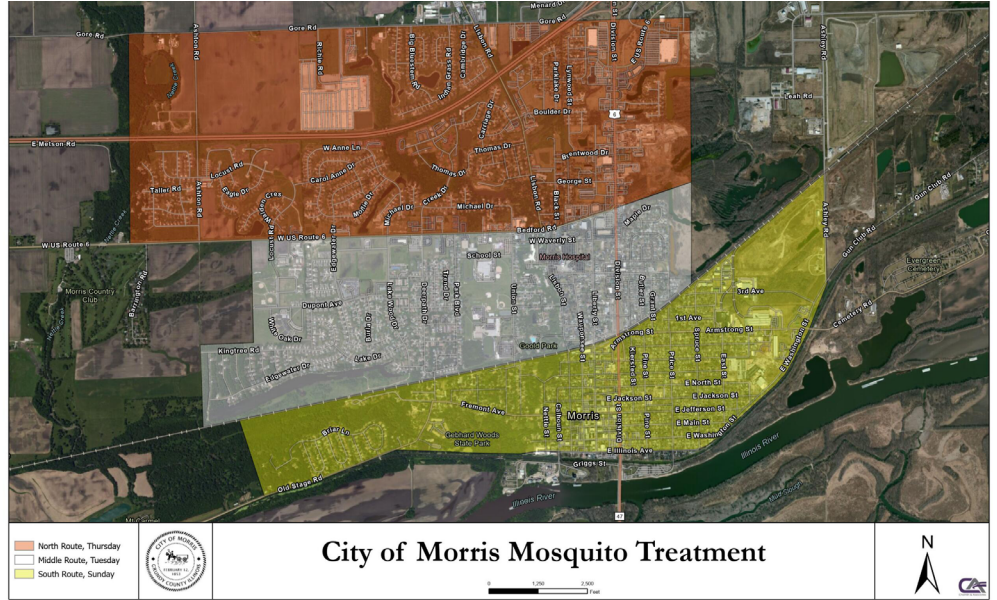
I want to extend my sincere thanks to the IMA for their partnership and leadership, Rolf Helland for the use of his beautiful hangar, and to all the leaders and local businesses who participated with enthusiasm and thoughtful contributions. Your engagement is what helps us shape a more resilient and innovative economy for all of us.

As always, the City of Morris remains committed to fostering strong partnerships and creating an environment where businesses can thrive. Together, we're building a brighter future for our workforce, our local industries, and our community.



## PUBLIC WORKS POINTERS

With the arrival of summer, we welcome warm weather, swimming, cookouts, and unfortunately, mosquitoes. 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 passed 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 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 throughout the summer will be added to the City of Morris website and Facebook page. Have a safe and happy summer!



## FISCAL FOCUS

As we enter the new fiscal year, I am happy to update you on the financial health of our city. Morris continues to stand in a strong financial position. The Morris City Council approved our 2025/2026 balanced budget at our May 1, 2025, meeting, and I want to thank them for their support and for taking the time to sit with me and discuss every single item in this year's budget. The city's financial health is evident through its consistent revenue growth, stable budgeting practices, and a robust reserve fund. Our diverse revenue streams, coupled with responsible fiscal management, ensure a sustainable financial future, enabling the city to invest in critical infrastructure, public services, and other programs without jeopardizing long-term stability. I am pleased to say that as of April 30, 2025, our general balance sat at approximately \$7.1 million and our balance across all funds was at a solid \$20,650,000. This solid financial foundation positions the City of Morris well to weather economic fluctuations and continue delivering essential services to our residents.

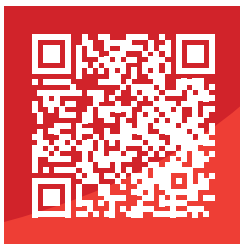


Lori Werden  
City Clerk

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE DATES FOR 2025

**Morris Municipal Services Facility**  
700 N. Division St.  
Morris, IL 60450  
10AM - 3PM

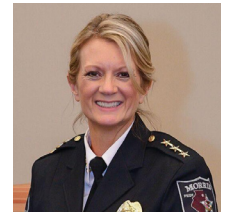
- Friday, August 8th
- Friday, October 17th



## CHIEF CHAT



I am so excited to announce that the Morris Police Department will once again be hosting a National Night Out event in Goold Park on Tuesday, August 5th from 5 PM to 8 PM. The event is free for all that attend and will feature inflatable obstacle courses, carnival games, gaga ball, free food and many more fun activities for the entire family. NNO is important because it helps build trust, foster relationships, and enhance public safety through direct engagement between communities and law enforcement. Here's a breakdown of why it matters:



Alicia Steffes  
Police Chief

### Strengthens Community-Police Relations

NNO allows residents to meet officers in a non-enforcement setting, humanizing law enforcement and helping to break down barriers or mistrust. These interactions encourage open dialogue and mutual understanding.

### Builds Safer Neighborhoods

When community members know and trust their local officers, they're more likely to report suspicious activity and work with police on crime prevention efforts. NNO promotes a collaborative approach to public safety.

### Encourages Community Unity

NNO events often include themes like block parties, cookouts, and children's activities, bringing neighbors together, increasing social bonds, and fostering a greater sense of belonging and shared responsibility.

### Improves Youth Engagement

Our police department uses the NNO event as a way to connect with young people, helping to reshape perceptions of law enforcement. Positive early interactions can influence long-term community trust and cooperation.

### Highlights Resources and Services

NNO provides a platform for police departments and local organizations to share safety tips, crime prevention resources, and support services directly with the public.

In essence, National Night Out is a proactive, community-focused approach to crime prevention and public safety through unity and mutual respect. We look forward to seeing you and hope you can join us for a night of old-fashioned fun and making connections with our community.

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks are a beloved part of many celebrations, from Independence Day and New Year's Eve to weddings and cultural festivals. While they can bring excitement and beauty to special occasions, fireworks also pose significant safety risks when not handled properly. Each year, thousands of people, many of them children, are injured in fireworks-related incidents. Practicing fireworks safety is essential to ensure that celebrations remain joyful and injury-free.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), fireworks cause over 10,000 injuries annually in the United States alone. Common injuries include burns, lacerations, and eye damage. In addition to personal injuries, fireworks can start fires, causing millions of dollars in property damage.



Tracey Steffes  
Fire Chief/Marshall

## General Safety Tips

### Know the Law

Check your local laws and regulations regarding fireworks. Some areas prohibit the use of consumer fireworks altogether, while others, like Morris, allow only specific types.

### Buy from Reputable Sources

Only purchase fireworks from licensed and reputable dealers. Avoid homemade or illegal fireworks, which are more likely to malfunction or explode unpredictably.

### Read Instructions Carefully

Always read and follow the manufacturer's safety instructions on the label. Use fireworks only as intended.

### Designate a Responsible Adult

Only sober, responsible adults should handle fireworks. Keep them away from children and never allow young kids to ignite them.

### Prepare Your Area

Use fireworks in a clear, open space away from buildings, vehicles, dry grass, and other flammable materials. Have a hose, water bucket, or fire extinguisher nearby in case of emergencies.

### Use One at a Time

Light one firework at a time and move away quickly. Never relight a "dud" firework—wait 20 minutes, then soak it in water.

### Protect Your Body

Wear safety glasses and avoid leaning over fireworks when lighting them. Keep your body out of the fireworks path.

**Dispose Properly** After the fireworks have burned out, soak them in water before discarding to prevent trash fires.

### Fireworks and Children

Children are especially vulnerable to fireworks injuries. Sparklers, which burn at over 1,200°F, can cause serious burns and account for a significant percentage of injuries to kids under 5. Consider glow sticks, confetti poppers, or other safe alternatives for young children.

### Consider Alternatives

Many communities offer professional fireworks displays that are safer and often more spectacular than consumer fireworks. Attending these events not only reduces personal risk but also helps limit noise and pollution.

Fireworks can be thrilling, but safety must come first. By understanding the risks and taking proper precautions, you can enjoy the celebration without injury or incident. Let's light up the sky - safely.



## OPENING DAY 2025 SATURDAY, MAY 24

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 \$15.00 · Non-Resident Adult \$15.00  
Resident Seniors (65 & up) \$1.00  
Non-Resident Seniors (65 & up) \$5.00

### SEASON PASSES

(valid during Open Swim times only)

City Res. \$50 Individual / \$150 Family  
NonRes. \$100 Individual / \$250 Family

### ADULT SWIM ONLY

During Open Swim Breaks (10 min. before every hour)  
and/or 4:30-6:00 M-F \$2 (June 2nd-Aug. 8th)

### 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 \$170 - residents, \$250 - non-residents.**

**P.M. Weekends:** exclusive use of pool from 6:30 p.m.-  
8:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays.

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

**Both P.M. plans start at \$340 - residents, \$470 - non-residents**

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.

### REGISTRATION DATES/TIMES

Fridays - May 2nd & 9th - 4-6 p.m.

Saturdays - May 3rd, 10th, & 17th - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Anytime during Open Swim Hours starting May 24th

### SWIM LESSONS

#### AMERICAN RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS

(Ages 5 and up)

**Session I:** M-F, June 16th-June 27th

**Session II:** M-F, July 7th -July 18th

(10 Scheduled 1/2 hour lessons - same time each day)

Weather Permitting

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

**Costs:** Residents \$75 /Non-Residents \$100

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 16th-June 27th

**Session II:** M, W, F, July 7th -July 18th

**Costs:** Residents \$55/Non-Residents \$80

#### PARENT & ME

(6 mo.-2 years of age)

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

**Session I:** Tues and Thurs June 16th-June 27th

**Session II:** Tues and Thurs July 7th-July 18th

**Costs:** Residents \$55/Non-Residents \$65

### JUNIOR GUARD

(Ages 10-15; Includes whistle and lanyard)

Monday-Friday, June 24th-28th

**Costs:** Resident \$40/Non-Residents \$50

### 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



## **INSPIRING FUTURE SWIMMERS WITH GENEROUS DONATION**

Many thanks to Morris resident Laura Passerman and her sisters for their generous donation they made to the Morris Swimming Pool in honor of their father, Peter Guenzer. This donation will help three lucky residents pay for swimming lessons this summer. Peter grew up in Highland, Indiana, and as a child he would walk to the local swimming pool where he first learned to swim. It was there that he discovered his natural talent for diving. He went on to join the diving team at Mt. Carmel High School and trained at the Chicago Athletic Club. His love of swimming and diving was something he shared with his three daughters. Eventually, they followed in his footsteps by joining the diving team and later becoming lifeguards. It is their hope that their donation helps carry on his legacy, inspiring future generations to develop a love for swimming, just as he did. Thank you for your generous donation and for supporting our community.



## **STAYING HYDRATED WITH NEW WATER STATIONS**

The City of Morris public works teams have been busy this spring installing brand new water bottle filling stations in local parks. These water stations were made possible by a generous grant from LyondellBasell in the amount of \$20,000. These stations encourage the use of reusable water bottles, which reduces plastic waste and helps promote the importance of sustainable living. These stations have been installed in Goodwill Park, West Side Park, Fields of Saratoga Park, and one more will be added to Canal Port Plaza. Pictured with Morris Mayor Chris Brown is Megan Borchers, LyondellBasell External Affairs Manager, North Region.

## **ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER HONORS LOCAL BUSINESSES AND LEADERS**

Many thanks to the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Grundy Economic Development Council for hosting a wonderful annual awards dinner on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. It was an honor for the City of Morris to receive the 2024 Partnership of the Year award along with the Morris Hospital YMCA and Morris Hospital and Healthcare Centers. The award was presented to these organizations for their collaboration efforts, but it also celebrates all of the organizations, civic leaders, and donors that helped bring this transformational change to our city and Grundy County.



## MEET ME IN MORRIS - CITY OF MORRIS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Julie Wilkinson  
Business Development  
Director

In a recent address to the city council at the first meeting of the fiscal year, Mayor Chris Brown declared in a crowded room, "I believe Morris' best days are ahead of us." I couldn't agree more. Our City has the blueprints, the funding, the partners, the leaders, and heart to

ensure it happens. With so much transpiring locally, I want to recap a few projects and initiatives that will translate into enhanced quality of life for residents, a more favorable environment for businesses, and enhancements to draw visitors to Morris as a destination.

We were thrilled to learn Morris received nearly \$800,000 through a competitive Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant for enhancements to our Downtown. Special thanks to the residents, visitors, and business owners who gave input to the plan, which was originally submitted in 2023. The Morris Restaurant & Retail Association has been instrumental in encouraging the city to take necessary steps to help ensure a favorable business small business environment in our historic downtown.



The work will include improvements along Liberty Street and 3 bump-outs to be added to key intersections. This will expand pedestrian space and provide opportunities for more outdoor dining. Bollards will be provided for pedestrian safety, along with beautification elements including raised

landscape planting areas and additional benches. New storm water inlets and new curbs and gutters are also part of the plan. The improvements were recommended in the Morris Downtown Master Plan which was adopted in July 2020. A construction timeline is in the works.

Additionally, the City partnered with Viewpoint Project, a national production firm, to showcase communities working to balance smalltown values with economic growth. The on-site filming captured the stories of small businesses, hometown pride, natural assets, and the traits that make Morris desirable.

One of the results is this 3-minute segment, appearing throughout the year on PBS, TLC, Discovery, Animal Planet, CNN, and more at times determined at the network's discretion. Check out this video, which features local entrepreneurs Patrick Keegan and Michelle Xydakis, along with many other familiar Morris faces.



Wayfinding signs along Route 47, including a digital sign for Downtown events and happenings, are in production now. This project was funded by a generous Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity grant facilitated by Senator Sue Rezin. Concurrently, new lighting will be placed along Route 47 throughout the Downtown corridor. The aesthetically pleasing lights will add function and enhance the safety of the area for pedestrians and cyclists. Both projects will happen this summer.

We are so proud of our city - its residents, businesses, volunteers, leaders, and spirit of community. As we head into a busy spring and summer event season, there have never been more reasons to **"Meet me in Morris!"**

# 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!

## June

- 7th fForest Fest Goold Park
- 12th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn  
*Featuring The Nevery Brothers* Downtown Morris
- 14th 3 French Hens Market Downtown Morris
- 14th Morris Cruise Night Downtown Morris
- 14th Dulcimer Festival Goold Park
- 21st Rhythm & BBQ Festival Goold Park
- 26th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn  
*Featuring Cadillac Groove* Downtown Morris
- 27nd Movies in the Park Goold Park
- 28th Rock the Park  
*Featuring High Anxiety* Goold Park

## July

- 3rd Fireworks Extravaganza  
Grundy Co. Fairgrounds
- 10th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn  
*Featuring Banjo Buddies Dixieland Band* Downtown Morris
- 12th 3 French Hens Market Downtown Morris
- 12th Morris Cruise Night Downtown Morris
- 18th Movies in the Park Goold Park
- 24th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn  
*Featuring The Sting Rays* Downtown Morris
- 26th Sidewalk Sales Downtown Morris
- 26th Rock the Park  
*Featuring Livestream* Goold Park

## August

- 5th National Night Out Goold Park
- 7th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn  
*Featuring The Del Bergeson Orchestra* Downtown Morris
- 9th Anybody 5K School Drive
- 9th 3 French Hens Market Downtown Morris
- 9th Morris Cruise Night Downtown Morris
- 15th Movies in the Park Goold Park  
*Featuring a Frozen Sing-A-Long before the show!*
- 16th Liberty Arts Festival Downtown Morris  
*Includes the popular Sip N Shop with restaurants and retailers!*
- 23rd Rock the Park Goold Park  
*Featuring The Tim Gleason Band with Alexandra Lee*

## SHOP, DINE, SUPPORT LOCAL

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

[www.morrisil.org/business-directory](http://www.morrisil.org/business-directory)



CITY OF MORRIS

# SUMMER

*concert series*

2025

Join us on the Grundy County  
Courthouse Lawn  
111 E. Washington St.  
Morris, IL

6:30-8:00PM

JUNE 12

**The Neverly  
Brothers**

“A Rock n’ Roll Tribute from  
Elvis to The Beatles”

JUNE 26

**Cadillac Groove**

“Funky fresh blues, soul,  
rock and rhythm and blues”

JULY 10

**Banjo Buddies  
Dixieland Band**

“Classic Dixieland Jazz  
spanning three decades”

JULY 24

**The Sting Rays**

“50’s, 60’s  
& 70’s Favorites”

AUGUST 7

**The Del Bergeson  
Orchestra**

“One of the Top Big  
Bands in Chicagoland”



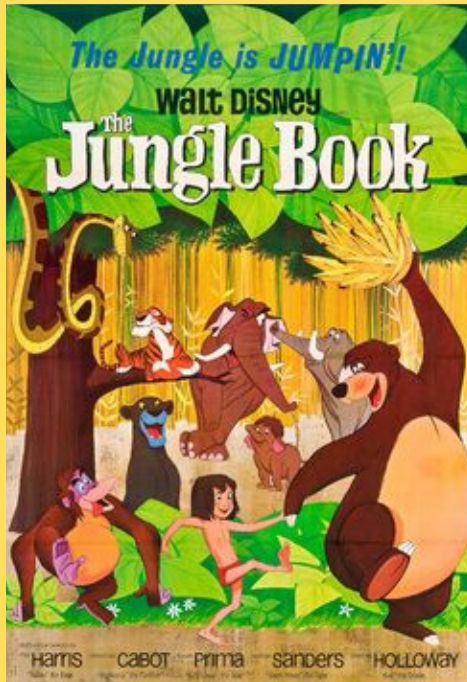
PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF MORRIS & MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

# SUMMER 2025 MOVIES IN THE PARK

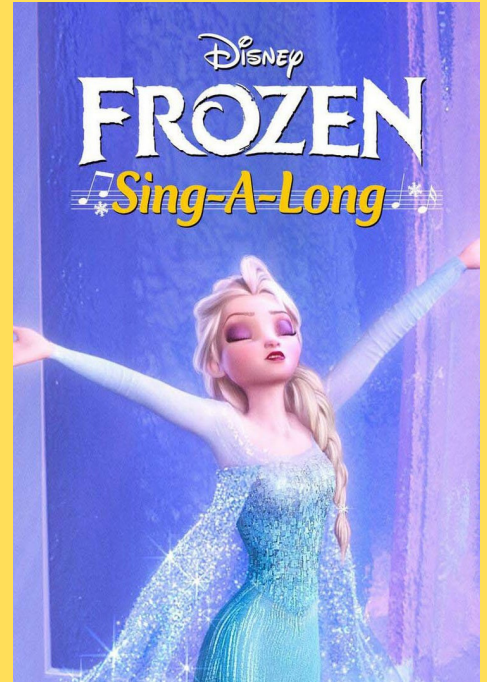
at GOULD PARK



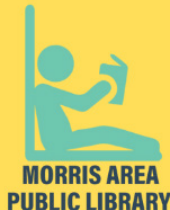
**JUNE 27TH**



**JULY 18TH**



**AUGUST 15TH**



Movie  
starts at  
dusk





PRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
COAL CITY IL  
Permit #5

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# COMING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Police + Fire Demos • Free Food**

**Obstacle Course • Circus Games • GaGa Ball**



<b>Tuesday, August 5th 2025</b>	<b>Goold Park</b> Morris, IL <b>5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Free to the Public!</b>
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