



# 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

During the summer months the Morris City Council meets once per month. Committee meetings are held on an as-needed basis.

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

### June

15th Morris City Council 6:00PM

### July

20th Morris City Council 6:00PM

### August

17th Morris City Council 6:00PM

## Closed for the following Holidays:

**Independence Day** Observed on Friday, July 3rd

**Labor Day** Monday September 7th

## 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**

One of the things that makes our community so special is our shared commitment to taking care of one another and the place we call home. Over the past several years, the City of Morris has worked hard to

expand services that not only improve quality of life but also strengthen our sense of community. I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of these offerings, the partners that have made them possible, and why they matter.

Our e-recycling events have become an increasingly important service as technology continues to evolve. Now being offered multiple times a year, these events give residents a safe, responsible way to dispose of old electronics, keeping harmful materials out of landfills while protecting our environment. Similarly, our paper shred days provide a secure way for residents to dispose of sensitive documents, helping prevent identity theft while encouraging proper recycling.

We've also continued to host community blood drives, which are a powerful reminder of how small acts can make a life-saving difference. Since starting our citywide blood drive, more than 500 units of blood have been collected, and many first-time donors have now become regulars at these events. Each donation has the potential to help multiple individuals in need, and the continued participation of our residents reflects the generosity and compassion that define Morris.

Another program which is brand new this year and we are so proud to offer is our rain barrel giveaway. This initiative supports water conservation efforts and helps residents manage stormwater runoff more effectively.

By capturing rainwater for reuse, we not only reduce strain on our infrastructure but also promote environmentally friendly practices at the household level. LyondellBasell has been an instrumental partner in making this a reality for Morris residents by awarding the City of Morris a \$20,000 grant which supplemented 90% of the cost of the barrels. In the past, they have provided the city with bottle-filling stations in our parks and there will also be a beautiful new piece of playground equipment at McKinley Park when it is finished this summer. All of which were supported directly by grant dollars. When it comes to partners, it is hard to find one better than our friends at LYB!

These programs may seem simple on the surface, but together they represent something much bigger. They are about convenience, partnerships, safety, sustainability, and most importantly, connection. They provide opportunities for neighbors to come together, engage with city services, and take an active role in improving our community.

As the Mayor of Morris, I am incredibly proud of the participation we continue to see in these programs and in the support we receive in making them a reality. Your involvement is what makes them successful. It shows that Morris is not just the place where we live, it's a community where we care.

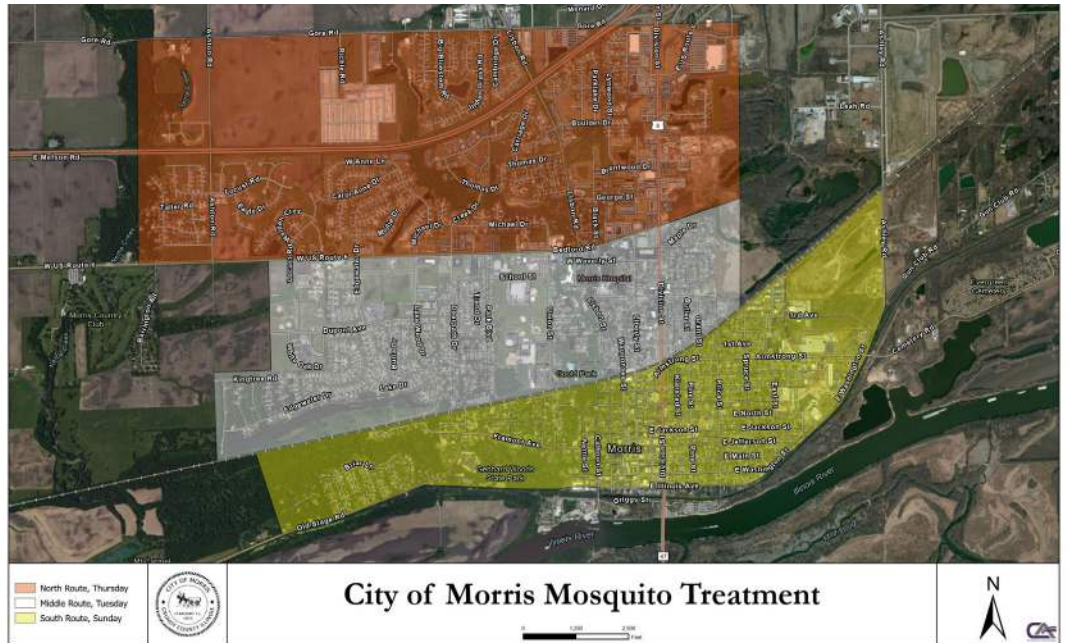
We remain committed to expanding and improving these services in ways that meet the evolving needs of our residents. I encourage everyone to stay informed about upcoming events and to take advantage of these opportunities whenever possible.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping make Morris a community we can all be proud of.



## 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. Mosquito spraying plays an important role in protecting public health in Morris by reducing populations of mosquitoes that can carry diseases such as West Nile



virus. Regular spraying helps limit breeding and keeps mosquito numbers at a manageable level, making outdoor activities safer and more enjoyable for residents. Combined with community efforts like eliminating standing water, mosquito control programs help maintain a healthier and more comfortable environment throughout the summer months.

The schedule is broken into three sections: south, middle, and north. The south portion is comprised of the area south of the railroad tracks and extending west to include Hatcher's Woods. This area is sprayed on Sunday nights. The middle route is the area north of the railroad tracks to West Route 6. The middle route is sprayed on Tuesday nights. Finally, the north route is everything north of West Route 6 to Gore Road. This route is fogged on Thursday nights. If there is a chance for rain or windy conditions, the scheduled person will usually fog the night before or after the regularly scheduled evening. Any changes to the schedule 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 the 2026/2027 budget at our May 1, 2026, 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, 2026, our general fund balance sat at just over \$12 million and our balance across all funds was at a solid \$29 million. 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



## 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 4th 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

As warmer weather returns and residents spend more time outdoors, the City of Morris Fire Department would like to remind everyone to practice safe and responsible use of fire pits, whether in your backyard or at a campground. Outdoor fires can be an enjoyable part of the season, but they also present real risks if not handled properly.



*Tracey Steffes*  
Fire Chief/Marshall

First and foremost, always check local ordinances and weather conditions before starting a fire. Dry, windy conditions can quickly turn a small, controlled fire into a dangerous situation. If there are any burn restrictions in place, please follow them strictly.

When using a fire pit at home, make sure it is placed on a stable, non-combustible surface such as gravel, stone, or concrete. Keep it at least 10–15 feet away from structures, fences, trees, and other flammable materials. Only burn clean, dry firewood—never trash, treated wood, or yard waste, as these can produce toxic fumes and excessive sparks.

Always keep a water source or fire extinguisher nearby and never leave a fire unattended, even for a short time. Before going inside for the night, ensure the fire is completely extinguished. Douse it with water, stir the ashes, and confirm there are no remaining hot spots.

For those enjoying local campgrounds, follow all posted rules and use designated fire rings when provided. Keep fires small and manageable and supervise children and pets closely around open flames. Remember that campfires can stay hot long after they appear to be out, so use caution at all times.

Finally, please be considerate of your neighbors. Smoke and embers can travel, so be mindful of wind direction and avoid burning materials that create heavy smoke.

By taking a few simple precautions, we can all enjoy outdoor fires safely while protecting our homes, families, and community. If you have any questions about fire safety or regulations, the Morris Fire Department is always here to help.

# Morris City Pool - Pool Flyer 2026

## Opening Day for **Safe, Clean Fun!** is Sat., May 23rd

Please see our website for more details: [www.MorrisCityPool.org](http://www.MorrisCityPool.org) Goold Park, 300 Northern Ave., Morris, IL

### 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 8:30-10:30 pm, Monday thru Friday.

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

*You may arrive ½ hour earlier for setup. No glass.*

*Please see the party calendar on our website for availability.*

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

### Registration Dates/Times

Select Dates in May - TBA

Any time during Open Swim Hours starting  
May 23rd

### Swim Lessons

#### American Red Cross Swim Lessons

(Ages 5 and up)

**Session I** M-F, June 15th-June 26th

**Session II:** M-F, June 29th -July 10th

½ hour lessons - same time each day

Weather permitting

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

10 Scheduled Lessons: Residents \$75 /Nonres \$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 ½ hour lessons - 5:00 & 5:30)

**Session I:** M, W, F June 15th-June 26th

**Session II:** M, W, F, June 29th-July 10th

Costs: Residents \$55/Nonres \$80

#### Parent & Me

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

**Session I:** M, W, F June 15th-June 26th

**Session II:** M, W, F, June 29th -July 10th

Costs: Residents \$40/Nonres \$65

### Junior Guard

(Ages 10-15; Includes whistle and lanyard)

June 22nd - June 26th

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

### Water Aerobics

TBA

### 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



## **MORRIS VARSITY CHEER WINS FIRST STATE TITLE**

The Morris community had plenty to celebrate at the March 16th city council meeting as they hosted the Morris Varsity Cheer team that captured their first ever state championship in Normal, Illinois on February 7th. Competing in the 2A Division, against the top teams in Illinois, Morris delivered a high-energy, precise performance that impressed both judges and spectators, earning them the top spot on the state stage. Their victory reflects months of hard work, dedication, and teamwork, with athletes and coaches committing countless hours to perfect their routines. Supported by family members, school staff, and community members, the team rose to the occasion and performed at their very best when it mattered most. The City of Morris is incredibly proud of the Morris Varsity Cheer Team and the way they represent our community. Their dedication, sportsmanship, and positive attitude shine both on the court and in everyday life, setting a great example for others to follow.



## **ROUGH ROAD 100 HOSTS SUCCESSFUL EVENT**

The Rough Road 100 rolled through Morris on April 10th with resounding success. More than 850 cyclists from across the region descended upon Morris for the weekend and took on the challenging course, known for its mix of scenic country roads, rugged terrain and a start and finish line in Downtown Morris which bookends the ride perfectly. Organizers, local volunteers, businesses, and city staff played a key role in ensuring the event ran smoothly, from registrations, route support, and public safety. Beyond the race itself, the event brought a noticeable boost to local shops and restaurants, as visitors spent the weekend exploring Downtown Morris and the surrounding area. Many

of the participants commented on the beauty of the area in and around Morris and the friendliness of the community. City officials and organizers are thrilled with the strong turnout and are already looking ahead to next year's event.

## **MORRIS EARNS TREE CITY USA DESIGNATION**

The City of Morris is proud to once again be recognized as a Tree City USA community, a designation awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of the City's continued commitment to urban forestry, environmental stewardship, and community beautification. As part of this year's Arbor Day celebration, the City of Morris along with Spring Grove Nursery and iTrees, planted two trees in Tag-A-Long Dog Park and two more trees in Kiwanis Park. These new trees will enhance both parks by providing shade for visitors, and a canopy for future generations to enjoy.



## WHERE PROGRESS MEETS CHARM: GROWTH, RECOGNITION & DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT



*Julie Wilkinson*  
Business Development  
Director

As the city's fiscal year ended, we looked at numbers to measure success. Visitor spending, new business licenses, permits for new building construction and renovations, and other tangibles help tell the story of our local economy over a year. But a different set of

indicators affirm our city has a brighter future still ahead.

In the past year, Morris earned three notable tourism accolades. "Most Welcoming", "Most Relaxing", and "Most Unforgettable Main Street" were among the honors by popular travel resource WorldAtlas.com. An excerpt from the January 2026 article praising our city's welcoming nature calls out an intangible we're proud to cultivate:

"People crave genuine hospitality, and sometimes it feels like that's gone missing these days, until you take a couple of days exploring Morris, IL. Even being the county seat, the community feels slower in a deliberate way, forcing you to soak in the moment and rub elbows with everyone you meet. You'll notice it in the cozy shops, the local restaurants serving up hearty plates, and the way the whole community comes together for every celebration. Morris has earned its place among Illinois' friendliest towns."

With plans and partnerships in place, the traits our community is best known for will not only withstand economic challenges but thrive through them.

In late 2024, Morris received nearly \$800,000 through a highly competitive Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant program. This grant will support significant improvements Downtown. Thanks to the residents, visitors, and business owners who gave input to that grant request, which was originally submitted in 2023. The Morris Restaurant & Retail Association encouraged the city to apply for the grant because the outcomes will help ensure our



*Just as the streetscape will receive an update, several downtown property owners are modernizing their buildings while maintaining historic charm. Gigi's Boutique & Libations recently celebrated a renovation and addition of whiskey bar after 15 years in business.*

*Photo courtesy of Grundy County Chamber.*

historic downtown remains a destination, even with changing consumer interests and spending habits.

The grant will support improvements along Liberty Street including 3 bump-outs at intersections. This will expand pedestrian space and outdoor dining. Bollards will enhance pedestrian and event safety and raised landscaping and benches will provide beautification. The project allows the city to address issues below the street, modernizing the aging utility infrastructure with new storm water inlets, curbs and gutters. TIF dollars to offset costs of the project, which will be done in phases to minimize business interruption.

Renovating downtown will come with challenges. A steering committee of seven community members has begun convening to help prioritize outcomes. Stakeholder meetings will start this summer, ensuring there are many fingerprints on the plan. Accessibility, safety, functionality, and aesthetics are already driving conversations.

Morris is a special community with much to be proud of, and we are uniquely positioned to celebrate our past while embracing opportunities to meet future demands. "Meet me in Morris" is more than a marketing tagline; it's a point of pride.

# 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

- 11th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn**  
*Featuring The Nevery Brothers* Downtown Morris
- 13th 3 French Hens Market** Downtown Morris
- 13th Morris Cruise Night** Downtown Morris
- 13th Dulcimer Festival** Goold Park
- 20th Rhythm & BBQ Festival** Goold Park
- 25th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn**  
*Featuring The Sting Rays* Downtown Morris
- 26th Movie in the Park**  
*America 250 Celebration* Goold Park
- 27th Rock the Park**  
*Featuring Snapshot* Goold Park

## July

- 3rd America 250 Fireworks Show**  
*Hosted by the City of Morris* Grundy Co. Fairgrounds
- 9th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn**  
*Featuring The Clients* Downtown Morris
- 11th 3 French Hens Market** Downtown Morris
- 11th Morris Cruise Night** Downtown Morris
- 23rd Concert on the Courthouse Lawn**  
*Featuring Cadillac Groove* Downtown Morris
- 24th Movie in the Park** Goold Park
- 25th Sidewalk Sales** Downtown Morris
- 25th Rock the Park**  
*Featuring Flatbed Fords* Goold Park

## August

- 4th National Night Out** Goold Park
- 6th Concert on the Courthouse Lawn**  
*Featuring The Del Bergeson Orchestra* Downtown Morris
- 8th 3 French Hens Market** Downtown Morris
- 8th Morris Cruise Night** Downtown Morris
- 14th Movie in the Park** Goold Park
- 15th Liberty Arts Festival**  
*Featuring Sip n Shop among restaurants, boutiques and more!* Downtown Morris
- 22nd Rock the Park**  
*Featuring The Tim Gleason Band with Alexandra Lee* Goold Park
- 29th Morris Beer Fest** Goold Park

## 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)



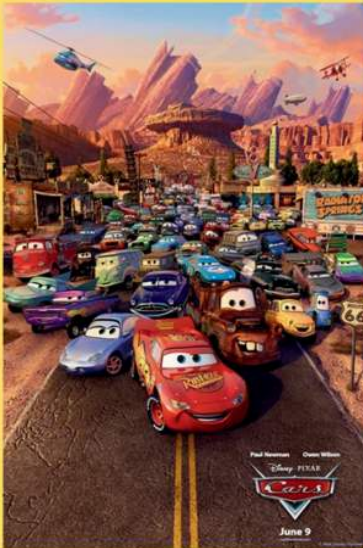
PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF MORRIS & MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMER 2026

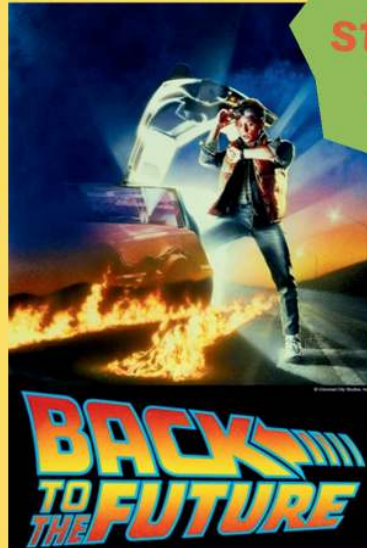
# MOVIES IN THE PARK

at GOOLD PARK

Movie  
starts at  
dusk



June 26



July 24



August 14



**MORRIS**  
ILLINOIS



MORRIS AREA  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



## **TAILDRAGGER TUESDAY EVENT**

Taildragger Tuesday drew a crowd of aviation enthusiasts to Morris Municipal Airport recently, with more than 150 people attending the popular community fly-in event. Dozens of aircraft filled the airport as pilots from across the region flew in to showcase their planes, connect with fellow aviation fans, and enjoy tacos while celebrating Cinco De Mayo! The event featured a wide variety of aircraft, giving attendees a close-up look at classic and vintage-style airplanes while enjoying an evening celebrating aviation in Morris. The strong turnout highlighted the continued community interest in the airport and local aviation events. City officials would like to thank the pilots, volunteers, airport staff, and visitors who helped make Taildragger Tuesday a success.



## **RAIN BARREL PICK UP DAY CLOSES EARTH WEEK CELEBRATION**

The City of Morris, in partnership with LyondellBasell, hosted a successful Rain Barrel Pick-Up Day on Saturday, April 25, helping residents take an important step toward water conservation and environmental sustainability. Residents picked up pre-ordered rain barrels throughout the morning, with many taking advantage of the program to reduce stormwater runoff and collect rainwater for gardens and landscaping.

City officials would like to thank LyondellBasell for their continued partnership and support, which made this event possible, as well as the volunteers and residents who participated in making the event a success.

## **MORRIS POLICE HIRE NEW OFFICER**

The City of Morris is pleased to welcome Marshall Holt as the newest member of the Morris Police Department. Holt recently joined the department, and he has begun serving the community as he starts his law enforcement career with the City of Morris. City officials and members of the police department welcomed Holt and expressed excitement about the experience, professionalism, and dedication he brings to the team.

The City of Morris looks forward to Officer Holt's future contributions and wishes him success in his new role serving the community.



## **OFFICER OF THE YEAR – SCOTT EVANS**

The City of Morris was excited to recognize Officer Scott Evans as the Morris Police Department's Officer of the Year at their February 17th city council meeting. Evans was honored for his outstanding service, dedication, and commitment to protecting and serving the Morris community. Throughout the past year, Officer Evans demonstrated exceptional professionalism, leadership, and a strong commitment

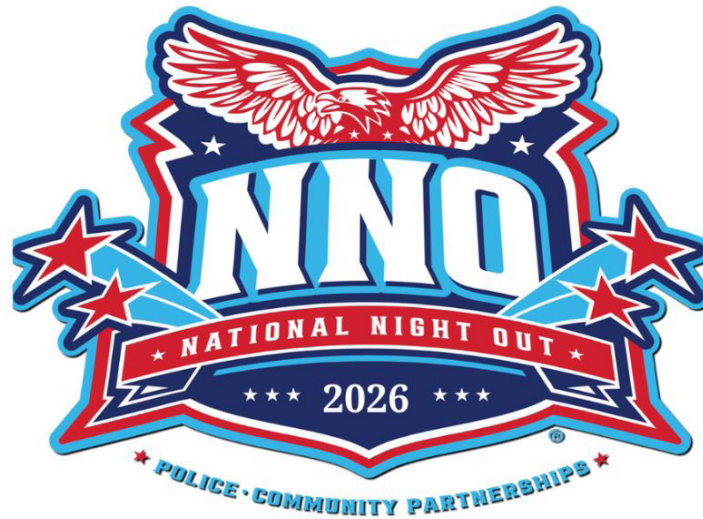
to public safety. His positive attitude, work ethic, and willingness to assist both residents and fellow officers made him a deserved recipient of the award. City officials, members of the Morris Police Department, and staff at Morris Community High School, where Evans serves as the Special Resource Officer, congratulated Officer Evans on the recognition and thanked him for his continued dedication to the City of Morris and its residents.



**National  
Night Out**

**COMING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY**  
**Game On, Morris!**

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**Police + Fire Demos**

**Wear Your Team Uniform!**

**Free Food & Refreshments**



<p><b>Tuesday, August 4th 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Goold Park</b> Morris, IL <b>5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Free to the Public!</b></p>
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